

God Our Father, Christ Our Redeemer, Holy Spirit Our Comforter,
Humankind Our Family

Saint John AME Church

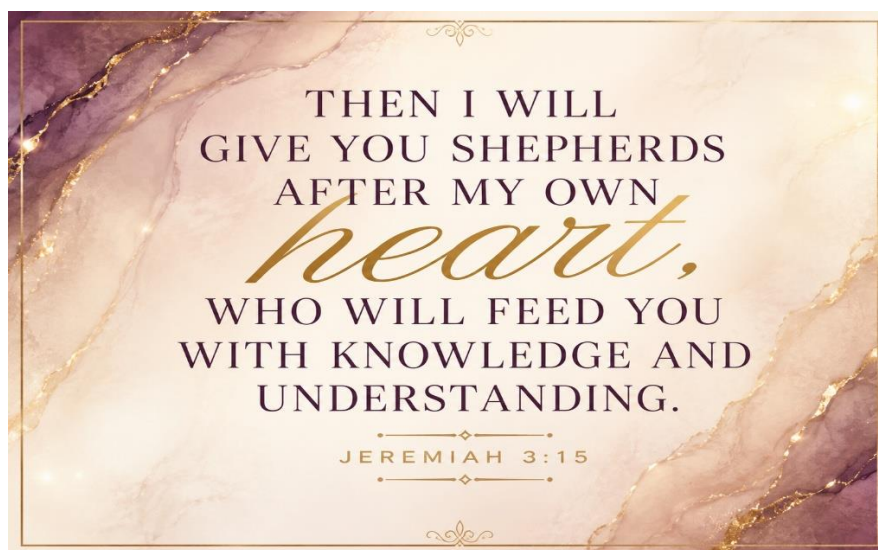
708 15th Street North

Birmingham, Alabama 35203

The Reverend Dr. Ronald D. Sterling, Pastor || Sister Kim C. Sterling, First Lady

Mission

Saint John's mission is to "love God and love others" by ministering to the social, spiritual, and physical development of all people.



The Celebration Continues...

Honoring

Rev. Dr. Ronald D. Sterling & First Lady Kim Carrell Sterling

Sunday, August 16, 2026

The Praise & Worship.....Music Ministry

The Doxology

AMEC Hymn No. 647 [Tune: Old 100]

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Call to Worship.....Brother Brandon Cleveland, Worship Leader

Appreciation Sunday

Leader: Today we gather with grateful hearts, giving thanks to God for the shepherds He has placed among us. We honor our Pastor and First Lady, who serve with faithfulness, compassion, and unwavering love.

People: **We give thanks to God for their leadership, their prayers, and their example.**

Leader: For every sermon preached, every prayer lifted, every visit made, and every sacrifice offered in quiet places—Lord, we praise You for their ministry.

People: **We celebrate their obedience to God’s call and the blessing they are to our church family.**

Leader: As they continue to lead us in wisdom and truth, may God renew their strength, enlarge their vision, and surround them with His peace.

People: **We commit to support them, pray for them, and walk together in unity and love.**

Leader: Come, let us worship the Lord with gladness, for He has given us shepherds after His own heart.

People: **We lift our voices in praise—thanking God for our Pastor and First Lady, and giving Him glory for all He has done and all He will do.**

The Hymn of Praise.....“Great is Thy Faithfulness”

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see:
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow—
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

The Invocation.....Sister Gloria Vail

The Choral Response.....“I Sing Praises”

I sing praises to Your Name, O Lord
Praises to Your Name, O Lord
For Your Name is great
and greatly to be praised.
(Repeat)

The Scripture Lesson (s)

Old TestamentBrother Joel Bjornstad

Psalm 133

133 Behold, how good and pleasant it is
when brothers dwell in unity!

² It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down on the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down on the collar of his robes!

³ It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion!

For there the Lord has commanded the blessing,
life forevermore.

"This is the Word of the Lord."

New Testament.....Sister Terry Beasley
Romans 11:29-32

²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ For just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy. ³² For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

"The Word of God for the people of God."

GospelBrother Chaz Carter
(Please stand for the reading of the Gospel)
Matthew 15:21-28

²¹ And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon." ²³ But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying out after us." ²⁴ He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶ And he answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷ She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

"May the Lord bless the hearers and doers of His Word."

The Preface to the Decalogue

AMEC Hymn No. 69 From All That Dwell Below the Skies

From all that dwell below the skies,

Let the Creator's praise arise;

Let the Redeemer's name be sung, Through every land, by every tongue.

The Decalogue (Summary)

Hear what Christ our Savior saith, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto It; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

The Gloria Patri: *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost.*

*As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.*

Ministry of Stewardship (Tithes/Offerings/Benevolent)...**Brother Shaun Barnes**
All things come of Thee, O Lord; and of Thine own have we given Thee. Amen

Announcements and Greetings to Visitors..... **Brother Shaun Barnes**

The Occasion.....**Sister Brenda S. Wright**

A Tribute from the Children of Saint John AME Church

Introduction of the Speaker.....**Mrs. Christine Dillard**
Consultant, Birmingham-Florence-Tuscaloosa District

The Worship through Music.....**The Saint John Mass Choir**

The Message..... **The Reverend Gloria A. Hall**
Presiding Elder

West Birmingham-Ensley-Greensboro District
African Methodist Episcopal Church

The Invitation to Christian Discipleship

The Apostles' Creed Brother Brandon Cleveland

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. The third day, He arose from the Dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, The Church Universal, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Doxology (Contemporary)

Benediction Presiding Elder Gloria A. Hall

Guest Speaker



Rev. Gloria A. Hall is the Presiding Elder of the West Birmingham Ensley Greensboro District. She is the wife of the Rev. Joseph A. Hall, Jr., the mother of two sons, and the proud grandmother of six grandchildren.

She was educated in the Birmingham Public School District. She received her BA Degree in Accounting from - Miles College- Birmingham, AL.

She received her Certification in Theology from ITC, Atlanta, Ga/Nichols Grady Campus.

She has matriculated at: Alabama A & M University, Huntsville, Al, the University of Alabama at Birmingham and the University of Illinois- Chicago Circle Campus

She has served the African Methodist Episcopal church in many capacities:

- Chairperson of the Northwest Alabama Conference Ministerial Efficiency Committee
- Treasurer of the Northwest Alabama Conference
- The first elected female President of the West Alabama Conference Ministerial Alliance
- Accountant for the Ninth Episcopal District
- She was the first female Pastor elected from the Northwest Conference as a Delegate to the General Conference representing the 9th Episcopal District in 2008. And was re- elected again in 2012, 2016, 2020 and 2023.
- She served as Secretary for the Northwest Alabama Conference Board of Examiners
- Examiner for the Class of 1st Year Studies for Northwest Alabama Conference Board of Examiners
- She has previously pastored Mt. Zion AME Church, Florence Al, New St. Mark AME Church- Birmingham, Al, Bethel AME Church Ensley and Jones Chapel AME Church Fairfield, Al. She is a visionary and a builder of people. In 1998 she was appointed to a struggling congregation, slated to close. There were only a handful of members remaining, with an average attendance of five, one musician, and only one choir member, \$67.00 in a building fund and \$0 in the general fund. Under her leadership the church began to take on new life, new energy and purpose. The church began to grow in leaps and bounds in every aspect. The Lord blessed and within seven months, the church moved from a condemned sanctuary in Enon Ridge, relocated across town where they purchased a new sanctuary and was renamed "New" St. Mark, Mason City.
- In 2005, under the leadership of Bishop T. Larry Kirkland, who determined that it was time for the state of Alabama to place a female in a major pulpit. Rev. Gloria Hall received that first historical appointment in the 9th Episcopal District and was appointment to Bethel AME Church, Ensley, where she joyfully served for 11 years.

- In 2017, under the leadership of Bishop Harry L. Seawright, Rev. Hall received the appointment to 1st Church on the District, Jones Chapel AME Church Fairfield.
- In 2019 she was appointed Presiding Elder of the West Birmingham Ensley Greensboro District of the Northwest Alabama Conference where she is responsible for the supervision of 19 churches.
- In 2024 she was elected to the General Board of the Connectional AME. She serves on the Commission on Statistics and Finance, the Commission of Christian Education and a member at large of the Commission of Retirement Services.
- She is a retired banker, with an extensive and diverse background in Commercial and Corporate Banking. Previously employed by a regional bank, as Vice President, Credit Governance Compliance and Procedures Administration. Senior Credit Review Officer, Structured Lending Portfolio Administer, Asset Based Lending, SBA Operations Manager, and Business Banking Relationship Manager.

Elder Hall is a trail blazer with a Shepherd's heart. She genuinely believes that everybody is God's somebody, and we all need God, and we all need each other.