

# St. John Delray

SUN  
JULY  
23  
10:00AM

JOIN US FOR OUR

109TH  
**CHURCH**  
ANNIVERSARY  
*Celebration*

MAIN WORSHIP HALL  
615 NW 1ST STREET  
DELRAY BCH, FL

LIVESTREAM



ISAAC LANE, Presiding  
SENIOR PASTOR

*Theme:*

"MAKING THE WORLD AROUND US,  
LIKE HEAVEN ABOVE US!"

*Matthew 6:10*

561.278.2084 | [info@stjohndelray.org](mailto:info@stjohndelray.org) | [www.stjohndelray.org](http://www.stjohndelray.org)

# Message from the Pastor



Grace and peace be with you as we gather together to celebrate the 109th church anniversary of St. John Primitive Baptist Church of Delray Beach, FL. It is an incredible milestone that fills our hearts with gratitude and joy. As we reflect on the journey that has brought us here, we also look towards the future, aspiring to make the world around us a reflection of the heaven above us.

This year, we embrace our purpose of "Making the World Around Us Like Heaven Above Us." (Matthew 6:10) It is a call to action, an invitation to extend the love, compassion, and grace we experience within these sacred walls into our communities, neighborhoods,

and beyond. Together, let us be the living examples of Christ's teachings, illuminating the path towards a better world.

In this spirit, I am delighted to share with you the news that we have successfully completed Phase 1 of our "Dare to Dream Renovation Project". Through the unwavering support and dedication of our congregation, we strive to transform our sanctuary into a space that truly honors our rich history while embracing the needs of our present and future.

Even more remarkable is that, through God's grace, we have achieved the milestone of becoming a debt-free church. We are deeply grateful for your faithfulness and willingness to be part of this journey.

However, our work is far from over. As we celebrate our church's anniversary and the completion of Phase 1, we are mindful of the tasks that lie ahead. Our commitment to serving others and transforming lives demands our continued efforts and dedication.

Together, let us embark on Phase 2 of our "Dare to Dream Renovation Project", with the same resolve and conviction that brought us this far. May this 109th church anniversary be a reminder of God's blessings upon us and a call to greater purpose. Let us go forth with open hearts, guided by our purpose of making the world around us, like heaven above us. Together, we will achieve greatness, transforming lives, and spreading the love of Christ like never before.

In His Service,  
Isaac A. Lane  
Pastor, St. John Delray

# Order of Service

## **PRESIDING**

Elder Isaac A. Lane, Senior Pastor, St. John Delray—Delray Beach, FL

## **OPENING PRAYER**

## **DEVOTION**

Deacons

## **DOXOLOGY**

St. John Delray Praise Team

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dss. Roslyn Grant

## **WELCOME & STATEMENT OF OCCASSION**

Sis. Carol Weatherspoon

## **SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

Bro. Alex Edmonds, *Oldest Living Church Founder Descendant*  
Presented by Sis. Anna Rosier

## **OFFERING**

St. John Deacons

## **INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER**

Elder Isaac A. Lane

## **WORSHIP IN SONG**

St. John Men's Choir

## **SERMON**

Pastor Markus White, New Bethel AME—Tampa, FL

## **INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP**

## **~ THE CHURCH HISTORY ~**

Narrated by Sis. Carol Weatherspoon

## **CHURCH MORTGAGE BURNING CEREMONY**

## **FINAL REMARKS**

# St. John's Church History

St. John Primitive Baptist Church was first organized in 1914. A small group of Christians began meeting in a packinghouse located across the street from the site of St. John today. This packinghouse was owned by Mr. Jim Monroe, a successful farmer and landowner in the black community.

Mr. Richard Muse, a deacon of the St. John Primitive Baptist Church of Midway, Florida came to Delray to visit his son, Jim Muse. He became excited about developing a plan to organize a sister church in Delray since many of the early settlers had migrated here from West Florida. Deacon Muse stayed in Delray until the church was organized.

Reverend Henry was the first pastor. The church purchased land at the corner of NW 1 st Street and 3 rd Avenue from Mr. George Green. In 1917, under the leadership of Rev. Cromartie, St. John built its first church.

Approximately 15 pioneers made up the early St. John. Among the founders were: Isaiah and Martha Bruin, Jim and Jessie Muse, Alex Edmonds, Harrison Edmonds, Mabel Nathan, Agnes Clem, Rev. Collins, Clara Collins, Clara Morris, Carrie Green, Joe Monroe, and Sam and Lula Robinson.

The original building was destroyed by the devastating hurricane of 1928. God sent Rev. N.B. Frazier as pastor who led the church through the rebuilding phase. The church was re-built in 1930. Seven (7) Pastors served the St. John congregation from 1930-1967. As we grew, land was purchased at the corner of NW 1st Street and 6th Avenue (our current location) to facilitate the construction of a larger church.

In December of 1968, the beloved Rev. Maurice M. Gaines was called as pastor. Rev. Gaines was a great builder. Under his leadership, we began to work toward building the new church. The foundation was poured in the spring of 1971. The new Church was dedicated on the third Sunday in July of 1974. Oh! What a glorious day this was. A small membership had built a beautiful red-brick church. The message at the 11 o'clock service was delivered by the Rev. John J. Thomas from St. Paul Baptist Church. The dedication message was given by Elder Moses Miles, the State President of the Primitive Baptist Convention. This was one of the most unforgettable times in our church's history.

The \$90,000 construction loan from 1 st Federal Savings and Loan Association was liquidated in seven (7) years. The Lord had truly blessed St. John. Much of the success was due to the excellent leadership of Elder Gaines. He will always be special in our hearts. In November of 1983, Elder Maurice Gaines relocated back to Tallahassee. Elder Everett served as Pastor from 1984-1986 and in April 1987; Elder Edward Hayes became the next pastor. He served until June of 1992. In June 1993, Elder Major E. Rollins, Jr. was called as pastor.

# St. John's Church History

## *continued ~*

Under Elder Rollins leadership additional land adjacent to the church was purchased for future expansion and parking, new ministries were developed; some of them were the Brotherhood, Dance ministries, monthly newsletter, and the M.M. Gaines Scholarship program. In 2009 Elder Rollins elected to relocate back to his hometown of Tallahassee. November 2010, St. John called Elder Kenneth D. Duke as Pastor. His motto was "Ministry outside the box". Focusing on the importance of unity and fellowship in the church and continued Christian education.

In July of 2022, Elder Isaac A. Lane was called to Pastor St. John Primitive Baptist Church. With his strong leadership style, he hit the ground running. He immediately set up meetings with all the leaders in the church and each ministry to gain an understanding and build relationships. He traveled each week from Tampa to deliver the word each Sunday. His family officially moved to Delray Beach at the end of July. In the month of September, Elder Lane was officially installed as the Pastor of St John Primitive Baptist Church. In the short time Elder Lane has been Pastor, he has established Quarterly Leadership Locker room events with the leaders of the church; where he presents the vision and goals for each quarter in a fun and open environment that promotes discussion, ideas, and enthusiasm to continue to grow and build the church. Elder Lane has implemented ministry teams to address the current and future needs of the church. Those teams are the Administration Team, Hospitality Team, Fundraising Team and the Congregational Care Team. The Youth Department has been revitalized and renewed with First Lady Lane taking the lead role in this ministry.

The media team has a new focus for our online ministry and social media platforms. Elder Lane has organized Heaven on Earth to address the various needs in our surrounding neighborhoods, such as care packages for the homeless, community trash pickup and providing water on the beach, just to name a few. The church has experienced growth under Elder Lane that has consisted of new members, youth and former members rejoining our church family. Remarkably, in less than a year, Elder Lane has inspired members to pledge funds to pay off the mortgage for the rental property the church owns. St John is debt free. St. John is excited to be blessed with Elder Lane, and to continue to grow and have a meaningful impact on our surrounding community.

God has truly blessed St. John throughout the years. Through trials and tribulations, hardships and disappointments, God has continued to show his people that he is mighty, and all things work for good according to those who are in Christ Jesus. St. John will continue to keep the faith, preserve and give God all the glory, honor and praise. We look forward to the future and pray that Elder Lane will be our Pastor for many years to come. We can only imagine how God is going to bless St. John through Pastor Lane.

# Guest Speaker



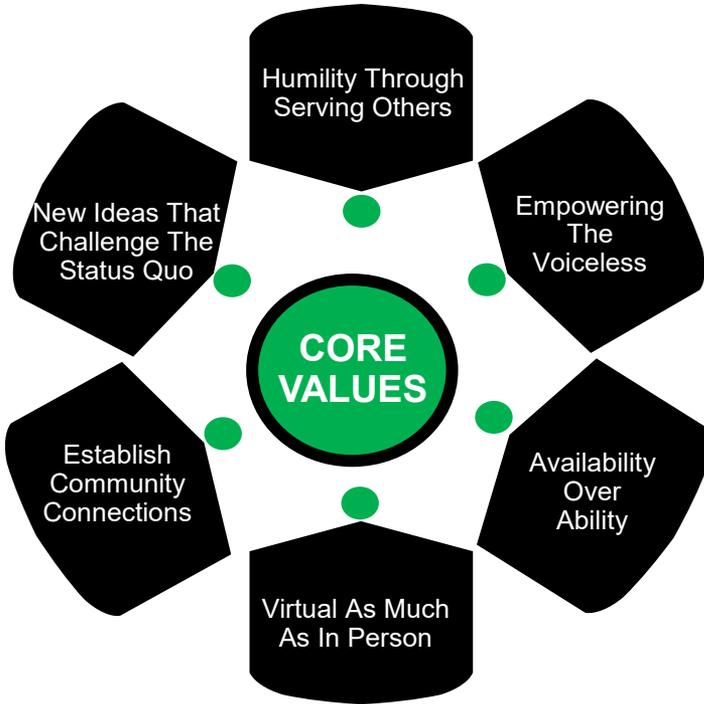
*The Reverend Markus-Derek White I.* was raised by the the Late Roy and Betty White. He Attended Hillsborough County Public Schools and Post-Secondary Schooling at Southeastern University and Regent University. He Holds a Master of Arts in Theological Studies from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, OH. His Master's thesis topic was, "How the past of the Black Church will inform it's future for survival." He is currently pursuing a PhD in Leadership at Anderson University in Anderson, South Carolina.

Reverend White has served in many ministerial capacities including pastoring a small rural Baptist Church. He currently serves as the proud Pastor of New Bethel AME Church of Sulphur Springs in Tampa, FL . As well as he serves as a 7th grade Science teacher and mentor to young African American boys with Friends of the Children of Tampa Bay.

Markus-Derek is married to Dr. Yolanda N. White who holds a Doctorate in School Psychology and serves as a School Psychologist. They are the proud parents of two sons, Mikah-Derek (7) and Markus-Derek II (5).

# St. John's Core Values

*We Exist To Make The World Around Us,  
Like Heaven Above Us.*



## St. John 2023-2024 Goals

1. Complete Phase 1 of the "Dare to Dream" Project
2. Relaunch Church School
3. Adopt a Class Room
4. Relaunch Youth & Mass Choirs

# St. John Delray 109TH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

## *Administrative Team/ Committee*

Sis. Stacy Bryant - Admin Team Chair

Bro. David Weatherspoon - Admin Team Vice Chair

Sis. Rhonda Boles

Dea. Randolph Brooks

Dea. Ricardo Grant

Sis. Angeleta Gray

Dss. Marva Owens

Sis. Anna Rosier

## *Acknowledgments & Special Thanks!*

Pastor Issac Lane for his leadership & vision for the "Dare To Dream" project!

Pastor Markus White, New Bethel AME - Tampa, FL

Raquel Grant-Ranglin (Program Design)



@StJohnDelray

*Stay Connected with Us!*



**LIVE**

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