

THE MESSENGER

JANUARY 2026

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

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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Greater St. John Missionary Baptist Church

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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

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

Stidhum

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



**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 worshipping 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

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.



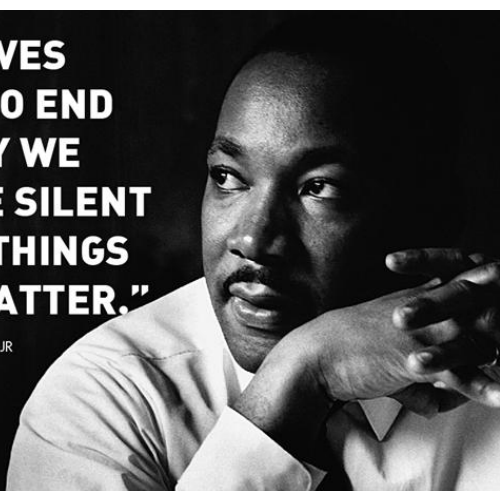
(269) 683-1155 | 521 East Main St., Niles

BROWNFUNERALHOMENILES.COM



**"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

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

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Bible Study RETURNS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14TH

In-Person~11:45 am Virtual

Virtual ~ 7:00 pm

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

01 N ADAMS ST. SOUTH BEND 46628

*Guest Preacher:
Pastor Keith Witherspoon
Bethlehem Missionary
Baptist Church*

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**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 BEREAKFAST.
ONE SUNDAY PER MONTH**

PLEASE CONTACT SISTER OPHELIA ROGERS TO SIGN-UP

THE KITCHEN MINISTRY

