

Winter 2013

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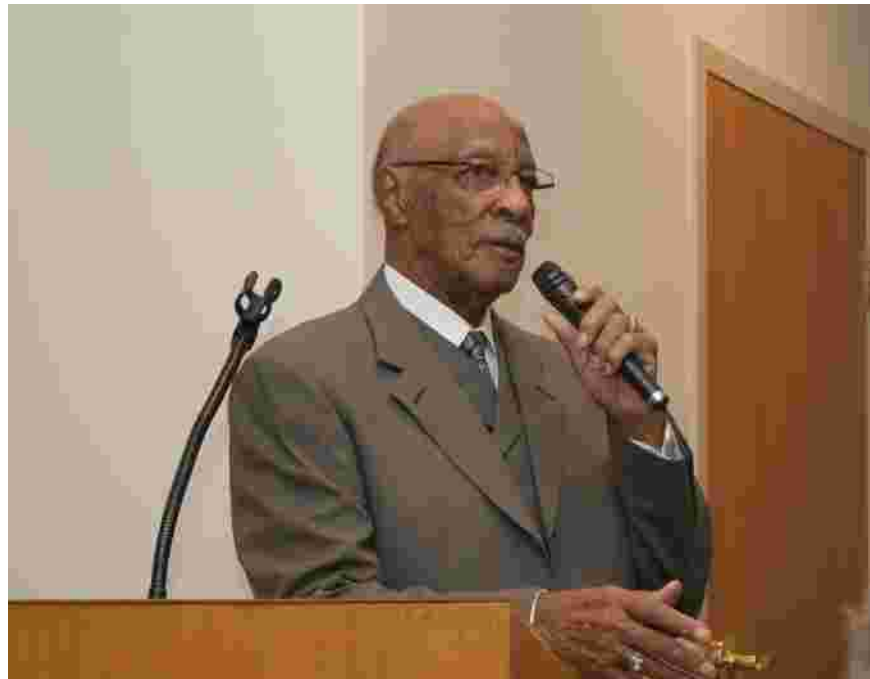
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## St. John's Informer

Magnifying the Name of Jesus Through Prayer,  
Praise, Worship and Witness



Pastor John J. Nicholas, Jr.

### Newsletter Committee:

God has blessed St. John's Baptist Church in many ways. Ministries, auxiliaries, committees, assorted groups and individuals are all contributing to spreading the gospel. Much goes unrecognized, except in the eyes of our Heavenly Father.

**Washington Baptist Seminary**  
**St John's Baptist Church Extension School**  
**2013 Class Salutatorian Address**  
**Annette Scott**

Good Evening, All I am Annette Scott your 2013 Class Salutatorian. First, I would like to thank God, Jesus Christ, who is my Lord Savior and the Holy Spirit through which and whom all blessings do flow. A Special thanks to my Pastor, John J. Nicholas Jr. (St John's Baptist Church), and Dr. John L. McCoy (Washington Baptist Seminary), my classmates, auditors of the class and other visiting students. Also a much necessary warm welcome and thanks to all Washington Baptist Seminary Professors, students, our families, friends, and church members.

This is both a great honor and blessing to be selected as the 2013 Salutatorian for the St John's Baptist Church Extension School under the direction of the Washington Baptist Seminary to address you all this evening.

The Washington Baptist Seminary and the Extension School has played a vital role in preparing us as leaders for the church of the future and aiding in spreading the Gospel to all humankind from all lifestyles as Jesus Christ commissioned, and command us to do. Our Professors and Pastors as leaders has continued to prepare us in this endeavor.

We as students had some serious open discussions and debates concerning our course of study topic (presently Transformational Leadership II). Transformational Leadership caused us to examine and analyze ourselves in being a leader because it required change. I can tell you there was never a dull moment and no one had to be taken to the woodshed that I know of. Some of you know what the woodshed means. I believe because of those open discussions and debates on this important subject it has helped us as students in specifically addressing some the issues that the church now faces and provide an essential tool in the future. We have learned so much this year as well as from each other on what it takes to be a leader.

To the Student class of 2013, I would like to say Faith has brought us a very long way, and with Faith, Hope that has helped and allowed us to endure in this training for our imminent journeys through our lessons learned. I say this because all of us have spent long days and nights; reading our lessons and writing mid-term/final exam papers because the homework assignment was due in the following days to come; for some you the very next day.

Nevertheless, before we could put pen to paper, we pondered over what we read and what needs to be done through careful evaluation and examination of all the materials presented. We pondered over understanding about what the Professors were instructing through their teachings and what scripture had to say. We knew in our hearts there had to be some planned structure, defining meaning, and clear direction from each chapter of the books, articles and handouts, which connected all the materials together; books such as Spiritual Leadership, The Next Generation Leader, Transformational Leadership and the Five Star Church. We knew that everything that was to be written had to be scripture based.

Therefore, Time alone was required. In this time spent, alone we had to seek and listen for what the Holy Spirit was speaking to us. This was our Spiritual Leader. We knew that time spent alone was necessary, to receive the instructions on how to implement what we have read and learned. We all needed to do this as leaders for the next generations to come because we are the leaders for today and must prepare the leaders for the future (The Next Generation Leaders). Our Transformation as Leaders will lead to the Next Generation Leaders.

As we continue on this journey, these words of wisdom come to mind: Learn the student, for if you do not know the student how can you teach that student for each student is not at the same level for teaching. Observe and evaluate to determine their level and meet them where they are in order to proceed to teach. For It is not aptitude that determine altitude but attitude.

(continued onpage 5)

## Farewell: Damon Watts, Music Director

Damon Watts, Minister of Music at SJBC, and his family relocated to Pennsylvania in June of this year. Damon



directed the Senior choir, Gospel Chorus and Voices of Inspiration during his earlier years at SJBC. Later he directed the Sanctuary choir and Men's Choir for many years. Damon was a guiding light for the Music Ministry of St. John's Baptist Church while simultaneously performing many other roles in his community. Damon established a Boy Scout Troop and served as Scoutmaster in the Gum Springs community.

Damon also earned a Masters degree in Accountancy and Education and served as a middle school Vice Principle. Damon, and his wife Kathryn, and daughter Gabrielle will be missed by the St. John's family. God blessed us with his

presence at St. John's Baptist Church. We wish the best for him and his family in their new home and community.

## Welcome: Gail Marie Freeman, New Music Director



St. John's welcomes its new Music Director, Gail Marie Freeman. She is a native Washingtonian with an extensive musical background that began at an early age when she learned to play the piano. That was the beginning of a bright and blossoming career studying various forms of music and studying at premiere institutions such as Howard University where she earned a bachelor's degree in music. She has been privileged to have learned from and assisted diverse notables as Rev. Rodney Teal, and Eddie Kendricks. This resulted in her accompanying artists on several recordings and in numerous music venues. Gail's versatility includes writing her own music, unreleased to date, and teaching music arts in the District of Columbia at a charter school. St. John's Baptist Church has already been blessed to hear her dynamic voice and feel the inspiration emanating from her vibrant and spirit-filled music selections. Gail is comfortable with both contemporary and traditional spiritual music, since she grew up mastering traditional music. The old spirituals, sung a cappella, have historical significance which span the African American experience. Gail has made a point of sharing that history with SJBC. The St. John's family welcomes Gail and look forward to blessings of her many God-given gifts.

**St. John's Baptist Church 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
**38<sup>th</sup> Pastoral Celebration of John Jasper Nicholas, Jr.**

Schedule of Events

- October 6 Kick-Off for 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
 "Magnifying the Name of Jesus Through Prayer, Praise, Worship and Witness"
- October 6 Recognition of Founding Members and Leadership (Trustees, Deacons and Deaconesses)
- October 13 Roll Call of Former Pastors  
 SJBC Mass Choir Anniversary Concert, 3:00 pm
- October 19 "An Evening with St. John's" Gala, 5-7pm  
 Attire: Special Occasion—Free to the public
- October 20 110<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary Celebration - 11:00 am Worship Service, St. John's Baptist Church Family Photo (Men: Dark Suits, Red Tie (if possible); Women: Red or Black dresses/suits) immediately after morning worship. Dinner following the Worship Service. Also,  
 Visiting SJBC, First Baptist Church of Washington, DC, Rev. Frank D. Tucker, Pastor, Choir, and Congregation, 3:00 pm
- October 27 "A Prayer of Thanksgiving" Communion Service - 11:00 am

**Prayers from African American History**

Historically, African-American people have been known to be very spiritual. From the old spirituals sung during slavery, to using prayer as a catalyst for divine intervention during the civil rights movement, spirituality and spiritual practice have shaped the lives of many African Americans, from the troubled past to our hopeful present. St. John's Baptist Church is blessed to have as a leader, our own Pastor John J. Nicholas, who continues in the tradition of our ancestors and exhorts us to pray for one another in order to stir up love and good works. (Hebrews 10: 24-25)

Harriet Tubman

c d

I'm going to hold steady on You,  
 an' You've got to see me through.

b a

## Continuation: 2013 Class Salutatorian Address

In closing class there has been someone praying for us behind the scenes (Our Pastors, Mentors, Families, and Friends etc.). Moreover, as we continue to grow in learning, teaching, and spreading the gospel, Jesus is praying for us now and in the near future. We need to continue to recognize whom that driving force behind the scenes person is (Jesus Christ) as we move forward.

Finally, I would like to leave you with these four thoughts:

Though, the road gets tuff: (Keep your Faith, and press towards the mark of your higher calling in Jesus Christ, because he is in charge and he is your help).

When there is a thorn in your side and you cannot see the light due to the darkness of shadows: (Know there is Hope, because you can do all things, through Christ who strengthens thee and provide you with his sufficient grace. For he has the vision, mission, and plan for your life).

When you need insight and direction: (Seek the Holy Spirit through Prayer) Prayers does change things.

Finally, always keep Love in your heart because God searches the Heart.

You cannot go wrong. Class I challenge you to continue to strive to meet your full potential in Christ and as leaders.

Again, it has been a privilege and wonderful opportunity to represent the 2013 Extension School as Class Salutatorian. May the Lord bless thee and keep thee. See you next semester and coming year!

Amen

## Mothers's Day New Mothers



On Mother's Day, May 12, 2013, Pastor Nicholas marveled at some of the new mothers of SBCJ; Alana Hurt (son, Jordan), Sara Brown (daughter, Mara), and Sabrina Doles (son, Warren).

## ANNUAL RETREAT—2013

Magnifying the Name of Jesus



### Stepping For JESUS

Men of St. John's Baptist Church "stepped" for Jesus in the "Magnifying the Name of Jesus through Dance" performance on June 15, 2013. Singing "Soldiers of the Cross", the group composed of men of all ages, sang, completed complex step routines and cited scriptural verses, all in praise of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Sis. Angel Austin, supported by a large cast of others, blessed SJBC and visitors to an array of inspirational dance interpretations, songs and a penetrating poetic readings. Ashley Brewton served as host and introduced St. John's and visiting groups.

# Church Ministries, Auxiliaries & Schedule

## Ministry and Auxiliary Directors:

Audio Visuals - Leslie Cameron

Bulletin - Doris Branch

Culinary - Sharon Hopkins

Dance - Angel Austin

Deacon - James Woodard

Deaconess - Veronica Sanford

Evangelism - Brenda Tyler

HHH - Anne Smith Keene

Hospitality - Michelle Jackson

Music - Caleen Greene

Newsletter - Gerald Stokes

Nursing - Maxine Thomas

Prison - Robert Taylor

Sunday Church School - Ernest Martin

Ushers - Aletha Frost

WEB Site - Bridgett Doles

Youth - Ernest Martin

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Arlington, VA 22204

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Church Office, (703) 920-4228

James W. Woodard, Chairman,  
Deacon Board, (703) 664-1340

Veronica Sanford, Chairperson,  
Deaconess Board, (703) 971-4626

Charles W. Bynum, Sr., Chairman,  
Trustee Board, (703) 615-3973

Vernice Mitchell, Church Clerk/  
Secretary, (703) 979-2351

## Schedule of Services

Continental Breakfast 9:00-9:25 AM

Sunday School 9:30-10:45 AM

Sunday Worship Service 11 AM

Prayer & Praise, Wednesday 7-8:00 PM

Bible Study, Wednesday Noon and  
Wednesday Evening 8:00-9:00 PM

Baptism, Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday

Communion, Every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday

## Voices of the Harlem Renaissance



Harlem Renaissance, written and directed by Sister Anne D. Smith, was a dramatic musical offered to our church family and community on February 24, 2013. The actors were a large collection of talented members from the SJBC family. They delivered outstanding period-dressed representative monologues, poems, and songs of many key figures of the Harlem Renaissance period. The audience was given a glimpse of that energetic era during which the Black intelligencia shaped the world of music, poetry, politics and dance through the talents of notables such as: Josephine Baker, Marcus Garvey, Fats Waller, Mrs. Arturo Schomberg, W.E. B. DuBois, Griot, Georgia Tom, Adam Clayton Powell, Langston Hughes, Cotton Club Dancers, Bessie Smith and Zora Neale Hurston. It was an

evening of fellowship and praise for those who set the high marks in African American Culture. Actors were given a standing ovation for their work.

Official St. John's WEB Site: [StJohnsArlington.org](http://StJohnsArlington.org)

## An Open Invitation - to You!

The SJBC Informer is published periodically to serve the church family. Your contributions are essential. Please submit ideas and articles to the newsletter staff for consideration. All praise to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

### Special Contributors to this issue of The Informer:

- Annette Scott (text)
- Susan Doles (photography)
- Charlotte Stokes

#### Service Technicians for Jesus' Outpatient Healing Network System

EMERGENCY CELL PHONE NUMBERS TO BE  
USED FOR CHURCH-RELATED ISSUES:

Deacon Terry Tyler: 202-744-8959

Deacon James Woodard: 703-597-6997

We are thankful for God's grace and mercy.



### St. John's Informer Newsletter Committee

This newsletter is brought to you through the collective efforts of Sandra Browne, Doretha Countee, Robert Taylor, Annette Scott, Tena Smith, Elaine Green and Gerald Stokes. Articles for consideration can be contributed by any St. John's Baptist Church member. E-mail Gerald Stokes ([stokes.gerald@gmail.com](mailto:stokes.gerald@gmail.com)).