



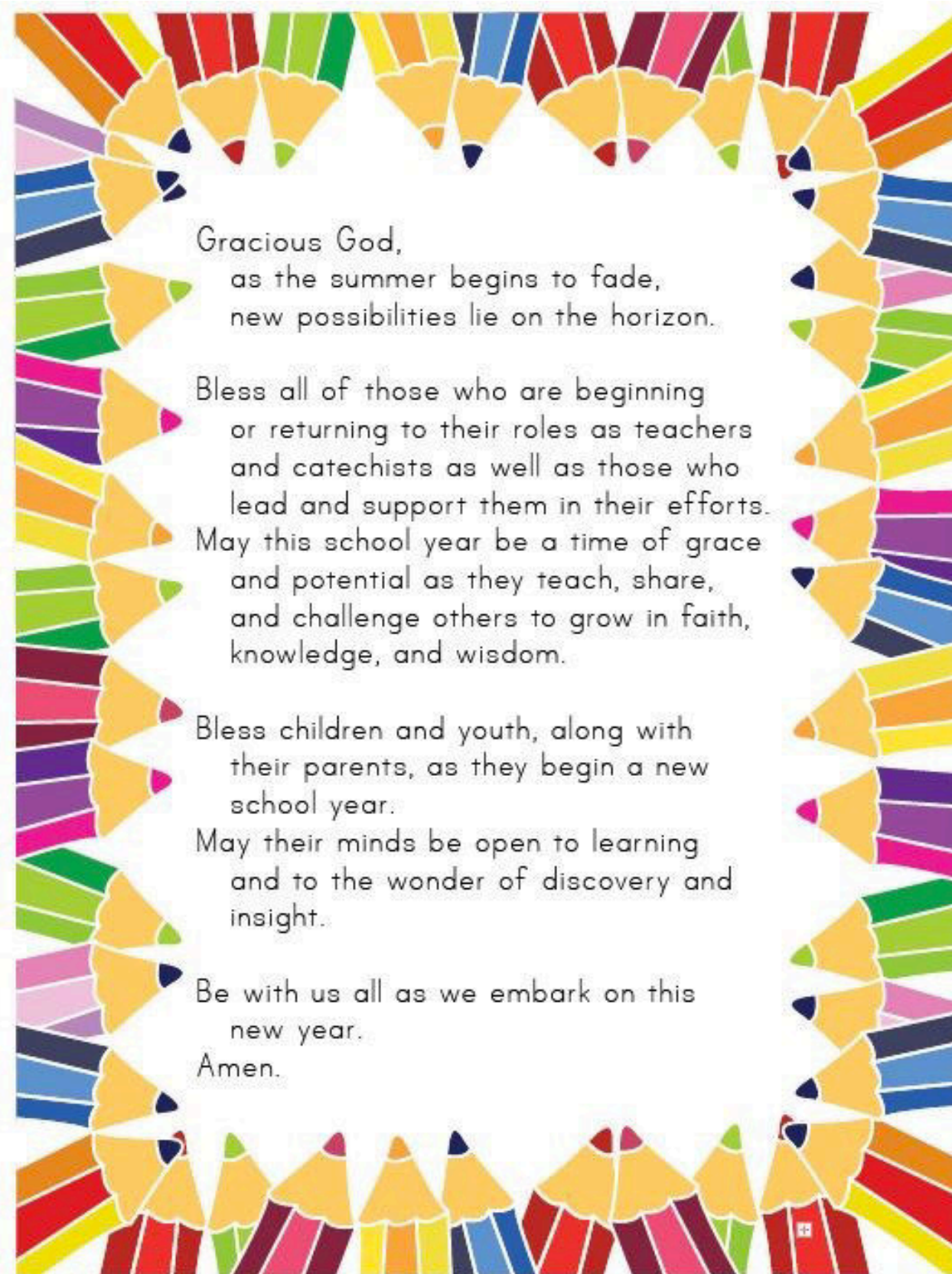
Volume 23:08

Dr. R.E. Herring, Sr., Pastor

August 05, 2018

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Justice in the New Testament

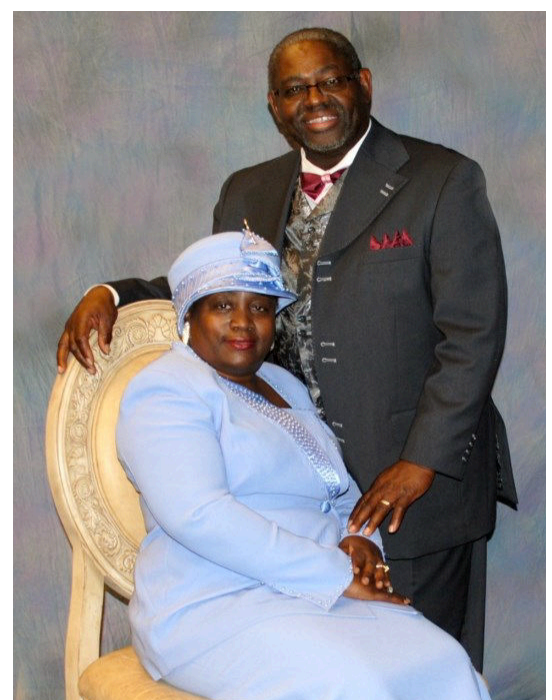
New Life in Christ

August 5th
God's Justice
Romans 2:1-12

August 12th
Sharing with Those in Need
II Corinthians 8:7-15

August 19th
Practicing Genuine Love
Romans 12:9-21

August 26th
Practicing Godly Virtues
Colossians 3:5-17



Happy 50th Anniversary
Pastor Robert & Lady Bessie Herring, Sr
8/25

Encouraging Words

ALTER EGO OR ALTAR EGO - YOU CHOOSE

Ego - a person's sense of self-esteem or self-importance.

Alter Ego - a person's secondary or alternative personality.

The Bible is the Word of God revealed. The Bible makes it clear that when you hear the gospel and respond something inside will shift. When you accept Jesus as Lord and Savior, things will change. It takes a while to get your roots down. We need to lay down our ego and stop judging each other, because without the blood of Jesus we'd all be lost. Sometimes religious people want to see you changed overnight. They expect you to know the whole Bible overnight. Your salvation is a personal walk. There are times when the old man and the new man are at war with one another. It's a war. Have you ever wanted to do right but wrong was sitting right there? The enemy wants you to be defeated and accept that it will always be that way. If you're struggling, God loves you enough to apply the blood of Jesus to that area. God can do it. There's also a part of us that wants to "help" God save us. "I'll give you these areas, but I'll work on these other areas on my own." Our ego won't let us take it to the altar.

Remember the man whose four friends brought him to Jesus? (Luke 5:17- 26) They laid him at the feet of Jesus. It became an altar. Whatever you bring to Jesus becomes an altar. "Son, your sins are forgiven." (Luke 5:20) Most people think the next thing was the miracle. What's easier: forgiving sins or commanding the lame to walk? The man was still paralyzed but the thing that led him there (sin) was already moved. Have you ever been saved and stuck? Jesus handled your sin but He wanted to deal with the inside first. Otherwise you'll be paralyzed again. Jesus wants to remove the root of pride. Pride makes us think we did God a favor by showing up here. God is glad to see us, but we ought to be more glad to see Him. It's time to stop following the crowd and run after Jesus. Bring it to Jesus. Lay down the pride and ego and fear of being judged and bring your broken self to Jesus. "I need to change from the inside out." When you get saved your character should begin to change. Salvation is not for you to keep the same sin. At some point there should be signs you're making a shift. Every real altar has a full-length mirror. It's easy to see other's sins. Ask the Lord to show you yours.

The fight goes on between the old man and the new man. The Holy Spirit goes inside and moves things around. Your will is laid down for His will. Our perspective is submitted to His vision. We want to feel like changing. True change is not always what you feel. We need the Holy Spirit to radically change us. Removing the nature of our flesh is the regenerating power of Jesus Christ, and it doesn't come with religion - it comes with encounter. Some people have spiritual leprosy, areas that will hinder God's ability to deal with us. Offense-Who has ever been offended? We've got to trust God to get us free from things what would block our blessings. The Lord's Prayer contains the key. "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive others. Lead us not into temptation." The temptation is to hold unto offense. "I forgive you, but I don't trust you." Ego causes us to live in offense. "I'm above being offended - I'm so and so." E.G.O. = Edging God Out.

The fight is for the seat of your will. If you have an issue with others, go to them first before you go to the altar. Go seek forgiveness first. Get the issue right with them first. The altar is a place of sacrifice, humility, and worship. Guard against offense. The enemy wants you to walk in offense. How could the character of God give you Heaven's best when you're acting like the devil's worst? Make the phone call tonight so you can get free. It feels good to hold on to it. "I deserve to be angry." Luke 23:33

"Father, forgive them"...Jesus couldn't complete His assignment until He let go of offense. John probably would've said, "I'm innocent and they're killing me – kill'em, God." Your flesh wants the people who hurt you to suffer. Jesus couldn't even die until He released people who offended Him. If Jesus had to do it, then so do you and I. There are some people you must get right with. Your miracle is on the other side of I'm sorry. A wedge starts small and gets bigger. When we allow it to get bigger it looks like it's impossible to fix. But nothing is impossible for God. John demonstrated forgiveness to his wife by publicly apologizing to her. The altar of Noah (Genesis 8:20) broke curses. There's an altar you can make in your home that will break curses. Your altar could change your entire family. John feels a breakthrough in here. "I don't want a miracle if my character isn't right." The altar of Abraham (Genesis 22)- Sacrifice that thing of value. It's an altar of obedience and faith. God will ask you to do things that don't make sense. As Abraham was going up one side of the mountain the ram was coming up the other side. You won't see the answer until you take a step. David (2 Samuel 24) got caught up in pride near the end of his life; counting his mighty men; threshing floor sacrifice to stop the plague. There is an altar that will break places where we have pride. It's time to lay them down. We can break curses and we can break pride. Then we can break every chain.

M. Taylor

THE INSPIRATION

Prayer for our Pastor

Father God in the name of Jesus, we thank You for once again allowing us to come before the Throne of Grace one more time, on behalf of our Pastor. God we come asking that You continue to keep him day by day, as You order his steps in Your word and in Your way. It is our prayer that you deliver him from every worry, every uncertainty, every need and all stress.

Lord Jesus, we ask that You refuel and refresh him continually, allowing him to experience Your every promise to strengthen and encourage him, mentally, physically, and spiritually. Then Father, as we close this prayer, we pray for his family. We ask that his family take their every care and problem to You, always realizing that you will always make their concerns Your own. Father help them to know that you will meet ALL their needs, today and always.

We count these things already done, in the precious name of Your Son, Jesus the Christ. Amen and Amen.



P. Cross

Focus

Instead of worrying about what someone else is doing, FOCUS ON THE ASSIGNMENT(S) GOD GAVE YOU! There is too much finger pointing and criticizing. If each of us would focus on the work Jesus has anointed us to perform we would have less time to gossip about others (1 Thessalonians 4:11 - And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you.)

Whatever You Do, Don't Give Up! Life will often place you in a position of uncertainty. There will be people in your life who become jealous of you. Your body will endure a time of weariness and despair. Giving up seems easy now. Walking away becomes tempting (2nd Corinthians 12:9 - And He said unto me, my grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness) At your lowest point in life, God is still strong. When everything seems chaotic in your life, God is still in control. When others mock you, God is still faithful. Whatever You Do, Don't Give Up! You must continue praising the Lord. When you feel like no one else believes, you cannot give in to their disbelief or negativity.

D. Bell



A Night In Jerusalem

On 3rd Sunday, June 17, 2018, Mt. Bethel was blessed to host the premier presentation of “A Night in Jerusalem,” an original musical composed by Bishop Jan D. Goodman, Sr., and featuring the Voices of One Accord.

Bishop and Lady Goodman had been gifted by seven of One Accord’s women parishioners with a trip to Jerusalem. This trip was a spiritual journey that led Bishop to write seven musical compositions by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

The total production included the choir, praise dancers, instrumental ensemble – all in Biblical costumes, along with props that took us back in time. We were immersed in the sounds and the scenes of this Jerusalem experience. The service began with the blowing of the Shofar (ram’s horn) by the Priest (Bishop Goodman). The sound of the shofar called for the choir to come down the aisle to the choir loft.

After the welcome, the choir began the concert with song #1: In Thee – Bless the name of Jesus (Baruch Hashem of Jeshua)! Trusting God fully through His Son, totally surrendered to Him. #2: Habakkuk 2:20 – The Lord is in His Holy Temple, let all the earth keep silence before Him. #3: Messiah – Celebrating Jesus’ Resurrection and His soon coming Return. #4: Too Close – Enoch’s relationship with God. #5: Jehovah – Celebrating the God of all creation. #6: The Well – Drinking from this well that will never run dry. The finale was #7: I See You – God sees our good, bad and ugly, but He loves us through our mess-ups and successes if we truly hold on to our relationship with Him.

We thank God for Bishop Goodman and the One Accord Ministries International for sharing this wonderful experience with us. It truly was a blessing to us all.



OVERCOME TO BECOME - STORY OF A BUTTERFLY

Kumar Gauraw

A little boy was playing outdoors and found a fascinating caterpillar. He carefully picked it up and took it home to show his mother. He asked his mother if he could keep it, and she said he could if he would take good care of it.



The little boy got a large jar from his mother and put plants to eat, and a stick to climb on, in the jar. Every day he watched the caterpillar and brought it new plants to eat.

One day the caterpillar climbed up the stick and started acting strangely. The boy worriedly called his mother who came and understood that the caterpillar was creating a cocoon. The mother explained to the boy how the caterpillar was going to go through a metamorphosis and become a butterfly.

The little boy was thrilled to hear about the changes his caterpillar would go through. He watched every day, waiting for the butterfly to emerge. One day it happened, a small hole appeared in the cocoon and the butterfly started to struggle to come out.

At first the boy was excited, but soon he became concerned. The butterfly was struggling so hard to get out! It looked like it couldn't break free! It looked desperate! It looked like it was making no progress! The boy was so concerned he decided to help. He ran to get scissors, got it and then came back. He snipped the cocoon to make the hole bigger and the butterfly quickly emerged!

As the butterfly came out the boy was surprised. It had a swollen body and small, shriveled wings. He continued to watch the butterfly expecting that, at any moment, the wings would dry out, enlarge and expand to support the swollen body. He knew that in time the body would shrink and the butterfly's wings would expand.

But neither happened!

The butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body and shriveled wings. It never could fly...

What the boy in his kindness and haste did not understand was that the restricting cocoon and the struggle required for the butterfly to get through the tiny opening were nature's way of forcing fluid from the body of the butterfly into its wings so that it would be ready for flight once it achieved its freedom from the cocoon.

Sometimes struggles are exactly what we need in our life. If nature allowed us to go through our life without any obstacles, it would cripple us. We would not be as strong as what we could have been.

Back-to-School

It's time to get back to the books



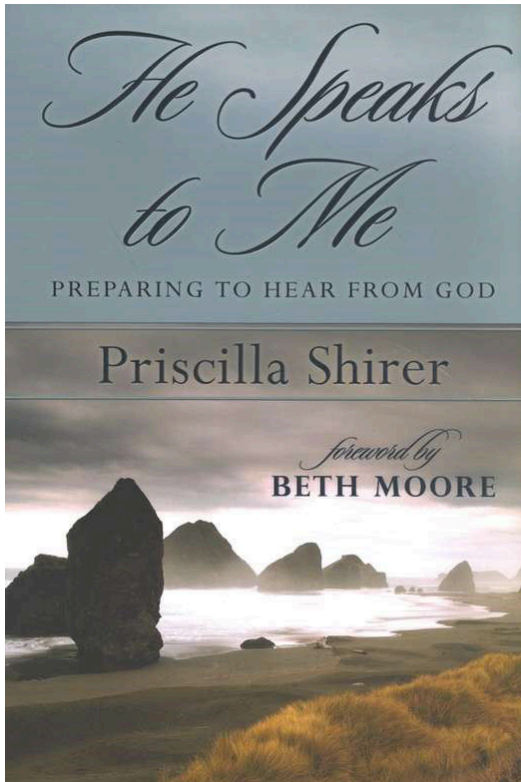
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BACKPACK
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BUS
CLASSROOM
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GRADES
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HOMEWORK

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LUNCH
MATHEMATICS
NOTEBOOK
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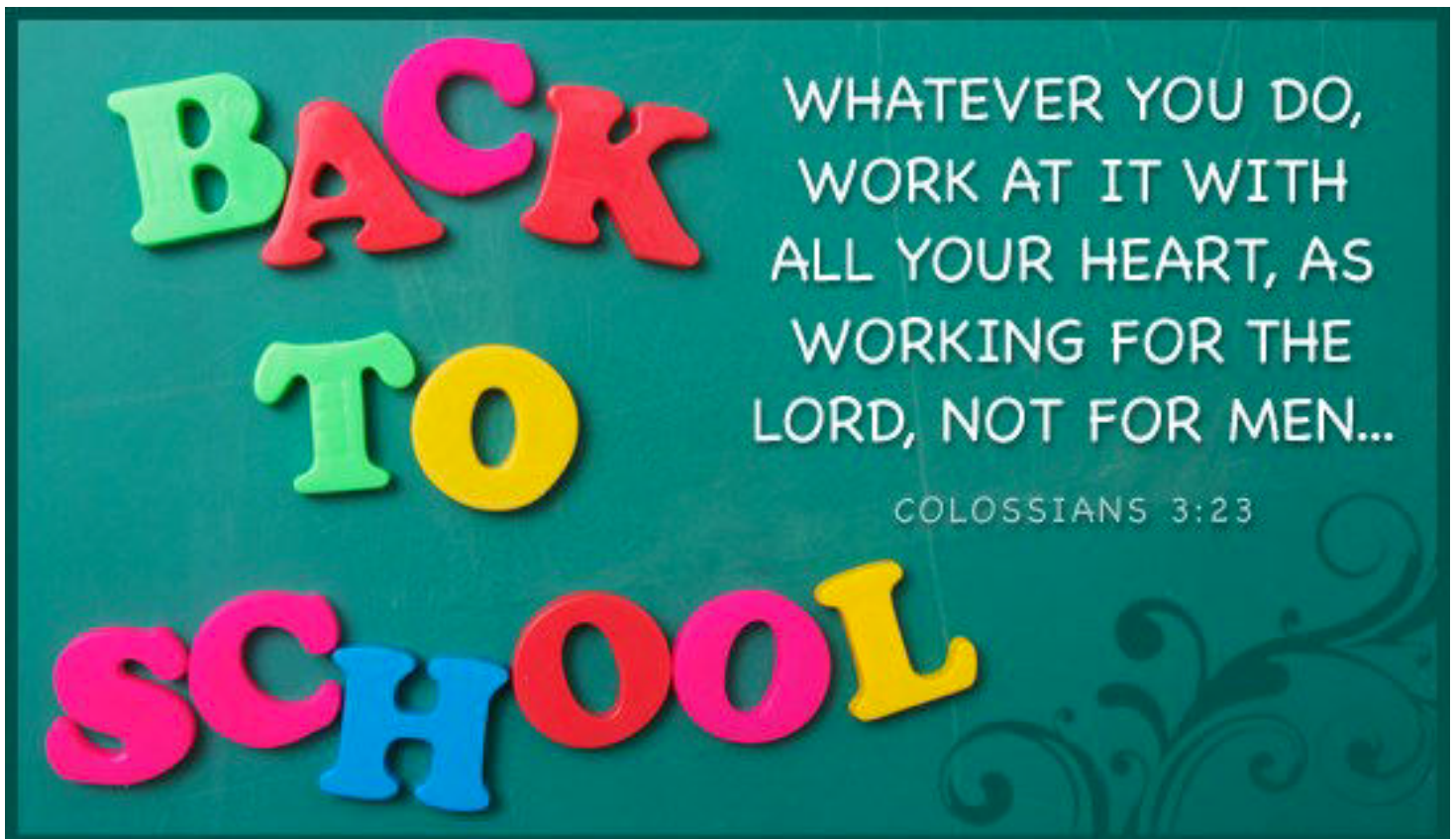
SCHOOL
SCIENCE
SCISSORS
SOCIAL STUDIES
STUDENTS
TEACHERS
TEST

The Book Corner



He Speaks to Me by Priscilla Shirer

Do you want to develop a more intimate prayer life? Even more, do you want to hear from God in practical ways? Let Priscilla Shirer prepare you by giving you a deeper understanding of the Holy Spirit. Based on the life of Samuel (who first heard God's voice while still a small boy) and packed with practical examples from Shirer's own life, He Speaks to Me speaks directly to the need to develop a richer prayer life and a deeper, more intimate relationship with God and to learn how to comfortably share your experience of God with others.



RUTLEDGE H. PEARSON HONORED 1928 - 1967

U.S. Rep. Al Lawson and U.S. Postal Service officials on Friday, July 20, 2018, hosted a dedication ceremony at Woodlawn Presbyterian Church to mark the renaming of the Kings Road post office in honor of civil rights activist Rutledge Pearson. Lawson filed the bill to rename the post office on Aug. 1, 2017. The bill passed Congress earlier this year and became law on March 28, 2018. "Mr. Pearson was an instrumental leader in the fight for civil rights and his efforts, both locally and nationally, helped change Jacksonville's cultural landscape," Lawson said during the ceremony. "Recognizing Mr. Pearson's contributions is important to understanding the history of our city. We owe him, and others like him, a debt of gratitude."

State Sen. Audrey Gibson, Jacksonville Branch NAACP President Isaiah Rumlin, local historian Rodney Hurst and members of Pearson's family joined Lawson for the occasion. Councilwoman Chris Hoffman presented the Pearson family with a proclamation on behalf of the city of Jacksonville Beach.

As a young man, Mr. Pearson played with the Birmingham Black Barons of the Negro League. He was set to play Major League Baseball in his hometown. However, because of his race, the Jacksonville Beach Seabirds ended their program to prevent integration. This event changed his life and from then on he dedicated his life to the struggle for human dignity and respect. He taught history at Isaiah Blocker Junior High School and coached baseball at New Stanton High School as well. He served as local and state president of the NAACP, recruiting members and persuading both black and white members of the Jacksonville community to support the organization. As such, he supported the civil rights efforts in nearby St. Augustine that led to the passage of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964.

He was featured on the cover of JET magazine on April 20, 1964, with the headline: "Former Baseball Star Leads Jacksonville Civil Rights Struggle." The article states that he was very influential in recruiting members of the NAACP citing that in just two years he was able to drive membership from a few hundred to over 2,000. He was also noted for his ability to influence the youth of Jacksonville enough to calm some of the violence surrounding the civil rights clashes that took place in the city in the 1960s.

In May 1967, he was mysteriously killed in a car accident on the way to organize Laundry workers in [Memphis, Tennessee](#).



Congratulations and God Speed To Pastor Juana Jordan



On July 1, 2018, Rev. Juana Jordan became the first African-American pastor to lead the mostly white congregation at First United Methodist Church of St. Augustine, Florida. She is also their first female pastor.

More than 50 years ago, people stood near this same church's entrance to keep blacks from coming inside. The civil rights movement was underway, and some staged protests by trying to gain entry into racially divided churches. Some houses of worship, including what is now called First United Methodist Church on King Street, turned them away.

Pastor Jordan, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Otis Jordan and a native of Jacksonville's Northside, described her selection as the senior pastor as a move of God to rewrite the narrative of the church,

saying she also believes she is taking part in bigger changes in St. Augustine. "I think this what redemption looks like," she said.

When she graduated from Ribault Senior High School in 1989, she wanted to be a journalist. She worked at the Tallahassee Democrat before she started to feel that God wanted her to change paths, though she didn't know. She says she eventually realized God wanted her to be a pastor. That revelation came in part when she had a vision of herself at a church lectern talking to people. "It's shocking when you realize God has a plan for you other than what you dreamed for yourself," she said. Before the Civil War, black and white Methodists worshiped together in St. Augustine, historian David Nolan said. Part of that arrangement might have been because whites didn't want to let slaves meet alone in case they planned to plot a revolt, he said.

During the Civil War, whites left but later claimed the property, Nolan said. The building was sold and the money was split, and black and white congregants formed separate churches. The black church is what is now known as Trinity Independent Methodist Church on Bridge Street. The white church became First United Methodist Church, also known as the "pumpkin church" on King Street for its annual pumpkin sales.

In 1964, a white woman walked two young black girls, Audrey Willis and Janice Boles, to the King Street church. There, a church leader told the woman that the girls could not come inside, according to the Associated Press. The church voted not long after to accept all people, according to the story.

About 40 years later the church held a reconciliation ceremony and apologized to the women, including another who had been turned away. Nolan said theirs was the only white church in the city willing to apologize for such actions.

Pat Turner-Sharpton was pastor at the time of the ceremony. By then, black people were part of the congregation. Still, he felt the church’s reputation needed mending. “I felt like the way the church was perceived in the community for that particular time of turning people away and having them arrested and just being, I guess, closed to people of color — I felt like the perception was there and would kind of always be there if we didn’t do something to say that that’s not who we are, and we’re very sorry that happened,” Turner-Sharpton said. Rev. Turner-Sharpton retired this year after serving about 17 years at the church, making way for Jordan to take the lead.

After graduating from seminary, Pastor Jordan’s first appointment was at a United Methodist church in South Florida, where she served a congregation of more than 100 African-Americans, Jamaicans, Haitians and some biracial families for several years. When asked what it feels like to be the first black pastor of a historic church, she said it’s too early to tell. For now she’s embarking on a “listening tour.” She’ll be finding out what dreams people in the church have and figuring out how the church can continue to grow a legacy of love left by the previous pastor, she said. She would also like to increase diversity at the church. Pastor Jordan calls the congregation courageous, and she said their response to her has been beautiful.

When she learned of Methodist officials’ decision to send her to St. Augustine, she was hesitant, she said. She didn’t understand why God would send her here. But she took a black history tour downtown. She learned about the influence of Christian theologian Saint Augustine, one of her favorites in the faith, on the city. She learned more about the civil rights struggles here. She looked around the neighborhoods and felt a connection with the people. She saw signs in people’s yards that read, “Hate has no home here.”

“I really felt like there’s a wind of change that must be happening here, and I am supposed to be part of that,” she said. “And it started making sense to me. ... I just felt like St. Augustine is moving into a whole different type of reality. So if I can be a part of that doing what I love to do, which is share the good news and tell these stories of Jesus and begin to help liberate people ... Then OK, that’s a great thing. I want to do that.”



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MT. BETHEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
August 2018

Sun	Mon	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9:00A Prayer Line 11:30A Clothes Closet 11:30A Noon Day Prayer 6:30P Dance Ministry 7:30P Church Outing: Evergreen Missionary Baptist Church	2 3	4
5 HOLY COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:30A Sunday School New Members Class 11:00A Morning Worship	6 6:00P Empowered Brethren	7 6:30P Sun School Teachers 7:00P Youth Explosion 7:00P Mid-Week Prayer & Bible Study	8 9:00A Prayer Line 11:30A Clothes Closet 11:30A Noon Day Prayer 6:30P Dance Ministry 7:00P SAT Sanctuary Choir	9 10 11
12 8:00A Early Worship 9:30A Sunday School 11:00A Morning Worship 5:00P BTU	13 First Day of School	14 6:30P Sun School Teachers 7:00P Youth Explosion 7:00P Mid-Week Prayer & Bible Study	15 9:00A Prayer Line 11:30A Clothes Closet 11:30A Noon Day Prayer 6:30P Dance Ministry 7:00P SAT Sanctuary Choir	16 17 18 BTU Regional Hymn-Lining Workshop—10:00am-2:00pm
19 8:00A Early Worship 9:30A Sunday School 11:00A Morning Worship 4:00P Church Outing: Monterief Missionary Baptist Church	20	21 6:30P Sun School Teachers 7:00P Youth Explosion 7:00P Mid-Week Prayer & Bible Study	22 9:00A Prayer Line 11:30A Clothes Closet 11:30A Noon Day Prayer 6:30P Dance Ministry 7:00P SAT Sanctuary Choir	23 24 25 9:00A Deaconess Ministry
26 8:00A Early Worship 9:30A Sunday School 11:00A Morning Worship	27 5:30P Missionary Society 6:30P Trustee Ministry 7:30P Deacons	28 6:30P Sun School Teachers 7:00P Youth Explosion 7:00P Mid-Week Prayer & Bible Study	29 9:00A Prayer Line 11:30A Clothes Closet 11:30A Noon Day Prayer 6:30P Dance Ministry 7:00P SAT Sanctuary Choir	30 31