

# THE BEACON

St. Stephen Baptist Church Newsletter



## Be Content in Christ Because He is More than Enough

by: Bishop Lanier C. Twyman, Sr.

Contentment lies not in what is mine, but in whose I am. When you come into a relationship with God through His Son, Jesus Christ, you understand who you belong to and what you have. Envy causes one to look horizontally—at what others have—so we are never satisfied. We pursue the god of money, thinking of what it can buy us. Contentment invites us to look vertically—at God. When we look in His direction, we know that He is enough.

Contentment is the secret of inward peace. It recalls the bare truth that we brought nothing into the world and we can take nothing out of it, including our money. Life, in fact, is a journey from one moment of vulnerability to another. So we should travel light and live simply. The reality for most people is that we have enough—whatever enough is. We would be well advised to be content with what we have.

Being content with less stuff and not envying those with a lot is a process that will take more than a quick prayer, or reading a book, or hearing a sermon. It will require a dependence and satisfaction in God. He knows what is best and what is needed in our lives. We must trust Him and not money.

Too often we take our eyes off God and put them on earthly pursuits, with money most often at the top of our lists. Money has an incredible power, much like a magnet and more like a god than most of us are willing to admit, to draw us away from those things that are eternal and life-filling.

Always be on your guard with money. Don't love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you." – Hebrews 13:5 NLT. The heart can only love one thing at a time. When we choose to love God, we will discover the marvelous benefit of contentment. More importantly, we will learn that money can never satisfy the heart. Therefore, keep your focus, on God. He is enough.



Bishop Lanier C. Twyman, Sr.

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- Be Content!
- Summer Rewind
- Recognizing Faithful Servants
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- Celebrating Our Youth

*Don't love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you."  
Hebrews 13:5*

# Summer Rewind

## Community Day Reflection

by: Sis. Destiny Allen Mitchell

You made the difference! On June 25th St. Stephen celebrated our 2022 Community Day! June 25th was also a day of dedication as the church hosted the "Ribbon Cutting", and Grand Opening of our new Tent, "Making It Better"! This comes after many community and church members rallied together to raise funds to make this happen.

The "Dedicated to Making It Better" Community Day was a success! We connected the community with over 40 vendors present, to some as resource providers with valuable information to support families, and other small business owners selling various goods. We had students volunteer, dance and sing from local schools.

There was a variety of games and activities such as horseback riding moon bounce, face painting bingo, basketball, and more! Additionally, SSBC provided FREE food and lots of giveaways. Overall, the event was a fun-filled day of encouragement and blessings. A special thank you to all Community Day Committee members.



## Church Cookout Reflection

Food, fun, and fellowship! On July 30th SSBC celebrated our annual Church Cookout. We were surrounded by members, family and friends and spent a beautiful day at the Knights of Columbus in College Park, Maryland. SSBC had food and games for all, including a couples three legged race and a game of softball. Bishop took home the win for both of those games! There was swimming available for the kids, a DJ, basketball and more activities for everyone. It was the perfect day for us to come together as a church family and recharge.

We are also thankful for our evangelists who worked diligently throughout the cookout sharing the Word with our guests. Several guests gave their lives to Christ and even joined the SSBC family! A special thank you to all Cookout Committee members.



# Summer Rewind!

## St. Jude Partnership

by: Sis. Michele Andrews

St. Stephen Baptist Church believes in "Making It Better" in the Community. We wanted to make a difference by saving the lives of children. We wanted to inspire the millions of children affected by this disease to step forward and leave cancer in the dust. To do more! To do more! Unapologetic and unafraid! Because cancer does not define us. It does not intimidate us. And it will not hold us back. We are in this together!

SSBC teamed up with community partners to change the future. We stand committed to participate as a community to continue to support St. Jude through events such as St. Jude Sunday of Hope and Walk-Bike for St. Jude that we host every year. We are not just doing this because more than 30 million children in the United States have cancer, but because we want to do something about it. There is nothing we cannot do when we are Connected for Life.

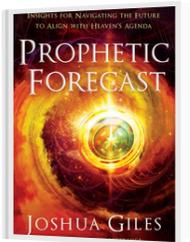


### ABOUT ST. JUDE

- St. Jude treats children from all 50 states and around the world.
- Treatments invented at St. Jude have helped push the overall childhood cancer survival rate from 20 percent to more than 80 percent since it opened more than 50 years ago. St. Jude is working to drive the overall survival rate from childhood cancer to 90 percent, and they will not stop until no child dies from cancer.
- St. Jude freely shares the breakthroughs it makes, and every child saved at St. Jude means doctors and scientists worldwide can use that knowledge to save thousands more children.
- Every dollar raised makes a real difference for St. Jude patients and their families.
- \$10 helps provide a new toy for hospital play areas at St. Jude housing facilities.
- \$36 helps provide necessities for patients who may have hurriedly left home after their child's diagnosis.
- \$100 helps provide a platelet count test for two patients.

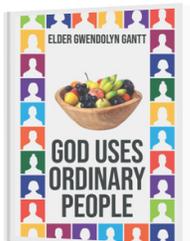
# Top Reads for the Summer!

by: the Beacon Staff



## Prophetic Forecast by Joshua Giles

Through biblical teaching and sound prophetic insight, pastor and prophet Joshua Giles will help you discover God's plans and strategies to prepare for the unusual and uncertain times ahead. Here is everything you need to align with heaven's agenda, overcome fear of the future, find your purpose and thrive amid the change.



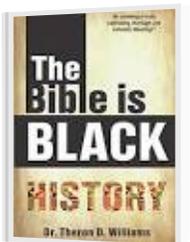
## God Uses Ordinary People by Gwendolyn Gantt

From humble beginnings, God transformed the author, a self-confessed "ordinary" woman into an extraordinary influencer and servant leader for the Kingdom. *God Uses Ordinary People* by Elder Gwendolyn Gantt interweaves timeless, biblical principles with an inspiring journey of faith and obedience to offer a ministry, leadership, and life model for believers of all generations. *God Uses Ordinary People* will strengthen your faith and give you greater revelation of how your own spiritual journey advances God's mission to seek and save the lost. Whether your contributions seem big or small, this book will help you see God's perspective of the extraordinary plans He has for you.



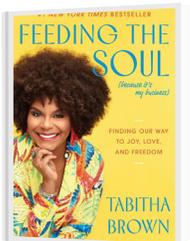
## The Seed of the Woman: 30 Narratives that Point to Jesus by Nana Dolce

*The Seed of the Woman* traces the gospel storyline through the narratives of women—from the Garden of Eden to the times of the matriarchs, the judges, the kings, the Exile—to the birth of Christ. In this thoroughly biblical and encouraging book, Nana Dolce opens up their lives and uncovers deep truths that shape our daily life and faith. Through the stories of these thirty women, we find our place in the fabric of redemptive history as it unfolds to show us Jesus, the promised Seed of the Woman.



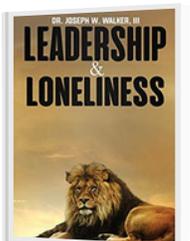
## The Bible is Black History by Theron Williams

We live in an age when young Christians are asking tough questions that previous generations would dare to ask. This generation doesn't hesitate to question the validity of the Scriptures, the efficacy of the church and even the history of Jesus. Young people are becoming increasingly curious as to what role, if any, did people of African descent play in biblical history? Dr. Theron D. Williams makes a significant contribution to this conversation by answering the difficult questions this generation fearlessly poses. Dr. Williams uses facts from the Bible, well-respected historians, scientists, and DNA evidence to prove that Black people comprised the biblical Israelite community.



## Feeding the Soul (Because It's My Business) by Tabitha Brown

Tabitha Brown's path to stardom was a long and winding one. For years she pursued acting while raising a family and dealing with undiagnosed chronic autoimmune pain. Before she became vegan, her condition made her believe she wouldn't live to see forty—until she started listening to what her soul and her body truly needed. Tabitha doesn't just spout inspirational platitudes. She roots her lessons in stories about her own life, career, faith, and family in this down-to-earth book, all structured around Tab's catchphrases that her fans know and love.



## Leadership and Loneliness by Dr. Joseph W. Walker, III

There is an unusual paradox that most leaders face between blessing and burden. Facilitating vision and leading others toward the fulfillment of their destiny transcends the unrealistic expectations placed on us by others, the brutal schedules that consume our time as well as the inevitable public scrutiny. Whatever assignment we undertake in the will of God becomes a ministry regardless of the context it is lived out. There is an assurance of mercy granted to those who are seeking to fulfill their assignment amidst a multitude of challenges.



# The Admin Corner

## TIME MANAGEMENT TIPS FOR CHILDREN

by: Elder Sophia A. Evans

Many children are overwhelmed by fitting everything they have and want to do into the few short hours after school. Between homework, activities, and just time to play, there's a lot to do. You can start teaching them how to plan and prioritize their time. "When we teach children strategies for time management from an early age, they internalize them, which sets them up for lifelong success," says Lynn Meltzer, Ph.D., president of the Research Institute for Learning and Development. Teachers shared their tips on the essential concepts and lessons to teach, age by age, so you can help with your child's time more manageable, successful, and a whole lot more fun for everyone!

### TIME MANAGEMENT TIPS FOR PRESCHOOLERS

- Create a (picture) schedule. Since little children love routines and repetition so much, create charts of your child's morning and bedtime rituals. Then have your child check off the steps as they do them – an important lesson in breaking up a bigger chore into smaller, more manageable ones.

### TIME MANAGEMENT TIPS FOR CHILDREN IN GRADES K TO 2

- Use a visual timer. Seeing time literally slipping away can help children pace themselves.
- Visual timer apps like Children's Countdown (for younger children) and Time Timer are helpful with time management of homework and assignments. Use any during homework sessions. If you have a second grader, for instance, set the timer for 20 or 25 minutes. Give your child a star each night he finishes before the buzzer and reward a week's worth of stars with a special treat over the weekend (like a one-on-one walk to the park with you). The goal is to help children tackle their assignments more effectively and efficiently, while making them more aware of the ticking clock.

### TIME MANAGEMENT FOR CHILDREN IN GRADES 3 TO 5

- Work on estimating time. To make a realistic schedule, you need a good sense of how long things take. To teach this vital skill, have your child create an activity chart. Create a chart that breaks the afternoon and evening hours into 15-minute intervals. Each time slot is followed by three columns: what they plan to do, what they completed, and reflection.
- The reflection piece is essential because constantly reassessing how things are going helps a child adapt their schedule accordingly.

### TIME MANAGEMENT FOR CHILDREN IN GRADES 6 TO 12

- Create a Master Schedule. Make a master schedule your child can use to block off time to work on his or her assignments. This will help your child prioritize projects and provide a structure to help keep them on track to meet due dates. Use a different color for each subject so your child can follow the schedule quickly and easily.

#### Eliminate Distractions

- When it's time to get down to work, have your child turn off their cell phone, sign out of social media accounts, turn off PlayStation and Xbox games. Any time on the master schedule that is dedicated to working on schoolwork should be cell phone and television-free!

#### Start Working On Assignments Early

- Good time management skills mean not leaving assignments until the day before they are due. Sit down with your child each week to review upcoming assignments and tests and add them to their master schedule. Schedule time to start working on them well before they are due, so your child isn't stressed and scrambling to meet the due dates.

#### Study In Shorter Bursts

- For every 30 minutes of schoolwork, have your child schedule a short 10-15-minute break to recharge. Taking short breaks is a good way to give your child's brain a chance to recharge so they can come back more focused.

#### Get 8-10 Hours Of Sleep

- Getting enough sleep is important to help your child recharge their mind and have the energy needed to stay on track the next day. Use your master schedule to mark a cut-off time for homework each night as well as a set bedtime. Following this routine will help make sure your child has time to unwind at the end of each day and get the sleep they need.



# SSBC SCHOLARS

by: Elder Kym Jackson

## DeShaé Wakefield

DeShaé was accepted into Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia and will major in business. She is a recent graduate of Oxon Hill High School, Program of Science & Technology, where she graduated in the top 10% of her class with a 4.5 GPA. She was in a variety of leadership positions and extracurricular programs to include: Class Secretary, President Math Honor Society, National Honor Society, English Honor Society, Varsity Cheerleader, Peer Mentor, and SSBC IMPACT Nation Teen Leader. She is also the founder and CEO of Designs by DeShaé!



## Dominic Hampleton

Congratulations to SSBC's own Dominic Hampleton! "NICKY" graduated MAGNA CUM LAUDE from Morgan State University, School of Social Work! Awesome Work, Nicky!!



## Steve Wiley, Jr.

Steve was accepted into Prairie View A&M University and will major in Chemical Engineering. Steve is a member through SSBC's Satellite Ministry efforts. He is a recent graduate of Hutto High School, Hutto, Texas where he played football and ran track.



## Jeremiah Ford

Jeremiah plans to enlist in the United States Marine Corp. He recently graduated from Crossland High School where he ran track, cross country, and played tennis.



# Graduate Spotlight!

## Dorothy Anderson and Theodora Anderson

Deaconess Theodora Anderson and Deaconess Dorothy Anderson are a Mother/Daughter team walking in Excellence. Both serve diligently in various areas of Ministry at SSBC. This dynamic duo each received Undergraduate Degrees in the 2022 Commencement Season! Congratulations, Women of God.

Dorothy Anderson is a recent graduate of Bowie State University where she received her Bachelor of Science in Communications with a Concentration in Broadcast Journalism. During her collegiate experience, Dorothy became a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.

"I thank God for being with me through these past 4 years, I thank everyone who makes up my village helping me mentally, physically, emotionally, spiritually, and financially!"  
# blackexcellence # degreeme

Theodora Anderson received her Bachelor's Degree in Communication and Media Studies from the University of Maryland Global Campus.



## How Bullying Affects Others

by: Andrew, Braylon, Nevaeh, and Devin Boyd

### WHAT IS BULLYING?

My perspective on bullying is it's something that children shouldn't have to go through, but they do every day. Is it wrong? Yes, it is but it can be stopped with the help of the victims speaking up to a trusted adult so the problem can be fixed. I think the bully shouldn't be punished but be made to go through peer mediation with the child they bullied. I have something at my school called a Peer Mediation Program. This is a program where children learn how to face conflict through mediation, and when they have altercations, they are required to sit with each other for an entire school day. The students must be nice to each other and try to talk over their problems with each other. I think Peer Mediation is a great idea to have at all schools and it doesn't have to be at any cost.

### HOW BULLYING HAS AFFECTED ME?

Based on my experience, I think schools should have security guards in all schools. This is because kids are being hurt over, and over, and at my school most teachers aren't sure how to handle the situation appropriately because it continues. This happens in schools most of the time because people do it to try and be cool and fit in with the crowd. If there was one thing that I could do to stop bullying, I would separate the kids who are high achievers and want to learn from those kids who don't want to learn.

### HOW CAN WE END BULLYING?

We can end bullying by refusing to be an audience for bullies, and by not following the crowd because they lead down the wrong path and bring trouble. We can also walk away and go get help to expose the bully. You can also know your personal strength because when you do get bullied, you can stand up for yourself, and that will prevent anyone from getting hurt or bullied. We can also help other kids to understand how bullying affects everyone.



## All-Star Cheerleading Competition

by: Ashley Jones



Have you ever wondered what all-star cheering was? Hi, my name is Ashley Jones and in August 2021, I was introduced to all-star cheering. At first, I had no clue what all-star meant. I thought that it was just holding pom poms and shouting cheers. But little did I know, I would be conditioned to be an athlete. Practice would start with burpees, running, pushups and more; and it would last for three hours. I thought "Oh we are just exercising for a few hours. This is going to be a piece of cake!" But that was just the start until we began tumbling, stunting, choreography, and dancing.

After months of conditioning and practicing, finally we were ready to compete. We competed in one-day competitions in places like Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Richmond. The one-day competitions were tough, but the two-day competitions caused me to panic. My coach told me not to overthink it, and just act like it's a one-day competition in the same place! This really helped. I thought to myself, "I got this" and we killed it! We traveled to Myrtle Beach, Virginia Beach, Richmond and even Las Vegas. We won awesome stuff like medals and rings, and we even won the \$750 prize with beach towels! Cheering is one of the best things that happened to me! And I'm going for another round again in two years!

## Get Plugged Into Camp Unplugged

by: Minister Renita Richardson

How many of us remember going to summer camp? Our parents may have enrolled us because it was safe and there was adult supervision, but summer camp was so much fun and so much more than babysitting. Campers can meet and interact with other children their own age, while taking part in some amazing activities. While in summer camp, you get an opportunity to learn some great skills like painting, cooking and swimming, just to name a few. Some of my fondest childhood memories were from summer camp. I learned to roller skate, swim, and made friends with those who came back to camp every year. I remember taking trips to the amusement park with my camp buddies, and we would eat so much cotton candy and ride all the rollercoasters.



Camp Unplugged is back in session this summer! COVID-19 made it impossible for the campers to come together in 2020, and 2021, but this year it's full steam ahead to all the summer fun! Ministry Leader Trustee Sabrina Scott is super excited to have Camp Unplugged back in session, and she has so many fun activities lined up for her campers. There are 30 children enrolled in Camp Unplugged, and their ages range from 5 years - 12 years old. There are 6 adult counselors, and 10 youth counselors who are from the Summer Youth Employment Programs from Washington, DC and Prince George's County. Camp Unplugged also has one volunteer youth counselor.

Some of the activities planned for this year include swimming, making cookies with Culinary Ministry Leader Glendora Green, visiting a local farm, visiting a nature center, a museum, and a splash park. The campers are having big fun, and it appears that they are doing something different every day. Camp Unplugged offers parents flexibility with something they call Drop-in Days. This gives parents the flexibility to bring campers in as few as 1-2 days a week.

Great work from Trustee Sabrina Scott and staff because Camp Unplugged is off to an awesome start this summer. Keep your eyes out for the pictures of some of their outings and activities; they will make you wish you were a kid again!

## Sydney's Top 5 Play List

by: Sydney Thomas

1

### Power by Little Mix

- This is one of my favorite songs! This is one of my favorites because it's a motivational song. The lyrics inspire me to stand up for a variety of things. If you ever feel down, you can listen to Power to bring your spirit up.

2

### Talk by Salvatore

- Another one of my favorite songs! I like this song because it shows even when others think bad things about you, always be yourself. Even if you have flaws, they make you who you are.

3

### Won't He Do It, by Koryn Hawthorne

- I like this song because it shows that even when you are at your lowest, God will still be with you if you believe.

4

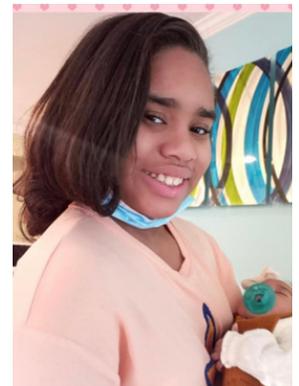
### Happy by Tasha Cobbs

- I like this song because it talks about the perfection of God. I love how the songs tell how God did and does everything for us.

5

### Break My Soul by Beyonce

- I like this song because even when a lot of things get crazy, it can't break you down.





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