

September 2021

We've made it to a brand new Church Year! To God be the glory!

As of September 1st, we began our Church Year 2021/2022, and what a year it is poised to be! In addition to joyfully making our way back to our church campus when the time is right, we will likewise triumphantly enter our brand new Cathedral and Christian Education Complex, casually known as the CEC. And that's just the beginning of our celebration. In this church year (on June 5th, to be exact) we will likewise celebrate 60 years as a church family! Our God has graciously and generously lavished our church with manifold blessings, whereof we are glad. So all this church year, we will celebrate and commemorate the great things God continues to do in our midst!

Thanks be to God for our Founding Pastor, and his love for God and God's people. It is because of his diligence as a pastor/leader that we have had such a strong foundation on which to build. His sacrifices and selflessness must never be forgotten as we relish the privilege of being a part of such a phenomenal congregation. In that same vein, we celebrate the charter members of our church, both those in sainted memory (with special gratitude to Mrs. Lawson) and those who remain among us, whether at Wheeler or beyond. Their commitment to our congregation has likewise ensured its progress until this day. To God be the glory for them all.

We're headed back to church very soon, family! We do not have an exact date yet, but we are much closer to our return. I can sense it! I can feel it! With the eyes of faith, I can see it! Let's continue to pray that God will reveal His plan to us so that we will soon be able to return in safety. I admonish those who have not yet been vaccinated to please make your way to one of the many vaccination stations in the greater Houston area, and help to keep yourself and others safe and secure from this virus that has plagued our land for far too long.

I am excited about the many things that will happen during this church year! I hope you are too! Let's plan to rejoice as we plan to return to the place that many of us love so much! And as we plan to return we likewise plan to help restore the many lives that have been devastated by Hurricane Ida. The decimation of homes and other property has left many in the human family in what seems to be a hopeless life situation. But because we know Who our God is, we are called to restore the hope of those who currently languish in despair. Therefore, all the resources you give to Missions and Mercy this month will go to helping those along the Gulf Coast and those in the Northeast recover from their challenging reality. Because of our generosity, we have already been blessed to give \$25,000 to the recovery efforts of our brothers and sisters in Haiti through the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention which is now led by our sister and friend Dr. Gina M. Stewart of Memphis, Tennessee, who is now the convention's first woman president! (A *HALLELUJAH* goes right there!)

Finally, may this ninth month of the calendar year, and this first month of our church year reveal afresh God's favor and faithfulness, both in your house as well as in the House of the Lord!

I know I say it with significant (and appropriate) redundancy, but

**To God be the glory for the great things our God has done, is doing and plans to do with
and through Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church!**

As we head back to church,
M.D. Cosby