

# The Shepherd's Heart AME Church

Monthly Newsletter

12/1/2016

2016 Conf. Year Vol. 03

## "Waiting"

For the most part, before the birth of Christ, God's people were waiting the coming of Christ. The Messiah who would bring salvation and freedom. For those of us on this side of the cross, Advent is a time to reflect on the Old Testament Saint's anticipation for the coming of Christ



as well as to appreciate and anticipate His next coming. Advent is what we call the season leading up to Christmas. It begins four Sundays before December 25. What does Advent mean for TSH? In worship, each week we will light a candle for a different theme. A selected person will read a scripture and a prayer relating to the Advent theme for that week and lead an Advent litany. The first week of Advent's theme was hope. Beginning in December, Advent specific prayers, and suggested family activities will go out to members via text message to aid in celebrating and recognizing Advent at home. \*Following Advent and Christmas is Ash Wednesday and the Season of Lent

## A Word 4U



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**Pastor Lee M. Sapp**

### Becoming a Doer

*I had a conversation with a fellow pastor about the relevancy of the church today. We spoke specifically about our bible studies. Participation in Bible studies, prayer meetings, and youth groups have declined all over. We openly acknowledged the usual explanations; extracurricular activities, preparing and eating dinner, the weather...but, all these "explanations" existed fifty years ago, when the life of the church was much more active. Is the church on the road to irrelevancy?*

(Continued)

# CHRISTMAS DAY

**What better way to celebrate the birth of Christ than to worship Christ?  
Join us at 11:00 a.m. on Christmas Sunday!**

## A Word 4U

### Continued

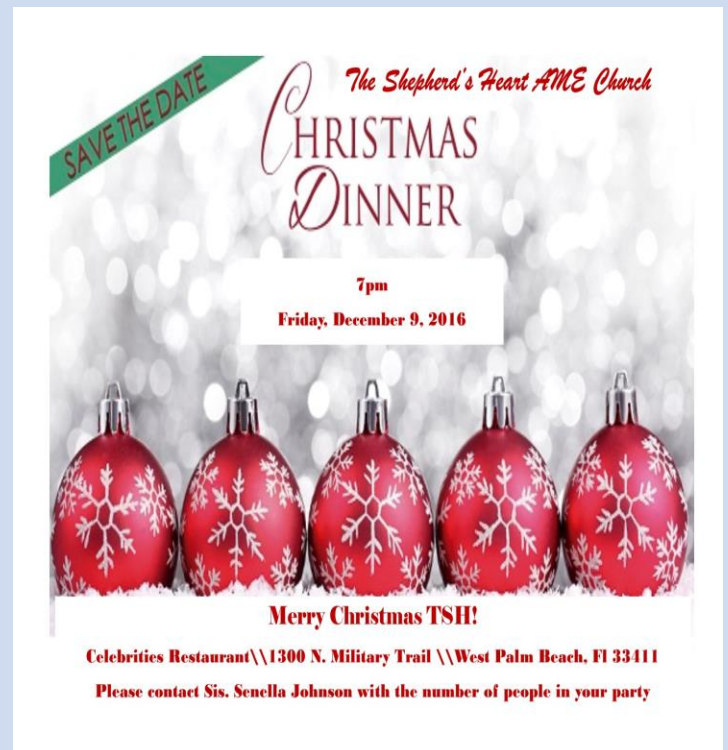
Throughout history church life has changed with the change of culture. But for some reason, change of church life has been stagnant for the last fifty years. How can the church change to become more active in a time when busyness is the order of the day? The vision given me for the Shepherd's Heart is one that calls on worship for this present age. That has little to do with the actual worship service, but in every facet of church life. As a pastor, I am charged with providing growth opportunities. Nowhere did God say I had to rely on traditional methods for those opportunities. Church relevancy today requires innovation, vision and obedience to the spirit.

The reality is that we are living in an age where intimacy at all levels is disappearing. Everything is virtual, from paying bills to romantic relationships. I pray I never see a day when our culture deems the gathering of the saints to be irrelevant. Things certainly appear to be heading that way as church services can be viewed on television, bible study is live-streamed on Facebook and YouTube, giving can be done via the internet. But another reality is that there have always been and will always be, Doers and hearers or spectators.

I cringe each year with the pending football season. TSH has several avid football fans, that means lack of attendance, giving, participation and unity. When thinking about it for this season, it occurred to me, even in football there are doers and "observers". Twenty-two people play or "do", and depending on the level of the game, up to several thousand "spectate".

The church is simply a microcosm of the world. So, it stands to reason that some will do, while most will observe. Concerts, social media, prime time television shows etc.... our society has become fixated on observation instead of participation. After a while though, being an observer becomes unfulfilling and the urge to become a doer should rise. It boils down to a matter of priorities. Statistics a decade ago says that only twenty percent of any church organization are doers. Today those statistics have changed. It is my prayer that God will continue to reveal new innovative ways to give opportunity for the transition of being a Hearer to becoming a Doer in such a busy time as this.

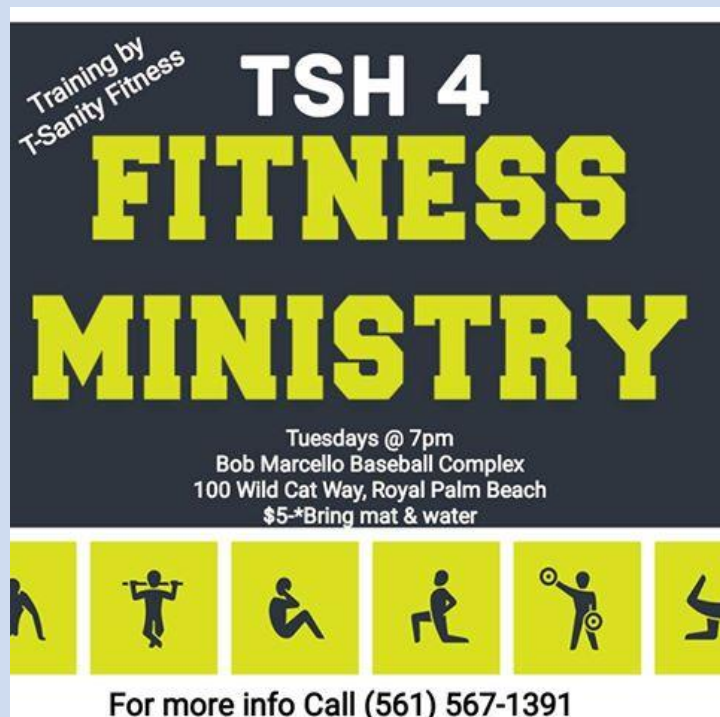
I will repeat a segment of the "Word 4 You" from last month's newsletter which was under the title of Church Hurt, "Christ said in John 13:34, 'A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you.' Jesus did not intend for this love to be expressed through detached charitable organizations, but rather



through the regular assembly of His people, who make up the church. There is something very majestic and uniquely special about corporate worship, corporate prayer and corporate bible study. There is much power in the gathering of the saints who should be those simply hungry for a better relationship or understanding of God.”



**Virtual Bible Study** throughout the month of December Pastor Sapp will send members a link to a weekly virtual bible study as our Bible Study is on hiatus through the month of December. She will be



covering Bible Basic’s 101. Stay plugged in and click on the link text to you to brush up on your bible basics. When Bible Study returns on Wednesday, January 4, 2014, 7pm at the high school enter from the school’s main entrance, look for the sign on your right and enter through the library/media room door. Our study will be a series entitled, “Things To Come” a study on the book of Revelation.

#### A New TSH Ministry

*“Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul.” 3 John 1:2 ESV*  
Join the TSH 4 Fitness Ministry and let’s get healthy together!!

- **Unicorns are mentioned in the bible**

Isaiah 34:7 “*And the unicorns shall come down with them, and the bullocks with the bulls; and their land shall be soaked with blood, and their dust made fat with fatness.*”

- **The Bible is the #1 Best Seller of all time**

And the most shoplifted. The Bible has been translated into more than 1,200 languages.

- **Eternal life**

There were two men in the bible who never died! Enoch and Elijah, God brought them directly to heaven.



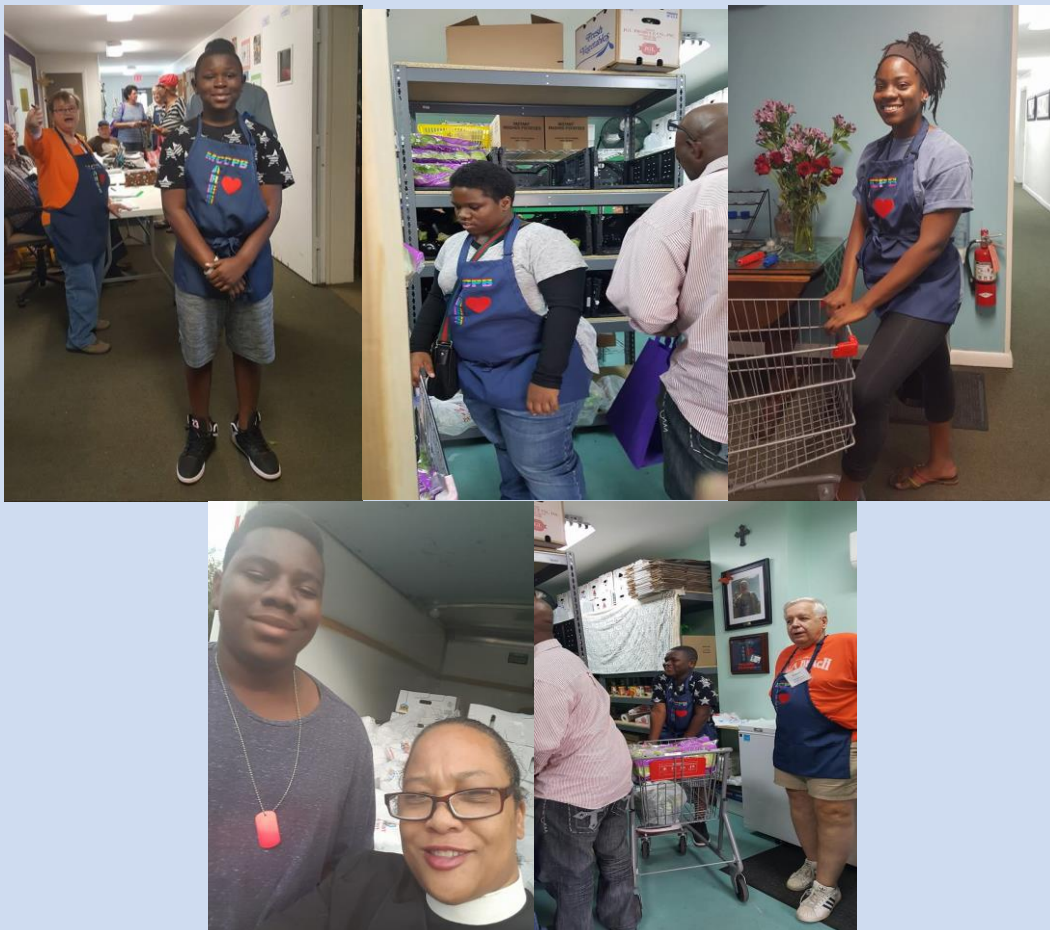


## *Souls to the Polls*



# Youth Ministry

*Y.A.Y. Ministry Serves on Thanksgiving Eve*



## December Happenings:

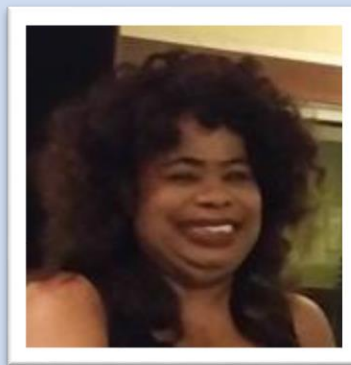


- 12/3 Barnabas Project
- 12/09 TSH Christmas Dinner
- 12/10 North District Planning Meeting
- 12/18 Baptism Service
- 12/24 Christmas Eve
- 12/25 Christmas Day Service 11 a.m.

## Church Ministry Schedule:

Sunday	Date	Ministry
1 <sup>st</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	Communion
2 <sup>nd</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	BYM
3 <sup>rd</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup>	Baptism/Testimony
4 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>	Youth

## TSH MEMBER OF THE MONTH



**Sis. Senella Johnson**