Vernon Park Church of God

July 2019

Committed to loving God, loving others and serving others!

Our Class of 2019

Rev. Jerald January, Sr. - Senior Pastor

1975 E. Joe Orr Road, Lynwood, Illinois 60411

Phone: 708.753.1975 - Fax: 708.753.1977

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Vernon Park Church of God

The Corner of Hope & Possibilities

A monthly reminder of what's possible!

Greetings Family,

I've found myself during these wonderfully warm days of summer reflecting on prior seasons. I'm not referring to the recent extra long winter, nor the incredibly wet spring. I'm not denoting the recent weeks and months that are easy to trace, but some of the more distant seasons some of us have trod together.

I've shared with our congregation during recent services how I have been led to visit the gravesites of some of our faith-family members who blessed our lives with their physical presence along the way. As your pastor for nearly 20-years, it's been my honor to meet, know and love dozens of wonderful men, women, boys and girls. Time allows us to get to know each other and experience the growth that not only comes from natural seasons, but also spiritual growth produced by God's Word. And yes, in some cases we've bid many of those dear to us farewell.

I believe a mark of maturity is the ability to pay homage without regret or depression. *Homage* is defined as *respect or reverence paid or rendered*. In the midst of a season where things are being redefined daily, the time-tested tradition of remembering the lives of those we love can be a permanent practice of God's people.

Likewise, we're commanded to reverence God and His Word as a part of our daily lives. We're commanded to be His people and to walk maturely in His way. God's Word never changes with the seasons and we're charged to stay faithful to it.

The great poet James Russell Lowell wrote; *"The greatest homage we can pay to truth, is to use it."*

My pen is positioned,

Pastor J

PASTOR OF POSSIBILITIES®

Vernon Park Church of God

Announcements

BAPTISM

Baptism will be held here at Vernon Park Church of God on Sunday, July 21st under the tent after the 10:00 a.m. service.

Anyone interested in being baptized on that Sunday should see one of the Deacons or call the church office at 708.753.1975 and leave your contact information.

Wedding Anniversaries

Emerson & Patricia White - 12 years, July 7th
Kenneth & Pamela Jackson - 52 years, July 7th
Fred & Brenda Williams - 22 years, July 11th
Gerald & Elizabeth Ford - 6 years, July 13th
Scott & Nicole Hall - 18 years, July 14th
James & Rugena Turner - 51 years, July 20th
John & Dawn Hatchett - 8 years, July 23rd
Paul Alston & Denise Turner Alston - 31 years, July 23rd

Vernon Park Church of God

Responsive Reading

July 7, 2019, Psalm 119:41-58 "Freedom in God's Love"

Lead: May your unfailing love come to me, Lord, your salvation, according to your promise; then I can answer anyone who taunts me, for I trust in your word. Never take your word of truth from my mouth, for I have put my hope in your laws. I will always obey your law, for ever and ever.

Cong: I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts. I will speak of your statutes before kings and will not be put to shame, for I delight in your commands because I love them.

Lead: I reach out for your commands, which I love, that I may meditate on your decrees. Remember your word to your servant, for you have given me hope. My comfort in my suffering is this: Your promise preserves my life.

Cong: The arrogant mock me unmercifully, but I do not turn from your law. I remember, Lord, your ancient laws, and I find comfort in them. Indignation grips me because of the wicked, who have forsaken your law.

Lead: Your decrees are the theme of my song wherever I lodge. In the night, Lord, I remember your name, that I may keep your law. This has been my practice: I obey your precepts.

Together: You are my portion, Lord; I have promised to obey your words. I have sought your face with all my heart; be gracious to me according to your promise.

Sunday, July 21, 2019 is the Celebration of godparents. We will celebrate your godparents and the exceptional role they play in your children's lives at the 10:00 a.m. Service.

Make sure you invite these very important people to church on that day.

Vernon Park Church of God

Responsive Reading

July 14, 2019, John 8:1-11 "Jesus Restored the Women"

Lead: Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery.

Cong: They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?"

Lead: They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her."

Cong: Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there.

Lead: Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"

Together: "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

July 21, 2019, 1 Peter 3:8-17 "Living to Please the Lord"

Lead: Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

Cong: For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it.

Lead: For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.

Cong: Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.

Lead: But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

Together: But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

Vernon Park Church of God

Responsive Reading

July 28, 2019, Deuteronomy 30:11-20 "Choose Life in the Lord"

Lead: Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach. It is not up in heaven, so that you have to ask, "Who will ascend into heaven to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?"

Cong: Nor is it beyond the sea, so that you have to ask, "Who will cross the sea to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?" No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it.

Lead: See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. For I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.

Cong: But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

Lead: This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him.

Together: For the Lord is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

For the months of July and August, Children's Church will be in session first and second Sundays only.

Please plan accordingly!

Vernon Park Church of God

Our Successful Youth

Freddie Williams, Jr.

Being at Morehouse College was such a unique experience. Morehouse College is the only institution in the world dedicated to the development of Black Men. Morehouse has helped me develop the confidence I need to survive in this world as a black man. In and outside of the classroom I was constantly reminded of how smart, creative, and beautiful my black people are when afforded the same chances and opportunities as others. While at Morehouse College, I majored in Computer Science and graduated Cum Laude.

There were three things that led me to get a position as a software engineer: hard work, dedication, and the connections I made while at Morehouse. I am currently working at Home Depot corporate office in Smyrna, GA on the IT Supply Chain Deliveries team. While away at school, I often missed spending time with my family. However, my belief in God assured me my family would be safe albeit I was so far away - even when I doubted myself and didn't think I could get it done. I understand that faith without works is no faith at all. I would rely on my faith in God to push forward and complete whatever task or overcome any obstacles I faced.

My experience at Vernon Park helped me in many ways. One particular thing that always stuck with me is how the church persevered and kept moving forward no matter what happened. So, not only was I reared to have staying power, but VPCOG was/is certainly a place where keeping the faith and staying the course regardless of the challenges are principles that were reinforced.

Vernon Park Church of God

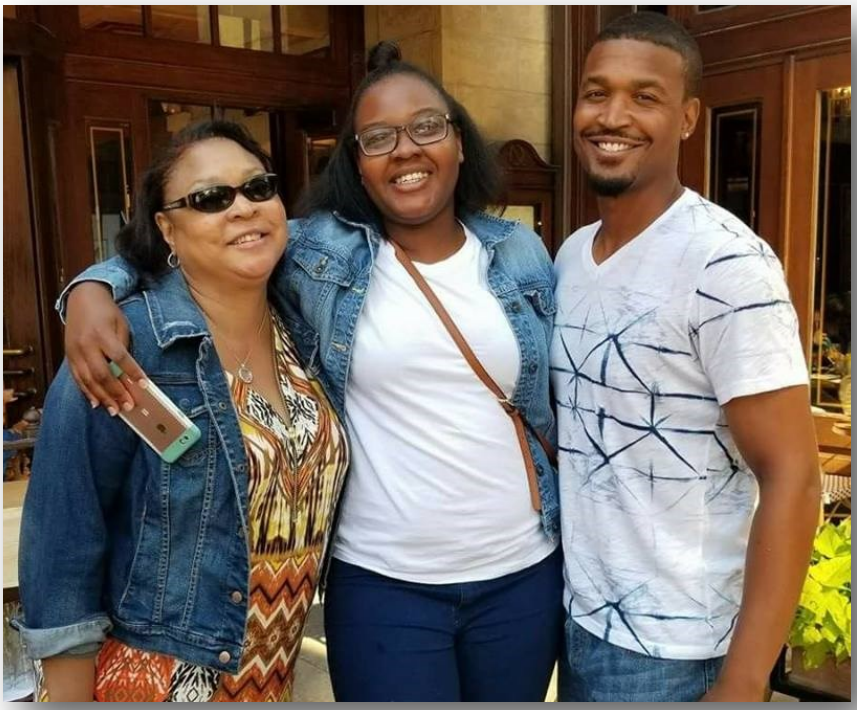
Our Successful Youth

Alleyah Burns

The award I received is called the Presidential Scholar. This award is given to students who receive a 4.0 G.P.A. and have straight A's. I also have made the Dean's List since I've been away at school. This award is for making between a 3.5 and 3.85 G.P.A..

In the year 2020 I will be graduating from the illustrious Alcorn State University. Right now, I am looking at different athletic training master programs. So, I'm looking to further my education to have a better start in my career.

My overall goal is to become an athletic trainer and then work my way to become a physical therapist. They are both high demand jobs and are very much needed. The baby boomers are getting old and need physical therapy. And there is always going to be a demand for athletic training because there will always be sports. I hope to provide an example for young people by being the best person I can be.



Vernon Park Church of God

Speaker:	***Sermon:***	***Date: July 7, 2019***

Speaker:	***Sermon:***	***Date: July 14, 2019***

Vernon Park Church of God

Speaker:	***Sermon:***	***Date: July 21, 2019***

Speaker:	***Sermon:***	***Date: July 28, 2019***

The Jerra January Missions Scholarship Fund
Presents

International DAY 2019

SUN JULY 28, 2019 12P-3:30P

FUNDRAISER

AUCTION, PRIZES, AND GRAND RAFFLE:

2 Tickets to Chicago Gourmet | Saturday, 9/28/19, 12-6p, Millennium Park

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Vernon Park Church of God

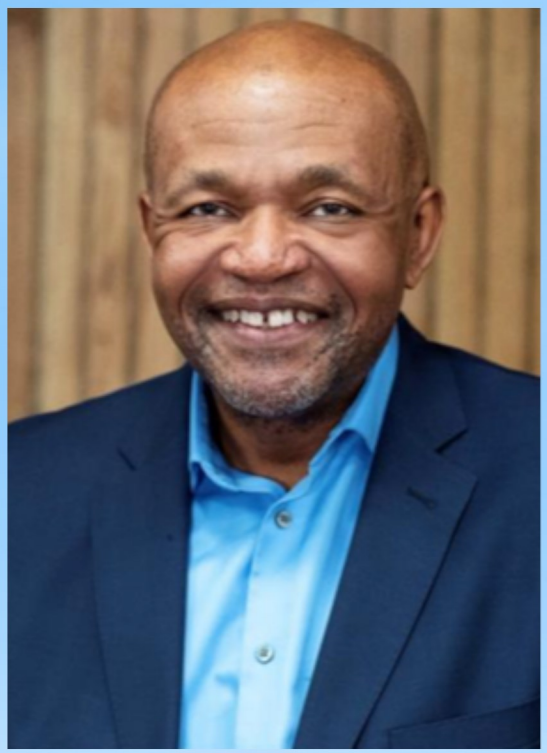
1975 E. Joe Orr Road, Lynwood, IL 60411 • Rev. Jerald January, Sr. Senior Pastor

Vernon Park Church of God

cordially invites you to celebrate

Pastor Jerald January's 20th Year Anniversary

in an



All White Jazz at the Park Affair

Sunday, August 4, 2019
1975 East Joe Orr Road, Lynwood, IL
12pm -3pm

Featuring

Ari Brown Trio

DJ "Q"

KH & Friends

Join us under the tent for food, fun and fellowship!

Special Events Committee

Chairman: Sarah F. Barber
Co-Chairmen: Kevin Harris, Jacqueline Morris, Cheryl Nelson, Rick Nelson & LaVeda Scurlock
Sub-Committee Co-Chairmen: Brenda Williams & DeShonda Sisco