



175th

CHURCH
ANNIVERSARY

GRAY'S CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH



PATRICK TUCKER, PASTOR



FEBRUARY 18, 2018



175TH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

*Honoring the Past,
Excited about the Present,
Preparing for the Future*

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21 (KJV)

WELCOME

Welcome to our 175th Church Anniversary Celebration. As we consider the magnitude of celebrating such a historic mark in our church history, we cannot help but say - like the Psalm writer in Psalm 118:23 (ESV) - *“This is the LORD’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.”* As Pastor of this historic church, I realize I’m building on a foundation that has already been laid. Our Heavenly Father has had his almighty hand on this church since its inception. The church was founded by Joseph (a.k.a. Free Joe) Harris, and Simon Price in approximately 1843. Joseph “Free Joe” Harris later went on to become the first pastor of Gray’s Creek with a congregation that was made up of slaves. Since the inception of the church until this current date, records show the names and dates of Pastors who served at Gray’s Creek.



Out of all the men who served this congregation, two names are very familiar to many of us here at *“The Creek,”* Reverend E.V. Jones and Reverend W.L. Harris. Pastor E.V. Jones’ tenure, as pastor, lasted for 40 years from 1936 to 1976. Rev. Wiley L. Harris was elected as Pastor in July 1977, and served for 35 years at Gray’s Creek. As you can see, we are building on a solid foundation. During this historical moment in our church history, we do pause to thank God for all the members who passed through this spot of ground, and for those who make up the entire Gray’s Creek body.

Furthermore, as I reflect over the years of being Pastor, I’m excited about what God has done, what he’s doing, and what he has in store for us in the coming years. God has truly been kind to us at *“The Creek.”* He’s allowed us to baptize so many new converts, start new ministries, form new relationships, and he has sent amazing growth to our body of believers. Also, during this 175th year of the church’s existence, we are excited about starting our second service, a new worship opportunity beginning May 27, 2018. As Acts 2:46-47 records, *“And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”* We thank God that souls are being saved and the unchurched is being reached for His glory.

In closing, thank you for being part of this wonderful celebration. To all of our guests, we truly pray the blessings of God over your life and the peace that surpasses all understanding. Once again, welcome to our 175th Church Anniversary Celebration.

Honoring the Past, Excited about the Present, and Preparing for The Future!

Blessings

Patrick Tucker, Pastor

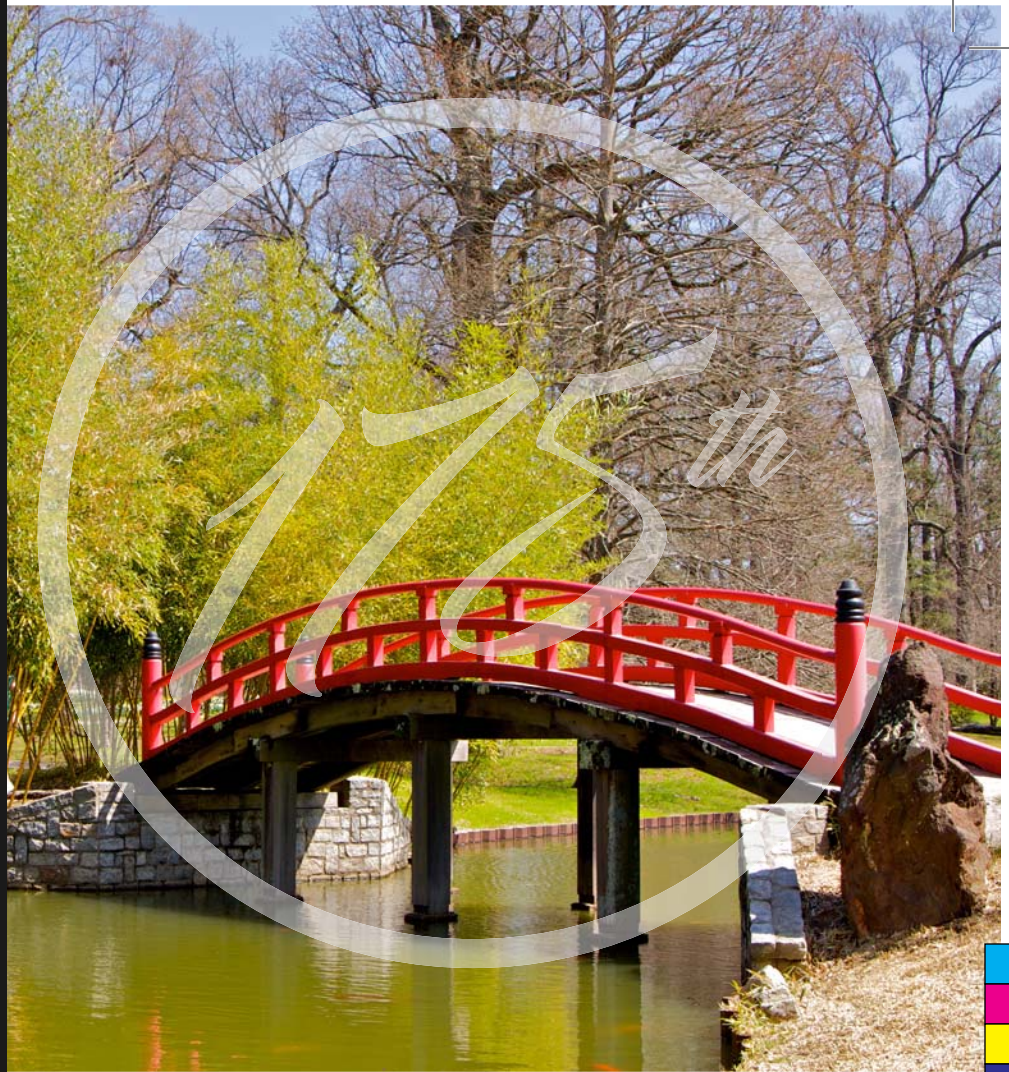


THE
HISTORICAL
DINNER

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 11
2018

5:00 PM

MEMPHIS
BOTANIC
GARDEN



SHELBY COUNTY GOVERNMENT



PROCLAMATION

By The Mayor

WHEREAS, in 1843, a freed Virginian slave named Free Joseph Harris, Simon Price, and an unknown number of slaves formed the congregation of what would become Gray's Creek Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, Free Joe served as the founding minister, having opened an inn to serve weary stagecoach travelers along the Memphis-Bolivar Road and settling with his family in the Eads, Tennessee area; and

WHEREAS, the Gray's Creek Baptist Church congregation continued to grow through the years, and from 1915 to 1976 the church recorded nine leading pastors who saw the church through the good and bad years alike, in order: Rev. D. B. Bratley, Rev. D.B. Hardy, Rev. J.W. White, Rev. J.H. Mabone, Rev. J.F. Neal, Rev. W.L. Lewis, Rev. T.M. Reid, Rev. E.V. Jones, and Rev. Lawrence Cleaves with Rev. Walter Branch having a lengthy term of service as Associate Pastor alongside several of these faith leaders; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, Rev. Wiley L. Harris was elected Pastor and over thirty-five years he ministered and served the Gray's Creek family until retiring at 88 years old in September of 2012, suggesting his eventually successor to whom he passed the torch, Rev. Patrick Tucker, who was raised within the loving walls of Gray's Creek; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Tucker leads the church today, having expanded its ministry and mission through a growing congregation, technology and physical updates, and outreach ministries to meet the people where the needs of the people are most clear – creating a modern church to lead Gray's Creek Baptist towards another 175 years of ministry.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark H. Luttrell, Jr., Mayor of Shelby County, Tennessee, do hereby proclaim this day of February 18th, 2018 in honor of

Gray's Creek Baptist Church 175th Church Anniversary

and I call upon all citizens to recognize this outstanding pillar of faith, love, charity, and hope in the Shelby County community.



In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Shelby County to be affixed this 18th day of February of 2018.

Mark H. Luttrell, Jr.
Mayor of Shelby County

City of Memphis



Proclamation

WHEREAS, February 18, 2018 marks the 175th Anniversary of **Gray's Creek Baptist Church**; and

WHEREAS, organized in 1843 under the leadership of Pastor Joseph Harris, **Gray's Creek Baptist Church** is believed to be the oldest African American congregation in Shelby County, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the original congregation of **Gray's Creek Baptist Church** was made up of two Free Men and an unknown number of slaves; Joseph Harris purchased the land the church was built on where it remains today as a stable fixture of hope and faith; a historical marker now designates the property; and

WHEREAS, throughout the years, **Gray's Creek Baptist Church** has been blessed to have had many powerful preachers, leaders, and teachers shepherd their flock; and on October 1, 2012, Reverend Patrick Tucker was installed as the beloved pastor; and

WHEREAS, for the past 175 years, the mission and activities of **Gray's Creek Baptist Church** have been faithfully preserved and fulfilled by its committed and dedicated members by sharing the love of Christ through preaching, teaching, outreach, serving, and equipping; and

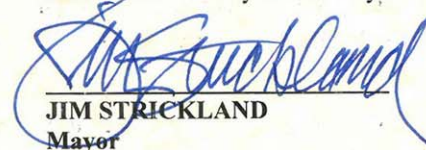
WHEREAS, it is indeed an honor to participate in this 175th Anniversary Celebration for the **Historic Gray's Creek Baptist Church** and its leadership, who have served the Lord with gladness; we thank God for these faithful ones as there is still much work left in the vineyard—the harvest is great and the workers few.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED THAT I, JIM STRICKLAND, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF MEMPHIS, hereby acknowledge that a church having humble beginnings in 1843 does not succeed without extraordinary effort; as your congregation commemorates this special occasion, remember to savor the triumphs of the church's 175-year history as you look ahead to its promising future in Memphis.

FURTHERMORE, I congratulate **Gray's Creek Baptist Church** on the joyous occasion of its 175th Anniversary and wish them sustained grace as the church continues to thrive and serve the Memphis community.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Memphis to be affixed this 18th day of February 2018.


JIM STRICKLAND
Mayor

United States Senate

COMMITTEES:
BANKING, HOUSING,
AND URBAN AFFAIRS
BUDGET
FOREIGN RELATIONS
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

February 18, 2018

Rev. Patrick D. Tucker
Gray's Creek Baptist Church
3141 Inglewood Place
Arlington, TN 38002-9535

Dear Members of this Congregation,

I join you in celebrating the 175th anniversary of Gray's Creek Church. Gray's Creek Baptist Church is a community with a rich cultural and spiritual history. For the past 175 years, this congregation has created a religious foundation that has provided spiritual leadership throughout Memphis and Shelby County.

As the oldest African-American congregation in Shelby County, Gray's Creek has served Shelby County, not only as place of worship, but as a school for young African-Americans when there were no other options for education. Your service to the people of Memphis and the surrounding area is a testament to your faith. You have set an example for all of us.

Best wishes for many more years of faithful service.

Sincerely,



Bob Corker
United States Senator





OFFICE OF THE SHELBY COUNTY TRUSTEE

WHEREAS, in February 1843, Gray's Creek Baptist Church was found by Pastor Joseph "Free Joe" Harris, and;

WHEREAS, Gray's Creek Baptist Church is believed to be the oldest African American Congregation in Shelby County, and;

WHEREAS, from 1915 to present, Gray's Creek has been guided by eleven worthy and honorable men, who have served their congregation tirelessly, and;

WHEREAS, Reverend Patrick Tucker became the current pastor in 2012 when Reverend Wiley L. Harris retired after 35 years of service, and;

WHEREAS, under the direction of Pastor Tucker, the church is committed to mission ministry through community outreach in the Memphis and Shelby County vicinity, and;

WHEREAS, the Gray's Creek Baptist Church congregation strived to live by their faith, rooted and established in the word of God, and;

WHEREAS, the congregation has continued to grow by the grace of God, by welcoming many new members, incorporating new technologies and making improvements and additions to the church, and;

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon government to recognize outstanding organizations that bring guidance and leadership to our community.

Now, therefore, I, David C. Lenoir, Shelby County Trustee, as a duly-elected public official do hereby declare it fitting and proper on this 18th day of February, in the year of our Lord, 2018, to issue this Proclamation of Congratulations to The Gray's Creek Baptist Church for celebrating its 175th Anniversary and for its continuing service to the residents of Memphis and Shelby County.

DAVID C. LENOIR
SHELBY COUNTY TRUSTEE

LAMAR ALEXANDER
TENNESSEE



UNITED STATES SENATOR
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 18, 2018

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to congratulate you on the 175th anniversary of Gray's Creek Baptist Church. I commend you and your forefathers for your dedication to serving the community contributing to the growth and progress of this historic church. Very best wishes in your continuing outreach in the community.

Sincerely,

Gray's Creek Baptist Church
c/o Reverend Patrick Tucker
3141 Inglewood Place
Arlington, TN 38002-9535

NOT PRINTED AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE



FRIDAY

FEBRUARY 9, 2018

7:00 PM

175TH PRE-ANNIVERSARY
WORSHIP SERVICE

GRAY'S CREEK CHURCH

PRAISE & WORSHIP

FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE ALTAR

GREETINGS

Patrick Tucker, Pastor

MEN OF BROWN

OFFERING

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER

Patrick Tucker, Pastor

MEN OF BROWN

SPEAKER

*Pastor Bartholomew Orr;
Brown Baptist MB Church, Southaven MS*

CLOSING REMARKS

Patrick Tucker, Pastor

BENEDICTION

Pastor Bartholomew Orr



About Pastor Orr

Bartholomew Orr is the Senior Pastor of Brown Missionary Baptist Church. Pastor Orr has served in this capacity since January 25, 1989.

Yielding his life unto Christ early, Bartholomew Orr began preaching in 1981 at the youthful age of eleven. Continuing to cultivate his calling, Pastor Orr was licensed to preach in 1983 and ordained in 1986. Shortly after that, He was blessed to be elected pastor of Brown Missionary Baptist Church on January 25, 1989. Under his leadership, the church has experienced tremendous growth, spiritually and numerically.

Despite a growing church family, Pastor Orr works diligently to ensure that Brown maintains an atmosphere that embodies the "Christian Family." His church family prides him for being accessible to his church members through various facets of communication. Through his submission to the will of God, Pastor Orr has taken Brown Baptist Church to unprecedented levels. Under his watch as Shepherd of this flock, he has witnessed a children's ministry explode to more than 400 children, and formed life enriching partnerships with community members to ensure that individuals have access to health screenings and career opportunities. During this period, the Lead Shepherd, Pastor Orr along with his wife, Valarie, have been blessed to experience God's fruitfulness within his own family. They have born their legacy through four sons; Bartholomew II, Valiant Bates, Bradford, Brandon, two daughter in laws, Melissa and Kanasha; two grandson, Bartholomew III (Tre), Vance Peyton and a grand daughter Brooklynn Skyy.

Pastor Orr is a firm believer in education, and he leads by example in that area. He received his Doctorate Degree in Ministry from Union University in Jackson, TN in 2014; his Masters of Divinity degree from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Germantown, TN in 2003; and his undergraduate degree in Humanities from Christian Brothers University in Memphis, TN in 1991.

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 11, 2018
10:30 AM

175TH PRE-ANNIVERSARY
WORSHIP SERVICE
GRAY'S CREEK CHURCH

PRAISE & WORSHIP

ALTAR PRAYER

MUSICAL SELECTION

Gray's Creek Mass Choir

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sheila Mathis

PASTOR'S DESK

Patrick Tucker, Pastor

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER

Patrick Tucker, Pastor

MUSICAL SELECTION(S)

Gray's Creek Mass Choir

SPEAKER

*Bishop Edward H. Stephens, Jr.
Golden Gate Cathedral, Memphis, TN*

TITHES & OFFERING

CLOSING REMARKS

Patrick Tucker, Pastor

BENEDICTION

Bishop Edward H. Stephens, Jr.



Bishop Edward H. Stephens, Jr.

Bishop Edward Houston Stephens, Jr., is in a line of 5 generations of ministers. He possesses a prophetic anointing, innovative insight, and courageous leadership. He is equipped for this church age with a unique gift for reaching people at their point of need. Together with his lovely wife, Elder Beverly, and their three sons, Edward III, Eron, and Evan, Bishop Stephens pastors Golden Gate Cathedral of Memphis. His pastoral ministry began in 1986 with 130 members. Today the membership exceeds 3,000.

Bishop Stephens has received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Biblical Studies from Crichton Bible College and has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate from St. Thomas Christian College. He is also an alumnus of Harvard University's Leadership Institute.

He is a member of several civic organizations including Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated. After becoming affiliated with the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship, he served for two years as the first State Overseer for the state of Tennessee and was consecrated to the office of Bishop in 1996 by Bishop Paul S. Morton, Sr., International Presiding Bishop. As a member of the Executive Council, Bishop Stephens serves as the Bishop of the Central Region for the F.G.B.C.F which covers: Iowa, Nebraska, Kentucky, Missouri, Kansas, Tennessee, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota.

Under Bishop Stephens' leadership, God continues to manifest His magnificent power. Golden Gate presently offers 30 extended ministries including S.T.A.R. Academy, which is the first college preparatory elementary school in the state of Tennessee offering classes for kindergarten through fifth grade. He has received numerous civic, governmental and religious awards including the city of Memphis naming a popular thoroughfare in his honor.

Endeavoring to be a blessing beyond the pulpit Bishop Stephens published *What In Hell Is Holding You Back?* and *The Promise is Still Good* and most recently recorded Bishop Ed Stephens and Golden Gate Cathedral Choir *Live in Memphis One*. The vision God has given him continues to unfold through a plethora of outreach ministries, including youth, senior citizens, the homeless, abused women, and health management. He is truly a man after God's own heart. And the evidence of His uncompromising relationship with God is a testament of hope for the world to see!

SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 11, 2018

5:00 PM

THE HISTORICAL DINNER
MEMPHIS BOTANIC GARDEN

.....
GREETINGS

Patrick Tucker, Pastor

MUSIC

Greta Matthews

THE BEGINNING

Earnest Lacey

MOMENTS FROM THE PAST

Mother Earlene Tucker

DINNER BLESSING

MUSIC

Greta Matthews

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Rev. W. L. Harris

THE PRESENT

Don Langston

THE FUTURE

Patrick Tucker, Pastor

**CLOSING REMARKS &
BENEDICTION**

Patrick Tucker, Pastor



Reverend Wylie Lee Harris

Reverend Wylie Lee Harris was born August 17, 1925 in Byhalia, Mississippi. He was raised by his loving grandmother Nancy Harris and his aunt Jessie Durham. Rev. Harris was a deacon at Progressive Baptist Church and in 1970 he was chosen by the Lord to serve Him and minister to the people of God under the leadership of O.C. Collins. As a minister, he studied at Tennessee School of Religion, Brewster's Theological School of Religion, and J.W. Williams Theological Training School and was able to graduate in 1970. Rev Harris became the Pastor of Anderson Chapel Church in Arkansas in 1971 and held worship services on 1st and 3rd Sunday's. In addition, he held services on the 2nd and 4th Sunday's at Frenchman's Bayou Baptist Church in Arkansas.

In July 1977, Rev Harris was led by the holy spirit to Gray's Creek M B Church in Arlington, Tennessee. He was elected Pastor and served diligently for 35 years. Under his leadership, many accomplishments happened at Gray's Creek. His spiritual leadership and continuous work for the Lord was an inspiration to many.



Earnest E. Lacey

Earnest Lacey is a genealogist, author, publisher and curator. Lacey has authored three books: *FreeJoe*, *The Search for FreeJoe*, and *Hilton Street: From Memphis to Chicago*.

A native Memphian, Lacey attended Melrose High School before moving to Chicago with his family. He graduated from John Marshall High School before earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration from Chicago State University. Later, he earned a Master's degree in Business from Governors State University.

As an accountant, Lacey spent many years building his accounting practice, Metro Accountants and Consultants, before returning to Memphis in 1987 and eventually serving as the Director of the Tennessee Small Business Development Center. He has received a number of accolades for his work including the *Dr. Carter G. Woodson Award of Merit* given by Southwest Tennessee Community College in 2002.

In addition, Lacey has also discussed genealogy, African-American history including the Black Migration, and how to research family histories on more than 100 radio and television talk shows including WVON-AM (Chicago) and WLOK-AM, WDIA-AM, WHBQ-TV, WMC-TV, WYPL-TV in Memphis. In addition, Lacey serves as the host of WYPL-TV's Small Business Review and Ancestors.

Lacey is a resident of Oakland, Tennessee with his wife, Clara Elaine Briscoe Lacey, and has two adult daughters.

FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 16, 2018
7:00 PM

175TH PRE-ANNIVERSARY
WORSHIP SERVICE
GRAY'S CREEK CHURCH

PRAISE & WORSHIP

FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE ALTAR

GREETINGS

Patrick Tucker, Pastor

OAK GROVE CHOIR

OFFERING

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER

Patrick Tucker, Pastor

OAK GROVE CHOIR

SPEAKER

*Pastor Donald L. Johnson,
Oak Grove MB Church, Memphis, TN*

CLOSING REMARKS

Patrick Tucker, Pastor

BENEDICTION

Pastor Donald L. Johnson



Pastor Donald L. Johnson

Donald L. Johnson, an anointed man of God, was called to pastor Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church – Hwy 64 Memphis, TN in 1994. His hometown is Kansas City, MO. In a short time, Pastor Johnson's fresh and inspiring and anointed messages drew a growing and progressive congregation.

He earned a Bachelor of Religious Arts of Theology and a Master of Arts in Religious Arts at the Jacksonville, FLA Theological Seminary. Pastor Johnson is a dedicated and loving husband, father and grandfather. He is married to Lady Rhonda Johnson, an anointed vessel of God.

Pastor Johnson presently serves as Chaplain for the Memphis Grizzlies NBA team. He is also involved in numerous schools, community and faith based activities including: Regional One Health Chapel Services; FBI Academy; Partners of Hope for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital; Memphis Ministers & Law Enforcement Committee; and is a regular commencement and motivational speaker for colleges and Memphis/Shelby County Middle and High Schools.

Additionally, Pastor Johnson and Oak Grove Church has weekly regional cable TV and national TBN broadcasts, realizing that there is "Power in the Word of God." He often receives invitations to teach and preach throughout the country.

Pastor Johnson is considered by many as one of the Mid-South's most consecrated and soul-stirring ministers, with a strong desire that Believers develop a more intimate relationship with Jesus Christ - Moving from religion to relationship, and from membership to ministry. He is an extraordinary leader all for the glory and honor of God.

Oak Grove's Mission Statement is **"We Grow People"** through Worship, Ministry, Evangelism, Fellowship and Discipleship. (Matthew 22:37-39 & Matthew 28:18-20).

Pastor Johnson continues to emphasize and encourage the church body with the Word of God that says, "We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us." (Philippians 4:13).

SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 18, 2018
10:30 AM

175TH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY
WORSHIP SERVICE
GRAY'S CREEK CHURCH

.....

PRAISE & WORSHIP

ALTAR PRAYER

MUSICAL SELECTION

Gray's Creek Mass Choir

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lucille Jones

PASTOR'S DESK

Patrick Tucker, Pastor

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER

Patrick Tucker, Pastor

MUSICAL SELECTION(S)

Gray's Creek Mass Choir

SPEAKER

*Pastor Jeffrey A. Johnson, Sr.
Eastern Star Church, Indianapolis, IN*

TITHES & OFFERING

CLOSING REMARKS

Patrick Tucker, Pastor

BENEDICTION

Pastor Jeffrey A. Johnson, Sr.



Pastor Jeffrey A. Johnson, Sr.

Pastor Jeffrey A. Johnson, Sr. accepted his call to ministry at the age of 17 and has served as the Senior Pastor of Eastern Star Church in Indianapolis, Indiana since 1988. Under his leadership, the "One Church in Three Locations" has grown to over 17,000 members and has planted three churches in Indianapolis as well. Pastor Johnson received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Religion with Honors from Bishop College in Dallas, Texas and matriculated at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis. He has also received numerous honorary doctorate degrees, highly-esteemed community awards and was voted the 2012 "Best Pulpit" by Black Christian News Network One, an international online media resource.

In August 2007, Pastor Johnson launched Kingdom Word Ministries and authored the following titles: "Song of Solomon: Love, Sex and Relationships", "Making A Comeback: Reclaiming Our Lives In Christ", "Life Illustrated: Daily Thoughts For Your Daily Walk", "Dialogue with My Daughters", "Dialogue with My Sons", "Dialogue with Single Parents", and his newest release "The Making of a King".

A devoted husband, Pastor Johnson is married to Sharon Henry Johnson and is the loving father of four sons.

NEW SERVICE TIMES

Starting Sunday
May 27th 2018

8:45am & 10:45am





Transforming. Equipping. Serving.

Mission:

"We are Transformed and Equipped By God to Serve Each Other, and to Saturate Our Communities with the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Sunday

8:40 Prayer
9:00 Sunday School
10:30 Worship Service
10:30 Children's Church

Thursday

6:00pm 1st Thursday Prayer
6:30pm Bible Study

Gray's Creek Baptist Church

3141 Inglewood Place, Arlington TN 38002
www.gcbchurch.org | 901.867.8436 | info@gcbchurch.org

