

Rev. and Mrs. Jones

## ;;THE BIBLICAL ROLE OF A PASTOR;;

God gives pastors, according to His heart, who will:

- Feed you with knowledge and understanding. Jeremiah 3:15 and
- Commune with God in prayer, preach and teach the word of God. Acts 6:2-4
- Give attention and oversight to the congregation. Acts 20:28
- Watch over the congregation, care for the members, and set a good example for them. 1 Peter 5:1-5
- Diligently study the word of God and accurately teach what it says. 2 Timothy 2:15
- Preach the word of God. 2 Timothy 4:2
- Manage the affairs of congregation. Hebrews 13:7, Titus 1:5-9, 1 Timothy 5:17, 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13,
- Equip members for the work of ministry. Ephesians 4:11-13
- Live according to what the Word of God teaches. 1 Timothy 4:16
- Lead the congregation to carry out its mission. Matthew 28:18-20
- Be an ambassador for Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:17-20
- Be faithful to God. 1 Corinthians 4:2

**A** pastor leads all aspects of the congregation's life and work. A pastor feeds the congregation the Word of God through preaching and teaching what it says. A pastor provides care to members with counsel, comfort, correction, visitation; as well as by conducting weddings, funerals, and referrals to specialists when necessary. This is called shepherding.

A pastor supervises and manages all the affairs of the congregation including but not limited to; planning and conducting meetings, supervising staff and ministry leaders, organizing worship services, administering the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper. This is called overseeing.

A pastor ensures that members of the congregation are trained and developed for service; is an example for members to follow; help members grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord; and identify and use their spiritual gifts. This is called discipling.

A pastor leads the congregation to carry out its God-given assignment. This is called evangelism and missions.

A pastor is responsible for managing his own life well and for maintaining His walk with Christ. This is called faithfulness.

Rev. Carl Jones

**I**n case you're thinking that you've seen this article from Rev. Jones before, then you are thinking right. It was the lead article in the March 2023 edition of the GoodNewsLetter. It is extremely crucial at this juncture as we will soon be deciding on the next Pastor of Greater Salem Baptist Church. Please re-read.

*Editor's Note*

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:** [PAGE 2](#) MARCH BIRTHDAYS AND DATES/OUR FEEBLE PRAYERS [PAGE 3](#) MARCH SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS AT-A-GLANCE/BLACK HISTORY MONTH AT GSBC [PAGES 4](#) HEALTH NOTES-PREVENTING COLON CANCER [PAGE 5](#) SALUTE TO SIS. BERKLEY FROM BEAUTIFICATION MINISTRY [PAGES 6](#) OVERVIEW AND UPDATE FROM PSC [PAGE 7](#) BIO- REV. DR. VIRGIL HILL [PAGES 8](#) Q&A FOR REV. HILL [PAGE 9](#) Q&A FOR REV. J. SHAMELL [PAGE 10](#) BIO REV. DR. SHAMELL/CONCLUSION OF Q&A [PAGE 11](#) RESURRECTION INSPIRATION [PAGE 12](#) BLACK HISTORY HIGHLIGHT ON WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH [PAGE 13](#) WORSHIP AND STUDY SCHEDULE [PAGE 14](#) ACTIVITY [PAGE 15](#) EVANGELISM: HOW TO BE SAVED AND KNOW IT [PAGE 16](#) NOTE FROM EDITOR/CHURCH INFO/PALM SUNDAY & RESURRECTION SUNDAY/APRIL 2024 GNL DEADLINE.

Please let us know if you are celebrating your wedding anniversary in April



Please let us know if we fail to list your Birthday!!!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <i>World Day of Prayer</i> Ja'Cara Moss Rayshawn Woods	2 Clara Fuqua Monzell Johnson
3 Gwendolyn Wilson	4	5	6	7	8 Dianna Arnold Nicole Graham	9 William Toney
10 <i>Girl Scouts Sunday- Daylight Savings Time Begins</i> Dianna Arnold	11 George Armstrong	12	13	14	15	16 Timothy Studdard
17	18	19	20	21	22 Mary Montgomery	23 Nyshawnda Evans Ruby Wilson
24 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 31 <i>Easter</i> Sarah Brutley Raymond Spalding	25 Kwame Adams	26	27 Ella Leslie Patricia Smith	28 <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	29 <i>Good Friday</i> Rick Johnson	30

**OUR FEEBLE PRAYERS  
OUR FATHER'S RESPONSE**

In *He Still Moves Stones*, Max Lucado recalls the story of Derek Redmond, a 1992 Olympic competitor in the 400-meter race. Halfway through Redmond's semifinal run, a torn hamstring sent him tumbling to the ground. His dad, Jim, immediately ran onto the track. He met up with Derek, who, though crying, had managed to stand and was hopping forward.

"You don't have to do this," Jim said. But Derek insisted. "Well, then, we're going to finish this together," said Jim, who supported his son as he hobbled to the finish line. The crowd cheered and wept as Derek, with Dad's assistance, finished the race.

Lucado writes: "What made the father do it? ... Was it the strength of his child? No, it was the pain of his child. ... God does the same. Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the One who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference."

**SPECIAL  
MARCH DATES**

- **World Day of Prayer** *March 1, 2024*
- **Daylight Saving Time begins**, *March 10, 2024*
- **First day of Spring**, *March 19*
- **Holy Week**, *March 24-31*
- **Palm/Passion Sunday**, *March 24, 2024*
- **Maundy Thursday**, *March 28, 2024*
- **Good Friday**, *March 29, 2024*
- **Resurrection Sunday**, *March 31, 2024*

# March Sunday School Lessons At-a-Glance

**"Read the Entire Bible in One Year" March Chapters\***

## **Week 27 \*Read Habakkuk**

**March 3, 2024 Lesson: Rejoice Anyway  
Habakkuk 2: 1-5, 3: 17-9**

Some people experience so many challenges in life that they lose all hope for the future. Habakkuk announces that no matter what crises might come his way --he would trust God, rejoice in His presence, praise Him for strength to carry on.

## **Week 28 \*Read Zephaniah**

**March 10, 2024 Lesson: Zephaniah Announces God's Justice - Zephaniah 3: 1-5, 8-9**

Israel's leaders have turned away from God.. The officials, the rulers, the prophets, and the priest have become prideful and wicked. They have polluted God's Temple and twisted His Law. But the day will come when God will judge all the nations. Israel's God will be acknowledged by the nations, and God's people will be held in honor by them.

## **Week 29 \*Read Haggai**

**March 17, 2024 Lesson: The Temple Rebuilt -Haggai 1:1-4, 7-10, 12-15**

The prophet Haggai reminded the Israelites of their first priority: to keep their covenant with God and rebuild the temple in Jerusalem.

## **Week 30 \*Read Zechariah**

**March 24, 2024 Lesson : Zechariah Calls for a Return to God - Zechariah 1:1-6; 7:8-14**

Zechariah invites the people to return to God with the sure promise that God will return to them. Zechariah says that when we return to the Lord, wholeness and joy becomes available to us as well.

## **Week 31 - \*Read Malachi**

**March 31,2024 Lesson: Return to a Just God - Malachi 3:1-10**

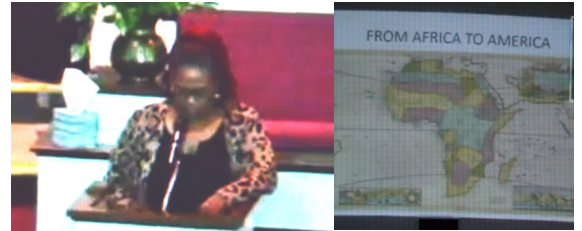
Malachi informs the faithful that God requires justice and faithfulness and will bestow abundant blessings in proportion to what they are willing to give.



## **2024 Black History Month At GSBC**

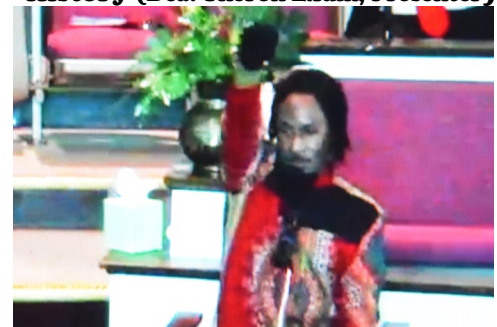
**Sunday, February 4**

**Political/Civil Rights Contributi  
(Shannon Wheat, Presenter)**



**Sunday, February 11**

**The Black Church's Role in Black History (Dea. Theron Exum, Presenter)**



**Sunday, February 18**

**Black Inventions/Inventors (Sis. Donna Smith, Ages 6-8 Class and Junior Ushers -Presenters)**



**Sunday, February 25**

**Harriet Tubman (Presenters Mona Fleming, Maranda King and sons, Lati-fah Mansfield and sons)**



## March Health Notes from the Nurses Ministry

### Be Aware to Prevent Colon Cancer

Colorectal cancer starts in the colon or the rectum. These cancers can also be called colon cancer or rectal cancer, depending on where they start. Colon cancer and rectal cancer are often grouped together because they have many features in common.



#### Risk Factors

A risk factor is anything that raises your chances of getting a disease such as cancer. Different cancers have different risk factors. Some risk factors, like smoking, can be changed. Others, like a person's age or family history, can't be changed. But having a risk factor, or even many, does not mean that you will get the disease. And some people who get the disease may not have any known risk factors.

Researchers have found several risk factors that might increase a person's chance of developing colorectal polyps or colorectal cancer. These include not being physically active, being overweight or obese (the link is stronger in men), smoking, diet high in

red meat and processed meats, heavy alcohol use.

- Your risk of colorectal cancer goes up as you age. Younger adults can get it, but it's much more common after age 50. Colorectal cancer is rising among people who are younger than age 50 and the reason for this remains unclear.
- Your risk of colorectal cancer is increased if you have inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), including either ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease.
- Most colorectal cancers are found in people without a family history of colorectal cancer. Still, as many as 1 in 3 people who develop colorectal cancer have other family members who have had it.

#### Prevention

**Screening** is the process of looking for cancer or pre-cancer in people who have no symptoms of the disease. **Regular colorectal cancer screening is one of the most powerful tools for preventing colorectal cancer.**

- With regular screening, most polyps can be found and removed before they have the chance to turn into cancer. If you're age 45 or older, you should start getting screened for colorectal cancer. If you have a strong family history of colorectal polyps or cancer, talk with your doctor about your risk.
- Several types of tests can be used to screen. Talk to your health care provider about which ones might be good options for you. No matter which test you choose, the most important thing is to get tested.

#### Lower your risk for colorectal cancer!

- ◆ **Stay at a healthy weight**
- ◆ Increase the amount and intensity of your physical activity may help. You don't have to go to the gym, just **move**.
- ◆ **Limiting red and processed meats and eating more vegetables, fruits, and whole grains may help lower your risk.** Overall, diets that are high in vegetables, fruits, and whole grains, and low in red and processed meats, probably lower colorectal cancer risk.
- ◆ **Alcohol:** Several studies have found a higher risk of colorectal cancer with increased [alcohol intake](#), especially among men. **Not drinking alcohol may help reduce your risk.**

## Beautification Ministry Salutes Sis. Julia Berkley

### 'A TRIBUTE TO MS. JULIA!'

**Greater Salem Baptist Church is now void of a beautiful individual that was once a member of the Beautification Ministry! Ms. Julia, until her recent passing, was the eldest member (99 Years old!) of this historical ministry! We share that she, and those that have passed before her, possessed great pride in decorating for numerous occasions & events held at Greater Salem Baptist Church for many years! If you had the opportunity to meet Ms. Julia, you were welcomed with a warm & beautiful smile! And, most likely, she said something that made you laugh!! A sincere and dedicated servant of God, Heaven has truly gained an Angel!**

**We, the Beautification Ministry of Greater Salem Baptist Church,  
Salute, and Thank You for your Service! Gone, but Never Forgotten!**

**'To Ms. Julia' with much Love!**



Top Row: Sister. Deloma Farris (Deceased), Sister Delores Courtney (Deceased), Sister Helen Johnson.  
Bottom Row: Sister Julia Berkley & Sister Doris Hunter, Sister Florence Payne (Deceased)

L\_R: Sister Connie King, Sister Helen Johnson, Sister Florence Payne (deceased) & Ms. Julia Berkley (deceased)

*In appreciation to our current members, Ms. Helen Johnson, Ms. Debora Mapp, Ms. Twanna Scruggs, Ms. Mary Montgomery, Ms. Shatelle Beason, Ms. Shannon Wheat, & Ministry Deacon James Toney, Thank You so much for your spiritual & physical dedication!!!*

Submitted by: Ms. Connie King, Beautification Ministry Leader





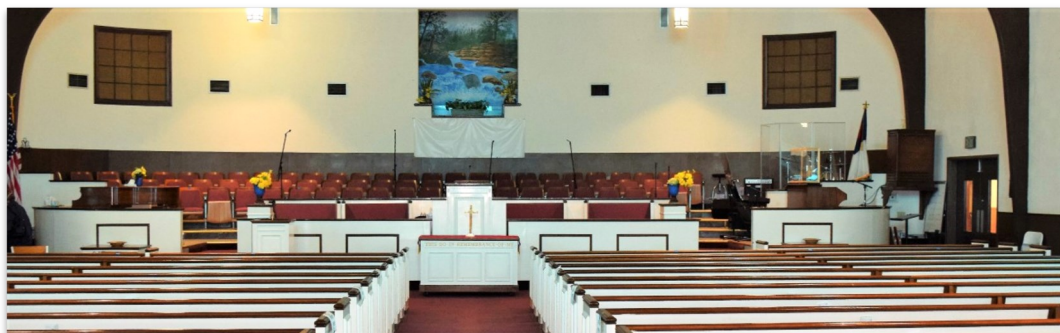
**H**allelujah! Praise the Lord! And Thank you Jesus!!! These are a few of the words and phrases that come to mind when we think about the journey of our search for a new pastor. The search and the journey started in March of 2022, yes, this month makes two years the search committee has been working. We are very pleased to report to the congregation that our two year journey is finally coming to an end. As we shared with you before in our updates and reports at the church business meetings, we had 93 candidates to apply. The Pastor's Search Committee conducted a process that included seven phases. We were guided by constant prayer, scriptures from the Bible and the Kentucky Baptist Convention (KBC) Pastor Search Team Guide. Rev. Carl Jones, Interim Pastor served as our advisor and consultant.

In the First Review of the candidate applications, we used the Pastor Profile that was created by the results from the congregational survey to complete a screening checklist and identify viable and non-viable candidates. Using this process, we were able to decrease the number of candidates from 93 to approximately 50. The criteria we looked at included education, pastoral experience and skills, age, family, achievements, employment, qualifications (being ordained).

In the Second Review, we looked more closely at the resumes and used the five categories of Biblical, Congregational, Professional, Personal and Procedural as evidence to have the candidate continue in the process or be eliminated from the search. The candidates selected to continue in the search were asked to respond to a Pastoral Questionnaire. They were required to respond to questions in the following categories: 1) Personal Testimony and Calling, 2) Doctrinal, 3) Ministry, 4) Staff Relations and 5) Family Life. The candidates were given specific guidelines and a timeline to respond to the questions. Following a very detailed screening process, we very methodically decreased the number of candidates from 93 to the top two candidates. This is an overview of how we have arrived to this final stage of the process. Now it's time for the congregation to play an active and very role in the process by voting for the next pastor.

The meeting to Elect the next pastor will be scheduled this month. The exact date and time will be announced during morning worship service, and letters will be sent by U.S. Mail informing members of the meeting date and time. The Pastor Search Committee will present and recommend the two top candidates for your vote. Each candidate will be presented in alphabetical, order, one at a time. Each member will have only ONE VOTE. You will cast your vote, according to the Church By Laws, which is by standing for the candidate you want to be the next pastor.

To help you prepare for this very important vote, we are providing you with an update and overview of the work that has taken place and brought us to this point in the search process. We are also providing you with each candidate's Bio and a list of the questions he was asked and the responses he gave during his visit to Greater Salem a few weeks ago.



## Bio - Rev. Dr. Virgil Hill

Rev. Virgil A. Hill, M.Div., D.D. Rev. Dr. Virgil A. Hill, was born on June 27, 1965, in Winchester, Kentucky. He is a devoted servant of God and a highly respected pastor whose life's journey has been marked by unwavering faith and a profound commitment to God and his community.

As the youngest of five children born to James Theodore and Mary Ella Hill, Rev. Hill's spiritual journey began at an early age. At just nine years old, he embraced the Lord as his personal Savior and was baptized at the Broadway Baptist Church in Winchester, Kentucky, under the guidance of the late Rev. Dr. Henry E. Baker.



Dr. Hill's commitment to service and faith led him to a distinguished nine-year career in the United States Army, where he achieved the rank of staff sergeant. His military service included the specialized role of a U.S. Army Drill Instructor, as well as an overseas tour in South Korea. Following his honorable discharge, he returned to his roots and dedicated himself to various roles within his home church, demonstrating his deep-rooted devotion to his faith in God.

In 1995, he received a divine calling to ministry, leading to his licensure to preach in December of that year by the Broadway Baptist Church, under the esteemed leadership of Rev. Dr. James H. Brooks. In June 1999, Rev. Hill was ordained by the same church, recognizing his resolute dedication to God and his fervent passion for ministry.

Throughout his spiritual journey, Rev. Hill served in numerous capacities within his church, including roles as Youth Minister, Audio/Video Ministry Director, Church Trustee and a dedicated Sunday school teacher. He even humbly served as the church custodian. Notably, he was a cherished member of the renowned men's group, "The Broadway Six," which recorded a studio tape, "The Broadway Six".

In October of 2000, Rev. Virgil A. Hill answered the divine call and accepted the esteemed role of becoming the 21st pastor at the First Baptist Church of Harrodsburg, Kentucky. Since then, his unyielding faith and steadfast commitment have consistently illuminated his service to the congregation, garnering profound love and respect from its members.

Rev. Hill's dedication to education is reflected in his academic achievements. He completed an Associate Degree in Broadcasting at Barstow Community College in Barstow, California in May of 1987. Subsequently, he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Christian Education from Simmons College of Kentucky in May 1999, followed by a Bachelor of Theology from Simmons College in May 2000. In June 2001, he successfully obtained a Master of Divinity degree from The Master's Seminary in Evansville, Indiana. Furthermore, on December 16, 2023, he is poised to graduate with a Doctor of Divinity degree from Newburgh Theological Seminary in Newburgh, Indiana.

In addition to his pastoral responsibilities, Rev. Hill has taken on leadership roles in several Baptist associations. He served as the Treasurer and Parliamentarian for the South District Baptist Association, previously held the esteemed position of President in the General Association of Kentucky Baptist "Ministers & Messengers," and fulfilled the role of Recording Secretary for The Consolidated Baptist District Association. Currently, he serves as the 2nd Vice Moderator for the Consolidated Baptist District Association.

In his personal life, Rev. Hill is happily married to Vonda L. (Daugherty) Hill, and together they share five children and enjoy the blessings of six grandchildren. His interests span from a dedicated member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated and Masonic Mosaic Lodge #25 to an avid Corvette enthusiast, fisherman, and percussionist.

Rev. Dr. Virgil A. Hill is undoubtedly a beloved and courageous pastor, a devoted servant-leader, a visionary, an unfaltering friend, and a highly sought-after lecturer and preacher on a national level. His passion for sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ, making the Word of God relevant in the lives of believers, and advancing the Kingdom of God, both locally and nationally, radiates throughout his ministry. He is a Born Again Preacher of the Gospel, called by God to inspire and serve others on their sacred spiritual journeys. Embodying the words of Isaiah 40:31, *"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."* His unshakeable dedication to God, Faith and Community continues to soar to new heights, a testament to his steadfast commitment to God's calling.

## Rev. Dr. Virgil Hill Pastoral Candidate

**Rev. Dr. Virgil Hill** was the first candidate to visit our church. He preached during morning worship on Sunday, December 8, 2023. His sermon title was "Do You Know the Man Named Jesus?" The text was Luke 19:1-6 and 9-10.

Rev. Dr. Hill answered questions posed by the Ministries and his responses follow.



**1. How would your church members and community describe you as a person, other than being a pastor?** Church members and community describe Dr. Hill as a hard working person. Many people in the community have known him since he was a teenager.

**2. What are your thoughts on using technology and social media in ministry?** Rev. Dr. Hill loves technology. He shared that his skills were elevated during covid. He's on twitter, all social media, uses Zoom for Bible study.

**3. What will you do to bring back the age group of members 25 to 40?** He would make church accessible to them and the community. He wants to take the church to the people. He would teach them and have them become leaders to learn how to work with church groups. Get them active and involved by having them volunteer as chaperons to youth, etc.

**4. What success have you had in ministering to youth?** Dr. Hill was given the task of being a youth director at an early age. He gained great experience working in this capacity..

**5. Why do you think you are a good fit for Greater Salem?** Shared his experience of working with the youth and strategies he would use to bring them back to the church. The youth are our future.

**6. What is your vision for the music ministry?** Dr. Hill is a musician. With his style of preaching, he likes to be backed up with the organist. Our former organist, Jonathan Higgins knew his Daddy and he kept up with him and what he was doing here at Greater Salem. He knows a lot of musicians locally.

**7. What will you do to increase the footprint or involvement of the church in the community?** Dr. Hill believes we have to fellowship with other churches, not be snobbish, but show unity – with revivals and other activities with different churches. He prefers ecumenical, being open to other faiths, not just with Baptist. We must all work together outside the doors of church to bring us together inside the church.

**8. What approach will you use to increase the membership of the church?** Using personal contacts to invite them to come back to church, will be one strategy he will use.

**9. What are your thoughts regarding events such as church Anniversary, Church Picnic, Pastor's Anniversary and Ministries Day?** Rev. Hill likes the way each ministry had its own day in the past -to show aspects of all ministries, not just one day for all ministries combined.

**10. What process do you use when planning your sermon topics?** Dr. Hill looks at what's going on in society for topics, he emphasizes God is THE topic. He May not have a title - he waits on the Lord to give him a title and listens to Him. The Lord uses him as His instrument.

**11. What type of outreach programs do you feel are important and relevant to the church?** Believes in reach one, teach one. Believes we should offer programs like a Food ministry and reach out to youth to bring them back to church; find out how we can help. Those who are Blessed must help the rest of us.





## Bio - Rev. Dr. Justin Shamell

Rev. Dr. Justin M. Shamell is a native of Louisville, KY. He is the youngest son of Lois Shamell and the late Jasper Shamell. He was the father of an adult son.

He accepted Christ at the early age of eleven years old at Greater Salem Baptist Church in Louisville, KY. He delivered his initial sermon and received his License to the Gospel Ministry on September 29, 1991 at the First African Missionary Baptist Church, Kingsland, GA. He received a Certificate of Ordination on November 30, 2008 at Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church, Indianapolis, IN. He has served as Youth Pastor at churches in Kingsland, GA, Louisville, KY, Denver, CO and Atlanta, GA. He is presently an associate minister at Westside Baptist Church, St. Louis, MO.

He earned a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree from Marian University (2007); a Master of Divinity Degree from The Morehouse School of Religion at The Interdenominational Theological Center (2010) and a Doctor of Ministry Degree from United Theological Seminary (2019).

He served seven years in the United States Navy. He was one of the original crew who commissioned the USS Kentucky submarine in July, 1991.

He worked in the hospitality industry for seven years as a Hotel Sales Manager. He worked for seven years as a Meeting Planner for several non-profit organizations.

Currently, He is the Relationship Manager and Recruiter of Congregations at Eden Theological Seminary, which is located in St. Louis, MO.

He is currently a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He is a Kentucky Colonel, which is the highest award presented by the governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. He published an article entitled "Bridging the Generation Gap" for the African-American Lectionary.




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## Rev. Dr. Justin Shamell Pastoral Candidate

**Rev. Dr. Justin Shamell** was the second candidate to visit our church. He preached during morning worship on Sunday, January 14, 2024. His sermon title was **It's Only a Test!** The text was James 1: 2-4 and 2 Timothy 3:15. Rev. Dr. Shamell answered questions posed by the ministries and his responses are below.

1. **What type of worship do you prefer, Traditional Black Baptist, mixed/ eclectic or contemporary praise and worship?** *Dr. Shamell likes mixed, traditional and contemporary music.*
2. **What is your vision for the music ministry?** *Dr. Shamell has experience in directing youth choirs, he likes all types of music (hymns, gospels, anthems, and contemporary sounds).*
3. **What steps should the church take to minister to the people in our surrounding community, Beecher Terrace?** *Dr. Shamell would like to take the church to the people, Sunday services outside, collaborate with other churches. He wants to continue the food pantry, bring back the clothes closet and do some of those things Greater Salem was known for in the past and work more closely with other area churches.*
4. **What are your plans to bring the youth and young adults ages 25-35 into church or back to church?** *He plans to grow youth participation and young adults (ages 18-35) by inviting them to a meeting to find out why they are not attending and what the church needs to do so they will want to participate. Invite them to be part of committees (ministries) and teach them leadership skills. Invest in them.*

Continued on page 10

5. **How will you address the problem of persons joining the church and then ceasing to attend church?** *Dr. Shamell would have church membership classes and other sessions to answer questions about church and reasons for not going to church. Help them find out about their talents and gifts. Welcome them to the church and teach them about the church so they understand more and don't have "buyer's remorse" or feelings of regret about joining the church.*
6. **What are your thoughts regarding events such as church anniversaries, church picnics, Pastor's Anniversary and Ministries Day? Should these days be celebrated individually or all celebrated together for Ministries Day?** *Celebrating the church is needed especially since the 96<sup>th</sup> church anniversary is coming up next year, there is a lot to celebrate. This Church was started in 1926 (first started) and in 1928 (the name Greater Salem was added). Dr. Shamell shared the history of Pastor's Anniversaries and why anniversaries started in the church. Years ago, when most people were not financially able to give money on a regular basis, churches were not able to pay the pastor a salary, so they were asked to contribute money and gifts to the pastor once a year. Since the church started as a Missionary Baptist, we may need to relook at missions again.*
7. **What are your thoughts on having Pastors from other churches preach on Sunday morning at an event?** *No problem. Dr. Shamell was an interim pastor and had the opportunity to preach on a regular basis on the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday. He recognizes the importance of providing preaching opportunities to others.*
8. **Do you feel okay with providing a message to the members of the congregation via the GoodNewsLetter on a monthly basis?** *Dr. Shamell would feel very comfortable providing a message to the congregation on a monthly basis in the GoodNewsLetter.*
9. **How can the GoodNewsLetter be used as an evangelistic tool or do you think it should be used as such?** *He feels it should be used as an evangelistic tool for the community, sending to sick and shut ins and those in nursing homes too, using bulk rate with USPS to send to addresses around the church. He said we should acknowledge an important fact – if GSBC burned down and couldn't be rebuilt, would the community miss it? If not, then that's a problem.*
10. **It is essential to train our youth and teach them about God, however, members must be willing to teach. How would you address the lack of teachers to work with our youth?** *We need to survey the membership to find out who is willing to teach youth. Then they need to be trained so they really know what to do.*
11. **How are you currently demonstrating missionary interest and involvement?** *Dr. Shamell goes to conferences as part of his job now to recruit students to the seminary. It has been his experience that intentionally learning about church is needed. He wants us to be involved more in the community, such as collaborating with the NAACP, Urban League and others in social justice issues where churches need to speak up as they did in the past.*
12. **What makes you think you would be a good fit for Greater Salem?** *Dr. Shamell believes he's a good fit for GSBC. He was born and raised here in the church. He knows the history and knows first hand what we are capable of doing. He already knows many people and has many connections in the city even though he's been away for 20 years. It's not about him but about the kingdom of God He stressed that we would need to learn about each other together.*



*Rev. Dr. Shamell would like to be considered as the adult that he is today ( his many experiences and as a professional adult who is 55 years old). In mutual respect, he wants the members to understand while they knew him as a child, as Justin or Little Jasper, he is no longer a child. We will have to get to know him as Dr. Shamell. He is a people person. He likes people and wants to help them by building relationships. He is transparent, follows rules and likes to be serious when it's time to be serious, however he also likes to laugh and have fun in the appropriate way.*

## *Resurrection Sunday is March 31, 2024. Hopefully these will inspire and inform your celebration!!!*

### *Resurrection rumblings*

In *Easter Earthquake*, James A. Harnish explores the “earthshaking promise” of Jesus’ resurrection. Easter Sunday “shatters the power of fear,” he writes. “Because Christ is risen, we no longer allow fear to dominate, control or manipulate us. We don’t remain imprisoned in the tombs of our past failures or buried under the weight of present anxiety. In the risen Christ, old things pass away and everything becomes new.”

Easter, Harnish adds, is proof that God hasn’t forsaken us and is present among us. “The Resurrection contradicts the assumption that Christ resides on an ethereal cloud in a distant heaven. Rather, we find him on the dusty road that leads to the real stuff of our ordinary world.”

Jesus’ followers can find him everywhere, Harnish concludes. “The risen Christ will meet us along the confused, chaotic, fearful paths of our lives and speak the same words the women hear at the tomb, ‘Do not be afraid.’”



### *Because Jesus said so*

One intriguing person in the Passion account is the thief on the cross whom Jesus promised a same-day entrance to paradise (see Luke 23:43). Pastor and radio host Alistair Begg says he can’t wait to meet that man and ask how everything unfolded. “You were cussing [Jesus] out with your friend,” Begg says. “You’ve never been in a Bible study. You’ve never been baptized. You didn’t know a thing about church membership, and yet you made it!”

In a sermon, Begg pictures an imaginary angel at the pearly gates, growing frustrated during the sinful thief’s entrance interview. After receiving no clear answers from the thief about doctrines such as justification, the angel finally asks, “On what basis are you here?” The thief simply replies, “The man on the middle cross said I can come.”

### *When You Can’t find Easter*

Easter is the most joyous Christian holy day ... except when it’s not. What do we do when our mood isn’t what we think it “should” be? The kids are sugared up, we’re juggling family gatherings (and maybe conflicts), our everyday challenges remain, and festive hymns — however rousing — fail to lift our spirits. We wonder, “What’s *wrong* with me, that I can’t seem to find Easter?”

Been there, done that. And it’s okay. *You’re okay.*

Jesus’ resurrection doesn’t scoop us out of our troubles, but the death-defying Christ walks through them beside us, on our own Emmaus road (Luke 24). We aren’t alone. When we can’t find Easter, Easter somehow finds us — if not on this designated Sunday, perhaps two days from now, or next week or mid-May. Watch for it; keep your heart open. Christ is risen indeed — and you shall be too. —Heidi Mann

# BLACK HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



**Maya Angelou** (born April 4, 1928, St. Louis, [Missouri](#), U.S.—died May 28, 2014, Winston-Salem, North Carolina) was an American poet, memoirist, and actress whose several volumes of [autobiography](#) explore the themes of economic, racial, and

sexual oppression.

Although born in [St. Louis](#), Angelou spent much of her childhood in the care of her paternal grandmother in rural Stamps, [Arkansas](#). When she was not yet eight years old, she was molested by her mother's boyfriend and told of it, after which he was murdered; the traumatic sequence of events left her almost completely mute for several years. This early life is the focus of her first autobiographical work, [I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings](#) (1969; TV [movie](#) 1979), which gained critical acclaim and a [National Book Award](#) nomination. Subsequent volumes of autobiography include *Gather Together in My Name* (1974), *Singin' and Swingin' and Gettin' Merry Like Christmas* (1976), *The Heart of a Woman* (1981), *All God's Children Need Traveling Shoes* (1986), *A Song Flung Up to Heaven* (2002), and *Mom & Me & Mom* (2013)



*3 African-American Women Judges who Paved the way for U. S. Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson.*

Her rise to this lofty position is, in part, due to the work of these women and Black men—and to Black women judges dating back almost a century.

The nation's first Black female judge was **Jane Matilda Bolin**, who was appointed a [Domestic Relations Court judge](#) by New York City Mayor Fiorello La Guardia, serving from 1939 to 1978. Bolin was the first Black female Yale Law School graduate, as well as the first Black female member of the New York Bar Association.



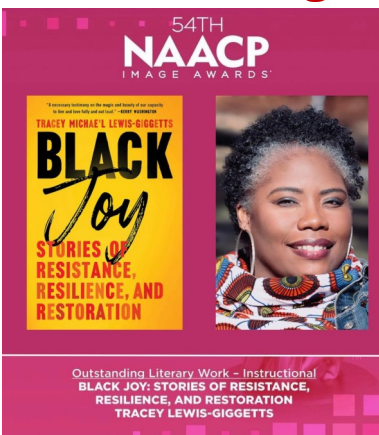
In 1961, **Attorney Constance Baker Motley** became the first Black woman to [argue a case](#) before the U.S. Supreme Court. She became the country's [first Black female federal judge](#).



In 1975, **Judge Julia Cooper Mack** was appointed by President Gerald R. Ford to the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, becoming the first Black woman to sit on a federal appellate court.



## Likewise -Young Women grow up in GSBC and then Make History also



Tracey M. Williams Giggetts who grew up here at Greater Salem and received GSBC Scholarships to help her matriculate at the University of Kentucky. She recently received an NAACP Image Award for her book [Black Joy](#). She also has been a college professor and ran a Publishing company. Her latest literary Work is [And Then They Came for Mine.](#) regarding the hate crime Kroger shooting.



Diane Turner Minnefield grew up in Greater Salem during the late 70's and early 80's. She always showed amazing potential and maturity as a speaker and worker during her time in the youth Department. By 1989 she completed the UL Law School and had been admitted to the KY Bar. Diane was recently elected as a Circuit Court Judge in 22nd circuit, Division 7, KY.

**Opportunities to Be in the Presence of God through the Study of His Word, Prayer, and with Regular Worship !!!**

- ⇒ Sunday Worship services are held in the sanctuary and streamed online on Facebook live at 11:15 A.M. and then made available for viewing later on the Greater Salem Website: [greatersalembaptist.org](http://greatersalembaptist.org) or the Greater Salem Facebook page.
- ⇒ The weekly Bible study will be held live in the Sanctuary and continue on Facebook Live every Wednesday except the 4th Wednesday at 6:00 PM and can be viewed later on the Greater Salem website or Facebook Page. The number and access code are: (978)990-5000 - 7032638.
- ⇒ You can join in the weekly Sunday School Class in-person in the Sanctuary or via conference call at 10:00 AM on Sundays. Just call (978)990-5000 and when prompted enter the access code: 721799#.
- ⇒ On Wednesday nights after bible study, we now have an in-person Prayer Service at 7:00 PM. Although it is not shown on FB LIVE, those who are watching bible study on FB LIVE and anyone else can call in to join us for prayer service during that time. The Dial-in number is 605-472-5736. Access code: 2239663. .
- ⇒ Wednesday's Noon Day Prayer Service meets in person each week in the Church Sanctuary .
- ⇒ The Women's Ministry's Bible Study classes and will be meeting on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays at noon. All women 18 and over are welcome to participate. Sis. Monica Thomas will lead the sessions. In-Person or you can Dial-In at 605-3135598 Access Code is 6671487



- ⇒ Men's Bible Study is being held In-Person in the sanctuary and by Conference call on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Saturday of each month at 10:15 AM. The dial-in number is 605-468-8738. The access code is 5398693.
- ⇒ Tithes and Offering can be delivered to the church on weekdays between 10 AM and 2:00 PM. They can be given to the Deacons on duty (587-8869) or placed in the mail slot (after hours). You can also send them to Greater Salem Baptist Church at 1009 W Chestnut Street, Louisville 40203. Call 587-8869 if you need someone to pick-up your tithes and offerings. Online Giving can be accessed on the church Website through VANCO. Vanco Online Giving is on the GSBC website, [greatersalembaptist.org](http://greatersalembaptist.org) under the HOME/GIVE heading. Click on the link and follow the simple step-by-step Process.
- ⇒ If you'd like to take the Lord's Supper, you can do so on every first Sunday of the month. If you need to make arrangements talk to your deacons.
- ⇒ You can get a paper copy of the GoodNews-Letter on the first Sunday after worship service or via mail by contacting the church at 587-8869 and leaving your name and address.

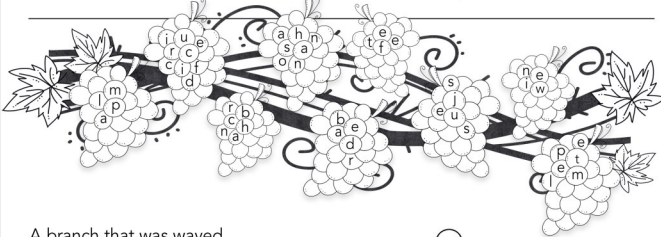


# PUZZLE

## A LASTING LESSON

Before dying on the cross, Jesus teaches the disciples an important lesson.

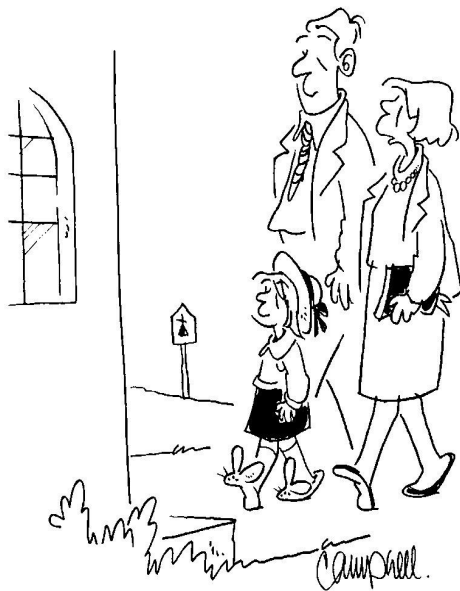
Directions: Use the clues to unscramble the letters in each grape cluster. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete John 15:5, NIV.



- A branch that was waved \_\_\_\_\_ ○
- How Jesus was put to death \_\_\_\_\_ ○
- A stick attached to the vine \_\_\_\_\_ ○
- People shouted this to Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ ○
- Jesus washed these \_\_\_\_\_ ○
- This was broken and eaten \_\_\_\_\_ ○
- The Messiah \_\_\_\_\_ ○
- A drink from grapes \_\_\_\_\_ ○
- Jesus drove the money changers from here \_\_\_\_\_ ○

"I am the vine; you are the branches.

If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear \_\_\_\_\_ ;  
apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5, NIV



"What could I say? They are her most Easterly shoes."

## Bible Quiz

The "Christ hymn" in Philippians 2 proclaims that after Jesus humbled himself even to the point of death, God exalted him, and that eventually all will worship him. What two body parts are named as part of that worship?



- A. knee; tongue
- B. hands; feet
- C. arms; lips
- D. heart; mouth

Answer: (See Philippians 2:10-11.)



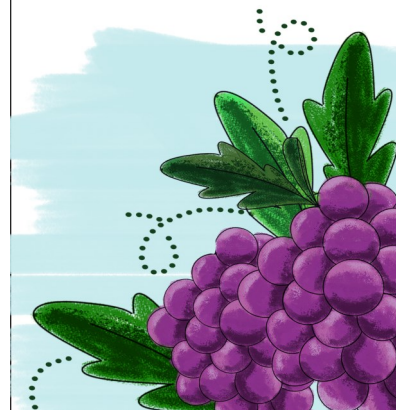
Try this chilly new take on a healthy snack.

### What you need:

- 30 grapes, washed and dried
- ½ cup vanilla yogurt
- 4 graham crackers, crushed
- Toothpicks
- Parchment paper

### What you do:

1. On a baking sheet lined with parchment paper, arrange grapes in a single layer. Freeze for two hours.
2. Insert a toothpick into each grape.
3. Dip each grape into the yogurt, coating half of it.
4. Roll each dipped grape in the crushed crackers. Place back on the parchment.
5. Freeze for two more hours. Enjoy!



## Christian Symbol

## BUTTERFLY

The butterfly symbolizes resurrection, Easter and the new life we have in Christ Jesus. As a caterpillar disappears into a chrysalis, so Jesus' lifeless body was hidden in a tomb. The emergence of the butterfly, rising into the sky in its beautiful new body, reminds us of Christ's resurrection — and ours.

# How to Be Saved and Know It...

## **[If You Should Die Today, Where Would You Spend Eternity]**

No One likes to think about death, but death comes to everyone. God tells us in His word, "And it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." *Hebrews 9:17*

Since death is so certain, you must prepare to meet God. According to God's word, you will spend eternity in one or two places – either in Heaven or in hell: "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment (hell) but the righteous into life eternal (Heaven). *Matthew 25:46*

## **[Every Person Born Into This World Inherited A Sinful Nature]**

"And were by nature the children of wrath, even as others." *Ephesians 2:3b*. "wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." *Romans 5:12* Behold, I was sharpened in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me." *Psalms 51:5*

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked, who can know it? *Jeremiah 17:9*

## **[This Sinful Nature Produces All Sorts of Evil Deeds]**

<sup>21</sup> "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, <sup>22</sup> Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: <sup>23</sup> All these evil things come from within, and defile the man." *Mark 7:21-23*

"For the wages of sin is death." *Romans 6:23a* "He that believeth on Him is not condemned, but he that believeth not is condemned already." *John 3:18a* But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murders, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, an idolators, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death," *Rev. 21: 8* ...and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." *James 1:15b*

## **[There Is Nothing You Can Do To Save Yourself]**

You cannot be good enough." There is none that doeth good, no not one." *Romans 3:12b* Keeping the Law can-

not save you. Joining the church, and being baptized will not even help save you. "by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified." *Galatians 2:16*. You are helpless. You cannot save yourself. "For by grace are ye saved through faith: and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." *Ephesians 2:8-9*

## **[Here Is The Good News Of The Gospel]**

In spite of your sin, God loves you and has done everything necessary for your salvation. "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly." *Romans 5:6*. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." *Romans 5:8* "For Christ has once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickens by the Spirit." *1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:18*

## **[Just Believing Intellectually That You Are A Sinner; That God Loves You And That Christ Died For You Is Not Enough]**

The lost person must apply this to him- or her- self personally by repenting and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as their own savior. Repentance is "a change of mind" brought to your heart by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God. It causes you to turn from your sins, dead religion, and works, to trust Christ alone. "...except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." *Luke 13:3* Scripture encourages not to put it off but do it now! "...Now is the accepted time, behold, now is the day of Salvation." *2 Corinthians 6:2*

## **THE INVITATION!!!**

**Admit to God that you are a sinner, ask Him to forgive your sins, and receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior. Claim salvation by faith.**

## **[You May Pray This Simple Prayer Meaning It With All Your Heart:]**

Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, but I am sorry for my sins. I believe you died for me and rose again, and with all my heart, I turn from my sin and receive you as my Savior right now. Thank you, Lord, for saving me!!! AMEN.

If you've read this and need to talk to someone about it, you can contact the Church Office at 502-587-8869 and speak with a member of the Evangelism Ministry Team!!!

GREATER SALEM WEBSITE:  
greatersalembaptist.org



A Note from your GNL Editor  
If you have some good news you'd like to share for next month's GNL please give it to me; send it to me at [hegilmer1@msn.com](mailto:hegilmer1@msn.com); or leave it my mail bin in the church office!!! Harold E. Gilmer

# March

2024

## Greater Salem Baptist

1009 West Chestnut Street  
Louisville KY 40203

Re, Carl Jones, Interim Pastor  
Office Staff  
Monica Little  
Lenette Dennison  
Telephone Number

502-587-8869

Email:

[aagsalem@bellsouth.net](mailto:aagsalem@bellsouth.net)

Office Hours

Monday through Friday

10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Saturday 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

**(See Page 13 for updated schedule of in person and online audio or video opportunities)**

March  
24



# Palm Sunday

MAKING DISCIPLES FOR CHRIST  
ONE HEART AT A TIME - ONE FAMILY AT A TIME

Come and Celebrate  
Resurrection Sunday  
March 31st

# HOPE is alive

From:

Greater Salem Baptist Church  
1009 West Chestnut Street  
Louisville, KY 40203



Deadline for the April 2024 GNL  
03/18/2024