

# **St. John Missionary Baptist Church**

## **Soul-Saving Center**

Can you imagine what life was like nearly 120 years ago? The land was not developed as it is today. There were lots and lots of trees/woodland, all the roads were dirt/unpaved, and most of the farm houses or tenant houses were unpainted. That was way of life at that time and our fore-parents were sharecroppers. They had to tend the land of the person who owned the house in which they lived. Blacks owned very few homes and land in the early 1900s, but thanks to God the situation has now turned around.

The way most people got together was work or fellowshiping at prayer meetings or going to church. Churches were not as numerous then as they are now, and service was only once a month. After toiling, (hard manual work) all day, people would get relief by praising God the only way they knew how; by praying and singing the very meaningful hymns that we hear sometimes now. Let's imagine what took place as we go from the old to the new.

This is a two-part history from the old to the new church that we now know as St. John. It starts in the early 1900s;

Setting—an old farm house on a little narrow, country, unpaved, and unnamed road. A few people gathered to have prayer meeting and a discussion started while waiting for other to come. They talked for a brief moment then decided to table the discussion until later. When the others arrived, they could hear the songs being sung prior to getting to the house. Some of the songs were:

*I Must Tell Jesus, Count Your Blessings, and Where He Leads Me*; these hymns brought joy and comfort to the soul.

History, through speculations, 119 years ago, after prayer meeting the discussion came up about the size or growth of the house. A church meeting date was set to continue the discussion about meeting in the old farm house. The talk was going to be about an overgrowth in which the house was getting too small. So, there was a need to make a change (build or relocate.)

The meeting was called to order.

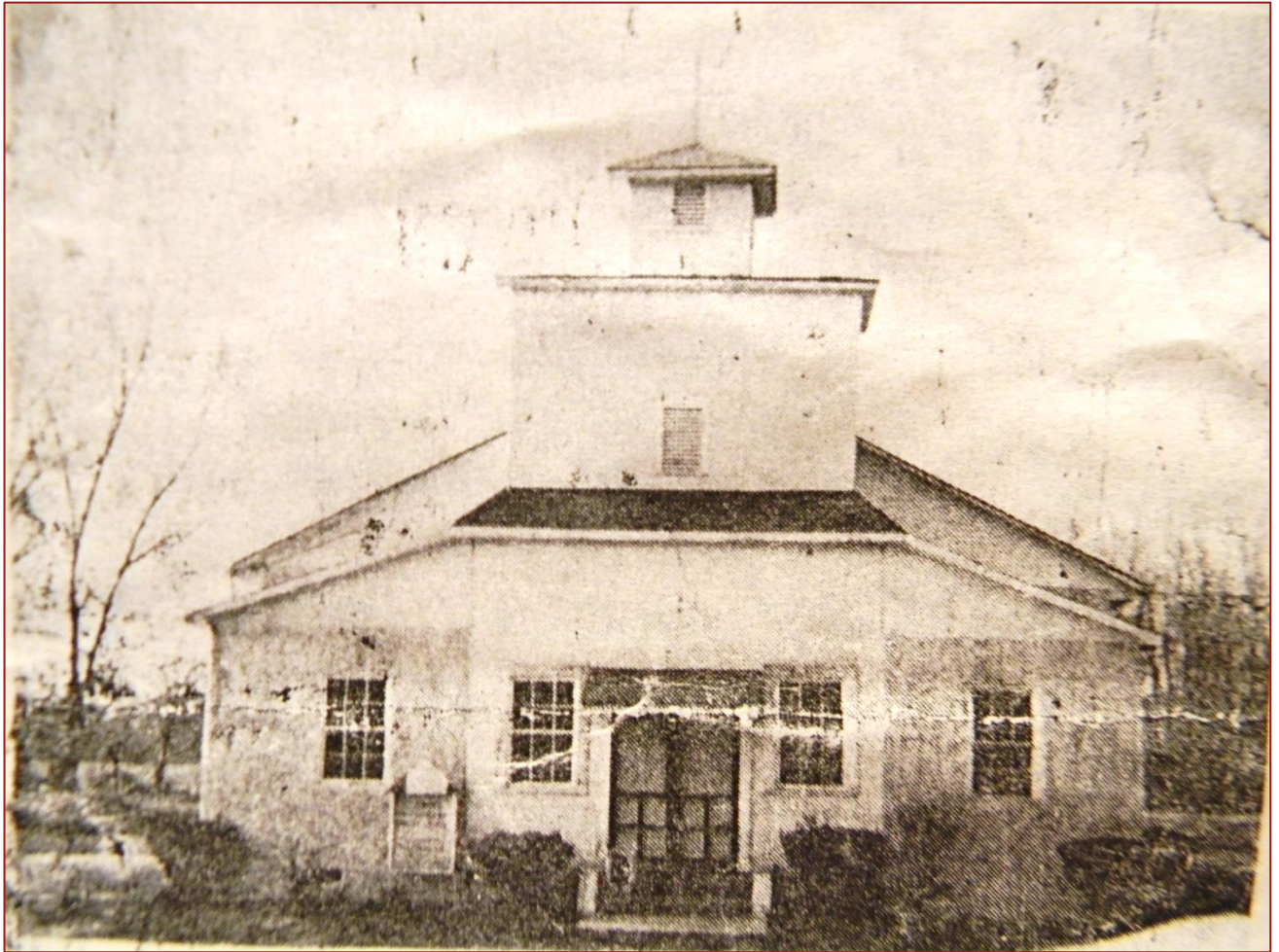
The first song was **AMAZING GRACE**:

*Amazing grace how sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost but now am found was blind, but now I see.*

There was a scripture reading and then the prayer was prayed. The next song before the meeting was; **A CHARGE I HAVE** to set the atmosphere:

*A charge to keep I have, A God to glorify, A never dying soul to save. And fit for the sky.*

Now it's time for the meeting Mr. Chairman, I have a proposition to make. Since we're outgrowing this old house, I think it's time for us to build our own church. So, we need to find some land on which to build. The members were in agreement. The trustees, Cubit Perkins, Alfred Crandell and John Jenkins looked for and found the land. They found and purchased ¼ acre of land from L.T. and Lidia Perkins for \$9.00 on September 12, 1903 for Missionary Church. In 1904, Missionary Church was completed and renamed Piney Grove Baptist



Church. For unknown reasons/ the name was changed to St. John Missionary Baptist Church.

In the early church the Deacons and other leaders were not identified. After the church became St. John, the Deacons were: Buddy Perkins, Ananias Clemons, James Parker, Cellus Ward, Rufus Moore, Will Parker and Marcellus House. There were other leaders in the church which were elevated to a higher level. Through divine intervention, God inspired and elevated the following men to carry the WORD out of St. John. They were Robert Mobley, Ashley Daniels, James A. Daniels and Jesse

Ray Roberson. Former Mothers of the church were Ella Parker, Annie Ward, Hattie Parker, Amy Daniels, Emma Barnes, Rosa Mae Perkins, Julia Tyson and Goldie Andrews.

Deacons Paul Moore and Dock Chance helped in leading and laying a foundation for St. John. Anthony Grice, Jesse Everett, Sr. and Jerry Little were the deacons in St. John which has only six pastors since its foundation, selected the seventh. There have been some modifications and additions over the years but the most recent changes you can now see.

The seventh Pastor of St. John is none other than Pastor Gregory V. Black. He is an anointed, God-fearing man, chosen and sent to us by God. He believes in preaching and teaching the WORD OF GOD whether you like it or not. THE WORD is delivered in such a way that it causes you to soul-search or examine yourself. It's up to you to make the necessary changes. Just as we use an atlas or roadmap, Pastor Black uses the BIBLE as his guide and Jesus, his commander-in-chief. After being at St. John for a while, Pastor Black saw that two of our deacons were getting old in bad health and needed some help. In looking over the congregation, he sought God for direction. Donnie Brown and Jerry Smith were the first two deacons installed under his leadership. Later, Edward Clemons and Julius R. Perkins, (Bro. Jut) were installed. The following mothers were installed: Louvenia Askew, Catherine Ward, Marjorie Perkins, Eva Clemons and Lillian Morning under his leadership.

On August 9, 10, and 12, 2001, St. John held its first Annual Women Conference. *The theme was "Women on the Move or God."*

Also in 2001, a vision was given to Pastor Black. An interview was conducted.

*Question: What is THE VISION?*

Answer: THE VISION was given to me in 2001. God saw that the church was growing and we were in a dangerous location due to the heavy traffic on such a busy highway, (HIGHWAY 903.) Therefore, he was chosen as the SERVANT to oversee the completion of the Vision, which was to build a new church. Pastor then told the congregation about the VISION, and we gave him our support. What else could a congregation do? Our Servant/Shepherd spearheaded the project and things started happening.

- First, he looked and found land (to accommodate a building, with adequate parking and to allow for expansion when needed.)
- Purchasing of 5 acres of land from Ed Warren in January 2001.

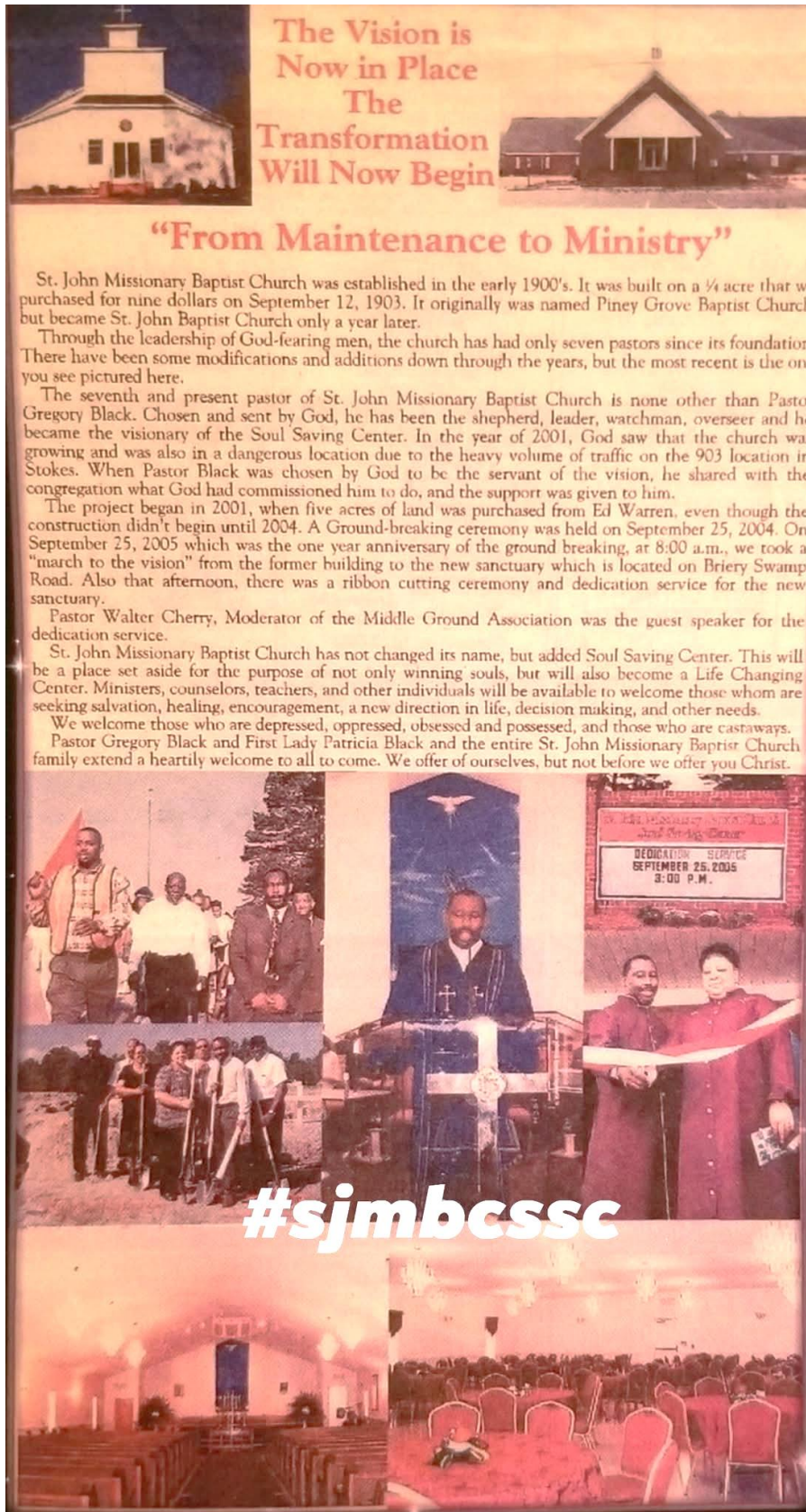


- Had land surveyed.
- Contacted Smith Engineering & Design Co. to draw up plan/blueprints of the building.
- Church records had to be in order to obtain finances for the building from Southern Bank in Bethel/Greenville.
- Transactions were completed on July 15, 2004.
- Groundbreaking ceremony occurred September 25, 2005.
- C.A. Lewis, contractor along with others were then instructed to get started. The building actually in October 2004 and continued until September 2005 with the finished product.

We can now safely say “THE VISION HAS COME TO PASS.” The St. John Missionary Baptist Church has not changed its name but added SOUL-SAVING CENTER, Stokes, NC this 25th day of September 2005. This SOUL-SAVING CENTER is about winning souls.

Question: Pastor Black how many days did you come here while the construction was going on? A quote, “I missed no more than 10-15 days while this building was being built and that included Saturdays and Sundays.” In spending time here Pastor Black was not just sitting idle. He was busy working and inspecting the work that was being done. He made sure that there were no short cuts being taken.

We, the members are proud of this beautiful building, proud of the one who was sent and inspired by God and given the VISION. It took many long hard hours of work, prayers, love and dedication to complete this vision. We are appreciative to God for the Visionary, he has placed over us, to lead, guide, teach and direct us. “THE VISION IS NOW IN PLACE.”



On September 25, 2005 at 8:00am, the St. John Church family met at the old church on Highway 903N in Stokes, North Carolina and walked to the new sanctuary on 2921 Briery Swamp Road. Pastor Black, Deacon Jesse Everett, Deacon James Jones, and others can be seen in the picture leading the way. The ribbon cutting was by Pastor Evangelist Black on the steps at the new sanctuary.



The march was led by our leader, Pastor Gregory V. Black. There were approximately 100-125 people who walked the 1.7 miles. Some of the older members and those with various ailments were able to ride. A special limousine was donated by Granelle's Limo Service for non-walkers. At 3:00pm there was a ribbon cutting ceremony. It was followed by the Dedication Service in which the sanctuary and all its contents were dedicated to the Lord. The service was well attended. The Moderator of the Middle Ground Union/Association, Rev. Walter Cherry, Jr. delivered the message.

God is still working on Pastor Black, revealing to him that the church will become a LIFE-CHANGING CENTER through the WORD, songs and prayers. This will be a

place set aside for the purpose of winning souls, counseling, teaching, healing, etc. It will reach the needs of the people regardless to who you are.

### **Break-Out History**

- ❖ March 14, 2006, **the fellowship hall** was dedicated as the GREGORY V. BLACK FELLOWSHIP HALL. It was justly named so for Pastor Black's dedicated services, and as the visionary/overseer of the building project.
  
- ❖ During the women conference in 2006, in our first lady's planning, praying and fasting about the conference, the Lord gave her the vision of a **"PRAYER GARDEN."** The Women Conference was held on August 7-13, 2006. Sis. Patricia Black had been laboring, trying to make this our best conference. Theme: *."Women Walking in Destiny, Created For So Much More"*. In her praying, planning and fasting it was revealed to her, *A Prayer Garden* for the week. It is decorated beautifully. Pastor Black went in prayer ,and it was shown to him that the *Prayer Garden* should become a permanent part of this edifice. As of August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006, we now have a sacred room to pray.
  
- ❖ In August 2007, the research was done for the **cornerstone of the church.** The cornerstone was made and delivered Thursday, September 20, 2007. All the Pastors of this church names are on the *cornerstone* as well as the founding, rebuilt, and relocation date. We thank God that we are able to celebrate the 107<sup>th</sup> church anniversary. We also thank God for *THE MAN, HE GAVE THE VISION.* We found that the measurements were off by a

fraction of an inch, therefore it could not be installed until the following Monday. It reads as thus,

St. John Missionary Baptist Church

Founded 1903, rebuilt and relocated September 25, 2005.

Pastors:

Rev. Mack Cotton	1904-1906
Rev. Cornelius Brown	1907-1909
Rev. James G. McNair	1910-1949
Rev. John H. Chance, Sr.	1950-1980
Rev. L. D. Bizzell	1982-1984
Rev. M. A. Riddick	1985-1991
Rev. Gregory V. Black	1991-

- ❖ The crossed behind the choir was added, the rails were added as permanent fixtures to the church. Columns were added in the G.V. Black Fellowship Hall
- ❖ St. John Social Media Facebook Page was created by Sis. Brenda Ewen July 31, 2011. The page can be found at [facebook.com/soulsavingcenter](https://www.facebook.com/soulsavingcenter) or you can search for @soulsavingcenter. It displays, services and messages that Pastor Black preaches and other church and community events as well as announcements of upcoming events.
- ❖ 2014-Pastor Black received the Pastor of the Year award; and event held in Washington at the Washington Civic Center.

- ❖ September 2014, St. John had an ***Eternal Memorial Candle Ceremony***. This ceremony was a celebration and commemoration of lives of deceased pastors, members and their servant hood. A total of 128 candles were lit in honor of each of the deceased. A plaque was created to include all the names of the deceased members of St. John.
  
- ❖ December 2014, Pastor Gregory V. Black gave his VICTORY SPEECH noting the completion of the vision, the SOUL-SAVING CENTER, which God had given to him. This month marked the celebration of the church PAID in full. Pastor Walter Cherry, Jr. and his combined choirs from the churches he pastors came to render service in honor of the mortgage burning ceremony. A bucket was placed in the middle of the sanctuary and mortgage burning ceremony was held marking the payoff of the newly erected church facility in nine years.
  
- ❖ Also in 2015, the ***ST. JOHN COMMUNITY FOOD GIVE-AWAY*** is a ministry that was added to serve the community, surrounding area and all who may be in need. The ministry formed from a partnership with Pastor Rodney Coles, Sr., founder of Churches Outreach Network.
  
- ❖ During our ***2015 Annual Women Conference, Missionary Patricia Black received the license to preach as an Evangelist*** carrying the gospel of Jesus Christ out to the hedges and highways, which she already was doing.

- ❖ In 2015, a permit was obtained to begin work on the barn out back, added 50 X 50 feet structure in the back of St. John. The added structure was completed in February 2016 and has since been paid in full.
  
- ❖ 2016 the Youth Incarceration Prevention Ministry under the leadership of Pastor Black was laid on Bro. Eddie Godley's heart after serving in the Pitt County Jail Ministry.
  
- ❖ In September 2016, the sidewalk stretching from the church to the barn was added.
  
- ❖ September 2016, the cross you see at the front entrance was added and installed by the late Brother Mack Goss. Mack was the husband of Sis. Verna Goss.
  
- ❖ In July 2017, the church and countless others went in prayer for our pastor as he learned that he would need open heart surgery. We thank God for bringing our Pastor through and allowing him to still be here. The three words he spoke as he came through after the surgery were "GOD DID IT!" We are forever thankful and grateful to our God for all that he has done and continues to do.
  
- ❖ In 2018, The Church purchased a brand-new van.

- ❖ 2019 -- St. John mourned for the passing of Brothers Mack Goss and Edward W. Keel. Brother Mack Goss was the husband of Mrs. Verna Goss who is also a faithful member. Bro. Edward Keel was married to Mrs. Nickie Keel. Brother Keel was also the brother to Sis. Hazel Everett who is also a faithful member and one of the oldest of St. John.
  
- ❖ June 1, 2019 – The Youth Incarceration Prevention Ministry was held at St. John in Stokes, NC.
  
- ❖ Deacon James Jones received the TRIUMPH OF THE YEAR award. The award was held in Greenville, NC at the Greenville Convention Center. At the award, Deacon Jones showcased his book entitled, “THROUGH IT ALL, SOMEHOW WE MADE IT.”
  
- ❖ Celebrated the 28<sup>th</sup> Pastoral Anniversary -Click the link for the program [https://0j.b5z.net/i/u/10237729/i/usr/144/28th\\_Pastoral\\_Anniversary\\_Booklet.pdf](https://0j.b5z.net/i/u/10237729/i/usr/144/28th_Pastoral_Anniversary_Booklet.pdf)
  
- ❖ March 2020--In 2020, the entire world came under a pandemic. The disease called COVID-19 has already killed thousands and has not been contained yet, nor has anyone developed a proper vaccine for it. March 15, 2020 was the last (regular service we had in our sanctuary outside the state mandated guidelines which would include social distancing (6ft apart,) wearing masks, and sanitizing, and with entrance to sanctuary.

- ❖ March 31, 2020\_ St. John's church YouTube Page was created by our media person, Sis Brenda Ewen. It can be found by entering this link. <http://www.youtube.com/channel/UC369AzotF2tCu56hoy98llg> or you can go to YouTubes home page and search for St. John MBC Soul-Saving Center
- ❖ On April 3, 2020, a message was sent out via text and St. John's social media page to encourage God's people. It reads as thus...

A message from Pastor and Evangelist Black:



Greetings Saints,

***Psalm 27, says The Lord is my light and my salvation whom shall I fear.***

***Romans 8:28 declares, And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.***

***Be encouraged saints this too shall pass.***

***As you know there can't be any gatherings greater than 10 people so this is a perfect time to read and study your bibles since you can't go out anyway.***

***Use this time to reintroduce yourselves to Christ and refresh your relationship. He'll never leave you nor will He forsake you, He will be with you even to the end of the world.***

***Be safe, be encouraged and most of all be blessed.***

***Pastor & Evangelist Black love you all.***

On April 12, 2020, Pastor Black moved to holding virtual services in the sanctuary according to CDC Guidelines. Bible Ethics moved to Thursday nights at 7pm and Sunday only permitted Worship service at 11:00AM.

Youth Incarceration Prevention Ministry 2020- Unlike the times in years prior, the YIPM took place in a virtual setting. A collaboration with Awesome Radio, Bro. Eddie Godley held the event via Zoom with various speakers.

- ❖ On July 26, 2020 after Sunday Worship, many joined in on the surprise at the church with a drive-thru. It was an opportunity for many to come and say hello to our Pastor and Evangelist Black and spread love. It was due to the strict guidelines as to why only about 50 people could gather. God kept up safe. We are blessed to have Bro. Eddie Godley to be able to sanitize and disinfect the church after every service.

- ❖ September -2020, 116th Church Anniversary-

- ❖ March 2021--We celebrated our Pastor's 29<sup>th</sup> Pastoral Anniversary.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY PASTOR AND EVANGELIST BLACK

EVEN IN A PANDEMIC. An opportunity was made for everyone to come out, Saturday, March 6, for the Drive-thru Parade which was a a success.

On this day, March 7, 2021, St. John's Evangelists Barbara Stokes and Ann Roger's will close out our 29th Pastoral Anniversary.

Praise God!!

At the close of the Pastoral Anniversary, everyone ventured outside where there was a balloon release that took place. The balloons were beautiful and began to go up over the church. The balloon release can be viewed on the

church's YouTube page. It's entitled: Balloon-Release for Close-out of Pastor Black's 29<sup>th</sup> Pastoral Anniversary.

June 3, 2023 Youth Incarceration Prevention Ministry 2020

\*\*\*\*\*Mrs. Keel suggested putting\*\*\*\*\*A SCRAPBOOK ONLINE.

- ❖ On March 20, 2022, St. John mourned the passing of our beloved Mother Marjorie Perkins. She passed away March 11, 2022.
- ❖ "A DAY OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR OUR YOUTH" 7th Annual Youth Incarceration Prevention Ministry -- St. John MBC Soul-Saving Center -- June 4, 2022 -- Greenville Town Common
- ❖ September 2022- Church 118<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary.
- ❖ December 17, 2022, St. John experienced the passing of Sis. Eva "Evon" Andrews. She sang in the St. John Mass Choir and she sang with the Junior Consolators of Greenville.
- ❖ December 21, 2022, Brother Bobby Purvis went home to be with the Lord. Bobby served in several capacities. He oversaw much of the Food Bank operations, he sang in the St. John Mass Choir, Male Chorus, and prior to the pandemic, as founder of the Brothers in Unity, he would always hold an annual service with the brothers from several other churches.

## 2023

- ❖ St. John took part in the National 7-7 Heaven Prayer Call; a 7 minute prayer which lasts from 7:00a.m.-7:07a.m. Pastor Black lead the first Wednesday, following were Evangelist Barbara Stokes, Sis. Brenda Ewen, and Evangelist Anne Rogers.
- ❖ The flooring in the entrance-way was redone. The front bathroom floors were redone also at the same time.
- ❖ June 27, 2023: St. John experienced the passing of Mother Evangelist Louvenia Flournoy. Homegoing Services were at the Roanoke Tabernacle.
- ❖ Since last year we have lost a few members of the St. John Church family. We continue to also keep our pastor in prayer as he also laid to rest his Mother, Ms. Elvira Black. We give pause always in our prayers for the families and love ones who were most touched by them. May their celebration of life be ongoing.
- ❖ September 15, 2023, On a Friday night, St. John held its first Marriage Seminar since the pandemic (PRE-COVID.) Seminar was taught by Pastor Black.
- ❖ Thank God, our Pastor and all the Teachers who have brought forth the Word of God

Last year's message for our 118<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary preached by Pastor Black was "JESUS IS THE ONE" from the scriptures Matthew **3:11** and Luke 7:17-22

It certainly is because of Jesus and all that he's done as to why we all are still here. As our ministry transition theme goes, "from Maintenance to Ministry."

### **From Maintenance to Ministry**

**From an old tenant house, to the church beside the highway, to the Soul-Saving Center!**

**From hard bottom benches to plush and cushioned pews,  
From raising the windows for cool air and lighting an old gas heater for heat to pressing a thermostat on the wall.**

**Look how far he's brought us, Look how far we've come,  
We're not where we ought to be, but we're not were we  
use to be, THANK YOU, LORD,  
I WANNA THANK YOU  
THANK YOU, LORD FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE!**

There were some things that God allowed until the time came to bring things back in working order.

Back in the day, many were not paying tithes, instead they were paying dues. It was the great poet Maya Angelou who once said, "Do the best you can until you know better. Then, when you know better, do better."

For many in the early church (St. John that is), their weekly routines were quite simple. Many worked long hours. Children would attend school. Although in the early church, that may not have always been the case.

Then, they would come home and tend chores in and outside the home; often times before they had supper. They shared family time. Most families lived relatively close to one another and to others whom they would have fellowship with.

For many of those families, soon after supper, it was time to start winding down, preparing for the next day. If it was Saturday, the women prepared their meal for after church that Sunday.

Then there was Sunday morning. Sunday morning you made your way to the house of prayer. Not every church had service every Sunday. For many of the pastors were pastors for other churches. Some would visit other churches. Churches often fellowshiped with one another. But through it all, God was right there.

2024

September 2024-September 2024



Use your cell phone to scan these QR codes to access St. John's website and social media pages. More about our history can be found by accessing these. Don't forget to like the page.

Our Pastor continues to reiterate in this year, the motto of "Lets do it God's way." We thank God for all that he continues to do in the lives of his people. St. John continues to forge ahead with a mind to please God and to do it God's way. Our mission is about compelling the lost; winning souls to Christ.

The building has undergone some repairs. The roof on the church was replaced. Several of our ministries have begun to move back into full operation after being limited due to COVID.

Mrs. Julie Bunn has started working with the youth again in our Sunday School classes while Deacon Alton Lassiter and Sister Sybil Best continue to rotate Sundays teaching the adult Sunday school class which begins at 10:00a.m.

❖ We enjoyed our St. John Church family at our Christmas Dinner hosted by [Lo & Netta's Heavenly Bistro](#). Great food and fellowship with so many beautiful gifts and gift cards. There were gifts for everyone and we had great

food catered by Lo & Netta's. We had not had a Christmas gathering like this in a while due to the COVID virus, but God. We thank him for the fellowship.



❖ The Marriage and Singles Ministry was held February 9, 2024. The theme was “A NIGHT OF LOVE AND FELLOWSHIP.” Some highlights of the combined Marriage and Singles Ministry. [Click here.](#)

❖ **March 32<sup>nd</sup> Pastoral Anniversary**

Mr. Grover and Mrs. Daisy Everett escorts or Pastor and Evangelist Black in to the banquet hall. A grand Celebration which the Superintendent Austin B. Parker was the guest



preacher. **Superintendent Austin B. Parker of Wells Chapel C.O.G.I.C., a great man of God, greatly inspired us with the Truth of God's Word. We thank him for allowing God to use him to encourage our pastor to keep preaching and to keep doing what God has called him to do. and the Fanstastic Shades of Harmony.**





St. John MBC Soul-Saving Center

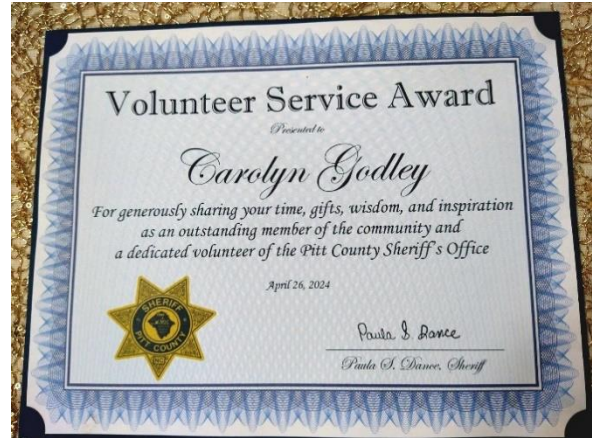
Published by Brenda Everett Ewen

March 3

WHAT A WEEKEND CELEBRATING WITH OUR PASTOR AND EVANGELIST BLACK, AND WHAT A MIGHTY GOD WE SERVE. 32 YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE. OUR BELOVED MODERATOR EMERITUS, PASTOR WALTER CHERRY, JR. BLESSED US REAL GOOD TODAY ALONG WITH HIS THREE CHURCHES: ST. MATTHEW, MAYO CHAPEL, AND MILDRED CHAPEL TO HELP US. That dynamic combined choir was simply amazing.



❖ April 26, 2024 – Through serving in the Jail Ministry at St. John, Brother Eddie Godley and his wife Sister Anne Godley was awarded a Volunteer Service Award each by Sheriff Paula S. Dance of the Pitt County Sheriff Office for serving at the Pitt County Jail.



❖ June 5, 2024, the Youth Incarceration Prevention Ministry was held for the third year at the Greenville Town Common. Brother Godley continues to be led by God in carrying out the work of this ministry. Our very own Pastor Black spoke on The Power of Correction. Pastor Dr. Rodney Coles has been a great supporter from the early years. Other guest speakers were Sheriff Paula Dance, Captain Tara Stroud, Venus Curry, Demetrise Cobb, Dr. General James, Pastor Samuel Chance, Sr. One of our special guests was



Mr. Derrick Clark. Our Emcee for the ninth year was Pastor Anthony Daniel. Several vendors participated in the event. Many had a plethora of information that could help the youth and their families. They also had a great time. We can't leave of the great musicians and singers for the event. The event was feature on WNCT-TV NEWS STATION 9 [CLICK HERE.](#)

- ❖ Pastor Black led a national prayer line, Seven-Seven Heaven, June 5, 2024. You can tune in and listen by clicking [here](#)



- ❖ June 5, 2024 -- St. John had always been blessed by the late Rev. Walter Cherry, Jr., Moderator Emeritus. His passing touched at St. John, in particular our pastor who look to Rev. Cherry as a not only a mentor, but a friend. He was there during St. John's groundbreaking as well as the

Dedication Service of our new sanctuary. Rev. Cherry was Jewel and is missed dearly.

- ❖ The Youth Incarceration Prevention Ministry received its (501)(c)3 status which will allow for greater support for our youth in prevention.
- ❖ June 16, 2021 These St. John Ushers served back-to-back services today. We at St. John are grateful for their dedication and service.



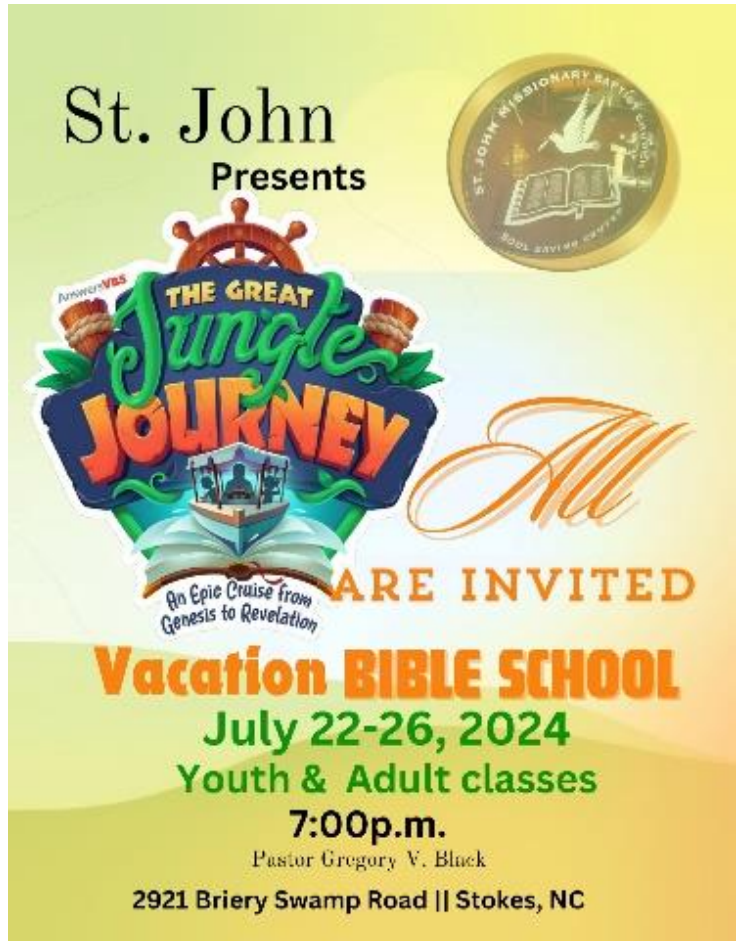
❖ July 22-26, 2024 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Friday night, July 26 concluded our VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL. When good things must come to an end. It was an Epic Cruise from Genesis to Revelation. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed each night, the teachers were great. We all learned a lot. After so many minutes of teaching, we all

We asked some of the attendees (from the oldest to the youngest) to summarize what was either taught or

learned this week (July 22-26, 2024) Let's see what they had to say.. [Click here for remarks.](#) The theme was “An Epic Cruise from Genesis to Revelation.

”



❖ August 25, 2024, Brenda Ewen snapped a picture of our awesome Deacons headed to go in and have prayer with our Pastor before service. We thank God for their service and commitment to the ministry and keeping our Pastor lifted in prayer.



❖ August 25, 2024, The St. John Male Chorus started back singing on fourth Sundays.

❖ September 1, 2024, St. John, along with the Everett family mourned the passing of Brother Arthur Lee Everett. He was one of the many Everett siblings. Wherever he could lend a hand in the ministry, he served.

❖ September 13, 2024, Mother Eva Spruill Clemons went home to be with the Lord. Bobby served in several capacities. He oversaw much of the Food Bank operations, he sang in the St. John Mass Choir, Male Chorus, and prior to the pandemic, as founder of the Brothers in Unity, he would always hold an annual service with the brothers from several other churches.

- ❖ You can tune in on Friday mornings at 11:00 to hear a message from Pastor Black on STEP98.1FM and streaming on <https://us3.streamingpulse.com/ssl/step98.1> Pastor Black was off the air for unknown technical difficulty, however God made a way. We thank James and Sally Jones Ministries who sponsors this ministry.

ST. JOHN MBC SOUL-SAVING CENTER  
Hear Pastor Black on the radio.

brought to you by  
**James & Sally JONES**  
Ministries  
Friday mornings  
at  
**11:00 a.m.**

Pastor  
*Gregory Black*

THANK YOU FOR TUNING IN  
AND LISTENING.

**STEP 98.1**  
FM  
GOSPEL STATION

**TUNE IN**

[www.stjohnstokes.org](http://www.stjohnstokes.org)

252.830.0250

ST. JOHN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH  
SOUL SAVING CENTER





You are invited to join us.  
**WORSHIP SERVICE 11:00A.M.**  
1ST - 4TH SUNDAYS  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00 AM**  
Adult and Youth  
Sunday School classes

**BIBLE STUDY**  
**WEDNESDAYS**  
**7:00PM**



St. John MBC Soul-Saving Center  
Pastor Gregory V. Black and Evangelist Black  
2921 BRIERY SWAMP ROAD STOKES, NC 27884

## SEPTEMBER 2024 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2025

What a year it has been! Yet God continues to show himself mighty. As we reflect on what has taken place over the last year, we cannot help but still have a hallelujah and a Thank You, Jesus praise in our mount. Our boast should always be in the Lord. The world is topsy-turbid, but our God continues to be who He he and who we need to be as we continue to put our trust in him and take him at his Word.

We forge ahead with the Word of God in our heart, running this race with patience, realizing that the only way to do it is to “Do It God’s Way!”

From last year to this year, some of our members have transitioned; Mr. Arthur Everett’s homegoing celebrations was September 7, 2024. Mother Eva Spruill Clemons ‘s Celebration of Life was Saturday, September 21, 2024. Sister Lois Moore Coates, and Sis. Carolyn Moore Atcherson.

Our services times are as follows:

We have service every Sunday except fifth Sunday. On Fifth Sunday, we are in fellowship with our sister churches in the Roanoke Middle Ground Missionary

Baptist

Association.

Sunday School:

(Adult & Youth

classes) are Sunday



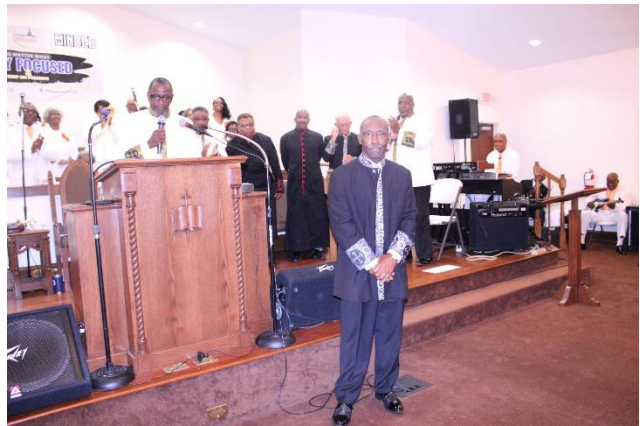
mornings at 10:00AM with adult classes taught by either Sister Sybil Best or Deacon Alton Lassiter; the Youth Sunday School class is taught by Sister Julie Bunn.

Our Bible Study is held on Wednesday nights at 7:00PM and is taught by Pastor Black.

On September 22, 2025, last year's 120<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary, Pastor Kenneth Hyman, Lady Brenda Hyman, and his church family at Elm Grove Missionary Baptist Church were the guest pastor and church. Highlights were brought out about the ministry over the years, and directives were given for all who would like to read about the ministry in detail at [www.stjohnstokes.org](http://www.stjohnstokes.org), Services can also be found on St. John's YouTube page.

October 2024, The Youth Incarceration Prevention Ministry held its first Annual 5K Walk with all proceeds to benefit the youth. A meeting was held, and it was decided that (2) scholarships will be awarded to (2) high school graduates. Some of the board members met over dinner, and began discussing the details to move forward.

In October 2024, during our 126<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the Roanoke Middle Ground MBA, our pastor was announced as the next Moderator of the RMGMBA. What an honor as God sees fit to continue to elevate and bless our pastor. As he came forth, he let the congregation know that he would fully give his vision in the first setting in 2025. But he did reiterate that whatever we do, we must do it God's way.



October 31, YIPM took part in another community setting for the youth.

Also, in October, Sister Brenda Ewen began working alongside Mrs. Evelyn Keel, the Church Secretary in the office.

On December 14, 2024, some of the women of St. John came together on a Saturday evening fellowship. Due to the pandemic, we were rarely met together like we did pre-pandemic.

On December 25, 2025, on Christmas morning, at 7:00AM our pastor was delegated to pray on the national prayer line called Seven-Seven Heaven. A prayer line that was started by the Honorable Judge James Wynn who introduced our Pastor. If you would like to tune in and listen on Seven Seven Heaven Prayer Line on their Facebook.

We came together December 31, 2024 for Watch Nigh Service.

On January 11, 2025, there was skepticism about the weather on the day of the YIPM Panel Discussion. God allowed the program to go forth with the speakers coming out to be a blessing to the youth. The theme of the discussion was "How We Educate Our Youth, Determines Our Future." Our sister Darnell Barrett took some great pictures capturing and preserving every moment.

Also, in January , at our pastor attended this time as the newly elected Moderator of the Roanoke Middle Ground Missionary Baptist Association headquartered in Robersonville, North Carolina.

A very special announcement came from the Youth Incarceration Prevention Ministry. God has blessed this ministry to be blessing to two high school graduates with (2) \$500.00 scholarships.

St. John held its Marriage & Singles combined Fellowship ministries. The theme was "Living and Loving God's Way." It was held February 8, 2025 at the Nu Look Building on Greenville Blvd in Greenville, North Carolina. Lo & Netta's Heavenly Bistro was the Caterer for the fellowship.

In March, we celebrated our 33<sup>rd</sup> Pastoral Anniversary for Pastor and Evangelist



Black. We thank God for allowing him to continue to lead us. We thank God for such an awesome turnout and show of Love. The speakers for the events were Bishop Jesse Jones at the Banquet and music was rendered by none

other than the dynamic and blessed couple, Mr. and Mrs. Dorian and Jalissa Griggs.

On Sunday, Pastor Michael Moore and his lovely wife and church family blessed us in fellowship as they closed out our Pastoral Anniversary celebration. This was a special time for St. John because for many years,

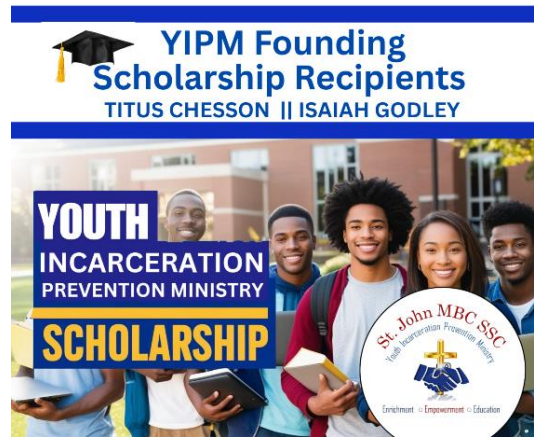


we had been going to other venues, but this time we thank God that he took us back home to the G. V. Black Fellowship Hall.

St. John was the host Church for the first Middle Ground Union setting of 2025 and our Pastor, the newly elected Moderator, brought forth the message on that Sunday morning to bring that Union to a close.

On May 25<sup>th</sup> the Men of St. John rejoiced and gave God the praise as they came together to worship and give thanks to God for Men’s Day. Bishop William Mitchell, our associate minister brought forth the Word as the Male Chorus came forth to render music. They were looking sharp in their white or cream suits and coral shirts and ties. The preached message was “Are You Spiritually Equipped for Your Tough Assignment?” 2 Corinthians 12:3-4

After the announcements of the scholarships, in which the recipients were Mr. Isaiah Godley of Greenville, NC, who is a graduate of South Central High School and Mr. Titus Chesson of Williamston, North Carolina. He is a graduated of Martin County High School. Pastor Black and Brother Godley was invited to the high



school awards day for Mr. Chesson to present him with that award.

On June 7, 2025, the Youth Incarceration Prevention Ministry celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> year in ministry helping and supporting the youth. What a great and grand celebration

to know that if there was but one child whose life was turned around from the ministry



intervention of YIPM. We give God all the glory, honor and praise for all that he has done through people to make this ministry what it is today. The celebration included great speakers, and honoring those who have been supportive along the way and some since the very beginning. The children were able to eat from any food truck of their choice; they also enjoyed the bouncy houses and a gaming truck. Also, the winners of the scholarships were announced.

The scenery out back of the church after the speaker sessions inside and celebrations. The youth are enjoying the food trucks, the Mobile Gaming



truck, bouncy houses, and more. They also had the opportunity to interact and take pictures with Deputy Barkley, the Pitt County Sheriff Office Therapy Dog.



St. John officially recognized its own High School Graduates, Jaylen Staton, Christiana

Harrington, Jabari Whitfield, and JaShawn Goddard, after service. Pastor Black gave them some strong words of wisdom, warning, and encouragement before having

prayer with them and before they set out into the real world. They each received a Bible, some money, and most of all God's blessing upon their life as they move forward into adulthood.



This year we had a grand time in our Vacation Bible School. The theme was Wonder Junction, led by Mrs. Julie Bunn and Mrs. Evelyn Keel.

One of the more powerful spoken statements by our pastor this year was

“I’d rather first meet the Lord and know him as a Savior, then to have never met or known Him, and then meet Him as a Judge.”

If you have sat under any services on Sunday Morning, you will have heard our Pastor bring

a rich life  
changing  
snippet of a  
message  
from what  
he has been



calling for quite a few years now, “FROM THE PASTOR’S CORNER.” The messages truly speak to importance of faith, salvation, and knowing the Lord. For without him, there would be no us. But with him, we have everything we need pertaining to life and godliness, and to be able to make this journey from earth to glory.



Pastor Gregory  
& Evangelist Patricia Black



@soulsavingcenter



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2921 Briery Swamp Road  
Stokes, NC 27884

*"We've Come This Far By Faith."*



# St. John

MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH  
SOUL-SAVING CENTER

since 1904

# 121st CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

Except the LORD build the house, They labour in  
vain that build it: Except the LORD keep the city,  
The watchman waketh but in vain.

**PSALM 127:1**



*Sunday*

**SEPTEMBER 28, 2025**

**11:00AM**

**Our Mission:**

*WINNING  
SOULS*

