

THE MESSENGER

Monthly Newsletter of

Greater St. John

Missionary Baptist Church

Rev. André A. McGhee

Pastor/Teacher

JANUARY 2026

WISHING YOU A

BLESSED NEW YEAR

2026

MAY THE LIGHTS OF THIS NEW YEAR
SHINE BRIGHTLY ON YOUR LIFE
WHICH OPENS THE DOOR TO

Everlasting Peace & Happiness
Good Health & Prosperity
that brings Joy
throughout the New Year!



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JANUARY 2026

Office & Mailing Address:

Greater St. John Missionary Baptist Church
 101 N. Adams Street
 South Bend, IN 46628
 Phone: 574-232-6700
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Office Hours

Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM



VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
Greaterstjohnmbc.com

Happy Birthday January

01-01 Naomi Davis, Carolyn Griffin, Thomas Henderson, Frank Webb, Rhonda Williams
 01-02 Neva Briggs, Ruby Kinds, Jarod Pigée, Tony Richardson, John Wigfall
 01-03 Keya Burns, Sincere Johnson
 01-04 Jenna Thomas-Nelson
 01-05 Anasia Bradley, Gale Gorden
 01-06 Eldridge Chism Jr.
 01-07 Denise Burgess, Tyrone Green, Adrian Johnson, Synthany Johnson, Evelyn Steele, Kenneth Taylor, 01-10 Tamara Martin
 01-11 Landis Byrd, Ashlee Carrell, Taryn Staggers
 01-12 Trana Holman, Sara Jennings, Anthony Miller, Trana Mitchell
 01-13 Katherine Byrd, Kevin Carouthers, Dewana McKinstry
 01-14 Dana Copeland, Willie Mae Frison, Johnnie Miller
 01-15 Tiara Robinson, Latoya Strickland, Rodney Williams

01-16 Martha Foster, Shannon Franklin, Barbara McDaniel, Eddie Stokes
 01-17 Omarion Branch, Sharon Dickens
 01-18 Patricia Adams, Charles Clayton, Timothy Harris
 01-19 Damarcus Lindsey
 01-20 Julie Bordner, Phyllis McMorris
 01-21 Lafayette Whaley
 01-22 Denise Deloach, Catherine Stidham
 01-23 Karen Anderson, Trenton Bonds, Krystle Gardner, Nona Thomas, Alacyn Smith
 01-24 Latoshia Bradshaw, Tei-onna Halbert, Tawana Jennings
 01-26 William Adams-Jones, James Cameron, Rozelia Hill, Sherry Williams
 01-27 Leslie Wesley
 01-28 Willie Gillespie, Brendan Johnson, Daeshawn Jones
 01-29 Erma Williams
 01-30 Walter Jones
 01-31 Willis Bedford, Jacquelyn Gorden, Isaiah Miller

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



Happy NEW YEAR

*You crown the year with Your goodness,
 And Your paths drip with abundance.*

PSALM 65:11



**KITCHEN
 VOLUNTEERS
 NEEDED**
(see page 8)



BIBLE QUIZ ABOUT MOSES

Moses is one of the most important and well-known Bible figures. Let's see how much you know about Moses.

- 1) How many spies did Moses send to Canaan?
- 2) How long did Moses live?
- 3) What was the name of Moses' sister?
- 4) On which mountain did Moses receive the 10 Commandments
- 5) What tribe was Moses from?
- 6) Which sea did Moses part?
- 7) How did the angel of the LORD appear to Moses?
- 8) In which river was baby Moses' basket floating?
- 9) What was the name of Moses brother?
- 10) What was the name of Moses' mother?

Bible Study Returns

Wednesday, January 14th in-person (11:45 am) and virtual (7:00 pm) Bible Study returns.

The Bible is a complete library of history, poetry, short stories, letters, visions, and moral instruction. The Bible was written over a span of more than a thousand years.

Bible study is led by our Pastor/Teacher, Rev. André A. McGhee.



RECOGNIZING ACTIVE MEMBERS WHO HAVE REACHED THE BLESSED AGE OF NINETY AND BEYOND

Occasionally this newsletter joyfully celebrates and recognizes senior saints that are currently active members of our congregation. This year we are recognizing members who have reached the blessed milestone age of ninety and beyond. This celebration was created to recognize and thank God for those whose faith and service have endured through the years. Many have been lifelong members, growing up in Greater St. John and serving faithfully in various ministries. Others joined later in life but have demonstrated the same devotion, spiritual fruit, and service. Below are five of these members:



Betty Stone



Adeline Jones



Nathaniel Carrothers



Laura Fisk



Ida Wigfall

Their godly wisdom, blessed longevity, and unwavering love for God and His people are shining examples of Christian living. Through this tribute, we honor God for their lives and their service.

(answers to the above Bible Quiz about Moses)

1. 12, 2. 120 years 3. Miriam 4. Mt. Sinai 5. Levi 6. Red Sea
7. Within a burning bush 8. Nile 9. Aaron 10. Jochebed



BRIEF 2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

FACILITIES: Renovated/swapped lower-level Restrooms. Retiled kitchen and hallway floors. Renovated Baptismal platform/resealed pool. Replaced carpet with tile in elevator, replaced freezer, rewired TV monitors/replaced speaker in kitchen to view and hear sanctuary activities.



ATTENDANCE: Our in-person attendance averaged 200 people per week this year. That was a 7% increase over the previous year of 187 people per week. Our membership increased by 36 people, with 20 Baptisms, 15 Christian Experience, and one Reinstatement.

OUTREACH: Supported community/families by donating to Cultivate Food Rescue, Vacation Bible School, Brotherhood Shepherds Breakfast, Fall Festival, Weekly Food Pantry, Lott Carey, Turkey Give-Away and our Benevolent Fund. Also, our Tent, Revival, Back to School Rally and dinner event.

YOUTH MINISTRIES: Experienced growth and engagement with our youth. Combined Youth Ministry launched a successful Youth Oratorical program and youth Sunday School classes and youth choirs continue growing.



WATCH NIGHT SERVICE: We ended the year hosting our Annual Watch Night Service with five churches worshiping together at Greater St. John (Pastor André A. McGhee). Participating were, Second Baptist Church (Pastor Andre Wells Sr.), Pilgrim Baptist Church (Pastor H. Gregory Haygood), Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church (Pastor Ray Owens), and Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church (Pastor Keith Witherspoon). The sanctuary was filled with anticipation as we worshipped, praised and heard the preached word from five Pastors.



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 2026 Goal: Outreach, to the church and community. Outreach of love and caring as commanded by God.

President: Willa Mae Frison

MISSIONARY SOCIETY: God has given us a new year. A new year to begin again, to rededicate ourselves to a life pleasing unto the Lord our Savior, to be renewed in 2026.

Ephesians 4:22-24 ²² that, regarding your previous way of life, you put off your old self [completely discard your former nature], which is being corrupted through deceitful desires, ²³ and be *continually* renewed in the spirit of your mind [having a fresh, untarnished mental and spiritual attitude], ²⁴ and put on the new self [the regenerated and renewed nature], created in God's image, [godlike] in the righteousness and holiness of the truth [living in a way that expresses to God your gratitude for your salvation].

SUNDAY SCHOOL FIRST QUARTER 2026

THEME: CHOOSING FAITH

WEEK	SUBJECT	SCRIPTURE
January 4 th	Holiness Honors God	Ezekiel 43: 1-12
January 11 th	Faithfulness Under Pressure	Daniel 1: 8-21
January 18 th	Israel's Disobedience and God's	
	Redemption	Hosea 11: 1-11
January 25 th	God's Judgement on Nations	Joel 3: 9-16

Sunday School Superintendent: Daren Washington

AMERICA'S FIRST FREE SLAVE SETTLEMENT

Fort Mose Historic State Park in Florida is the site of the first legally sanctioned free African settlement in what is now the United States. Established in 1738, it provided refuge for Africans escaping slavery in British colonies, pledging allegiance to Spain and the Catholic Church. The fort was a sanctuary for fugitive slaves seeking liberation from the tyranny of English slavery amidst a large-scale power struggle between European powers in the New World. The site has been recognized for its national significance in the history of the United States and is a featured site on the Florida Black Heritage Trail.

In 2024, leaders broke ground to begin a \$3.1 million reconstruction of Fort Mose. On May 9, 2025 partners gathered to celebrate completion of the full-scale 1738 fort at Fort Mose Historic State Park. (submitted by Ray Turner)





Shannon Jackson
Funeral Apprentice

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

BROWNFUNERALHOMEILES.COM

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.



**"OUR LIVES
BEGIN TO END
THE DAY WE
BECOME SILENT
ABOUT THINGS
THAT MATTER."**

—MARTIN LUTHER KING JR

MLK DAY JANUARY 19TH

LINDA JOHNSON RECOGNIZED FOR HER KWANZAA SERVICE

Our very own Sister Linda Johnson was recognized for her dedication and volunteer service to the South Bend Chapter of Indiana Black Expo. During the St. Joseph County Public Library's annual Kwanzaa celebration Linda has volunteered to help for years with the ceremony that honors unity, community service and local elders. Linda assists with the drum ceremonies and candle lighting.



UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Officer
INSTALLATION SERVICE
January 11th After 10 Am Service

Bible Study
RETURNS
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14TH
In-Person~11:45 am Virtual
Virtual ~ 7:00 pm

SOUTH BEND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERT
THURSDAY, JANUARY 15TH AT 7:00 PM

GREATER ST. JOHN
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
HOST REV. ANDRÉ A. MCGHEE ~ PASTOR/TEACHER
101 N ADAMS ST. SOUTH BEND 46628
~?>


INTERDENOMINATIONAL MINISTRIAL ALLIANCE
MLK Worship Service
Sunday, January 18th – 6:00 PM


GREATER ST. JOHN
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
HOST REV. ANDRÉ A. MCGHEE
PASTOR/TEACHER
101 N ADAMS ST. SOUTH BEND 46628


COMBINED YOUTH MINISTRY
IS HOSTING
DINNER AND A MOVIE
MONDAY, JANUARY 19TH ~ 5 PM
Lower-Level of Greater St. John


NEXT MONTH IS
BLACK HISTORY
MONTH
LITTLE KNOWN MOMENTS
IN BLACK HISTORY RETURNS


THE KITCHEN MINISTRY IS
SEEKING VOLUNTEERS TO
HELP WITH SUNDAY
MORNING BREAKFAST.
ONE SUNDAY PER MONTH
PLEASE CONTACT SISTER OPHELIA ROGERS TO SIGN-UP


