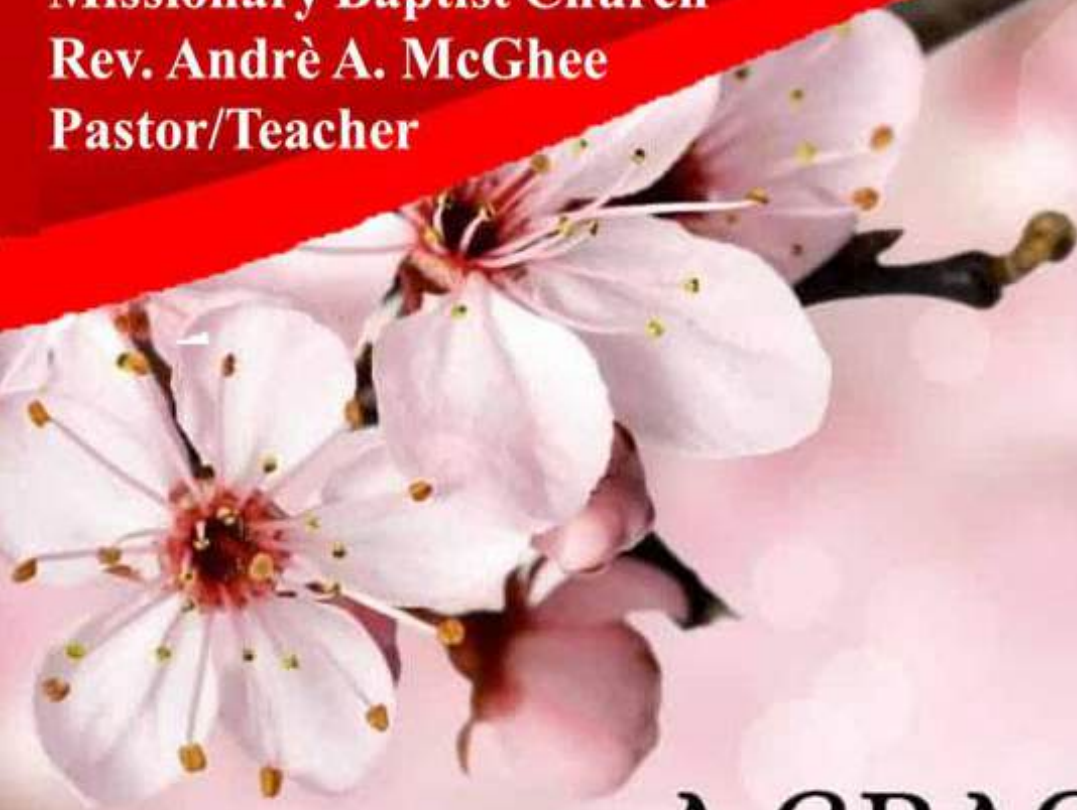


THE MESSENGER

MAY 2025

**Monthly Newsletter of
Greater St. John
Missionary Baptist Church
Rev. André A. McGhee
Pastor/Teacher**



A GRACIOUS
WOMAN RETAINS
honor

Proverbs 11:16



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Office & Mailing Address:

Greater St. John Missionary Baptist Church

101 N. Adams Street
South Bend, IN 46628

Phone: 574-232-6700

Fax: 574-232-2773

Office Hours

Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM



VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
Greaterstjohnmbc.com

Our Mission

The church committed to explaining the Bible for the equipping of the believer, the evangelizing of the blind, and the edifying of the body as we endeavor to bond in the unity of the Spirit.

Worship Service Times**Sunday School:**

Online: 8:00 am and In-person: 8:30 am

Sunday Morning Worship:

Online and In-Person: 10:00 am

Wednesday Bible Study:

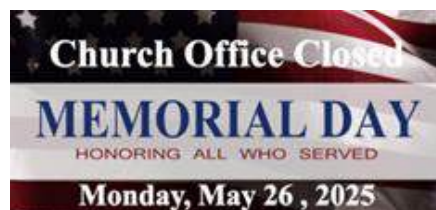
In-Person: 11:45 am
and Online: 7:00 pm



May Birthdays

05-02 Carmen Boyden, Erika Grayson
05-03 Earline Boatman, Etta Williams
05-04 Nathan Boyd, Chavala Wilson
05-05 Alvin Evans, Laricka Hunt, Dwight Hunter, Tayvione Mitchell, Deborah Wilson
05-08 Latangela Grimes, Giszel O'Neal
05-09 Wendell Harmon, Elois White
05-10 Brenda Blake, Ahnya Tate,
05-11 Jasmine Bradley, Amari Murray
05-12 Bemis Blake, Kimberly Jones, Letha Perkins, Lucy Wigfall
05-13 Sherri Jones, Peter Pinkney
05-14 Corlette Beauchamp, Jackiem Donaldson, Charmonique Green, Michael Taylor Jr.
05-15 Lela Warren
05-16 Tanya Robinson

05-18 Diamond Carothers, Zhane Hill, Danielle Westry, Masika Williams
05-19 Ta'lor Agnew, Hedy Buchanan, Jimmy Gamez
05-20 Maxine Pruitt
05-21 Vershawn Burns
05-22 Vickie Beasley, Janice Gates
05-23 Wayne Belcher
05-24 Jessie Key, Paula Rogers, Barbara Wadley
05-26 Dennis Copeland III,
05-27 LaTonya Belcher-Scott, Kanija Taylor, Jalen Williams
05-28 Doris Wright
05-29 Letricia Holman
05-30 Bettina Harris, Mario Lee
05-31 Jackie Engle



MISSIONARY DEPARTMENT

MOTHERS OF THE BIBLE WORD SEARCH



List of Mothers

BATHSHEBA
DEBORAH
ELIZABETH
EUNICE
EVE
HAGAR
HANNAH
JOCHEBED
LEAH
LOIS
MARY
NAOMI
PENINNAH
RACHEL
REBEKAH
RUTH
SARAH



But let it be [the inner beauty of] the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality and unfading charm of a gentle and peaceful spirit, [one that is calm and self-controlled, not overanxious, but serene and spiritually mature] which is very precious in the sight of God. 1 Peter 3:4

Missionary President Willa Mae Frison

2025 MARCH RALLY FUNDRAISER

The Greater St. John family thanks everyone who made a donation or participated in anyway in our 2025 March Rally Fundraiser. Your donations provided the funds we need to renovate, upgrade and switch the restrooms in the lower level of the church.

On Sunday, April 13th March Rally was held after the Sunday morning worship services. We had the roll call and recognized each March Rally team Captain and team members that were in attendance. After rollcall Team #4 Team Captains Sister Cynthia Moore and Deacon Mark Green were crowned 2025 March Rally King and Queen for raising the most money.

To the ten March Rally teams who gave their time, energy, and financial resources to make the March Rally a success, thank you! Thank you for your hard work and persistence. None of this would be possible without you.

2025 MARCH RALLY KING AND QUEEN
CROWNED – TEAM #4

(left to right) 2025 March Rally Queen, Sister Cynthia Moore, Pastor André A. McGhee, and 2025 March Rally King, Deacon Mark Green



THE ORIGINAL MEANING OF THE STATUE OF LIBERTY

With her flowing robes, flaming torch held high, and crown radiating out to the world like a beacon of hope, the Statue of Liberty has stood as an American emblem off the coast of New York for over two centuries. As the first American sight immigrants saw when they arrived at Ellis Island, with her pedestal bearing the words, "Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free..." Lady Liberty has long been synonymous with the American tradition of welcoming immigrants.

BLACK HISTORY MOMENT

But that's not actually what she was made for. French politician Édouard de Laboulaye conceived of the idea for the Statue of Liberty to be built as a gift from France to the United States in 1865, the year the U.S. Civil War ended. That timing wasn't a coincidence. Laboulaye was an abolitionist and president of the French Anti-Slavery Society, and his views were central to his commissioning of the statue. The statue was to be a gift celebrating the end of slavery in the U.S., as well as the centennial of the nation's founding and a symbol of good relations between France and America. Its ties to immigration wouldn't come until decades later.



The original design had Lady Liberty holding broken chains in her left hand, not the tablet we see today. Sometime between the original drawings and the final design, those chains were moved to her feet, where they aren't visible unless you are flying through the air over them, and the tablet bearing the date July 4, 1776 in Roman numerals took their place.

Once exclusion was raised about the statue's anti-slavery origins, the Statue of Liberty national monument and museum updated its educational program to include them.

For some, it might seem like a mere factual correction, but for Black Americans who visit the Statue of Liberty, it could potentially change their whole relationship to her symbolism.

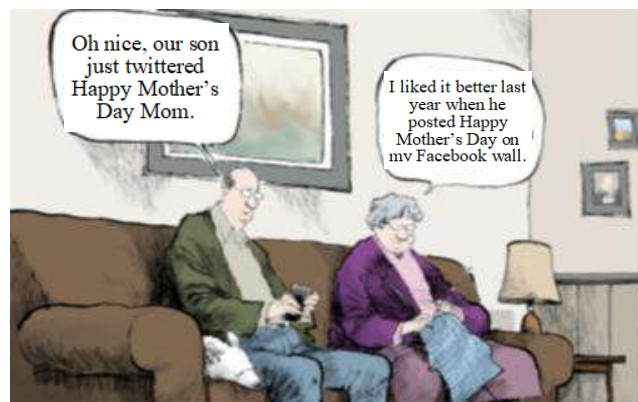
When Black people walk through, you hear white people say, 'Oh well, you know, my great, great, and my great great...' but Black people feel no connection to Lady Liberty. But how much prouder would they be if they knew that their ancestors didn't come through Ellis Island, they came chained together in the belly of ships, that she was standing on those shackles? How much prouder would those young people be?

Submitted by Brother Ray Turner



GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 2025

Attention all 8th grade, High School and College 2025 graduates! If you are a graduate and would like to participate in the GSJ Graduation Recognition Program, please contact Sister Lela Warren via email at lelawarren58@gmail.com. You will then be given instructions via email regarding the information/photo that you must submit no later than Sunday, May 26, 2025. Graduate Recognition will be held in the GSJ Sanctuary, Sunday, June 8, 2025. You are expected to be present for church in your Cap and Gown (if applicable).



2025 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Join Joseph on his journey from prison to palace!

Welcome to our 2025 Holy Land Adventure! In Egypt, everyone gets to explore first-hand the culture of Joseph's world. Alongside Joseph, they'll



experience the heartbreaking trials, joyous victories, and tear-filled celebrations of this unique Bible hero. Go back in time as God's Word comes alive! Experience the tastes, smells, and sounds from Old World towns and people we've read about in the Scriptures. Explore an array of Egyptian shops in our marketplace as you enjoy traditional Bible-times customs, occupations, food, and even games!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL MONDAY, JUNE 23RD THURSDAY TO JUNE 26TH

BUSINESS PARTNER SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



We are excited to announce the opportunity for our business partners to sponsor our monthly newsletter. As a sponsor, your business will gain visibility and connect within and outside of our local community. Our church newsletter has a growing, dedicated and engaged audience of online, mail, email and hard copy readers. This is not just advertising; it's a way to foster strong relationships and build trust.

Please feel free to reach out to me directly, Richard Armstrong at RCA72351@SBCGLOBAL.NET or 574-315-7473 for any questions. Thank you for considering this opportunity.

We look forward to the possibility of working together.



BROTHERHOOD AND MISSIONARY SOCIETY

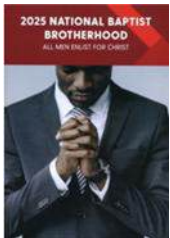
Brotherhood Motto: Teach the word in the home, with a consecrated heart; following the footsteps of the Savior, leading all men to God.

President: Deacon Calven Laws

Missionary Society: "Honor her for all that her hands have done ..." Proverbs: 31:13
Missionary Society President: Willa Mae Frison

BROTHERHOOD AND MISSIONARY SOCIETY WEEKLY LESSONS

THEME: DO JUSTICE



WEEK SUBJECT

- First: Social Justice: A Community Responsibility
- Second: Restorative Justice (Reconciliation and Forgiveness)
- Third: Two Sides of the Same Coin (Justice Mercy)
- Fourth: The Prophetic Call for Justice

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 58: 6-7; Jeremiah 22:13-16, Amos 5:24
Matthew 5:23-24; Matthew 18:15-17 Colossians 3:13
Hosea 6:6; Mica 6:8; and Matthew 9: 13
Isaiah 1:10-17; Jeremiah 22:3; Amos 5: 14-15



Thank you for the successful Missionary Department Fish Fry and a special thanks to all those who participated in the purchase, transport, preparation, serving, sales and cleanup. The proceeds support the many programs, and auxiliaries of Greater St. John. Missionary President. Sister Willa Mae Frison



Stepping for Christ Drill Team Anniversary

E	O	Q	S	X	I	F	D	E	Q	V	H	T	U	R
P	M	M	E	P	H	A	E	L	S	A	R	A	H	G
R	A	Y	U	I	S	G	H	L	W	E	V	E	U	B
Q	R	Z	N	L	J	O	C	H	E	B	E	D	Q	A
O	Y	D	I	V	H	R	Z	S	Y	H	J	L	T	T
S	V	E	C	S	V	A	A	I	T	N	Q	X	W	H
I	G	B	E	G	E	M	C	G	H	H	C	T	G	S
O	P	O	T	U	O	N	Q	I	A	V	R	C	H	H
L	H	R	M	E	P	F	W	H	G	H	E	U	E	
T	W	A	W	E	L	I	Z	A	B	E	T	H	P	B
C	F	H	V	E	E	B	H	A	K	E	B	E	R	A
D	N	L	Z	F	Z	C	A	Z	E	I	M	O	A	N
L	M	I	I	H	G	P	E	N	I	N	N	A	H	O
L	E	H	C	A	R	M	S	X	Y	I	A	Y	T	Z
F	U	A	H	E	A	H	H	A	N	N	A	H	J	Y

(from puzzle on page 4)



UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Northwestern Indiana Association District
 Missionary Baptist Association
56TH ANNUAL SESSION

STARTS SATURDAY, MAY 17TH
THEME: "IN GOD'S TIME," ISALAH 60:22

HOST CHURCH: **PASTOR GILBERT C. WASHINGTON**
ST. PAUL BETHEL
 MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
 621 LINDSEY ST. SOUTH BEND, IN



Need a Ride to CHURCH

We Have Free Round Trip Van Service Every Sunday

Call the Church Office
 Provide: Name, Phone # and Address
 574-232-6700



GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY

Attention 8th Graders, High School and College Graduates

We will recognize and honor you
 Sunday, June 8, 2025

Please contact Sister Lela Warren via email at lelawarren58@gmail.com

You will be given instructions regarding information/photo you must submit *no later than Sunday, May 25, 2025*



CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
MONDAY, MAY 26TH

MEMORIAL DAY
 REMEMBER AND HONOR



Vacation Bible School

EGYPT
 Joseph's Journey from prison to palace

Monday, June 23rd to Thursday, June 26th



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SUNDAY MORNING BREAKFAST

ONE SUNDAY PER MONTH