



Rev. Keenan L. Thomas,  
Pastor, SRCNS



**SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH (NEW SITE)**

**NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2022**

## *The Capstone E-Newsletter*



**Reverend Keenan E. L. Thomas, M. Div  
Pastor-Elect, Shiloh Baptist Church (New Site)  
Fredericksburg, VA**

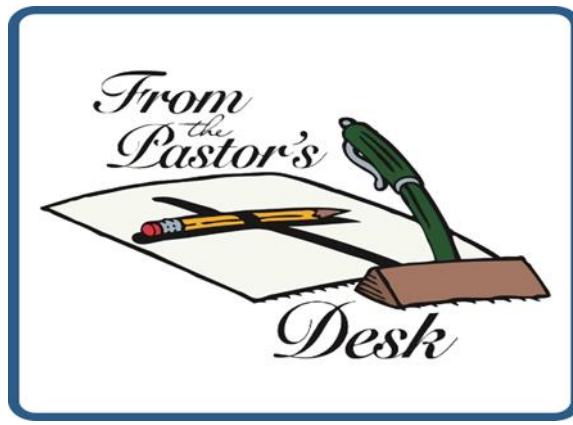


As a long-time resident of Central New Jersey, Rev. Keenan Thomas knows God is the source of his strength and God is the strength of his life. In 2008, Keenan graduated from Howard University in Washington D.C., with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Telecommunications Management. Upon graduation, he began a four-year career in media sales at Katz Media Group in New York City. Keenan heard God's call to the gospel ministry in May of 2011. In May of 2015, he successfully obtained his Master of Divinity degree from Drew Theological Seminary in Madison, NJ.

Rev. Keenan served three years at Shiloh Baptist Church in Plainfield, NJ during seminary; his father, Rev. Gerald Lamont Thomas, served as senior pastor. He then served as a full-time staff pastor at First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens in Somerset, NJ from June 2015 to May 2019 under Rev. Dr. DeForest B. Soaries Jr. He was employed at Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, VA in ministry operations for two years. In October 2022, he became the pastor-elect of Shiloh Baptist Church (New Site) in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Rev. Keenan's foundational scripture for new covenant ministry is found in 1 Peter 4:11, "If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides..." Keenan is recently engaged to Shannon Wilson of Baltimore, Maryland. Outside of ministry, you can find Keenan engaging and enjoying God's most treasured creation – people.

(Rev. Keenan will begin service as full-time pastor on January 1, 2023 and will be formally installed as pastor on May 20, 2023.)



Dear New Site,

As the year 2022 nears its end, one scriptural theme resounds in my spirit - TO GOD BE THE GLORY FOR THE GREAT THINGS HE HAS DONE! Every now and then, there are monumental, karios times in our lives where a move of God blows your mind. Not only did I find my "good thing" this year, but God led me to become the pastor of Shiloh New Site. Indeed, this will be a year I'll never forget.

We will dive into this topic more during bible study starting on Wednesday, January 4th, but my goal as Christ's disciple is to live at the intersection of God's kingdom, God's will and God's glory; you can't go wrong with those three! My passionate prayer for New Site is to also live at the intersection of those same three pillars of experiencing and expressing God.

Please be mindful of people grieving during the holiday season. Mourning love one's does not come with a timer, even though God's joy comes in the morning.

**God is faithful. God is hope. God is love.  
May your 2022 Advent season continue to be a blessing!**

**Proud Pastor,**

**Keenan Thomas**

## Finally, Good News! Deacon Nathaniel Harley

*<sup>8</sup> For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let the prophets and the diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, <sup>9</sup> for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, says the LORD. <sup>10</sup> For thus says the LORD: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place.”—Jeremiah 29:4-10*

“I have good news and bad news. Which do you want first?” Many opt for the good news first, perhaps because we gravitate to the good things in life. Yet, bad news is always present, trying to fill us with doubt, worry, and fear. Just watch the evening news. The news anchor starts the broadcast with the most horrific news of the day. Then the anchor ends the broadcast on a good note as if to say, “Finally, I have good news!” Like that news anchor, the prophet Jeremiah had a duty to report the news, bad news: The Babylonian captivity would last 70 years.

When a report is not to our liking, we want a second opinion. If you have ever received a bad medical diagnosis, likely, you wisely sought a second opinion. The people of Judah were no different. But instead of reporting the truth, false prophets accommodated the people's desire for good news. One “prophet,” Hananiah, offered his second opinion, that the captivity would end in two years. Jeremiah gave a second opinion also, confirmation that the Babylonian captivity would be for the full 70 years, just as God had said.

Like bad news, fake good news travels fast. False prophets in Babylon also encouraged the exiles to believe an early release was imminent. In response, Jeremiah issued a sobering letter to the exiles to set the record straight: Build houses, plant gardens, marry, have children and grandchildren, and pray for the peace of Babylon because you will be there for 70 years. Not exactly the news the people wanted to hear. But Jeremiah had more news for the exiles:

*<sup>11</sup> For surely, I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. <sup>12</sup> Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. <sup>13</sup> When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, <sup>14</sup> I will let you find me, says the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.”—Jeremiah 29:11-14*

Like that news anchor at the end of the broadcast, Jeremiah had some good news to report, finally. God had not abandoned the exiles, in fact they were the object of God's affections for a peaceful, hopeful future and divine restoration. The bad news in our lives is never the end of our story, only a snapshot in time. When you hear bad news, remember God not only offers good news—that He loves you eternally, unconditionally, and exclusively; He IS the Good News!

## Acts of Kindness

The purest form of kindness may have no audience and offer no credit. Kindness to accumulate thanks is self-serving at best. Some may even say it's an effort to control or make the recipient feel indebted. But when we are kind, there's no such payback, the rewards may be all the sweeter. While we may not have control over another person, we do have control over ourselves. What does it mean to be our best selves? Isn't being kind in the mix of choices we have each day? Everyone has challenges, many hidden from sight, would you want to reach out with support?

Upon receiving notification of the demise of Portia Renee Carroll and the alarming circumstances of her household. Our church ministries donated more than 18 bags of infant, toddler, and teen clothing, gift cards and cash to support Ms. Carroll eight children, Layana, Naveah, Danayja, Daquan, Justice, Javion, Jahmari and Journee. When we are compassionate, we are recognizing our shared human condition. Compassion can guide us to acts of kindness. *The Carroll children would like to thank everyone for all acts of kindness and love. May God continue to bless you.*

Min Don M.

Men's Ministry

## Missionary Ministry



### Missionary Ministry Coat Giveaway

The Missionary Ministry's aim is to be Christ like, to be compassionate and helpful to others and to proclaim the Gospel in its fullness. The Missionary Ministry exists to touch lives with the transforming love of Christ.

One of the Outreach Projects the Missionary Ministry partakes in, is to coordinate and provide for our community. This year the Missionary Ministry's 2022 Coat Drive took place on Saturday, November 19, 2022. Sixty-one new coats were purchased and given to children in the surrounding counties of Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania, Caroline, Stafford, and King George. The coats were placed in large Christmas bags with name tags that read "Shiloh Baptist Church New Site" on the front and a scripture on the back.

The committee consisted of Project lead, Jill Byrd, Co-lead, Brenda Brown, and team members Wanda James, Isabel Nelson and Verlean Harley. We praise and thank God for allowing us to be a blessing to others.





# Prayer Ministry

## Annual Prayer Walk Jeri H. Swann

Saturday, October 15, 2022, a group of 20 plus members gathered in the Annex of Shiloh Baptist Church, (New Site) for our Annual Prayer Walk. Having been led by The Holy Spirit, we ask God to show us where and how to pray. We formed five groups, prayed, and began our walk at 9:00 AM. Each group covered a different area, making sure that all areas were covered, North, South, East and West of our church. As we walked, we prayed, stopping occasionally in front of businesses, homes, churches, and on the corners of streets, praying for God's protection, provision, healing, and saving power. We also prayed that the spirit of violence and anger would be removed, asking God to fill each place with His peace.

Being led by The Holy Spirit, our main focus was intercessory prayer in the neighborhoods, homes, businesses, organizations and people we encountered while walking. While walking one group encountered a homeless person who needed food. Fortunately, we had prepared nutritious snack bags. Thus, we were able to satisfy his hungry.

In spite of the brisk cold day, the walk was successful and a blessing for others and for us. We walked for about forty minutes, then returned to our church for closing prayer and snacks before leaving for our homes. We look forward to our next Prayer Walk, hopefully in the Spring of 2023.





Usher Ministry Update



Photo By Trustee Judith Alston

The Shiloh Baptist Church New Site Junior Ushers  
Sis. Charlotte Holland and Bro. Alfonzo Matthew served on the second  
Sunday in November under the watchful eyes of the Senior Ushers and  
Junior Usher Ministry Directors Sis. Sheila Bennett and Sis. Lucille Jackson.  
Sis. Charlotte and Bro. Alfonzo were a blessing as they served the Lord.



Photos By Dea. Anna Griffin



### Women's Ministry Christmas Project

On Saturday, November 19, the Women's Ministry donated toys to "Unmasked Inc." to support their Pre-Holiday Toy Drive. The toys will be distributed to the less fortunate children in Fredericksburg, Stafford, and Caroline. The Ministry was happy to be able to donate to this cause. We thank God for blessing us so that we might continue to be a blessing to others. The lead for this project was Sis. Ella Wyatt.



### Alzheimer's Walk 2022

The Alzheimer's Walk 2022 was held on Saturday, October 8, 2022, at Old Mill Park, Fredericksburg, Virginia. The team raised over \$1675 this year. The SBCNS participants included the team captain Deacon Marqessa Njie, Deacon Anna Griffin, Sis. Kelly Cohen, Deacon Barbara Green, Sis. Tinovia Unruh, Sis. Alex Njie, Sis. Isabel Nelson, and Sis. Angela Coleman. Thank you to all the members that supported the team through monetary donations. All monies raised will allow the Alzheimer's Association to provide care and support and to advance research that will ultimately help find a cure for this disease.





### Fredericksburg Regional Food Bank



The Women's Ministry volunteered at the Fredericksburg Regional Food Bank on Friday, October 28, 2022, from 12:00pm to 3:00pm. The ladies were able to pack 624 brown boxes that were delivered to families in the local counties of Caroline, Stafford, Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania, and King George. Shiloh Baptist Church (New Site)

participants included Min. Portia Sayles, Deacon Mary Tyson, Sis. Isabel Nelson, Sis. Amelia Zaremba, Sis. Pamela Lamar, Sis. Angela Coleman, Sis. Lisa Walden, Sis. Felicia Minichini, Deacon Jeannette Ellis, Sis. Verlean Harley, Sis. Beverly Lawson, and Deacon Marqessa Njie. We thank God for this community service opportunity that allowed us to help bless others.

"Deuteronomy 15:11 "There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in the land."

There is always someone in need; we have an obligation to God to help the people in our community who need a hand. May God continue to lead and guide us as we continue to be a resource and help for others. God Bless



# Golden Wedding Anniversary Celebration

Rev. Nathaniel Hayes, Jr., and Patricia Hayes

50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Renewal

September 3, 2022

Reverend Nate Hayes and his wife, Pat, celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on August 15, 2022. To commemorate this momentous occasion, they held a renewal ceremony in the church (Mt. Olive AME Church, Myrtle Beach, SC) where they initially married. The ceremony was officiated by their nephew, Pastor Vanda Vereen. The attendants included Pat's sisters and a brother along with brothers-in-law and fraternity brothers. Family and friends attended the renewal including two of Rev. Hayes's sisters (Claudia and Marsha) and two aunts (Lona Hayes and Beulah Hilliard) who were at the first wedding ceremony.



Rev. and Mrs. Hayes with grandchildren, Levi and Londyn Hayes





**The Wedding Renewal Party. Pat's sisters, Joyce, Regina, Doreen, Roslyn (Maid of Honor), Melody, and Terry. Sons, Kevin (Best Man), and Randy (Mother's Escort). Brother-in-Laws, Linwood, and Donald. Pat's brother, Glenn. Fraternity brothers, William Smith, and William Dudley.**



# *What do the Symbols of Christmas Mean?*



Shepherds used crooks to bring lambs back into the fold. Candy canes remind us we are all our brother's keeper.

Sheep wear bells so the shepherd can easily locate them. Bells remind us to locate those in need, and to bring them into the fold. Also, for centuries bells have been used to announce special events.



Stars are the most familiar Christmas symbol. They represent the star of Bethlehem which guided the Wisemen to the Christ child. They remind us that we should diligently seek Him every day.

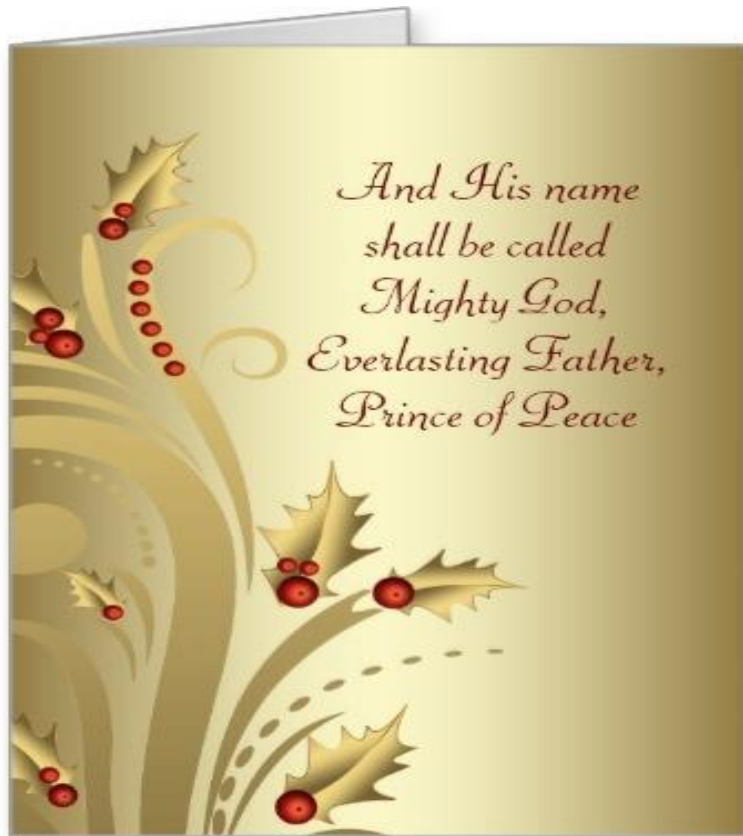
For centuries, the evergreen tree has been a common symbol of eternal life. It reminds us that because of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, we will all enjoy eternal life.



In many cultures the circle is a symbol of eternity, having no beginning and no end. The wreath combines evergreen boughs in a circle as a symbol of never ending love.

Candles are one of the most common symbols in the world. They represent different things to different cultures. At Christmas time, stars remind us of the star of Bethlehem.





### *Christmas Card Exchange*

Start Date: December 1, 2022 Through December 25, 2022

Drop Off Location: Building 3, Multi -purpose room

Share your **Love** and **Joy** with your Shiloh New Site Family.



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**Have a Merry Christmas!**  
**Celebrate Jesus with Love and Joy!**



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## #Birthdays for the Next Month

Shiloh Baptist Church (New Site)

31 people

Report Date: November 26, 2022

Name	Birthday (without year)
Mark Cunningham	Dec 01
Jerre' Brown	Dec 04
Sidney Hankerson, Jr.	Dec 04
Sarah Monroe	Dec 05
Carissa James	Dec 06
Reva Branchcomb	Dec 06
Stephen Williams	Dec 08
William Wilson, Jr.	Dec 10
Carolyn Bell	Dec 11
Kelvin Lloyd	Dec 12
LaQuita Davis	Dec 12
Betty Dash	Dec 13
Stephanie Petty	Dec 13
Lauren Collier	Dec 14
Paula Wise	Dec 15
Lindburgh Bundy	Dec 16
Jaren Jackson	Dec 18
David Cole	Dec 19
Cynthia Watkins	Dec 21
Tamika Jackson	Dec 21
Micheal Lewis	Dec 22
Linda Parker	Dec 23
James White, Jr.	Dec 25
Carole Hamm	Dec 26
Camille Lynch	Dec 27
Renee LeMay	Dec 28
Arthur Wiggins, Jr.	Dec 29
Michael McKissack	Dec 29
Irene Green	Dec 30
Moses Brooks	Dec 30
Amelia Zaremba	Dec 31



## Communications Ministry



~~~ Special thanks to all the SBCNS Ministries for their continued support and contributions to the Newsletter~~~



~~Articles for the next edition are due by January 31, 2023~~

**Please submit all completed articles in a PDF format and include the Word document version in case editing is required.  
Photos formatted and placed within the document.**

**Email all articles to the Communications Ministry email @  
[shilohpubmin2@gmail.com](mailto:shilohpubmin2@gmail.com)**



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