

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RICHMOND PARK

# THE HOLY JOURNAL

QUARTER 1 2023

## PASTOR HARREL'S THOUGHTS...



Greetings in the name of Jesus.....

### Finishing Well and Starting Strong

On 1st Sunday morning, 1/1/23, I shared with our FBC family that as we transition into the new year - a new beginning, we must first make sure we finished well. The Lord has blessed us to see the new year 2023, and for us to start it strong, we must first make sure we finished well.

Are there any loose ends that you need to take care of that you haven't done

yet? Is there someone you haven't forgiven for doing you wrong? Is there someone you've wronged and haven't asked them to forgive you? If so, you need to finish well, so you can start strong.

Ephesians 4:32 says: "And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you."

If you haven't taken care of the things you should, then you need to get it done. Why? So that you will be able to start strong.

Have you made a commitment to God to finish something before the year ended in 2022 and you still have not completed it? Did you procrastinate and time ran out? Let me remind you of an old saying: "Never put off for tomorrow, what you can do today".

Tomorrow is not promised to anyone. No man knows the day or the hour when the SON of Man will return. You need to get it done...before time really runs out!!!

Is there someone you needed to call, visit, en-

courage, pray for and you didn't do it in 2022? Then you need to get it done, so you can start strong in 2023.

We should pray to the Lord that we finish strong in our walk of faith and commitment to HIM. When we are old and gray and we depart this earth, we will see HIM face to face and hear him say: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant".

God will give you the strength you need not only to endure in this season, but to press on with integrity, with grace, and with joy every day of your life.

In 2023, start strong and depend on God, so you will be able to persevere. To finish well and start strong, you must move in faith, strength and commitment rooted in Christ Jesus.

May God bless you and keep you as live your life for HIM in 2023.

*Pastor Leonard Harrel,  
Sr.*

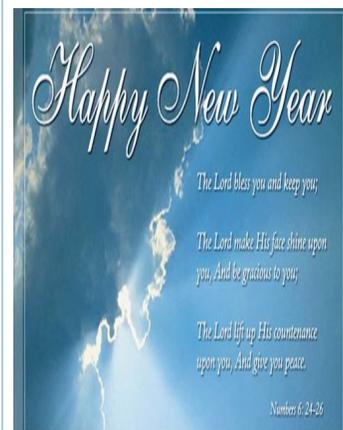
## MINISTERIAL STAFF

REV. LEONARD  
HARREL, SR.,  
PASTOR

REV. SHARON HARREL

DR. PATRICIA H.  
NORWOOD

MIN. JAMES CARTER



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## WORDS TO LIVE BY



### *Blessed New Year!*

The word blessed means happy. Each of us are blessed to behold a new year, a new beginning. God has allowed us another opportunity to live for him, to fulfill his purpose and plans for our lives. We give God all the praises, glory and honor!

With the dawning of each New Year, many have prepared lists or are contemplating resolutions-you know the things that you have simply made up in your mind that you must do in the New Year. Perhaps the top three (3) resolutions each year are: Lose Weight; Exercise Regularly; and Get in Shape. There isn't anything wrong with resolutions, as long as you remain faithful.

As Christians, our focus should be a little different. Getting in **spiritual** shape is just what the doctor ordered-**Dr. JESUS** that is!

Deuteronomy 6:5 tells us just how to get in shape and maintain spiritual and physical shape. **"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all**

**thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might."**

When our focus is on loving our God and being all that we can be spiritually, its overwhelming effect allows us to live a more productive life physically.

When we expend all our efforts and energy toward loving God with our all, we will be able to:

- ◊ Think on those things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of a good report
- ◊ Speak kind words and encourage each other
- ◊ Pray for our enemies and those who spitefully use us
- ◊ Love our neighbors with an agape love
- ◊ Give as the Lord has blessed us-our tithes, our offerings, our talents, and our time
- ◊ Get our physical bodies in shape

Our focus is clear when we have our priorities in order:  
1<sup>st</sup> God; 2<sup>nd</sup> Others; 3<sup>rd</sup> Our self.

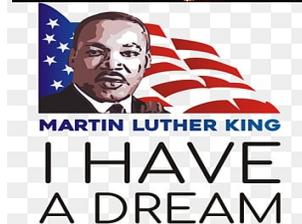
**Let us resolve to remain faithful in our**



**efforts to become spiritually fit!**

Dear Lord,  
In the new year, we pray that You will guide us each new day in paths that are pleasing to You.  
Lord, the new year gives us another chance to rededicate our lives to You, to study Your Word so that we know right from wrong and to act in accordance with Your commands.  
Thank you for the sense of direction, purpose and peace we get from aligning our lives with Your Holy will.  
We pray for the strength and the will to obey You each and every day of the new year,  
and when we fail, we pray for Your mercy, Your compassion, Your grace and Your love.  
Help us in the new year to be your faithful servants.  
In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

## HOLIDAYS THIS QUARTER



### GENERAL CHURCH MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

While Tithing will continue to be taught, beginning in February, church dues are increasing: \$25 for Adults, 18 & up; \$10 for Teens, 13-17; and \$6 Kids, 12 & under.

We will build a new church in the coming years! Your prayers and support are needed!

FBC is looking forward to what GOD has for us in 2023! HALLELUJAH!!!

## WE'RE BACK

SISTER VELMA CADOR GRAY



**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY  
TO ALL  
CHURCH  
FAMILY  
MEMBERS  
BORN IN  
JANUARY,  
FEBRUARY, &  
MARCH!**

**MAY GOD  
CONTINUE  
TO BLESS  
AND KEEP  
YOU IN HIS  
LOVING  
CARE!**



Giving honor to the Holy Trinity, Praises for another year to live our lives in peace, love and spiritual understanding. Our Fellowship and Fitness Classes are back and we're so excited, Because of the pandemic we had to put our classes on hold, the time has come and starting January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 6:00 pm in our Fellowship hall classes will resume, inviting **All Ladies** to lace up your workout shoes put on your activewear and get ready to get your Temple(body) moving. Our classes are **FREE**, low impact and plenty of **FUN., FOR LADIES ONLY**. Our licensed Physical Trainer instructs us on every workout in which she totally enjoys. Hope to see you in class. For now we will meet once a month, praying to add more classes in the future. Let's get it moving.



## PRAISE GOD!

L.A.DAVIS

Happy New Year Family! Praise our Sweet Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for bringing us safely out of 2022 into the new year of 2023! It was only by His Grace and Mercy that He allowed us to be here!

Let us continue to Praise God each and every day of our lives for the little things that He does as well as the big!!! For the things we want and the things we don't. Re-

member, He is Omnipotent! He has the Power to do anything that He desires! All for His Glory and our good! In Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV), God says, ***"I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future"***. HALLELUJAH! Praise God!

So as we continue in this new year, let us go forth with the attitude of Apostle Paul as

he says in Philippians 3:13-14 (NIV), ***"Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it; But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."*** Hallelujah! Amen!

***In Jesus' Love...***

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RICHMOND PARK

3115 Newton Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
Phone: 225-383-7868  
Email: [fbcrcpark@coxbusiness.net](mailto:fbcrcpark@coxbusiness.net)  
Website: [www.fbcrichmondpark.com](http://www.fbcrichmondpark.com)  
CashApp: \$fbcrcpark

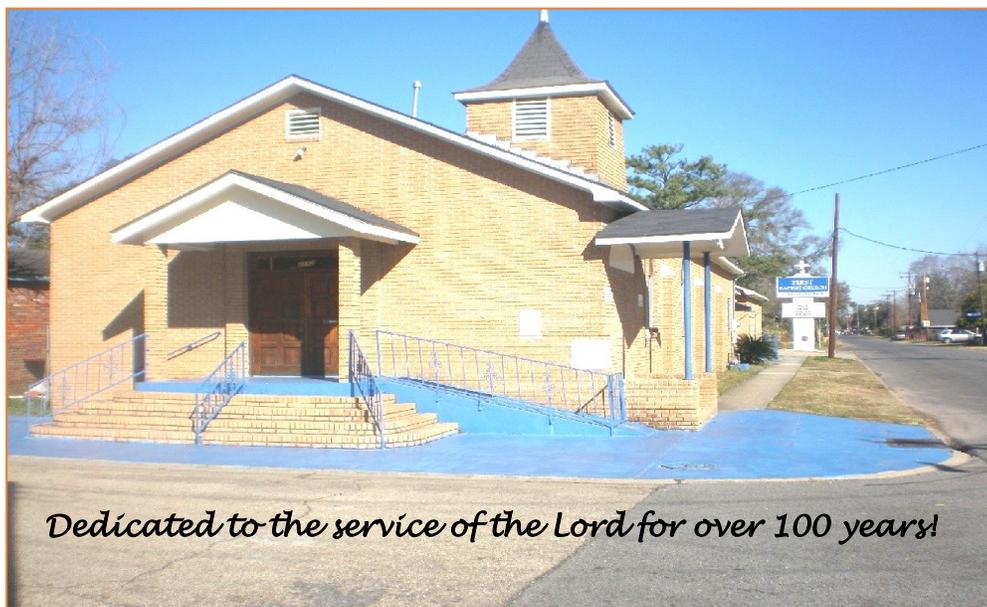
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**DR. PATRICIA NORWOOD**

**MINISTER JAMES CARTER**



*Dedicated to the service of the Lord for over 100 years!*

**Due to COVID-19 Restrictions our service times are as follows:**

**Worship Service: Sundays 10:45 a.m. in the sanctuary & via conference call**

**Sunday School Preview: Tuesdays 6:45 p.m. via conference call only**

**Please join us in person or via phone**

**Conference Call Number: 978-990-5000—ID: 693297#**