# CHURCH NEWS MONTHLY

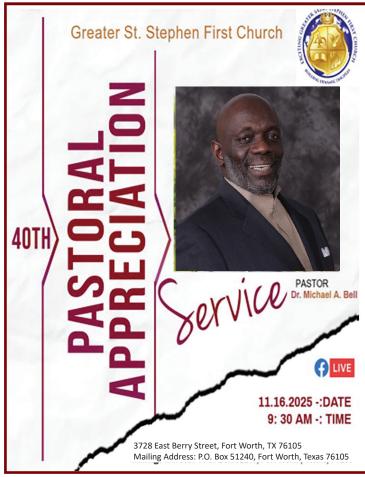
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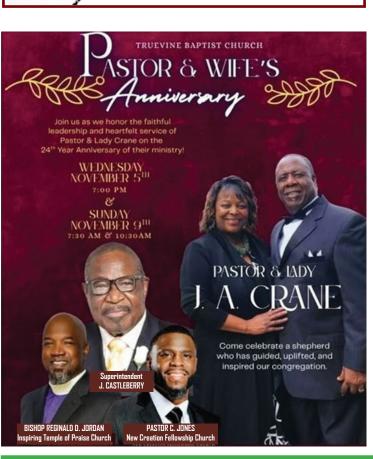
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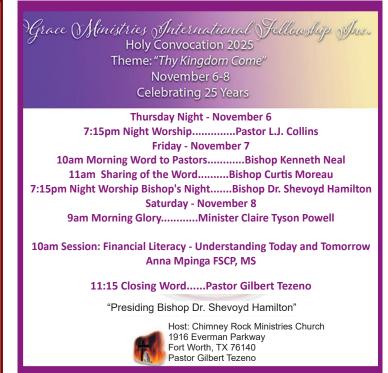
VOL. 20 NO.8

# NOVEMBER 2025

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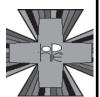
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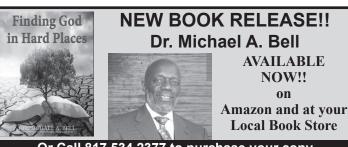
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# "The LEADER'S EDGE" by drmichaelbell

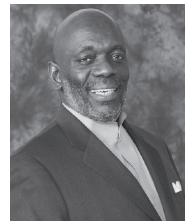
Harriet Tubman (1822-1913) knew what it meant to follow God's leading. She once said, "'Twant me, 'twas the Lord. I always told him, 'I trust you. I don't know where to go or what to do, but I expect you to lead me,' and he always did." Tubman was a bold and audacious African American abolitionist in the mid-1800s. She confronted injustice and made a difference that still echoes through history. How did she escape slavery, free hundreds of others, and go on to serve as a nurse, spy, and scout during the Civil War? She followed the Lord.

What could happen in the year ahead if we followed the Lord with that same trust and intentionality? Following God means relying on his will and planning responsibly. Many churches step into a new year with enthusiasm, but without thoughtful preparation, that excitement can fade into disorganization and missed opportunities. A church that begins the year prayerfully and strategically can build lasting momentum. Proverbs 16:9 reminds us, "We should make plans - counting on God to direct us" (TLB). Our task as ministry leaders is to make diligent plans and trust God to direct

A wise leader, therefore, plans for the new year with several key areas in mind.

First, before looking ahead, look back. Reflect on the past yearwhat worked well, and what didn't? Meet with your leadership team and invite honest feedback. Reflection helps identify what to improve and reinforces what should be repeated. A vital part of this yearend conversation is revisiting your church's core mission and values. Are your ministries aligned with them? Does every leader and volunteer understand the "why" behind what you do? When a church stays rooted in its mission, every plan for the new year grows from solid ground.

Then there's the budget. After reflection, look at the numbers. Vision without resources is frustration waiting to happen. A good leader "counts the cost" before setting goals. Whether or not you receive a designated ministry budget, evaluate what your plans will cost and how to fund them responsibly. Familiarize yourself with your church's overall budget and ask



key questions: Is there funding for youth or children's ministry? Are there resources for discipleship or outreach? Has money been set aside for leadership development? Understanding the financial land-scape helps you dream realistically and steward wisely.

Next, focus on spiritual formation. A thriving church is one where dis-

A thriving church is one where discipleship is continuous, not occasional. That means having multiple Bible studies happening throughout the year. Plan strategically: How many studies will you offer annually? How do holidays, school breaks, and other ministries affect the schedule? Build a rhythm of learning that helps believers grow deeper in faith while staying connected to one another.

Finally, **build your team**. No ministry plan succeeds without one. The start of a new year is the perfect time to assess who's serving alongside you. Are there team members who need to take a break or rotate off? Do you need to invite new people with fresh perspectives and gifts?

The new year offers every church a blank page. Thoughtful planning doesn't limit God's movement; it creates space for it. Like Harriet Tubman, we can move forward with courage, trusting that when we take the next faithful step, the Lord will lead us where we need to go.

drmichaelbell is Senior Pastor-Resident Theologian of Greater St. Stephen First Church FtW, a seminary adjunct professor and a certified Life Coach. He conducts leadership seminars and conferences across the country. He is the author of "Finding God in Hard Places" and is a contributor to the book "Justice Looks Like."



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# Speak Life Thought

with Dr. Yolanda G. Butler

#### A WAKE UP LIFE

"Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light." (Ephesians 514)

When we first moved to Texas, I can recall being asleep at night when all of a sudden loud sirens began to go off. Being a California native, this was a sound I had never heard. I came to learn that this is the city's public warning system, which says, "Wake up! Sound the alarm for something's about to happen!"

Speaking to the Ephesian Church, the Apostle Paul admonishes us not to allow ourselves to get trapped into "unfruitful works of darkness," e.g., partnering with worthless deeds of the flesh and sin that produce bad fruit: bitterness, pain, and disgrace. We are all mandated to sound the alarm, shame the devil, and declare the truth by encouraging the saved to continue to live holy and the unsaved to turn their life around.

Biblically speaking, to sound the alarm is a loud, urgent warning, typically by blowing a trumpet, to alert people to approaching danger, judgment, or to call them to action for 1) war (a physical threat), 2) repentance (of sin), or 3) gather for worship (for religious festivals and sacrifices). To the Church today, it is a call for spiritual awakening and readi-

ness, urging people to prepare for a significant event--the return of King Jesus.

There are all kinds of sounds. For example, the sound of mourning after the death of a loved one. The sound of birth after a child is born. The sound of sin as heard by Moses and Joshua from the camp of Israel (Exodus 32:17-18). The sound of mixed emotions was heard after the foundation of the new temple was laid (Ezra 3:13). The sound of oppression of builtup frustration, stress, spiritual heaviness, worry, and anxiety. (See Exodus 2:23-25) The sound of repentance by Nineveh, who fasted and cried "mightily unto God" to turn away His fierce anger against them (Jonah 3:8-10). The sound of prayer birthed through trials that catapult you to your knees; travailing prayers you labor until you get a release; spiritual warfare against the kingdom of darkness; and intimate worship of private intercession and renewal in the Father's pres-

As believers of the Most High God, we are all called to wake up, be on high alert, and sound the alarm by spreading the Gospel message. This means we must be ready at all times for the Son of Man shall come when we least expect it (Matthew 26:44). We must be sober and vigilant because the adversary the devil is on the hunt to destroy (1 Peter 5:8). We must cry loud and



spare not the truth (Isaiah 58:1). And, we must be on guard, courageous, strong and stand firm in the faith (1 Corinthians 16:13).

Finally, we must be ready for the final trumpet call when the "Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)

So dear hearts, be determined to take heed to the Father's command to wake up and make the right sound that touches heaven.

Dr. Yolanda G. Butler is Co-Pastor and Church Administrator of Praise Center Community Church, where her husband, Bishop Donald H. Butler, is the Senior Pastor. She is an intercessor, evangelist, mentor, and published author. Follow her on Facebook, Instagram, and X, and www.firstladybutlerministries.net.

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# Black Musicians Association of Tarrant County celebrate local

# 2025 Legends of Gospel

What a great celebration was had as the Black Musician Association of Tarrant County celebrate local 2025 Legends of Gospel at the Carter Metropolitan CME Church this past October 18th. The house was full and the spirit was high as over 200 combined years of service to the church community through music was recognized with Acheivements Awards and special recognition.

The mission of the BMATC in brief is to foster a spirit of fellowship among musicians, preserve the work and memory of former musicians, provide scholarships and serve as a resource for the advancement of all genres of church music.

This years recipients include, Daryl Davis of Good Shepherd Temple of Praise, I, Marion Douglas of St Andrews United Methodist Church, Michael Jordan of Greater St. Stephen First Church, Francis Sauls of Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church and Janice Louise Smith of Carter Metropolitan CME Church. Combined they have given over 260 years of service to various churches in the area. Posthumously Honored was Valerie D. Campbell, Phyliss J. Mack and LaTona E.M.T. Royal.

The atmosphere was electric and the praise was high



as Dr. Alvin Pope served as Master of Ceremonies and President Troy Nell Edmon handed the awards to each recipient. The Celebration Choir sang there hearts out and the audience was blessed in song by national recording artist Dr. Ernest Pugh and Dr. Darrell & Lady LaTonya Blair rendered selections.

Congratulations to the BMATC and to all of the 2025 Legends of Gospel and we wish you many more years of doing this great work for the Kingdom of God.

# The Family Returns with New EP, "Together Forever"

By: Fred Willis



The Family is back with new music and a new mission. After years apart, this long-awaited family reunion doesn't disappoint. Though short a few of the original members, the singers' connection remains as strong as it was in the beginning. The reunion was a long shot for years, but with persistence and prayer, the family came back together like they had never been apart. Dr. Darrell Blair says that each singer has different reasons for signing on for the reunion, while Jeanette Johnson always believed that God wasn't through with them. Ramona White admits that after coming together last year as part of Kirk Franklin's "The Reunion" tour, "there was a spark!"

Their iconic harmonies and blends

are just as tight as they were when they debuted over 30 years ago. Though they weren't singing together, they kept singing. At church, on stage, in the studio, or anywhere else their gifts took them. Dalon Collins and Kisha Grandy-Lee have released music and enjoyed marginal success as independent artists and released "Born for Me," a Christmas duet in 2023. Collins said of this reunion and recording, "We didn't want to put a record our based on entertaining you."

While ruminating about their decades-long absence from the studio together, Dalon Collins suggested that their lived experiences are the real power behind their sustained sound. For Collins, this reunion, reemergence and resur-

gence is personal. After losing his ability to sing, this was a welcome opportunity for one of the most unforgettable voices in gospel music.

"Together Forever" features seven tracks and begins with a "Throwback Medley" featuring hits recorded with Kirk Franklin ("Conquerors," "Whatcha Lookin' 4," "Melodies From Heaven," and "Silver and Gold"). From there, the EP also features, "The Reset," "Victory Is Mine," "Believe," "Yeah Yeah," "Expectancy (ft. Earnest Pugh)," and "Jesus (I Love You Lord Today), their current single at radio.

This iteration of The Family consists of: Kisha Grandy-Lee, Dalon Collins, Dr. Darrell Blair, Stephanie Glynn, Sheila Brice, Carrie Collins, Nelda Washington, Jeanette Johnson, Ramona White, Teresa Rucker, Demetrice Clinkscale and Yolanda McDonald. "Together Forever" is released on Blacksmoke Music Worldwide and is produced by EJ Lee. You can stream or purchase "Together Forever" on any digital music streaming platform of your choice. Plans for a tour are underway so look to see them near you, soon!

# MITH. P.E.









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## Giving Thanks for Dr. Opal Lee as She celebrates her 99th Birthday!! Happy 99th birthday to Opal Lee! | CITY NEWS

Cue the confetti and cake! Opal Lee, Fort Worth's "Grandmother of Juneteenth" turned 99 years young.

Lee's circle of influence ripples far and wide. Born Oct. 7, 1926, in Marshall, Texas, she was the eldest of three children born to Mat-

tie (Broadus) and Otis Flake. The family moved to Fort Worth when Lee was 10, eventually purchasing a house on East Annie Street.

On June 19, 1939, just days after moving in, a mob of around 500 white rioters vandalized and burned down their home. Lee was approximately 12 years old at the time of the fire. That tragic event marked the start of Lee's lifelong activism and fight to keep the memory of Juneteenth alive.

She has spent many decades ensuring that Juneteenth remain etched in society's collective conscience. Her relentless efforts to make June 19 a federal holiday stand as her most notable and enduring achievement. That law was signed in 2021, and Lee attended the

Steadfast in her commitment to memorializing Juneteenth, beginning in 2016 at age 89, Lee began her annual "Walks for Freedom" on June 19. Since that initial event, Lee's 2.5-mile treks have continued in Fort Worth, with people across the country joining in their own cities to amplify their voices and show support.

Besides receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2024, Lee also has served in several volunteer leadership and service roles, including Citizens Concerned with Human Dignity, Habitat for Humanity, Tarrant County Black Historical & Genealogical Society and the Community Food Bank.

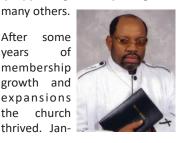
# Sixth Avenue Baptist Church of Corsicana celebrates 121 Years of Ministry

History of the Sixth Avenue Baptist Church



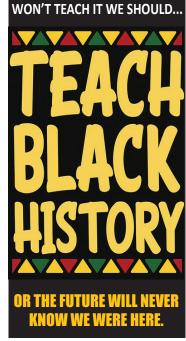
The Sixth Avenue Baptist Church in Corsicana, Texas, was founded by former slaves and began as an offshoot of the First Independent Baptist Church which was organized in 1868, following the Civil War, led by Simon Perry. On June 26, 1904, 25 faithful Christians organized the Sixth Avenue Baptist Church. Members of whom were children of the formerly enslaved founders, moved two blocks down from their mother church First Independent Baptist Church to start the new congregation. Founders were Rev. & Mrs. R.T. Pardee, Chestnut Family, Applewright Family along with

After of vears membership growth and expansions the church thrived. Jan-



uary of 1994 Rev. J.L. Chaney retired as pastor of 26 years. In 1995, Rev. J.L. Collins preceded Rev. J. L. Chaney as Pastor. In the spring of 1999, Bishop k.d. Davis, Sr. preached his first sermon. Under his faithful and ded-

icated leadership for the past 26 ½ years the church has thrived in many areas. Many structural improvements as well as spiritual and membership growth. Our saying is I BELIEVE GOD.



CHURCH FAMILY... IF THEY

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#### In the Community with Pastor Sharon Ford-Turner



Pic 1) With Milton I. Kirkpatrick Alumni Association Members 2025 at Historical School; Pic 2) At Village Creek Wellness and Rehabilitation Center. Will Deliver Home cooked Thanksgiving Dinner to some Residents and Desserts for Staff.



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<b>Worship Services</b>
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#### Turner Chapel Praise Center Community Church Learn, Grow, Go and Do the Wor 3351 Heritage Lane **COGIC of Texas** Supt. James Turner Memorial Ministry

Forest Hill, Texas 76140 Sunday School - 9:00AM Sunday Service - 10:30AM Children's Church available LIVE facebook @prais

Tuesday Adult and Children Bible Study 7:00PM

Daily Devotion & Prayer Line 6am M-F 7am S-S

Groceries Giveaway Every 4th Saturday 10am

Bishop Donald H. B Dr. Yolanda Butle

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SUNDAY MORNING

WEDNESDAY PRAYER

#### West Mt. Moriah **Baptist Church**

5325 Bonnell Street Fort Worth, TX 76107 817-731-3502

10:05am

Dr. W.L.D. Campbell, Pastor

Sunday School - Sunday Morning Worship - Sunday Prayer Meeting - Wednesday

VISION STATEMENT beginning at home

Matt. 28:18-20

#### East St. Paul **Greater First Baptist Church Missionary** 'The Church Where Everybody is Somebody, **Baptist Church**

but we all recognize Jesus as the Head." Dr. Darrell Ward, Sr.

5300 Oak Grove Rd. W.

Ft. Worth, TX 76134 817.293.5067

Sunday Morning Worship. .10:45am Wednesday Bible Study (at the church)......12:00pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting....

Sunday Service Live Streamed at www.espbc.com aceBook | Temperature checked for In-Person Att "Masks highly recommended, but not required"

## **ELM GROVE Missionary Baptist** CHURCH

1344 E. Harvey Ave. Ft. Worth, TX 76104 817-923-5431 www.elmgrovembc.org Reverend T.J. Patterson, Jr., Pastor

Sunday School..... Worship Service......11:00am Wednesday Service.....7:30pm

For the perfecting of the saints, for the wor of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. Ephesians 4:12

#### **Greater New Hope** Missionary Baptist Church 3920 E. Rosedale Ft Worth, TX 76105

817.534.0774 Reginald Andrews, Pastor/Teacher

Sunday Bible Study9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship10:30 a.m.
$We dnesday \ Bible \ Study7:15 \ p.m.$

"O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker."

#### Meadowbrook First Baptist Church "Compel them to come in"

ww.facebook.com/LoveSanctuaryChurch

6600 Fllis Road Ft. Worth, TX 76112 mfbchurch@netzero.com Website: meadowbrookfirstbaptist.com

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45AM MORNING WORSHIP 11:00AM

WEDN BIBLE STUDY 7:00PM



## orners one Missionary Baptist Church 4916 Ramey Avenue Ft. Worth, TX 76105

-- Service Times --SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 AM

WORSHIP 10:30 AM

MEETING & BIBLE STUDY @ 7:00 PM



To share the Light of Christ to a world in Darkness.

Hab. 2:1-4

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# Thanksgiving In The Black Community: A Celebration Of Unity



Thanksgiving holds a unique place in the Black community. It's more than just a day of feasting on Grandma's legendary mac and cheese or devouring that sweet potato pie like your life depends on it. It is a sacred opportunity to reflect upon our resilience and heritage, for we are the descendants of enslaved individuals who found strength in unity.

When the ancestral shackles still

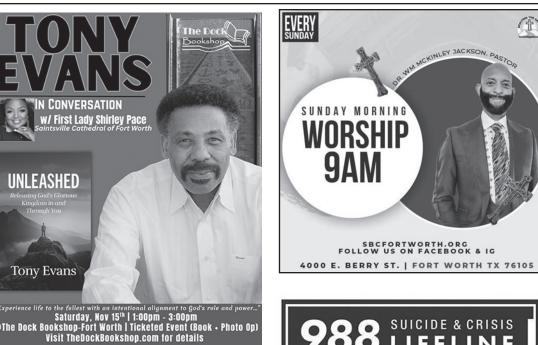
**Tony Evans** 

weighed heavily upon their worn bodies, our ancestors spent Thanksgiving in church. Their weary hearts sought solace within the sanctuary's hallowed walls, and it was in these sacred spaces that they attempted to reclaim their

Black folks understand the tragic history of Thanksgiving, a dark narrative often silenced within the annals of American tradition. We remember that this feast is rooted in the colonization and subsequent genocide of stolen land. Upon this fraught foundation, we build our discernment and choose instead to honor family bonds during this period.

We take this opportunity to gather around the table to savor delectable dishes and reflect on our hard-fought battles and triumphs. Despite centuries of adversity and systemic injustices, we have cultivated an unbreakable spirit of unity that shines brightest during this season.

Thanksgiving's foundation stands upon a tragic narrative often brushed aside. To romanticize this day without acknowledging its darker truths is to perpetuate the cycle of erasure that continues to marginalize indigenous voices. In the Black community, we hold the day sacred to embody an invaluable reminder of strength, identity, and shared heritage within the Black community.



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# **Zion Missionary Baptist Church**

4100 Horne Street Fort Worth, TX 76107 817-737-6264 hantistchurch



SUNDAY SCHOOL	9:00 a.m.
MORNING WORSHIP	10:30 a.m.
EVERY WEDNESDAY - BIBLESTUDY	
1ST,4TH, 5TH WEDNESDAY - PRAYER SERV	ICE7:30 p.m.
EVERY WEDNESDAY - YOUTH MEETINGS	7:30 p.m.
2ND& 3RD WEDNESDAY - SMALLGROUPS.	7:30 p.m.
3RD SATURDAYS - EVANGELISM	10:30 a.m.

# **Zion Rest**

**Missionary Baptist Church** Fort Worth, TX 76105 817-534-8327

#### **PASTOR RUFUS HUCKABY**

Worship and Study Services

9:00am 10:00am 7:00pm

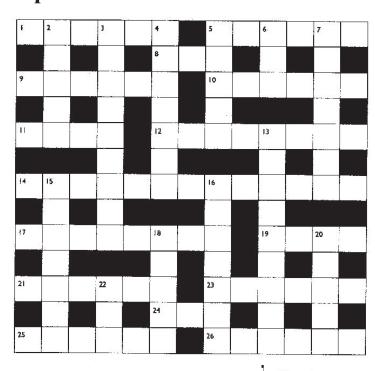
Sunday School

**Prayer Meeting** Youth Bible Stu





# **BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE** Topic: THE I'S HAVE IT



#### **ACROSS**

- | Structures to offer sacrifices (Exod. 20:24) 5 Small magical symbols (Acts 19:19)
- 8 Father of Bezalel, the craftsman (Exod. 31:1) 9 "Everyone who asks,
- receives; all who seek, find; and the door is opened to everyone \_\_"; raps (Luke 11:10)
- 10 Basely (2 Sam. 1:21, KJV) 11 Opposed to (Isa. 60:14)
- 12 Formal confederation between nations (Dan. 11:17)
- 14 "Have faith and love, and enjoy the those who love the Lord and have pure hearts": close association (2 Tim. 2:22)
- 17 "The stone rejected by the builders has now become the

- of the arch"; top piece (Ps. 118:22)
- 19 "Reverence for God \_ hours to each day"; increases (Prov. 10:27)
- 21 Acts of bearing young (Exod. 28:10)
- \_ pot for 23 "As the \_\_ silver, and the furnace for gold; so is a man to his praise"; purifying (Prov. 27:21, KIV)
- 24 Time before night 25 Deceivers and swin-
- dlers (1 Cor. 5:10) 26 Moved quickly out of the way (1 Sam. 19:10)

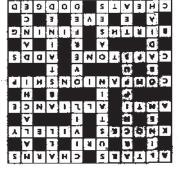
#### **DOWN**

- 2 Cloth made from flax (Exod. 26:1)
- 3 "Say to \_\_\_\_\_, "Be sure that you do all the Lord has told you to.""; friend of Paul (Col. 4:17)

- 4 "A man's courage can his broken body, but when courage dies, what hope is
- left?"; provide nourishment for (Prov. 18:14) 5 "Any kingdom filled
- with \_\_\_\_ war is doomed; so is a home filled with argument and strife"; domestic

(Like 11:17)

- 6 "God is Light and in him is no darkness at "; so much (1 John 1:5)
- 7 Last book of the O.T. 13 Refrained (Acts 15:29) 15 O.T. prophetic book
- to Edom 16 Served too much food (Deut. 32:15)
- 18 Fertile areas in a desert (Hos. 13:15)
- 20 Leap or skip about (1 Kings 18:26)
- 22 "They are asking a piece of wood to tell them what to do. 'Divine Truth' comes to them through leaves! Longing after idols has made them foolish" (Hos. 4:12)







CHURCH

PLEASE SEND TO US BY THE 20th BEFORE THE UPCOMING MONTH

CALL 817.891.9027 FOR MORE INFORMATION SEND TO: churchinnews@sbcglobal.net

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IT'S A NEW DAY **WELCOME TO** 

# **CHURCH**

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# THANK YOU **FOR YOUR** READERSHIP

#### Turner Chapel C.O.G.I.C Of TX

Supt. James Turner Memorial Ministries

Sharon Ford-Turner, Overseer 3252 Oak Timber Dr, Forest Hill, TX 76119 817.614.6808

P.O. Box 330401 Ft. Worth,TX 76163 Evang. Sharon Ford-Turner, Pastor e-mail: sharonlmasonfordturner@gmail.com

Sunday Services: In-Person & Conference Call Services ...Sunday School 10am....Worship Service



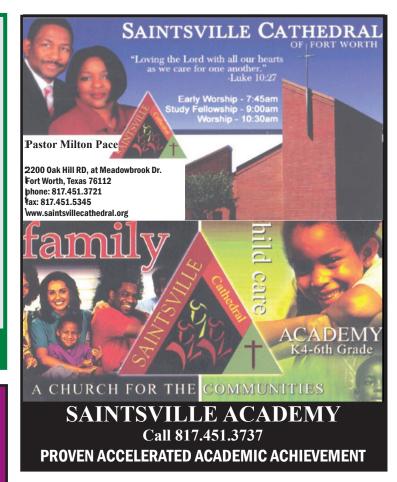
11:30 am 1st Sunday ....Village Creek Nursing Homes Ministry following Pandemic guidelines.

10:00 Am 3rd Sunday....Coral Rehabilitation and Nursing Center of Arlington, TX

Mother's Day Love Celebration with Gifts for Mother's at both Locations

Tuesday 9:00am Prayer & Bible Study Conference Call Service

Mon-Sat. 6:00 am Intercessory Prayer





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