# CHURCH NEWS MONTHLY

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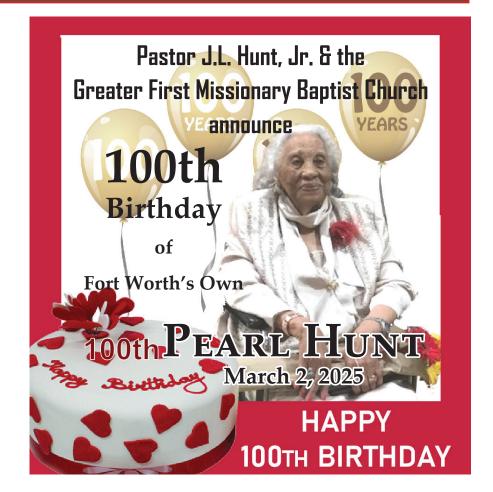
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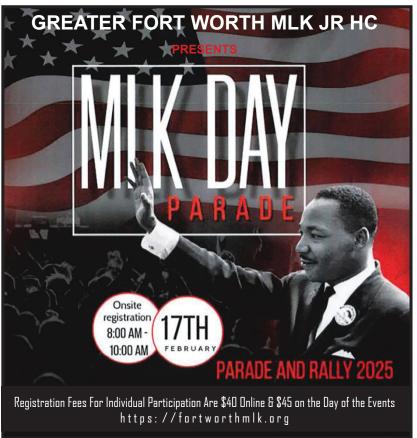
**VOL. 19 NO.11** 

FEBRUARY 2025

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Please join us, February 9th @ 10:15am for our Annual Mens' Day; We will host a 1-Day Revival Sunday, February 16th @ 10:15am; also on February 16th, our guest at 4pm will be the Church of a New Beginning of Dawson, Texas.

#### The Greenway Church Virtual Services & Worship

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#### "The LEADER'S EDGE" by drmichaelbell

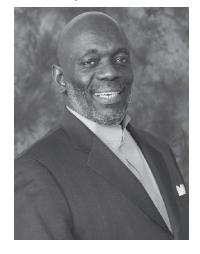
Do you remember back in March 2020 when the novel coronavirus pandemic prompted elected officials to force houses of worship nationwide to shut down? Churches weren't considered to be "essential." Liquor stores and in almost all states with medical or recreational marijuana dispensaries, those dispensaries were deemed essential and remained open. But churches were shuttered.

Let me say for the record that I truly understand the logic behind the church closures, especially given the fact that nationwide, Black Americans have experienced 13.7% of all Covid-related deaths, while they represent 12.6% of the population. Even so, the consequences of the Covid-19 shutdown accelerated the decline of Black Church attendance. The federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency declaration ended on May 11, 2023. Now, almost two years after the official end of the pandemic, more than a third of regular churchgoers have yet to return to the pews.

Given the statistical trends in Black Protestant church attendance and the extensive impact of the novel coronavirus pandemic, it's reasonable to surmise that your church's worship attendance has likely decreased since the pre-pandemic period. It's not secret that many, not all. Black Protestant churches have experienced a 30% to 40% decline in attendance over recent years, and the pandemic only expedited this trend. Of course, there were other factors, including but not limited to health concerns, generational shifts, changes in lifestyle and the rise of virtual worship.

So, say your church had 300 people attending before the pandemic, and the attendance has dropped by approximately 40%, your church's attendance would now be around 180. Of course, in some churches the severity of the decline was less or more than 40%.

In a May 2023 Associated Press article, Rev. Quardricos Driskell, pastor at Beulah Baptist Church, Alexandria, Virginia, talked about how his 160-year-old church dropped from a pinnacle of more than 200 people who met in two Sunday services to less than half that at a single service. Driskell lamented, "The pandemic exasperated that. We're lucky if we have 100 on any given Sunday."



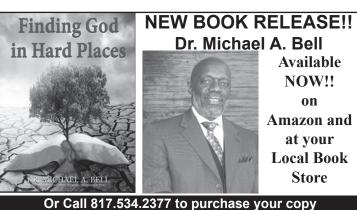
It's a new year and most Black churches are still struggling to grow their church's worship attendance. What can you do to turn it around? Here are some practical strategies for your church to consider to reverse the trend and rebuild a thriving community of faith.

- 1. Community Engagement. Focus on connecting with the broader community beyond Sunday services. Host community events such as free health clinics, food drives or family fun days that allow people to experience your church in a more casual and welcoming environment.
- 2. Be intentional about building your online presence. Continue offering online worship services for those who can't attend in person. Make sure your livestreams are easily accessible on multiple platforms, including your church web-
- 3. Conceptualize engaging programs for all ages. Think intergenerationally! What is your youth ministry doing? What about your ministries to men and women?

The most important thing is to stay flexible, adapt to the needs of your congregation, and be patient. Rebuilding takes time, but with intentional efforts to engage and serve your community, you can begin to turn things around.

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."

on







### Speak Life Thought

with Dr. Yolanda G. Butler

#### A Life of Kingdom Work

We must quickly carry out the tasks assigned to us by the one who sent us. The night is coming, and then no one can work." (John 4:4 NLT)

As ambassadors of the Father's Kingdom, our priority in life is to seek His Kingdom and live right (Matt. 6:33). A Kingdom is a territory, country, or domain governed by a King. Its citizens are subject to the reign, rule, and authority of the King. This is known as a theocracy. A democracy such as the USA is governed by the people and it is evident we are failing every day.

The Kingdom of God is the heavenly realm governed by the Father-The King. The Kingdom was demonstrated on earth at creation and then reinstituted by Jesus (Matt. 4:17). Every day we seek to pursue the Kingdom, learn it, understand it, and walk it out. All that we do should be measured by the King's standards. It is HIS WAY of doing things.

In this passage, Jesus explains to the disciples that He must do the Kingdom Work on the earth until the Work is finished. What is the Kingdom work? Jesus says, "...preach the gospel to the poor; heal the brokenhearted, preach deliverance to the captives, recovering of sight to the blind, set at liberty them that are bruised, and preach the acceptable year of the Lord" (Luke 4:18-19) Jesus would later reveal that His followers would do even "greater

works" (John 14:12).

We have a Kingdom mandate. Before you go about your daily tasks in life, I want to challenge you to ask yourself: 1) Will it advance the Kingdom? 2) Does it line up with Kingdom principles? 3) Is this the King's mandate? 4) Will the King be glorified?

Kingdom people submit their will to the King's rule, the King's authority, the King's way. Kingdom is manifested in you when you say "yes" to His Will. Through emotional anguish in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus asked if there was any possible way for the impending cup of suffering to be lifted. Already knowing the answer, He humbly said, "Not my will but thy will be done" (Luke 22:42). Can we too in the darkest corners of our lives turn our questions into such a declaration: "Nevertheless, I must work the works of Him."

Understand this: your values, your choices, your desires, and your wants must all line up with His Values. They are demonstrated when you do the Work. What is the work? It begins with loving God with your heart, soul, and mind (Luke 22:37), loving your neighbor, and loving yourself (Luke 22:39). But the greater test of Kingdom work will be when you love your enemies, bless those who curse you (or, wish evil on you), do good to those who hate you, pray for those who hurt you, give to those in need, not retaliate against those who do you wrong, and do unto oth-



ers as you want them to do unto you (Luke 6:27-30). Kingdom work is going the extra mile and lending with the intention of it being a potential gift if never repaid (Matt 5:41-42). When you do this, you demonstrate you are a Kingdom citizen. True citizens demonstrate the values of the King by their actions. It must come from a pure place of love, which is the gift of God and the fruit of the Spirit.

This counsel came from the One who is our Best Example and who showed us how to do Kingdom work "step by step," ignoring the ridicule, naming calling, and lies, and endured the cross all for our redemption (1 Peter 2:21-25). He finished the Kingdom Work.

So dear hearts, be determined to live a life that honors the King and carry on the Kingdom Work.

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 Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and www. firstladybutlerministries.net.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH
THIS BLACK HISTORY MONTH, OUR CIVIL RIGHT ARE UNDER ATTACK. WE MUST WORK TOGETHER

President George W. Bush's chief speechwriter, Michael Gerson, has a message for people who are excusing President Trump's racism:



"I had fully intended to ignore President Trump's latest round of racially charged taunts against an African American elected official, and an African American activist, and an African American journalist and a whole city with a lot of African Americans in it. I had every intention of walking past Trump's latest outrages and writing about the self-destructive squabbling of the Democratic presidential field, which has chosen to shame former vice president Joe Biden for the sin of being an electable, moderate liberal.

But I made the mistake of pulling James Cone's 'The Cross and the Lynching Tree' off my shelf — a book designed to shatter convenient complacency. Cone recounts the case of a white mob in Valdosta. Ga., in 1918 that lynched an innocent man named Haynes Turner. Turner's enraged wife, Mary, promised justice for the killers. The sheriff responded by arresting her and then turning her over to the mob, which included women and children. According to one source, Mary was 'stripped, hung upside down by the ankles, soaked with gasoline, and roasted to death. In the midst of this torment, a white man opened her swollen belly with a hunting knife and her infant fell to the ground and was stomped to death.

God help us. It is hard to write the words. This evil — the evil of white supremacy, resulting in dehumanization, inhumanity and murder — is the worst stain, the greatest crime, of U.S. history. It is the thing that nearly broke the nation. It is the thing that proved generations of Christians to be vicious hypocrites. It is the thing that turned normal people into moral monsters, capable of burning a grieving widow to death and killing her child.

When the president of the United States plays with that fire or takes that beast out for a walk, it is not just another political event, not just a normal day in campaign 2020. It is a cause for shame. It is the violation of martyrs' graves. It is obscene graffiti on the Lincoln Memorial. It is, in the eyes of history, the betrayal — the re-betrayal — of Haynes and Mary Turner and their child. And all of this is being done by an ignorant and arrogant narcissist reviving racist tropes for political gain, indifferent to the wreckage he is leaving, the wounds he is ripping open.

Like, I suspect, many others, I am finding it hard to look at resurgent racism as just one in a series of presidential offenses or another in a series of Republican errors. Racism is not just another wrong. The Antietam battlefield is not just another plot of ground. The Edmund Pettus Bridge is not just another bridge. The balcony outside Room 306 at the Lorraine Motel is not just another balcony. As U.S. history hallows some causes, it magnifies some crimes.

What does all this mean politically? It means that Trump's divisiveness is getting worse, not better. He makes racist comments, appeals to racist sentiments and inflames racist passions. The rationalization that he is not, deep down in his heart, really a racist is meaningless. Trump's continued offenses mean that a large portion of his political base is energized by racist tropes and the language of white grievance. And it means whatever their intent — that those who play down, or excuse, or try to walk past these offenses are enablers.

Some political choices are not just stupid or crude. They represent the return of our country's cruelest, most dangerous passion. Such racism indicts Trump. Treating racism as a typical or minor matter indicts us."

- Michael Gerson

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#### The Faith & Justice Coalition of Tarrant County | We can work together

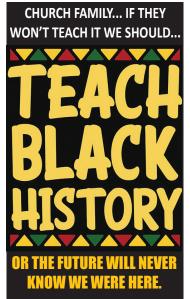


The Faith & Justice Coalition of Tarrant County, co-founded by Dr. Ryon Price of Broadway Baptist

Church, Fort Worth and Pastor, Dr. Michael A. Bell of Greater Saint Stephen First Church, or Fort Worth, and membered by progressive faith partners/leaders across Tarrant County hosted its first Dr. M. L. King, Jr. Interfaith United in Hope Service at Carter Metropolitan Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Fort Worth. The Service was an overwhelming success. Pictured along with Coalition partners are Dr. Opal Lee (seated in the middle) and Fort Worth/Tarrant County NAACP President Estella Williams (seated on the right in the hat). A BIG THANKS TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED THIS AMAZING EVENT!



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#### Healthier Texas Receives Grant in Support of Ministers Justice Coalition to start Health + Healing Hubs in 76104 and 76105

Ministers Justice Coalition proudly hosted the inaugural 2025 MLK Justice Brunch with Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles Presiding Officer Marsha Moberley and Commissioner Paul Kiel. (1 Peter 4:9)

HEAVEN SENT: The Ministers Justice Coalition's initiative are inspiring steps toward healing and rebuilding inner-city communities through partnerships and innovative solutions.

The collaboration with Healthier Texas and the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles demonstrates a strong commitment to addressing both physical and mental health challenges in underserved neighborhoods like 76104 and 76105.

The grant awarded to Healthier Texas to support the coalition's Health + Healing Hubs marks a significant milestone in bringing wellness resources directly to the community. These hubs will not only provide essential services but also foster a sense of hope and renewal for residents.



The success of the inaugural 2025 MLK Justice Brunch, featuring esteemed guests like Marsha Moberley and Paul Kiel, highlights the Coalition's dedication to blending faith, justice, and community care. Guided by the principle of hospitality from 1 Peter 4:9, this event has set the tone for further transformative work.

Together, these initiatives underline the Coalition's unwavering mission to fill "bowls with blessings for souls," bringing health, healing, and justice to those

#### Under Trump Black America is having to start all over again for what past generations helped to put in place.



Black America is having to start all over again for what past generations helped to put in place. It is because of white America that we have fought so hard for these rights and with the election of a white man we are back to having to fight once again even harder.

The opportunities that Black America is fighting for is not something we want to fight for it is something we "have" to fight for because of the injustices that exist. We would like to not fight and saw that there is fairness and justice for all but that is not the truth. White America sets us back iust as we obtain our small gains and once again we are in a traumatic struggle to find our place and our acceptance within Amer-

Donald Trumps dismantling of FFOC and Civil Rights Act Enforcement will have chilling effects for Black workers.

Donald Trump's dismantling of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and civil rights act enforcement will have severe consequences for Black workers. The EEOC is responsible for enforcing federal laws that prohibit employment discrimination, including the Civil Rights Act of 1964. By weakening the EEOC and civil rights enforcement, Trump's actions would create a hostile work environment for Black workers, making it more difficult for them to report and address discrimination.

#### Key Consequences:

- Increased Discrimination: Weakening civil rights enforcement would embolden employers to discriminate against Black workers, knowing that there would be fewer consequences for their ac-

- Reduced Access to Justice: Black workers who experience discrimination would face significant barriers in seeking justice, as the EEOC would have reduced capacity to investigate and prosecute claims.
- Chilling Effect on Reporting Discrimination: The dismantling of civil rights enforcement would create a culture of fear, where Black workers would be reluctant to report discrimination, fearing retaliation or inaction.
- Perpetuation of Systemic Inequalities: By undermining civil rights enforcement, Trump's actions would perpetuate systemic inequalities in the workplace, making it more challenging for Black workers to advance and achieve economic mobility.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has expressed concerns that Trump's actions would "worsen racial disparities" and "further entrench systemic inequalities" in the workplace.

#### **INVITE SOMEONE TO CHURCH THIS MONTH**



Pic 1) Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Birthday Holiday Parade in East Fort Worth with U.S. Congressman Marc Veasey; Pic 2) With Preshawn, Trinity and Mason Ford; Pic 3) With Doc Bookshop CEO Donna and Donya Craddock at Parade; Pic 4) With Parade Coordinator Cliff Sparks.





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Worship Service	10:00AM
Wednesday Prayer	6:30PM
Bible Study (Wed)	7:00PM

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(Participation also available via Zoom	1)
Sunday Morning Services	11:00 a.m
Communion Service	Monthly
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(Participation also available via 2	Zoom)
Sunday Morning Services	11:00 a.m.
Communion Service	Monthly
Bible Study (Wednesday via Conference	Call)7:00 p.m.

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Sunday School

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.9:30am

...10:45am

9:30 A.M

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MORNING WORSHIP 11:00AM



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..6:30 pm

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#### Turner Chapel **COGIC** of Texas

PRAYER MEETING (Wednesday)...

Supt. James Turner Memorial Ministry

Evangelist Sharon Mason-Turner, Overseel O. Box 330401 Ft. Worth, TX 76163 . 817-294-244

"The Work Lives On" ..Sunday School 

Prayer / Spiritual Counseling / Teaching Visitation of Sick & Shut In Helping Hand Food Distribution Ministries College Scholarship Foundation

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

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

9:00am

Dr. W.L.D. Campbell, Pastor

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

VISION STATEMENT To share the Light of Christ to a world in Darkness, beginning at home.

Hab. 2:1-4 Matt. 28:18-20

#### **SAMARIA Baptist Church**

4000 E. Berry St. Fort Worth, TX 76105 Phone: 817-536-6421 PASTOR

WILLIAM MCKINLEY JACKSON

Sunday School	9:30 am
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 am
Wednesday Prayer	
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 pm

OUR PURPOSE IS TO: EXALT THE SAVIOR, EQUIP THE SAINTS AND EVANGELIZE THE SINNER:

#### Zion Missionary **Baptist Church**

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

REV. K.L. HAWKINS, Pastor

SUNDAY SCHOOL	9:00 a.m.
MORNING WORSHIP	
EVERY WEDNESDAY - BIBLESTUDY	6:30 p.m.
1ST,4TH, 5TH WEDNESDAY - PRAYER SERVI	CE7:30 p.m.
EVERY WEDNESDAY - YOUTH MEETINGS	7:30 p.m.
2ND& 3RD WEDNESDAY - SMALLGROUPS	7:30 p.m.
3RD SATURDAYS . FVANGELISM	10·30 a m

#### **ELM GROVE Missionary Baptist** CHURCH

1344 E. Harvey Ave. Ft. Worth, TX 76104 817-923-5431 www.elmgrovembc.org

Sunday School.....9:45am Worship Service.....11:00am Wednesday Service..... .....7:30pm

Reverend T.J. Patterson, Jr., Pastor

For the perfecting of the saints, for the ork of the ministry, for the edifying of th 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.
Wednesday Bible Study7:15 p.m.

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

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

Ft. Worth, TX 76112

WEDN BIBLE STUDY



#### Al Sharpton announces boycott of companies ending DEI

"Rev. Al Sharpton announced boycott of companies eliminating diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI)



programs, saying the effort will be in the spirit of the late civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr.

Speaking from the Metropolitan AME Church, Sharpton said his organization, the National Action Network, is calling upon all Americans, regardless of their race or gender, to boycott companies that will no longer support #DEI. "Why do we have DEI? We have DEI because you denied us diversity, you denied us equity, you denied us inclusion. DEI was a remedy to the racial institutionalized bigotry practice in academia and in these corporations. Now, if you want to put us back in the back of the bus, we gonna do the Dr. King-Rosa Parks on you," Sharpton said as those gathered cheered.

"You must have forgot who we are," Sharpton added. "We are the ones that you took everything and we still here."

According to Sharpton, a council will engage in a 90-day study of what companies have given up on DEI and what their margins of profit are. After that, two companies will specifically be targeted in the boycott.

Meanwhile, Sharpton added, he'll be supporting companies that have doubled down on DEI, like Cost-

Sharpton's announcement was part of a larger ceremony at the church honoring the slain civil rights leader on the same day President Trump was sworn into office. The church - where abolitionist Frederick Douglass's funeral was held and Rosa Parks's casket was brought - was packed with supporters.

#### Zion Rest

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

**PASTOR RUFUS HUCKABY** 

11:00am

Morning Worsh

Bible Study, Mi





Gospel legend and Fort Worth native Franklin Kirk receive Black Music Icon Award for his groundbreaking work in gospel music.



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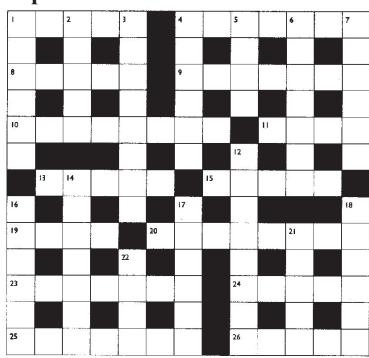
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#### **BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE Topic: OLD TESTAMENT OCCUPATIONS**



#### **ACROSS**

- I " a child to choose the right path, and when he is older, he will remain upon it" (Prov. 22:6)
- 4 Money institution workers (Isa. 24:2)
- 8 Hometown of Hebrew Temple attendants (Neh. 3:26)
- 9 Cloth makers (2 Chron. 2:7)
- 10 Animal group tenders (Gen. 13:7)
- II Carpenter; half brother of Jesus; N.T. author
- 13 Secret information gatherers (Gen. 42:8)
- 15 Maker of bread, cakes, and pastries (Gen. 40:1)
- 19 O.T. author who saw Jerusalem tested with a plumbline

- 20 Counselors (Acts 25:12)
- 23 Improve in value (Esther 2:13) 24 One to whom some-
- thing belongs (Exod. 21:28)
- 25 Ones who shape and harden clay (Matt. 27:7)
- 26 "My strength evaporated like water on a \_\_\_\_ day" (Ps. 32:4)

#### **DOWN**

- I Prize gained by a victory (1 Thess. 2:20) 2 Loathe; reject (Ps. 5:6)
- 3 Ship steerers (Ezek. 27:8)
- 4 Archers (Jer. 51:3) 5 First boat builder (Gen. 6:13, 14)
- 6 Carry out a function or task (Exod. 12:12)
- 7 Regular order; set of procedures (2 Chron. 34:9)

- 12 Custodians (Esther 1:5) 14 Spokesman for God; foreteller of future
- (Deut. 13:1) 16 Fabricated; fictitious: 2
- wds. (Jer. 23:32) 17 Deadly snakes of Middle East (Isa. 11:8)
- 18 "A curse on those who lead \_\_\_\_ the godly. But men who encourage the upright to do good shall be given a worthwhile
- reward" (Prov. 28:10) 21 Owner of threshingfloor that became Temple site (2 Chron. 3:1)
- 22 "At the name of Jesus every \_\_\_\_ shall bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth" (Phil. 2:10)

#### **BAKER CHAPEL** A.M.E. CHURCH

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#### Turner Oberell O.O. I.O. Of TV

#### 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: sharonImasonfordturner@gmail.com

Sunday Services: In-Person & Conference Call Services 9am ......Sunday School

9am ......Sunday School 10am....Worship Service

Nursing Homes Ministry SHARON FORD TURN

Love in Action: 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

