

THE MESSENGER

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

DECEMBER 2025



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Office Hours

Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM



VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
Greaterstjohnmbc.com



12-01 Michael Chase
12-02 Eddie Harmon Sr.
12-03 Willie Boyd, Mary Buchanon,
Jewel Levy, Matthew Shambry,
Martha White
12-04 Mable Grady
12-05 Sharese Allen, Ja'siah Davis-
Alexander, Martha Z. Jones, Anthony
Sellers, Telia Smith
12-07 Doris Gilmore
12-08 Brielle Walker
12-09 Vicki Harris, Martha Hawkins
12-11 Kaydyn Scales
12-10 Brandon Burton, Gloria
Sanders
12-12 Lauren McGhee, Serita Tate
12-13 Patricia Williams
12-14 Carvaughne Howell, Moriyah
Pittman
12-15 Vic Belcher, Aaliyah Frieson,
James Hurt, Shirley Towles
12-16 Valerie Thomas

12-17 Calandria Strickland
12-18 Nathaniel Carrothers, Lorenzo
Stewart, Reginald Thompson
12-19 Alesia Blount, Cleothia Carson,
Chariel Farrell,
12-20 Neisha Brown
12-21 Pearl Scott
12-22 Tyra Grace, Teresa Jennings-
Avance
12-23 Wayne Belcher, Kathaleen
Phillips, Carlus Moore
12-24 Jaylin Henderson, Rashetta
Meridy
12-25 Dartisha Jones, Jordan Person
12-26 Debra Parks, George Jones III,
Gloria White
12-28 Bernadette Butler, Marie
Connell, Jaylin Garner, Marissa
Houston, Carolyn Moore
12-29 Lamonte Boykins, Sade
Madison
12-30 Alicia Johnson, Willie Keyes
12-31 Marshawn Philips

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

Christian Christmas Challenge – Word Search

How many vocabulary words can you find in this puzzle using the word bank below? Words go in many directions.

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

BETHLEHEM	DONKEY	JESUS	SAVIOR
BIRTH	HEAVEN	JOSEPH	SHEPHERD
BLESSED	HOLY SPIRIT	KINGS	STAR
CANDLE	INNKEEPER	MARY	STRAW



PIZZA WITH THE PASTOR

In a warm and inviting setting in the lower-level of Greater St. John the Combined Youth Ministry (CYM) hosted a unique event for our youth ages 5–12. A pizza dinner with Pastor McGhee. Along with enjoying a meal together, the gathering provided youth an opportunity to be engaged in meaningful conversations in an informal setting. Holding the event in the lower-level of our church proved to



proved to be a good way to make the interactions feel friendly. It allowed our youth to see their pastor is not just a person behind the pulpit, but someone they can talk with openly and comfortably. The CYM members were also

delighted as they listened to heartfelt conversations at each table. This setting reinforced an important lesson for our youth that learning about their faith is not confined to the walls of the sanctuary.

After the pizza dinner and conversations with the pastor were over the evening continued, the youth were shown the animated movie “King of Kings.” Once the movie was over the afternoon came to a close. On their way out, youth were treated to free children’s books and gift bags. They left with more than just a filled stomach. They enjoyed an afternoon with Pastor McGhee and experienced his willingness to answer their questions and share his wisdom which left a lasting impression on the hearts of these young people. Pastor ended the afternoon with a closing prayer.

CHURCH SECURITY UPDATE

In recent years, church security has become very important as churches face potential incidents like emergencies, theft, and acts of violence. We have recognized the responsibility we have ensuring the safety and well-being of our members and guests. During the past few years, we have committed to improving security of facilities. We have installed security cameras, replaced traditional lock and key systems with electronic locks and added smart intercoms.

Recently you may have noticed or you may have been greeted by a South Bend Police officer on Sunday mornings. After meeting with Police Officer Jalen Lee to discuss how to enhance security of our church we hired a police officer to patrol the grounds and facilities during Sunday services. This is a precautionary measure to keep everyone safe as we continually evaluate our security plans. In addition, there will be a South Bend Police car stationed in our parking lot to monitor parking areas to prevent thefts, vandalism and damage to vehicles during Sunday services.



Officers of Greater St. John



22nd Pastoral ANNIVERSARY

Pastor André A. and Lady Jennifer McGhee



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

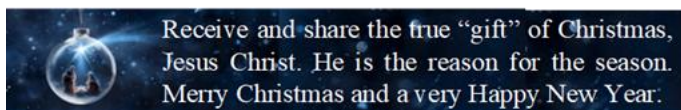
Missionary Society Theme: Many daughters have done virtuously, But thou excellest them all. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: But a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised. Proverbs 31:29-30

Missionary Society President: Willa Mae Frison

BROTHERHOOD AND MISSIONARY SOCIETY WEEKLY LESSONS FOURTH QUARTER 2025 ~ THEME: WALK HUMBLY

WEEK	SUBJECT	SCRIPTURE
1	Humility and Teachability	Proverbs 9:9; Proverbs 12:15; James
2	Finding Satisfaction in God	Philippians 4:11-13; 1Tim 6:6-8;
3	The Dangers of Pride	Proverbs 16:18; Proverbs 29:33;
4	Humility: A Lifelong Pursuit	Galatians 5:22-23; Colossians 3:12; 1 Peter 5:5-6

*When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And after entering the house, they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, after opening their treasure chests, they presented to Him gifts [fit for a king, gifts] of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
Matthew 2:10-11*



Receive and share the true "gift" of Christmas, Jesus Christ. He is the reason for the season. Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

THE BROOKLYN ROYAL GIANTS

Everyone knows the Brooklyn Dodgers. Everyone knows Jackie Robinson breaking baseball's color barrier in 1947. But what they don't tell you: Brooklyn's baseball legacy in the Black community started 42 years earlier when the Brooklyn Royal Giants took the field in 1905, becoming one of the most dominant teams on the East Coast. While Robinson was making history, the Royal Giants had already claimed Eastern Championships in 1909, 1910, 1914, and 1916, and featured Baseball Hall of Famers like "Pop" Lloyd and "Smokey Joe" Williams. This was Brooklyn baseball royalty that the history books forgot to mention.

**BLACK
HISTORY
MOMENT**



Brooklyn's Negro League roots run even deep with the Brooklyn Eagles, who lit up Ebbets Field for one season in 1935 under the ownership of Abe and Effa Manley. With future Hall of Famer Leon Day on the mound and manager Ben Taylor calling the shots, the Eagles brought hall of fame caliber baseball talent to the same field where Robinson would later make history. (submitted by Sister Jean Armstrong)

RENOVATIONS - BAPTISMAL PLATFORM/RECOATING AND RESEALING POOL



BEFORE RENOVATION



DURING RENOVATION



AFTER RENOVATION





Shannon Jackson
Funeral Apprentice

We are honored to be named one of the **Best of the Best** in the **2025 Reader's Choice Contest**! As a family-owned funeral home, we care deeply for the families we serve, and our reputation reflects that passion. Everyone who walks through our door is met with compassion, kindness, and professionalism. It is a privilege to represent the Brown name and the values we were founded on, as we help the families of Michiana through some of life's most difficult moments.



(269) 683-1155 | 521 East Main St., Niles

BROWNFUNERALHOMENILES.COM



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



Although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. α Romans 1:21



(Solution to Christian Christmas Challenge
Word Search Puzzle from page 3)



UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Christmas Card
Exchange Box Is
Up and Ready!**

**Located in the
Multi-Purpose
Building.**



**NEXT CHURCH MEETING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11TH @ 7:00 PM**

**BROTHERHOOD
SHEPHERD'S BREAKFAST**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20TH
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**COMBINED YOUTH
MINISTRY
CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION**
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20TH
Immediately Following the Shepherd's Breakfast

**WATCH
NIGHT**

NEW YEAR EVE SERVICE

DECEMBER 31, 2025



JR. USHERS ANNIVERSARY

GREATER ST. JOHN
Gift Shop

*Your Primary Source for Quality
Christian Gifts.*

*Open Sundays Before and After Service
and Wednesdays*

