
JOSHUA'S JOURNAL

Reaching People for Christ - GOD FIRST!

Pastor's Letter

Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas to you all.

"...the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

(John 1:5)

At this special and sacred time of the year, I wish to extend to you and your loved ones Christmas greetings and best wishes for the New Year.

Christmas is so much more than just a holiday, it is a Holy day. It is a time when our baby Jesus was born to be the Light of the World. It is a time when our God shows up in the middle of the mess to bring us a message of hope and offer us a better way of life through unsolicited and unlimited gifts of grace and salvation through Jesus Christ.

May we be a people of faith and joy that rejoices in the light and hope that Christmas brings. This light truly does shine in a world full of darkness, and this light must penetrate our hearts. We are called to be the light of Jesus to the world, so that one person at a time, one soul at a time, we can start bringing that light to a world that so desperately needs it. As we go about our celebrations and festivities this Christmas season, my prayer is that you don't let this story of God's unfailing love for the world go unspoken, but share this good news with everyone, so that they can find hope, joy, peace, and love in baby Jesus Christ!

I excitedly look forward to celebrating Christmas with you.

Emmanuel – God with us!!

Blessings to you all,

Corey R. Anderson

Rev. Corey R. Anderson
Pastor

Miss Denmark Tech



Congratulations Amiya!



THE DENMARK-TECHNICAL COLLEGE
CORONATION

A EVENING OF
Elegance



Amaya D. Larkins

Amaya D. Larkins, born on February 9, 2006 in Charleston, SC, is the daughter of Ms. Sade Smell and Mr. Benjamin Larkins. Currently a freshman at Denmark Technical College, Amaya is pursuing a degree in cosmetology and proudly represents the institution as a member of the Panther Elite Cheer Team. From a young age, she has been engaged in diverse activities, including dance, mixed martial arts, gymnastics, track, modeling, and cheerleading, demonstrating a deep commitment to personal and professional growth.

Amaya's strong work ethic was evident early in her career, beginning at the age of 14 when she started working at Tropical Smoothie. She quickly advanced, becoming the youngest shift leader and subsequently, assistant general manager. Alongside her work experience, Amaya has displayed a remarkable entrepreneurial spirit. She is the founder of her own business, where she offers services in blanket making, photography, rug crafting, and hair styling, including lock maintenance, wig, creation, and coloring.

Amaya's platform as Miss Denmark Technical College centers on empowering young people to remain engaged and motivated and to make positive life choices. She attributes her accomplishments to the steadfast encouragement of her family, who has inspired her to believe in herself and pursue her aspirations fully. Amaya lives by her daily quote: "time heals what lessons cannot."

Amaya, we are Joshua proud
and wish you continued success.

What Type of Ornament Are You?



A Packed Ornament

These ornaments no longer are useful and are packed away in a box, put in the attic or on a shelf in the closet and are never used again. Got some dust on you? Can you feel the cobwebs just criss-crossing your spiritual life? Stopped reading your Bible? Stopped praying? Stopped witnessing? This doesn't happen all at once. It usually happens little by little, losing luster here, a little crack there, something broke off of you there, and pretty soon you find yourself on the shelf. You've moved farther and farther from fellowship with Christ. You're a Christian, but your heart doesn't reflect it. This type of ornament scares me the most. Never doing anything for Christ. Not only would it be a boring life, but it would also be such an unhappy and lonely one as well.

A Broken Ornament

Are you broken and falling apart? Some people just radiate the fact that their life has problems. In reality, we all have problems, but we all don't wear those problems as our wardrobe like some. You can't ask these ornaments to participate in anything because there might be a catastrophe in their lives. Not that we all don't go through trials, but sometimes they are trials of our own making. We get our lives all broken and falling apart because we don't have our priorities in the right place or we don't depend on Christ as we should. In turn, we get cracked and broken because we are trying to hold ourselves together on our own.

A Tarnished Ornament

Have you seen those Christmas ornaments that are beautiful and you pick them up and all the paint and glitter comes off in your hand? Are you that way? Have you been rubbed the wrong way a few times? Has the bad air hit you so much that you've become tarnished and lost your luster? Someone said something to you and just peeled off all your paint and joy? Maybe you've been slighted by another Christian or had a disagreement with a friend and never made up with them. That paint and glitter has come rolling off you and your heart life shows signs of wear.



An Ugly Ornament

There are just some ornaments that are just that, plain ugly! You may not be ugly on the outside but inside there's some sad ugliness. Got an ugly attitude? Do you speak ugly words? Do you wear ugly expressions? Do you just reflect ugliness? These types of ornaments hang on the tree all by themselves because nobody wants to be around them.

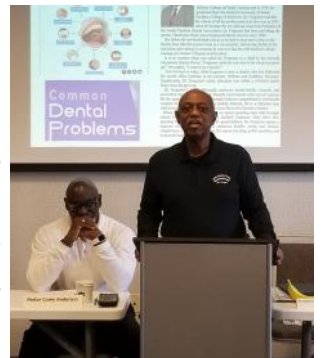


Brotherhood



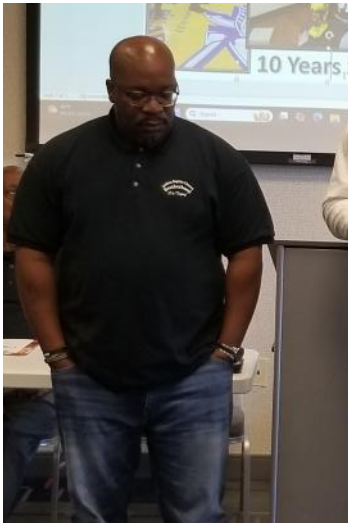
Wow—What a Mighty God we serve! In the last article, we mentioned summer heat and how soon it would be before leaves would be changing colors. That time is here and our clocks have rolled back time to give us darkness in the day faster than anyone really wants. Still we move forward with the grace and mercy of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

On Nov 7, the Brotherhood traveled to Columbia, SC for our Annual Men's Retreat. Brothers, if you were not in attendance, you truly missed an awesome opportunity of fellowship, food, and fun as this may have been one of the best retreats to date. We shared a fantastic first day getting to know each other a little better with introductions, personal achievements, and a delicious meal fit for a king. Of course, we could not close out the night without a dynamic message from Rev. Melvin Scott and a little bit of Bible trivia.



Friday morning was just one of the weekend highlights. This group of godly men had an awesome discussion on several books of the Bible in extreme detail with comments and questions that took us to areas no one imagined. As others joined us Friday afternoon, we ended with a total of 31 Christian men joined in fellowship for the rest of the weekend. Brother Gerard Felder, (Felder Tires & Landscaping) provided education on important issues of tire care and things we should be looking for to keep us safe in our vehicles. We ended the night viewing a slideshow of brothers "in action" over the last year doing everything we can to support our church, family, and community.

Our Mentee Ministry (which began with President, Deacon William Johnson and then Deacon Frank Brown) received new leadership as Brother Zac Oree passed the torch to Brother Felder. Brother Oree led this group of young men for over 10 years and took them places they had only seen in books, magazines, and on television. They accomplished many events which many thought impossible. But with God, all things are possible. There are mentees who are now successful young men with jobs, college degrees, and children because of our JBC Mentee Program. May God continue to bless this ministry, other leaders who have helped guide them over the years (we know there are many), and a huge "Thank You" to the Oree family.



As we go into this holiday season when we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, let's take a moment to do something special for someone in need. Please focus on current blessings and not what you don't have. If you want an example to follow, find senior usher Brother Mike Grant and hear his personal story. We are blessed and loved because Christ first loved us. Finally, thank you Dr. Larry Ferguson for accepting our invitation as guest

speaker. He's a humble and awesome man of God who is now a permanent member of the Brotherhood family.

We continue to believe we are blessed and highly favored. We're always "TRYING" because God made us and Christ died for us. We are determined to succeed, grow, lead, and put God first in all we do. "No matter what anyone else may say, God knows, "I'm Trying!" Stay safe and have a fantastic Christmas and New Year season. Remember, God loves you and the Brotherhood loves you too!



If Jesus Came to Your House

If Jesus came to your house to spend a day or two -
If He came unexpectedly, I wonder what you'd do.

Oh, I know you'd give your nicest room to such an honored Guest,
And all the food you'd serve to Him would be the very best,
And you would keep assuring Him you're glad to have Him there -
That serving Him in your own home is joy beyond compare.

But when you saw Him coming, would you meet Him at the door
With arms outstretched in welcome to your heavenly Visitor?
Or would you have to change your clothes before you let Him in?
Or hide some magazines and put the Bible where they'd been?
Would you turn off the radio and hope He hadn't heard?
And wish you hadn't uttered that last, loud, hasty word?

Would you hide your worldly music and put some hymn books out?
Could you let Jesus walk right in, or would you rush about?
And I wonder - if the Savior spent a day or two with you,
Would you go right on doing the things you always do?
Would you go right on saying the things you always say?
Would life for you continue as it does from day to day?

Would your family conversation keep up it's usual pace?
And would you find it hard each meal to say a table grace?
Would you sing the songs you always sing, and read the books you read,
And let Him know the things on which your mind and spirit feed?
Would you take Jesus with you everywhere you'd planned to go?
Or would you, maybe, change your plans for just a day or so?

Would you be glad to have Him meet your very closest friends?
Or would you hope they'd stay away until His visit ends?
Would you be glad to have Him stay forever on and on?
Or would you sigh with great relief when He at last was gone?
It might be interesting to know the things that you would do
If Jesus Christ in person came to spend some time with you.

—Author Unknown

Joshua Baptist Church Clergy & Pastor Appreciation Thank You!



To Our Beloved Congregation

Words cannot fully express our deep gratitude for the unwavering support and love Joshua Church Family has shown us. Your prayers, encouragement, and acts of kindness continually inspire and uplift us.

We are truly blessed to serve such a dedicated and faithful congregation. Your commitment to our shared mission strengthens our spirits and fuels our passion for ministry.

Thank you for being our steadfast partners in faith. Together, we continue to build a vibrant, loving, and compassionate church family.

With heartfelt appreciation,

JBC Leadership Ministry



1st Row: Rev. Albertha Isler, Rev. Hester King, Rev. Melvin Scott

2nd Row: Rev. LaTonia Robinson, Rev. Dr. Robert L. Grove,
Rev. James Ravenell, Pastor Corey R. Anderson,
Min. Belinda Bennett, Rev. Harriet Mazyck,
and Rev. Dr. Mary Glover

To All Our Seniors!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!

*Wishing you a joyous Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
May your wisdom, faith, and dedication continue to be
a shining light in our church.*

May this season bring you peace, happiness, and countless blessings.

*Thank you for your unwavering support and for being such a
treasured part of Joshua Baptist Church Family.*

With heartfelt gratitude from the JBC Seniors Ministry!



We will Miss You



JBC Website

Joshua's Journal was first published in 1993 under the leadership of then Pastor Robert L. Grove.

After 31 years of sharing church news and information through this publication, this will be the last issue of the *Journal*.

In future, we encourage JBC members and friends to seek and share JBC news utilizing our church website (<https://joshuabapt.org>) and/or social media options updated and/or created under the leadership of Pastor Corey R. Anderson.

Scan the QR Codes to access the various platforms.



JBC YouTube



@JBCNORTHCHARLESTON

JBC Instagram



JBC Facebook

We thank all those who have contributed articles, poems, and personal stories throughout the years!