

THE FAITH FAMILY OF WEST POINT MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

INFORMATION GUIDE

REV. DR. L. BERNARD JAKES

SENIOR PASTOR/TEACHER

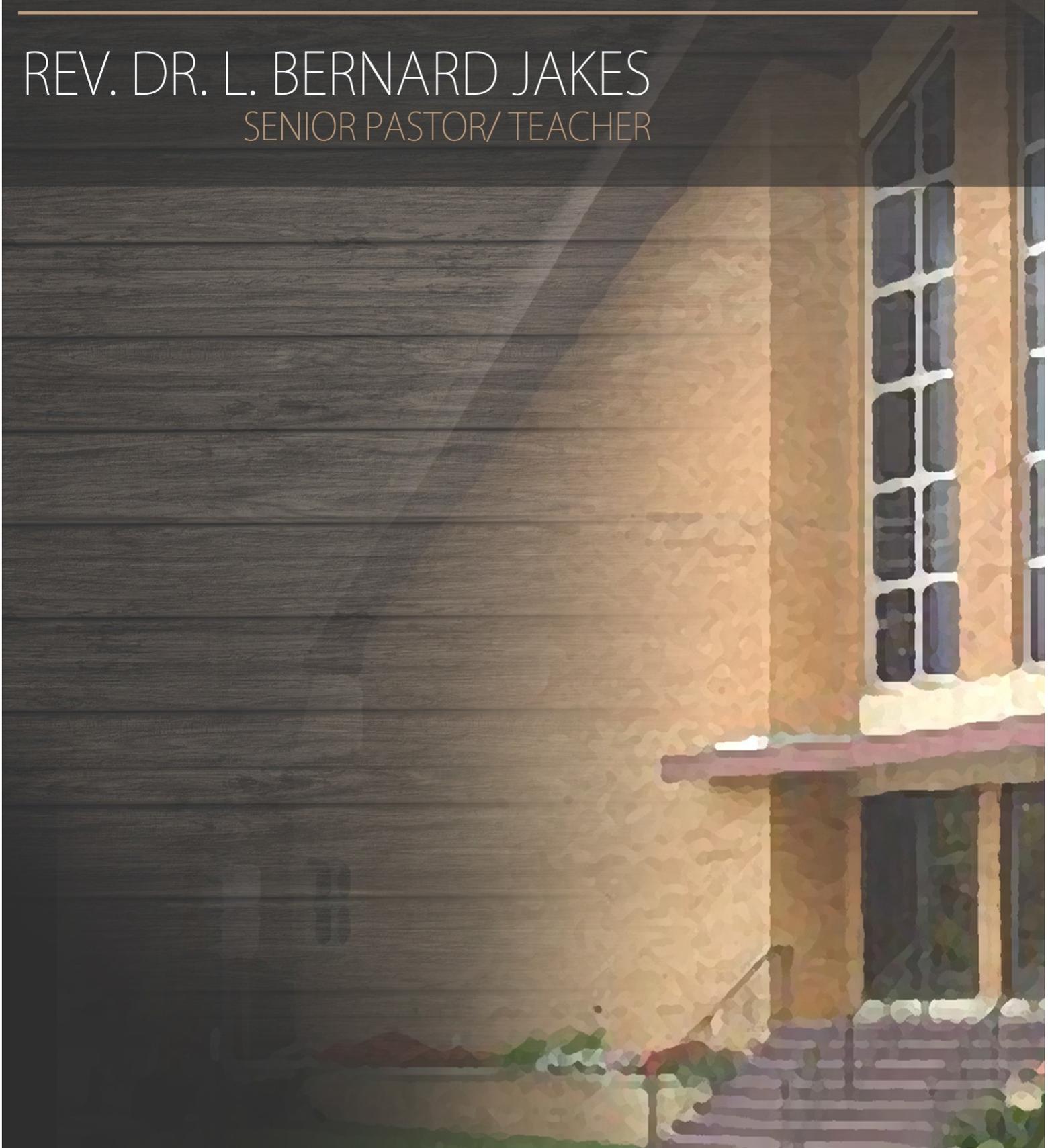


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Greetings from the Senior Pastor/Teacher



Welcome into another year of God's favor through God's mercy and grace. It's an honor and privilege to serve as your spiritual director, as well as have you as a member of our Holy family.

As a disciple of Jesus the Christ, as well as being a member of this local congregation, you are being provided this INFORMATION GUIDE 2016. The purpose of this information guide is to equip you with vital facts regarding our mission, purpose, ministry, etc., that

enables you to effectively participate in your local church. Your orientation and participation are highly encouraged.

If you're a new member, this document will help you transition into your new family of faith. If there are questions not answered in this guide, please feel at liberty to inform your deacon as soon as possible. For our seasoned members, please use this information guide to assist you in continuing your service to this local ministry.

Enjoy, as you navigate through your INFORMATION GUIDE 2016.

Only because of God's grace, I remain.

Dr. L. Bernard Jakes
Senior Pastor/Teacher

Revised: March 10, 2016

Historical Highlights

In April 1917, a fervent assembly of African Americans met, and through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, organized a local church where they could worship God and serve the community. Commensurate with many local African American churches throughout the country whose organizers migrated from southern states to northern, eastern, and western states, the organizers honored the church by naming her after the city (West Point, Mississippi) from which a number of the organizers transitioned. As a result, West Point Missionary Baptist Church was born. Afterwards, she called the Rev. R.H. Harmon (pastoral service—1917-1921) of West Point, Mississippi, to be her first pastor. The first of a myriad of responsibilities for Rev. Harmon and the members of West Point Missionary Baptist Church was to secure an independent place of worship.

During the late eighteenth hundreds (1800s), Chicago was one of the northern cities where many southerners who made their exodus resettled. In search of better living opportunities, Chicago became *The Promised Land* to these weary, yet determined travelers. As a result of the large influx of African Americans to Chicago, local city officials designated sections of the city where the new residents could reside. One of these sections was, as it is affectionately known, *Bronzeville*. African Americans who resettled in Chicago needed places of worship. Historically, many white congregations would not allow African Americans to worship in their churches. However, due to the heightened number of African Americans in the *Bronzeville* community, white churches began to relocate their congregations in other areas of the city—leaving many worship facilities empty. What the devil meant for evil, God meant for good.

Due to the flight of white churches from the *Bronzeville* community, in the winter of 1917, Rev. Harmon and the West Point Missionary Baptist Church members were able to purchase the old St. Mark Methodist Episcopal Church—a church completed in 1865, which was used as a chapel in connection with Camp Douglas during the Civil War. The purchase price was \$22,000.00. To date, the original purchased building is one hundred forty-one (141) years old and is still owned and operated by West Point Missionary Baptist Church.

As lives were continuing to be transformed and Christ exalted, Rev. James H. Brown (pastoral service—1922-1972), who succeeded Rev. Harmon, added to the numerical growth of the church through uncompromising sermonic exaltation and administrative leadership. Toward the latter years of his pastorate, Rev. Brown cast the vision for a new, modern facility. Rev. Brown would see the vision come to pass in 1972; he died shortly thereafter.

After his passing, West Point Missionary Baptist Church called one of her staff ministers, the Rev. Dr. Carroll J. Thompson (pastoral service—1972-1997), to serve as her third pastor. Dr. Thompson was instrumental in burning the mortgage of over \$400,000.00 for the new facility in three years and one month.

Historical Highlights cont.

In addition, Dr. Thompson had a local reputation of being a caring and compassionate pastor—regularly visiting the sick and shut-in of his parish, as well as non-members. He also had a national reputation as a scholar. Dr. Thompson was the first pastor to retire.

After the retirement of Dr. Thompson, West Point Missionary Baptist Church called Rev. Corey Brooks (pastoral service—1997-2000), of Indiana, to be her fourth pastor in 80 years. Rev. Brooks introduced a new methodology of worship and witnessing to this local church. The church experienced a substantial numerical growth during his tenure. After three years of service, Rev. Brooks organized a local church in the Chicagoland area.

As West Point Missionary Baptist Church spent one year in search of her next pastor, it culminated into her calling the Rev. Dr. L. Bernard Jakes (pastoral service—2001-present), as her fifth pastor in 84 years. The Rev. Dr. Jakes was responsible for bringing healing, reconciliation and restoration to West Point Missionary Baptist Church. In addition, Dr. Jakes has led the church in *Operation Divine Restoration: Redesigning, Remodeling, and Restoring a 20th Century Building Using 21st Century Designs*, constructing neighborhood town homes, creating new ministries for the community, casting vision for the 21st century, empowering the laity to actively engage in social justice, and a host of other successes. In 2010, Dr. Jakes began referring to West Point as, *The faith family of West Point Missionary Baptist Church*. This was not a constitutional name change, but a description as to who we are as a local church—we are a family of faith.

The accomplishments of *The faith family of West Point Missionary Baptist Church* could not have been done without the Holy Spirit, coupled with committed, practicing Christians with a mind to work for the Kingdom.

The history of *The faith family of West Point Missionary Baptist Church* has a span of 98 years. Her history is too extensive for all pertinent information to be printed. However, it does not yet appear what she shall be. As God continues to show favor and faithfulness to *The faith family of West Point Missionary Baptist Church*, she will continue *Living to Serve God by Serving Humanity* (Galatians 5:13).

Doctrine

This church recognizes the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, the inerrant Word of God, as its authority in matters of faith and practice. Its understanding of Christian truth as contained therein is in essential accord with the belief of the Baptist church as indicated in the New Disciples Manual.

The doctrines set forth in the Baptist Faith and Message are the Biblical basis on which West Point Missionary Baptist Church stands. We encourage you to read the New Disciples Manual to familiarize yourself with the church's beliefs.

1. The Scriptures
2. God
3. Humanity
4. Salvation
5. God's Purpose of Grace
6. The Church
7. Baptism and the Lord's Supper
8. The Lord's Day
9. The Kingdom
10. Last Things
11. Evangelism and Mission
12. Education
13. Stewardship
14. Cooperation
15. The Christian and Social Order
16. Peace and War
17. Religious Liberty
18. The Family



Organizational Structure

The intent of the Church's Organizational Structure is to help members understand and relate to how the local church body functions. Following is a simplistic overview that depicts our democratic process.

The *Senior Pastor/Teacher*, like the President of the United States, serves in the Executive capacity. He is the Chief Under-shepherd who is responsible for the spiritual and overall well-being of the church. Another function is that he moderates all church meetings.

The *Assistant to the Pastor*, who is selected by the Senior Pastor, is like the *Vice-President* and serves as the overseer of the ministerial staff, while providing congregational care. This person is the ministerial mediator—representing the *Office of the Senior Pastor*.

The *Deacons*, like the *Senators*, are responsible for assisting the *Senior Pastor /Teacher* in setting guidelines and procedures that are necessary for spiritual growth and productivity.

The *Ministry Lead Servants* (presidents), like the *House of Representatives*, also assist the *Senior Pastor /Teacher* by overseeing, implementing and making recommendations that are aimed at strengthening the ministry of the church.

The members, or the citizens, make up the body. Like all of the above, their responsibility is to respond to the leadership, policies and procedures of the church in such a way that God will always be glorified.

Meetings are held monthly for each group, except for the entire body. Meetings for the local church body are held quarterly. The church planning meeting is held in December. The *Installation of Church Officers and Lead Servants* is held in January.

Pastoral Services and Care

Counseling

Counseling is available to members who feel the need for this service. If the need is greater than the counselor can meet, an outside professional will be recommended for extended counseling. Counseling is available based upon the member's need. All counseling sessions are held on the campus of West Point Missionary Baptist Church, unless otherwise approved by the Senior Pastor.

Persons requesting counseling will need to call the church and leave a message for Pastor Denita Armstrong-Shaffer.

Infant Dedication (Baby Blessing)

Infant Dedication is a ceremony in which the parents present themselves and the child before God—asking God to guide them in the rearing of their child. This is not the same as a Christening. West Point Missionary Baptist Church does not *christen* babies.

Individuals with *active membership* status may have their infant dedicated at West Point Missionary Baptist Church. Unwed parents who wish to have their infant dedicated must meet with an appointee from the pastoral team before the dedication is approved. This appointee will be appointed by the Senior Pastor. No exceptions. Therefore, a counseling session with the appointee will be necessary.

- Infant Dedications are held quarterly on the second (2nd) Sunday at 10:30 a.m.
- Child must be six (6) months or younger.

- Parents will need to call the office to place their child on the schedule. Call 773-538-7590 x221, Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.—4 p.m.
- Participants in the ceremony include: Parents and one set of Godparents.

Wedding and Marriages

Christian marriages are to be done according to God's Word. Couples who wish to have their wedding/marriage ceremony here must receive pre-marital counseling prior to the ceremony.

A Wedding consists of a full ceremony that includes a printed Order of Service and bridal party.

A Marriage is a simple ceremony that does not include a bridal party, etc.

Individuals with *Active Membership* status may have their wedding or marriage in the church. However, there are costs associated with the wedding, and will be discussed as arrangements are solidified.

At least one individual must be an active member of West Point Missionary Baptist Church; if so, proceed to the next step. If not, the church has a contract whereby the individuals will be presented.

Call the church for an initial interview. During the interview, the couple will:

- Agree on a schedule for premarital counseling

Pastoral Services and Care cont.

- Set a date and time for the ceremony
- Arrange to meet with the church's coordinator and a representative from the Music Ministry

The couple may request any ordained minister from the Pastoral team to conduct the ceremony. If the Senior Pastor is requested, and it aligns with his schedule, he will perform the ceremony. If not, the Senior Pastor will appoint an ordained minister to perform the ceremony.

In the Event of Sickness

James 5:14-15 gives us specific directions on the event of sickness:

Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders (pastors) of the church; and let them pray over them anointing [them] with oil in the name of the Lord: and the prayer of faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise him up; and if [they] have committed sins they shall be forgiven [them].

If you become sick, you or someone in your family should call the church—773-538-7590 x221. If you are scheduled for surgery and wish to have a minister there to pray with you, **NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE** prior to surgery.

Normal hospital visitation days are Tuesday and Wednesday.

In the Event of Death

It is our desire to share with you during this difficult time and to make it more bearable.

Services Provided To Members In Good Standing

If the deceased is a member of

West Point Missionary Baptist Church, please call the church—773-538-7590 x221, and we will:

- Suggest a funeral director (if requested)
- Assist in choosing a date and time for the memorial service
- Assist with the Order of Service and Obituary
- Host a continental breakfast during the visitation (all repast are the responsibility of the family—members and non-members)

In addition, there is no fee for the use of the main sanctuary and/or fellowship hall. However, there is a \$150.00 deposit fee for the fellowship hall and kitchen. The deposit will be returned if the persons responsible restore the fellowship hall and kitchen to its original cleanliness (a checklist will be provided). There is a fee for the turnkey, and it must be paid before the memorial service. Lastly, there is no fee for a musician; it will be incurred by the church (active members only). If soloist attaches a fee, the family will be notified.

Services Provided To a Non-member

If the deceased is not a member of West Point Missionary Baptist Church, we recommend the service be held at his/her church or a funeral home. Upon request, The Church may assist in providing a minister, a musician and/or soloist. The fee for the Senior Pastor is \$300.00. This includes officiating, eulogizing, and the committal. The musician's fee is \$150.00 and the soloist's fee is \$100.00. All payments should be made with a cashier's check or cash, prior to the memorial service.

Pastoral Services and Care cont.

Who to Contact Upon the Death of a Loved One

1. A funeral director

*If the funeral is to be held at West Point Missionary Baptist Church, **DO NOT** select a date and time prior to contacting the church office.

2. The Church Office—

773-538-7590 x221

3. The Assistant to the Pastor— 773-563-2528

4. Insurance Company

5. Relatives and friends

Information the Church Office Requests

When reporting the death/funeral arrangements of an immediate family member who is not a member of West Point Missionary Baptist Church:

- Name of deceased
- Relationship
- Name of person(s) making the arrangements
- Telephone number
- Alternate telephone number
- Funeral home: name, address and phone number
- Location and time of visitation and funeral services

Elements of the Obituary

- Name of deceased
- Date and place of birth
- Name of parents
- Educational background
- When the deceased received Jesus as their personal Savior (if applicable)
- Church involvement (if applicable)
- Date married (if applicable)

What contribution he/she made to society

- Military service records, including decorations, awards, etc.
- Membership in professional, social or civic association
- Names of survivors and their relationships
- Photo (optional)

Order of Service

(If services are held at West Point Missionary Baptist Church)

Instrumental Prelude

Call to Worship

Opening Hymn

Scripture

Prayer

Hymn

Reflections (2 minutes maximum)

Acknowledgement

Hymn

Words of Comfort

Recessional

Interment (cemetery)

*Generally, family chooses to have a one-hour visitation period before the home going service. Therefore, reviewing the body after the Words of Comfort is not the policy of the Senior Pastor.

Other Elements of the Program

- Pallbearers (six)
- Honorary Pallbearers
- Poem or Favorite Scripture
- Acknowledgment

Ministry Opportunities

Acolytes Ministry: The persons in this ministry serve as altar attendants during worship services. They are between the ages of 7-14.

Bulletin Board Ministry: Creates and maintains bulletin boards designed to welcome visitors, inform all of special announcements, and enhance the overall beauty of the church narthex.

Clothing Ministry: Serves the needs of the local church and community by providing quality clothing to persons in need. This ministry distributes clothing every Wednesday, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Congregational Care Ministry: Given the privilege of being the "keepers of the flock," providing ministry to appropriate individuals and groups within the congregation, by addressing the needs and joys of our members. This ministry is committed to helping every member feel loved, nurtured and supported during times of illness, stress and sorrow, as well as in times of joy and celebration.

Counseling Ministry: Seeks to support and restore individuals socially, emotionally, and spiritually, in a variety of areas. Individuals interested in working in this ministry must be screened to determine their area of training and how they complement the ministry.

Crowns of Wisdom: This ministry serves the senior aged members of our local church through a myriad of fellowship opportunities.

Deacon Ministry: (Membership is by pastoral appointment only.) The word Deacon (*diakonos*) means *minister or servant*. The Deacons are called to assist the pastor in spiritual and ethical affairs of the church. This ministry: teaches Bible classes, visits the sick and shut-in, and serves communion to those who request it on a monthly basis.

Deaconess Ministry: (Membership is by pastoral appointment for those who are not spouses of Deacons.): Duties are to support the Deacon Ministry in its role as spiritual leaders, to care for and assist candidates for baptism, and prepare the Lord's Supper.

Deaf Ministry: The purpose is to serve the d/Deaf parishioners by providing interpreting services as needed, as well as being an instrument of outreach and ministry to the greater d/Deaf community.

Domestic Violence and Advocacy Ministry: Dedicated to improving the lives of men, women, and children who experience violence by providing Christian support, love and comfort to persons involved in emotionally and physically abusive relationships.

Drama Ministry: Ministry through the art of theatrical presentation. Jesus Christ used parables (stories) as a tool to illustrate all the great works God can do.

Ministry Opportunities cont.

Evangelism Ministry: Outreach is a plan of action to reach out to the community surrounding the church or the people God has called you to seek out. This ministry is charged with the responsibility of developing and implementing the church's outreach program. This program includes educating and training members to share their faith with others.

Food Pantry: Is designed to share the good news of Jesus the Christ through deeds. The Food Pantry feeds the greater Chicago community every Wednesday, 11 p.m. - 1 p.m. This is a 100% volunteer ministry.

Greeters Ministry: Provides an enthusiastic, positive, spiritual, and friendly welcome to each person entering WPMBC before every worship service and special service. This ministry is committed to helping make every worship experience at WPMBC positive and spiritually uplifting for everyone, every time.

Health and Wellness Ministry: Provides for the health needs of the church from a medical perspective.

HIV/AIDS Ministry: Educate and spread awareness about HIV/AIDS within the congregation and abroad, as a way to assist persons infected and affected by the disease.

Intercessory Prayer Ministry: Prays by faith, with power, a pure heart, and persistence and without ceasing, for the church, the pastoral family, the community, etc., and provides prayer partners.

Internal Security Ministry: Provides safety for the congregation, as well as the pastoral family, staff, members, etc. Additionally, assists other ministries with securing funds when necessary and when offerings are received.

Legal Ministry: Aids congregants and community in comprehending the law and legal system, keeps them abreast of relevant and impactful legal issues and topics, and provides needed legal assistance and information. This ministry is not a free legal clinic.

Liturgical Dance: Designed to worship and praise God through interpretive dance (Psalm 149:3). Participants of this ministry are taught the principles of modern dance, ballet, and interpretive dance. They are also taught the African roots of dance in worship and the Biblical basis for praising God with dance.

Men's Ministry: To equip the men of God to have an intimate and personal relationship with Jesus the Christ, their family, church and community.

Mission Ministry: Designed to serve God through serving humanity, the three service aspects of WPMBC's Mission Ministry are:

- Church Mission—caring for members of this local church.
- Local Mission—caring for our brothers and sisters in the community.
- Global Mission—caring for our brothers and sisters in other countries.

Mothers Ministry: Designed for mature, seasoned women who assist the Senior Pastor/Teacher with carrying out the Biblical model for older women. The mothers are available to aid younger men and women in their Christian growth. In addition, they provide mature Christian perspective to the new believer. Our mothers comfort the sick in body and spirit; they are intercessors for babes in Christ and give Godly direction on how to live a more fulfilled life.

Multimedia Ministry

(Audio/Video): Records, edits, produces, reproduces, and sales the worship services, and other church-related activities as requested, on audio and video diskettes (CD's and DVD's).

Music Ministry: Creates an atmosphere in which the hearts and minds of individuals are prepared to receive the preached Gospel message. Music is rendered at each worship service and other activities as required by the church. The Music Ministry consists of:

- Instruments of Praise—Praise and Worship Ensemble (audition)
- The Voices of Praise Chorale (Gospel choir)
- The King's Kids

Nehemiah Ministry: To ensure God's house (the local church) is kept clean and presentable. This ministry is also expedient in meeting the needs of other ministries needing assistance.

Newsletter Ministry (The Point): Assumes the responsibility of keeping the membership informed of activities and programs, to raise the social consciousness of the congregation regarding local, state, federal and global

affairs, and to present the myriad of opportunities available at the church. In addition, it gives members opportunities to become published authors. Contributing journalists and photographers are always welcome.

New Disciples Ministry: Designed to journey with all new disciples of WPMBC during New Disciples Orientation, this ministry does new disciples' wellness checks on a weekly basis.

Nurses Ministry: To provide assistance to those who have various medical quandaries during or after morning worship and other activities—making sure their needs are met through medical attention.

Nursery Ministry: Designed to provide a safe, enjoyable and educational environment for children left in our care (ages 0-5)—allowing parents to feel comfortable while attending Sunday morning worship. Individuals who wish to work with this ministry must be willing to provide information relative to their background and experience regarding childcare, as well as submit to a background check.

Operation GRACE (Demonstrating God's Grace to Others as God Shows to Us): To assist our brothers and sisters in the community to achieve greatness by using their own untapped strength and power as the foundation. It also helps persons realize and actualize the gifts GOD has given to them, while empowering and preparing them to use those gifts to improve their lives and the lives of others.

Ministry Opportunities cont.

Scholarship Ministry: Identifies college-bound members seeking financial assistance, then allocates the budgeted funds based on need. Faith family members are encouraged to sow seeds in this ministry, making contributions earmarked *Scholarship Ministry* on the *Sacrificial Offering* line of envelopes.

Singles Ministry: To assist Christian singles in leading a single, sanctified and sane life. Providing Biblical, financial and social knowledge for growth and stability, this ministry is designed for singles 21 years of age and older, and is not a dating service. Singles include:

- Never Married
- Single Again
- Divorced
- Widowed
- Single Parent

Sisterhood Ministry: The goal and objective is to build trust among Sisters, and attempt to find ways to solve the problems of life, while celebrating the uniqueness of finer Christian womanhood—Christ being the solution and victor of all. The ministry also teaches the importance of bonding through sisterhood, by being supportive of our Sisters as they move through various seasons of womanhood. In addition, there are regular **Sister-to-Sister** dialogues to discuss pertinent issues and topics.

Trustee Ministry: (Membership is by pastoral appointment and approval by the Joint Board.)

Usher Ministry: Welcomes members and guests to the church. Ushers' duties include: distribution of worship bulletins, seating parishioners, assisting with the offertory and other tasks necessary to the orderly and productive flow of church services.

Young People's Ministry: Provides opportunities for youth (ages 6-17) to engage in wholesome Christian activities that lead to their spiritual formation, by using a mix of contemporary and traditional methods within the goals and objectives of the Senior Pastor. This ministry has five (5) purposes:

- Reach out to youth and children through Evangelism
- Relate to youth and children through Fellowship
- Raise the Redeemer (Jesus the Christ) through Worship
- Ready youth for the work of ministry through Discipleship
- Release youth to do Ministry

Tithes and Offering System

We are a tithing church because the Word teaches tithing. Our **experience** gives witness to tithing. Our **obedience** to God requires tithing. Our **response** is to bring our tithes and offerings to the Lord as he has prospered us, for the "tenth shall be holy unto the Lord." Below is a sample chart on how to calculate your tithes.

Annual Income	Weekly Income	Beyond a Tithe		Tithe	Upper Range of Giving			Middle Range of Giving			Lower Range of Giving		
		15%	12%	10%	9%	8%	7%	6%	5%	4%	3%	2%	1%
\$22,000	\$423	\$63	\$51	\$42	\$38	\$34	\$30	\$25	\$21	\$17	\$13	\$8	\$4
\$25,000	\$481	\$72	\$58	\$48	\$43	\$38	\$34	\$29	\$24	\$19	\$14	\$10	\$5
\$30,000	\$577	\$87	\$69	\$58	\$52	\$46	\$40	\$35	\$29	\$23	\$17	\$12	\$6
\$40,000	\$769	\$115	\$92	\$77	\$69	\$62	\$54	\$46	\$38	\$31	\$23	\$15	\$8
\$50,000	\$962	\$144	\$115	\$96	\$87	\$77	\$67	\$58	\$48	\$38	\$29	\$19	\$10
\$60,000	\$1,154	\$173	\$138	\$115	\$104	\$92	\$81	\$69	\$58	\$46	\$35	\$23	\$12
\$70,000	\$1,346	\$202	\$162	\$135	\$121	\$108	\$94	\$81	\$67	\$54	\$40	\$27	\$13
\$80,000	\$1,538	\$231	\$185	\$154	\$138	\$123	\$108	\$92	\$77	\$62	\$46	\$31	\$15
\$90,000	\$1,731	\$260	\$208	\$173	\$156	\$138	\$121	\$104	\$87	\$69	\$52	\$35	\$17
\$100,000	\$1,923	\$288	\$231	\$192	\$173	\$154	\$135	\$115	\$96	\$77	\$58	\$38	\$19
\$110,000	\$2,115	\$317	\$254	\$212	\$190	\$169	\$148	\$127	\$106	\$85	\$63	\$42	\$21
\$120,000	\$2,308	\$346	\$277	\$231	\$208	\$185	\$162	\$138	\$115	\$92	\$69	\$46	\$23
\$140,000	\$2,692	\$404	\$323	\$269	\$242	\$215	\$188	\$162	\$135	\$108	\$81	\$54	\$27

Tithes and Offering System cont.

Determining the Amount to Give

1. Pray sincerely to God, asking His guidance and direction as to what your financial gift will be.
2. You may choose to give on a weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly basis.

Using the Attendance/Offering Envelope

1. Use the Attendance/Offering Envelope when giving your gift. Please supply all of the requested information.
 - a. We want to give you credit for your financial gifts.
 - b. The information is used to keep track of attendance.
 - c. Complete the envelope even when you are including a financial gift.

Please remember that even when you are not present, the financial responsibilities of the church go on just as they do in your home. In the event that you cannot make it to church, please mail your contribution. The address is:

**The West Point Missionary Baptist Church
3566-72 S. Cottage Grove Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60653**

Or, you can log on to www.wpmbc.org; select **CONTRIBUTIONS** and support your church via **PAYPAL**.

Contribution Statements

Purpose of Contribution Statements

Any single gift of \$250.00 or more to a church, or other charity, can be deducted on the donor's Federal Income Tax return only if a written receipt has been received by the donor prior to the filing of the return. Canceled checks, or receipts, which show insufficient information or only summary totals, are no longer acceptable by the IRS for such gifts. *Managing Your Church Finances...Made Easy* by J. David Carter.

Contribution statements are issued in January. Once you receive your statement, please check it immediately. Should you find a discrepancy in your statement, please contact the office, 773-538-7590, immediately. Every effort will be made to correct the discrepancy.

Schedule of Activities

Sunday

Sunday Morning Hour of Power Worship (1st and 3rd only).....	8:00 a.m.
Sunday School.....	9:15 a.m.
• Adult classes—main worship center	
• Young people—lower level	
Christian Education Classes (fellowship hall).....	9:15 a.m.
New Disciples Orientation (conference room).....	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Glory Worship.....	10:45 a.m.

Tuesday

Deacon Meeting—every Tuesday before the first Sunday	
Trustee Meeting—every Tuesday after the first Sunday	
Instrument of Praise and Worship.....	6:00 p.m.
The Voices of West Point Chorale.....	7:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Food Pantry.....	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Noonday Bible Study.....	12:00 noon
Prayer Meeting.....	6:30 p.m.
Wednesday In 'The Word with Pastor Jakes.....	7:00 p.m.
Young People's Wednesday in the Word.....	6:30 p.m.

Saturday

Ministry meetings.....	see ministry partners
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Frequently Asked Questions

1. How long should I wait before joining a ministry, and how do I join?

First, you must complete *New Disciples Orientation*. However, you are at liberty to let your interest be known to the ministry leader. After completing class, you may join a ministry. Certain ministries have orientations and other requirements. If you are interested in organizing a ministry at WPMBC, write down your vision and present it to Pastor Yashika Tippet-Eggleston.

2. How long do I have to be a member before serving as Lead-Servant of a ministry?

One year

3. What should I do if I need financial assistance?

Write a letter of request stating your needs. You must supply documentation to support your claim. Present the request to the Benevolence Committee, and you should receive a response within one week.

4. If I'm in the neighborhood, can I stop by and see Dr. Jakes?

Dr. Jakes enjoys speaking with members and the general public. However, his schedule does not permit impromptu, lengthy visits. If you would like to meet with him, you should schedule an appointment via the church office staff. You will be required to provide the purpose of the meeting. Depending on the nature of business, you may be directed to meet with someone else on staff. The maximum time for each appointment is 30 minutes.

Lastly, if his door is open, you are more than welcome to stop by and say, *Hello*.

5. Is it important for me to attend New Disciples Orientation? If so, why?

Yes, emphatically! In the weeks of sharing, the instructor expounds on different topics as you can begin to take ownership of your spiritual journey. In addition, many historical untruths are revealed, a Biblical truths highlighted.

6. What happens after I complete New Disciples classes?

Your church family celebrates you as the newest member of our family of faith. A commencement is held in your honor during the 10:45 a.m. Sunday Morning Glory Worship Service.

7. What numbers do I call if I have an emergency?

First, call the church. If after business hours, call the Deacon that serves your birth month. His or her number will be given at New Disciples Orientation.

8. Is there a fee for renting the church for weddings, funerals, etc.?

As a member in good standing, i.e., time and treasure, there are privileges allotted to you within this local church. Members in good standing pay a different rental fee than non-members, but all members must observe and pay the rental fees associated with every event, as it relates to the church and fellowship hall.

Frequently Asked Questions cont.

There are standard fees associated with the employees of the church that must be hired for your event, i.e., Turn-key, Custodian, Sound Engineer, Musician, Soloist, and Security. Dr. L. Bernard Jakes does not charge a fee to officiate weddings and funerals of members in good standing, but a freewill offering is appreciated.

However, if it is a family member, normal fees for the pastor and use of the church facilities apply. Those fees will be presented upon approval of the *Church Utilization Agreement Form* and *Church Utilization Contract*.

Parenthetically, if the member requesting to use the church for weddings, funerals, etc., desires to use outside assistance, the Senior Pastor must approve it. No plans should be made or finalized until final approval is given by the Trustees and the Rev. Dr. L. Bernard Jakes.

9. Since I am a member in good standing, can I use the church, rent free, for a family member?

Remember, your membership has privileges for **you**. As a tithe paying member, your monies go toward financially supporting the daily operations of this local church, so the lights, gas, etc., can be paid. If the church allowed every family member of a member to use the church whenever there was a need, the members who give financially would cover those expenses, which is unfair. Therefore, if the space is needed for a family member, i.e., weddings, funerals, anniversaries, etc., the normal contractual fees apply.

10. I want to teach a Christian Education Class. What do I need to do?

To teach at WPMBC, you must complete the Leaders/Teacher Certification curriculum. Offered twice a year, all participants must be recommended by a Ministry Leader or Staff Pastor. To be considered, applicant must display the spiritual qualities and Christian maturity necessary for the teaching of God's Word and or leading God's people. Additional requirements for entrance into this certification process and for a leadership or teaching position at WPMBC include being: **1)** a regular attendee of Bible study, Sunday school, or some form of spiritual growth; **2)** A supporter of the Senior Pastor's vision; **3)** A faithful financial supporter of the church. For more information, please contact Pastor Shaffer through the church office at 773-538-7590.

11. God has called me to the preaching ministry. What is the next step?

All persons called to preach must enter and complete a training curriculum, as well as satisfy other requirements set forth by Dr. L. Bernard Jakes. For more information, contact Pastor Denita Armstrong-Shaffer, *Assistant to the Pastor*, 773-538-7590

12. What other Christian Education classes does the church provide?

The Christian Education department offers quarterly classes throughout the year. Classes will be announced in advance.

Frequently Asked Questions cont.

13. How do I let the church know when someone is ill and needs prayer?

If one needs to report a member, friend or family member that is sick, or hospitalized, contact the church, 773-538-7590. Upon calling, provide the person's name, location (hospital, nursing home, etc.), and additional relevant information. The Pastoral Care staff will be notified, and the person will be added to the church prayer list.

14. My relative has passed away. How can the church assist me in this time of bereavement?

If a person needs to report a deceased member, friend, or family member, contact the church office, 773-538-7590. For more info, read pgs. 8-9.

15. I would like to have my baby dedicated. What do I need to do?

Infant dedication ceremonies are held quarterly on 2nd Sundays at 10:30am. Space is limited. Dedications are assigned on a first come, first served basis. Obtain forms from the church office, or download the form from our website. Return completed forms to the church office no later than 1st Sunday of the month of dedication. If you have any questions, need information, or to schedule an appointment, please call the church office, 773-538-7590. Parents who were not married to each other when their child was conceived are required to take a class.

16. I want to get married at West Point Missionary Baptist Church. What do I need to do?

Contact the church office immediately. A couple will not be allowed to have their wedding ceremony at WPMBC until they have completed Pre-Marital Counseling (PMC) offered by the church or an approved outside source. The same applies if a couple wishes to be married by a WPMBC pastor. PMC is offered various times throughout the year. Forms are available in the church office.

17. I would like to use the church facility for a non- WPMBC event. Who do I contact?

Call the church, 773-538-7590 x221. If the office staff is unable to answer your questions, you will be forwarded to the appropriate person.

18. How do I get a copy of my contribution statement?

Call the church office, 773-538-7590, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

19. I've recently moved. How can I let the church know?

Notification of any changes in your contact information (address, phone numbers, e-mail address) or any other information, i.e., changes in marital status, children, or business information should be directed to the church office, 773-538-7590.

20. I want to attend services, but don't have a way to get there. Can the church help?

Our Deacons can assist you if you live within the travel boundaries. Contact the church for the service area and pickup time.

2016 Churchwide Calendar of Events

*This calendar only represents church-wide events; therefore, all local church ministry activities will be posted and announced during morning worship. A detailed calendar is available in the Cottage Grove narthex or north parking lot entrance.

First Fruit every 1st Sunday of the month

January

3rd—Men's Ministry gathering after morning worship

4th—26th—Church wide 21-days of Corporate Prayer—Prayer Partners

9th—**SOS Evangelism Training, 10 a.m. –11:30 a.m., fellowship hall**

10th—King's Kids rehearsal, 11 a.m. (lower level)

16th—Pastoral Team, Church Officers, Trustees, and Lead Servant monthly meeting at 11:45 a.m.

17th—Installation of Church Officers, Trustees, and Lead Servant, and Dr. M.L. King, Jr. Observance, 10:45 a.m. morning worship

18th—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday (church office closed)—A Day of Service for West Point Baptist Church

23rd—Crowns of Wisdom first meeting, 11 a.m.—1 p.m. (fellowship hall)

24th—Voters Registration Drive, Legal Ministry (9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.); Ministry fair immediately following morning worship

27th—Feeding Our People, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.; HIV and Hepatitis C Testing

30th—**Church-wide meeting at 10 a.m./2015 Full year financial report at 10 a.m.**

31st—Voters Registration Drive, Legal Ministry (9 a.m.—1:30 p.m.); Rev. Dr. C.J. Thompson Scholarship Sunday, 10:45 a.m.

February

6th—**Black HIV/AIDS Awareness at First Church of Deliverance, 11 a.m.—2 p.m., HIV/AIDS Ministry**

7th—National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness during Sunday Morning Glory Worship, 10:45 a.m.

10th—**March 27th**—Lenten fast for 40 days; Ash Wednesday Worship at 7 p.m.

13th—Healthy Relationships (teens) at 12 noon – 4 p.m., DVA (fellowship hall); Crowns of Wisdom Valentine Social, 11 a.m.—2 p.m.

14th—**Black Business Owners Sunday: Supporting Black Own Businesses** (vendors are invited to sell their authorized items after morning worship)

15th—President's Day (church office closed)

21st—**Economic Empowerment Sunday** (presentations to be held after morning worship)

27th—**New Artist Showcase, 7 p.m., sponsored by City of Chicago**

28th—Sermon in Songs during 10:45 a.m. Sunday Morning Glory Worship; King's Kids will sing.

March

6th—13th—National Week of Prayer for Healing of AIDS

7th—13th—Food Pantry drive (non-perishables and monetary)

12th—**SOS, Evangelism Training, 10 a.m.—11:30 a.m., fellowship hall**

13th—*Infant Dedication at 10:30 a.m.*; Spring forward at 2 a.m. (daylight savings)

19th—Bowling Outing, Sisterhood Ministry at 3 p.m.; 7 Last Words In Song, Joseph Smith, 6:30 p.m. (worship center)

20th—*Men and Women's Day* at 10:45 a.m. Sunday Morning Glory Worship; 1st day of Spring; Palm Sunday worship

25th—Good Friday; Drama Ministry production at 7 p.m.

27th—Easter Sunday at 10:45 a.m. Sunday Morning Glory Worship

April

2nd—Autism Awareness/Blue Bow Campaign ribbon tying, 11 a.m.

9th—**1st Quarter Financial Report, 10 a.m.—11:30 a.m., fellowship**; Black Women's Expo, Sisterhood Ministry, 12 noon; **SOS, Evangelism Training, 10:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m., fellowship hall**

10th—Autism Awareness/Blue Bow Observance during 10:45 a.m. Sunday Morning Glory Worship;

New Disciples Graduation during 10:45 a.m. Sunday Morning Glory Worship

24th—Rev. Dr. L. Bernard Jakes' 14th year pastoral appreciation

May

8th—Pin-A-Sister Sunday/Mother's Day during 10:45 a.m. Sunday Morning Glory Worship

14th—**SOS, Evangelism Training, 10 a.m.—11:30 a.m., fellowship hall**

15th—Greeters Ministry breakfast at 9 a.m.; King's Kids begins rehearsal for Young Peoples Sunday, 11 a.m.

21st—Youth Legal Summit (Legal Ministry), 9 a.m.—1:30 p.m. (fellowship hall, worship center, lower auditorium)

28th—Mission Ministry workshop, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., West Point campus

30th—Memorial Day (church office closed)

June

4th—**Evangelism Flash Mob, 3 p.m., Lake Meadows Shopping Center**

11th—Dr. L. Bernard Jakes' State of the Church mid-year address, 10 a.m.; Young People Saturday, 11:30 a.m.

12th—*Infant Dedication at 10:30 a.m.*; Young People Sunday during 10:45 a.m. and

16th—**SOS (Souls On Street)—Evangelism on every corner from 35th and Cottage Grove to State Street, 6:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m.**

18th—Ushers Annual Prayer Breakfast, 9 a.m. (fellowship hall); Men's Ministry fellowship at 1 p.m.

19th—Father's Day

20th—26th—National Baptist Congress of Christian Education, Tampa, FL

21st—First day of summer

25th—Hunger Walk, Soldier Field, Food Pantry, 7 a.m.

28th—Rev. Dr. C.J. Thompson Scholarship Sunday during 10:45 a.m. Sunday Morning Glory Worship

July

4th—Independence Day (church office closed)

10th—Sunday School Tea/Promotion/Recognition, 1 p.m., fellowship hall

11th—16th — Food Pantry drive (non-perishables and monetary)

16th—8th Annual Dare to Care, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

21st—**SOS (Souls On Street)—Evangelism on every corner from 35th and Cottage Grove to State Street, 6:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m.**

23rd—Mothers Ministry 2nd Annual "Jazz in the Worship Center", 7 p.m.

24th—Honoring the Mothers Ministry of WPMBC at 10:45 a.m.

25th—30th—Vacation Bible School, 2 p.m.—5:30 p.m. (lower auditorium and worship center)

August

13th—**2nd Quarter Financial Report, 10 a.m.—11:30 a.m., fellowship**

14th—Usher Ministry Annual Sermon, 3 p.m.

18th—**SOS (Souls On Street)—Evangelism on every corner from 35th and Cottage Grove to State Street, 6:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m.**

20th—**Evangelism Ministry, Feeding and Clothing Event, 12 noon—3 p.m., WP Parking Lot**

September

3rd—New Disciples Class One-day Intensive—9 a.m. – 2 p.m.; **Evangelism Ministry, Prayer Walks Surrounding Community, 8:30 a.m.—9:30 a.m.**

5th—Labor Day (church closed)

11th—*Infant Dedication at 10:30 a.m.*; Lead Servants nominees to be submitted to Pastor Yashika Tippett-Eggleston; King's Kids rehearsal, 11 a.m. (lower level)

11th—*New Disciples Graduation during 10:45 a.m.*, Sunday Morning Glory Worship

23rd—First day of autumn

25th—Mission Ministry fashion show, 1:30 p.m.; King's Kids sing for morning worship

October

1st—**Evangelism Ministry, Prayer Walks Surrounding Community, 8:30 a.m.—9:30 a.m.**

2nd—Purple Ribbon Tying Ceremony for Domestic Violence immediately following morning worship, 1 p.m.

9th—99th year church anniversary during 10:45 a.m. Sunday Morning Glory Worship

The Voices of West Point Baptist Church Choral Concert, 3:30 p.m.

10th—Church Office closed

16th—Ministry budgets due to Church Treasurer

23rd—Domestic Violence Awareness Sunday during 10:45 a.m. Sunday Morning Glory Worship

28th—Young Peoples Party, 6—8:30 p.m. (fellowship hall)

29th—Bowling Outing, Sisterhood and New Disciples Ministry at 12 noon

30th—New Disciples celebrates the Rev. Dr. L. Bernard Jakes' 46th birthday celebration, immediately following morning worship.

November

5th—**Evangelism Ministry, Prayer Walks Surrounding Community, 8:30 a.m.—9:30 a.m.**

6th—Fall back at 2 a.m.

7th—12th—Food Pantry drive (non-perishables and monetary)

11th—Veterans Day (church office closed)

23rd—Thanksgiving Eve noonday worship

24th—26th—Thanksgiving holiday (church office closed)

27th—First Sunday in Advent

December

3rd—Evangelism Ministry, Prayer Walks Surrounding Community, 8:30 a.m.—9:30 a.m.

4th—*Born to Die: A Christmas Cantata* (26th year anniversary) at 4 p.m.; Deaconess Ministry dinner, 1 p.m.—4 p.m.

10th—Chicago Community Chorus, 6 p.m. (worship center)

11th—*Infant Dedication at 10:30 a.m.*; King's Kids rehearsal

17th—**Dr. L. Bernard Jakes' State of the Church yearly address; Church 2017 proposed budget approval and Church Officers recommendations;** 2017 Pastoral Team, Church officers and Lead Servants-elect retreat, 9 a.m.; Drama Ministry presentation, 5 p.m.

18th—*New Disciples Graduation during 10:45 a.m.*, Sunday Morning Glory Worship; King's Kids sing for morning worship

25th—Christmas Celebration at 10:45 a.m. Sunday Morning Glory Worship

31st—New Year's Eve worship and Kwanzaa celebration at 12 noon (brunch to follow)

Ministers, Church Officers and Lead-Servant

***Denotes Officers of the Church**

Pastoral Team

Rev. L. Bernard Jakes, D.Min., *Senior Pastor/Teacher*
Rev. Denita Armstrong-Shaffer, *Asst. to the Pastor*
Minister Shantram Hawkins, *Director of Music*
Pastor Yashika Tippet-Eggleston, *Executive Pastor*
Pastor Debra W. House, *Pastor of Congregational Care*
Pastor Julius Union
Pastor Josef Eggleston
Pastor Emma Mosley, *Pastor of Intercessory Prayer*
Pastor ViMatice Jackson
Pastor Jonathan Wallace, *Youth Pastor*
Pastor Kemarius Lee

*** Deacons Ministry**

Deacon James Thompson, *Chairman*
Deacon Harry Cooper, *Chairman Emeritus*
Deacon E. Willie Jakes, *1st Vice Chairman*
Deacon Erica B. Davis, *2nd Vice-Chairperson*
Deacon Mark Reed, *Church Treasurer*
Deacon Kevin Brockenbrough
Deacon Leroy Gordon
Deacon Arnold Grizzard
Deacon Joseph Hardin
Deacon Willie McGhee (inactive)
Deacon June McWilliams
Deacon Devorak Purnell
Deacon Deborah Kibble Thomas
Deacon Larry Wash
Deacon Bertha Blair
Deacon Adeyemi Faleti
Deacon Darryl Hobson

Media & Marketing Division

Multimedia Ministry P.J. Harris, Director
Erika Jakes

Membership Support Division

Greeters Ministry Barbara Thompson
Intercessory Prayer Ministry Rev. Emma Mosley
Men's Ministry Sean Crayton
Mothers Ministry Mary Ann Cooper
New Disciples Ministry Donna Brown-Jackson
Nurses Ministry Stella Osborne
Sisterhood Ministry Pastor Yashika Tippet-Eggleston
Usher Ministry Diane Washington

Ministry Support Division

Deaconess Ministry Debra Reed
Internal Security Ministry Dinah Faye Giles
Scholarship Ministry
Pastor Denita Armstrong-Shaffer
Crowns of Wisdom Annie Russell

Operation H.O.P.E. Division

Clothing Ministry Cora Watson
Health and Wellness Ministry
Dr. Karen Witherspoon and Dr. Rodnita Samuels
Domestic Violence & Advocacy Ministry
Deacon Erica B. Davis
Evangelism Ministry Cynthia Gerald
Food Pantry Floydia Giles-Stokes
HIV/AIDS Ministry Carole Jakes
Mission Ministry Deacon Bertha Blair

Worship & Arts Division

Acolytes Ministry Amaris Shaffer
The Voices of West Point Edna Charisse Redo
The King's Kids Donna Brown-Jackson, Director
Liturgical Dance Ministry Ariel Burton-Reed
Lead Choreographer
Kim Purnell
Drama Ministry

Young Peoples Division

Children's Church Laura "Lolo" Weathers

Trustee Ministry

*** Annie Russell, Chairperson**

Peggy Dunbar, *Chairperson, Finance Committee*
Judith Adams
Joseph Harris
Robert Nichols
DeJuon Battles-Newby
Marvin Thomas
Sharlene Hobson
Danita Blassingame

OUR MISSION

The mission and purpose of the faith family of West Point Baptist Church is to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus Christ, Go ye therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (St. Matthew 28:19). We meet this challenge through our worship, ministry and outreach.

We strive to be a **WORSHIPING CHURCH**, seeking God in spirit and in truth.

We strive to be a **LEARNING CHURCH**, committed to Biblical principles and spiritual dynamics.

We strive to be a **SOUL-WINNING CHURCH**, sharing our testimony of faith with all people.

We work to be a **MODEL CHURCH**, in the spirit of the church at Philadelphia always committed to the highest standards of excellence through prayer, tithing and Christian concern.

We work to be a **SOCIALLY CONSCIOUS, JUSTICE SEEKING, AND LIBERATION CHURCH**, aligning ourselves with the spirit of Amos, the commitment of Micah, and the proclamation of Jesus the Christ in St. Luke 4.18.

We work to be a **TRANSFORMATIVE, LIFE-CHANGING CHURCH**, meeting the needs of our brothers and sisters outside and inside the local church through life-changing ministries.

We work to be a **CHURCH WITHOUT WALLS**, extending God's grace to the world, outside of the local church, through various ministries of helps.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

There is one God, revealed to us as Father, Son (Jesus) and Holy Spirit.

The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the complete and sufficient Word of God.

The ordinance of Baptism signifies our fellowship with the death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ.

The Lord's Supper commemorates Jesus' death, confirms our faith, and renews our communion with Jesus and others believers.



THE FAITH FAMILY OF WEST POINT MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
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