



REVIVE: Moving Forward: Rising in Divine Glory

2nd Quarter Church Meeting - March 1-May 31, 2025

June 20, 2025

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28(ESV)

Greetings:

Over the past Quarter, I continue to carry forth the Vision and Mission of the Church. In reflecting on the 2nd quarter of this year, there has been an increase in Bible Study and Spiritual Growth; Financial Giving and Ministries activities of the Church. The Church continues to grow and deepen our relationship with God in Jesus through fellowship.

I am grateful for the support and the collaboration in the work of building this Church Ministry in community with each of you and the wider community. Sometimes it seems like it is slow, but I must trust that God is working on our behalf. It has been my privilege to be the overseer and steward of what God has called and entrusted me to care for such a time as this.

Lent, Easter, and Resurrection seasons were spirited filled and amazing. There was an increase in Bible Studies attendance leading up to the Easter weekend. All the services were well attended and everyone felt spiritually enriched and fed by spiritual encounter.

This past quarter I continued to meet with many meetings with small groups continuing to build ministries. We have also had in-depth conversation on building the greater vision God has ordained for the Church. I continue to lean forward into this new year with **BIG** goals in mind. We will continue to stretch ourselves to reach these goals with the help of the Lord. The Priorities for 2025 continue to be guided by the **REVIVE** Vision and Mission as noted on the agenda with our priorities as:

- Evangelism
- Youth Ministry
- Outreach
- Congregational Care
- Financial growth and stability

We are committed to living out the Vision and Mission as that is what guide us into the future. We must be mindful of what we are doing and why we do what we do. Our greatest call is to tell other about the Love of God and reach beyond the walls to witness to them about God's Love.

We are all called to be faithful stewards of God. As Stewards we are committed to fulfilling the mandate of Christ, the Church. Our role as leaders, volunteers, team members are working on one accord to integrate the whole into the ministries and works of the Church and that includes:

- Stewardship; Pastoral Care; Unity and Fellowship; Discipleship and Education; Spiritual Nurturing; Mission and Evangelism; Worship and Celebration; Leadership Development; Youth and Next-Generation engagement.

God is doing a mighty work within the Church. Our Church Clerk report is reflective of the movement of God. We continue to see and witness the Lord at work in this congregation. Our stewardship (Time, Talents, and Treasures) is flourishing which includes:

- Increase Disciples/Members to the fellowship!
- Increase involvement of caring and comforting our fellowship through serving.
- Increase unity of leadership involvement and participation!
- Increase community awareness and engagements!
- Increase in Children and Youth ministry!
- Increase attendance in Studies (Bible and Spiritual renewal)
- More Engagement of disciples in the fellowship and community
- Increase in our giving.

God continues to be faithful in our all areas of our ministries, our giving, our gifts, and resources. God has added so many wonderful disciples to this fellowship and they are getting involved. Sunday School and Bible and Spiritual Renewal are conducted weekly every Sunday at 9:30am for adults. And adult Bible Study is conducted on both Wednesday and Thursday. All studies are increasing in numbers and consistency. As Pastor I conduct the Wednesday and Thursday bible studies.

Membership-Fellowship

God is still adding to the fellowship. The Church Clerk report is reflective of the increase in membership. Sunday Worship Attendance continues to increase. During this period there has been a cumulative total of 936, an increase of 36 from the previous quarter of 900. Our viewership was not actual for this period because there were Sundays in which services were not recorded. We are working to improve our system and become more consistent.

Stewardship

- Stewardship is a 24-month approach to giving and supporting the work of ministry in the church. It is time for us to prayerfully enter discernment and determine how much we will give to support the ministry of the church. Our focus is on Tithes, Offering and the Annual Strategic Plan to support the work of Ministry. We are all committed to the work of the church with the resources God has given to us in our **Time, Talent, and Treasures**. As Pastor and leadership of this church we will again ask you to support the ministries. Our focus is a year-round approach in supporting the church. You are invited to support the work of the Church in area. In fact, we cannot do it without you. So, you

can make a commitment anytime. This Strategic and Capital campaign is for the long-term building of the church and ministries.

Pastoral/Congregational/ Worship and Special Service/Engagement

- Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025, with St. Matthews Church
- Deacon Lisa Vinson Award recognition – Sierra Heights – March 12, 2025
- Mother Day Celebration – May 11, 2025
- Usher Annual Day – April 9, 2025
- 1st Time Homebuyer workshop – April 27, 2025
- Joan Matthews Celebration of Life Service – May 24, 2025
- Family and Friend Day Fellowship – May 18, 2025
- Mental Health Awareness – March 9, 2025
- Holy Week Service (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Resurrection Sunday)
- Youth and Young Adult Ministry – the Garden Experience – April 20, 2025
- MLK Ministers Meetings – Monthly
- Evergreen Pastors Meeting – May 10, 2025

Spiritual and Pastoral Care/Visitation/Calls/Community Connection

- Baptisms –During this Period we had three baptisms. On April 27, 2025, we the following disciples were baptized:
 - Elijah Karriem
 - Adria O’Sullivan
 - Neriah Ska’i Graves
- Continue to provide spiritual care and pastoral visits to Sick and Shut Ins. I reach out to our In-home members and utilize other means of communication and connecting with our congregation.
- Pastor attended and spoke at New Walk Christian Church Anniversary on March 2, 2025 @ 4:00pm

Diaconate Ministry

- All Ministries have been assigned a Deacon to work with and alone side them. Deacons play a crucial role in supporting the pastor, ministering to the congregation, serving as spiritual leaders, and contributing to the overall well-being of the church community. They provide spiritual support, guidance, and care to church members, acting as a link between the pastoral leadership and the congregation. Deacons also assist members in times of sickness and struggles, welcome everyone to our worship and helping to maintain the church building and grounds.

Communication Ministry

- The Communication Ministry team has been working to upgrade the quality of communication, which includes our branding, church logo, uniformity in the flyers that go out, and upgrading of our website. The Communication team consists of Brandon Young, Deacon Bobbi Sims, Deacon Carla Bunn, Leslie Turner, and Deacon Aleigha Vasser. Thanks to Deacon Donald for creating the Logo and funding the design of it.

Music Ministry

- The Music Ministry is growing and prospering. A Young Adult and Youth Choir and Children choir have been added to the ministry. Grateful for all those who work to uplift God and the ministry.

Nomination Committee –

The Nomination Committee was activated last quarter. The Nomination Committee for 2025 are:

- Leslie Turner
- Deacon Donald Leonard
- Charlie Sims
- Rahjia Evans-Crockett

We currently not operating with full capacity in the Christian Education Ministry, Youth Ministry and Trustee. All these assignments are missing sufficient volunteers to support the work. I am asking the Team to begin the work of recruiting this next quarter so that by the voting period we will have sufficient candidates that are interested and equipped for the work ahead.

Educational/Workshops/Training Events:

- Child Abused Awareness Workshop scheduled in May 2025 with an upcoming session in June 2025. It is imperative that all leaders who work with youth have the Child Abuse Awareness Training.
- Mental Health First Aid/PACE – March 9 and 15, 2025
- 1st Time Homebuyer – April; 27, 2027

Community Connections:

- Margie Williams Helping Hand Center Board
- MLK Day do Remembrance – Holgate Church of Christ – April 4, 2025
- Good Friday Service – Mt. Zion Church – April 18, 2025
- Good Friday Service – Plymouth Church – April 18, 2025
- Easter Worship Service – Mary’s Place – April 19, 2025

Safety and Security Team Ministry

Charlie Sims is the Ministry Leader who provides oversight into safety and security. Ministry Leader Sims makes decision when he is staffing the door whether to call 911.

Pastoral Internal operational Engagement

- Met regularly with the Chairperson of the Trustee Board and attend meetings of the Board.
- Met regularly with the Christian Education Board/Supt Sunday School
- Meet regularly with the Youth Ministry and Young Adult
- Met regularly with the Communication Team.

Capital and Strategic Plan 2024-2027 -.

- A diverse group of congregation team members engage in a process call Appreciative Inquiry in late 2023 and early 2024. The group was made up of member from the congregations. The results were posted for an eight (8) week period in which all members of the congregation had an opportunity to share ideas and thoughts.

The Current Capital and Strategic Plan Team is:

- Dr. Linda M. Smith
- Rev. Michael Booker
- Charlie Sims
- Leslie Turner
- Asia Jones
- Kevin McKinney
- Carla Bunn

From late 2023 to early 2024, a group of congregation members engaged in a discernment process called Appreciative Inquiry, to gather ideas and input to inform our Capital and Strategic Plan. The team gathers input and ideas aimed at developing physical facilities that support various community initiatives that would fund itself. The ideas that emerged from the input included: Rental Space, programs aimed at accommodating Senior Affordable Housing, Black-owned business entrepreneur, Educational Excellence, Economical Sustainability. Health and Wellness, Youth Empowerment and Engagement, and Community Resources that include the Margie Williams Helping Hand Center and a Resources Center. The next steps involve seeking church approval to hire a consultant for project design and identifying available grants, with the goal of establishing a self-sustaining MLKJR Community Development Center Initiative.

Next Quarters -Future Action Items -

- Summer Feeding program
- Community Walk through
- Vacation Bible School
- Church Annual Cook-out
- REVIVE Resource Day
- Prayer Revival
- Youth Extravaganza (Back to School September 6-7, 2025)

Upcoming Ministry/Events/Programs

- July 7-August 8, 2025
- July 19, 2025
- July 31-August 1, 2025
- August 2, 2025
- August 16, 2025
- Late September

Call to Action:

1. **Stewardship Capital Campaign:** All leaders are encouraged to make a commitment to the Stewardship Capital Campaign fund in any amount to support the ongoing work of the church and its mission.
2. **Nomination Committee:** The Nomination Committee is to begin recruiting and interviewing people for upcoming elections in the last quarter of the year.
3. **Vision and Mission Familiarization:** All leaders should familiarize themselves with the Vision and Mission of the church to ensure unity in advancing the work of the church.
4. **Safety and Security:** Trustees are to collaborate with Charlie Sims to increase and install appropriate security devices for the main entrance door.
5. **Child Abuse Awareness Training:** All leaders who work with youth and have not completed the Child Abuse Awareness Training and Participation Covenant Statement must do so by July 18, 2025
6. **Safety Plan Compliance:** All leaders must abide by the Safety Plan, ensuring all doors are kept locked when in the building.
7. **Janitorial Contract Examination:** Trustees are to examine the janitorial contract to ensure proper cleaning of the church, especially the sanctuary, and acquire an air purifier.
8. **Building Protocol Development:** Trustees are to collaborate with the Pastor to develop and upgrade the use of the building protocol for both external and internal use by July 11, 2025 .
9. **Christian Education Ministry -** Christian Education to modify the Scholarship program to bring to the 3rd Quarter Church meeting for review.

Pastor's Approval :

- Audra Williams was appointed as Youth Coordinator Ministry effective June 21, 2025, to serve out the rest of this season.
- Elsie McKinney appointed to the Christian Education Board Ministry effective June 21, 2025.

Pastor Proposal: approval to hire a consultant for project design and identifying available grants, with the goal of establishing a self-sustaining MLKJR Community Development Center Initiative.

In the Service of the Lord,

/s/ Linda M. Smith

Reverend Dr. Linda Smith, Sr. Pastor