

**THE WITNESS
SPRINGS OF LIFE-GIVING WATER CHURCH
2022 ANNUAL REPORT**



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Pastor William L. Mathis, J.D., M. Div.

Springs of Life-Giving Water – “The place where God and I meet to become...”



Pastor William L. Mathis, J.D., M.Div.

PASTOR'S LETTER

December 13, 2022

Beloved,

Grace, Mercy, and Peace be unto you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

It has been my pleasure to serve the Springs of Life-Giving Water, *The Springs*, over these 15 years of our existence. I have seen the ebbs and flows of ministry but never have I ever doubted the commitment, determination, and resolution of the great people of *The Springs*. Our world has changed tremulously over these 15 years yet *The Springs* has always adjusted to fulfill God's intent for our ministry with excellence, not because we are perfect but more so because we are determined. Without question, I have discovered because of our lived experiences, sacrifices, and opportunities seized, God is pleased and as a result, He rewards us openly and mind-blowingly, revealing His very presence, power, and promises for our lives. Therefore, as we enter the year 2023 we do so, I am convinced, from a *Most Favored Status!*

The year 2022 for our ministry has been a year in which we intentionally *Breathe: New Life*. Coming out of the year 2021 when we for the first time, experienced the benefits of my being away on Sabbatical and the church joining me in resting, rediscovering, and terminating ministry in these new times, we did so diligently seeking to discover, develop, and execute new ways of ministry that take our service to a new level which is inclusive of in-person as well as virtual ministry. It is this hybrid perspective of going forth in ministry that has stretched, challenged, and revealed abilities and capacities we did not even know existed within us and to which we now have full access. Our ministry has broadened tremendously as a result, we now reach at least 500 viewers each week, just from the Worship Experiences on Sundays and Pastor's Teachings on Thursdays. In addition, we have robust and viable Bible Studies/Disciple Classes, Prayer Meetings, and Events that are in-person and virtual every day of the week, providing options to parishioners and others as well as reaching beyond our physical location to the entire world as our sowing ground. Of course, such a reach and approach through hybrid ministry challenges us financially and technologically, we have met those challenges with the generous and unselfish giving of you our members, family, and friends which enables us to support our ministry with physical and virtual spaces, maintenance and retention of personnel to help administer the ministry, to remain relevant and equipped to exercise ministry in excellence, and take our ministry to all the world; assisting people and communities to become all God intends.

Please take some time to review *The Witness 2022* highlighting ministry this year at *The Springs*. In addition, please also see the vision highlights for 2023, the year the Lord has called us to celebrate, operate, and share in our *Most Favored Status*. I am excited about our move forward and the deepening of our commitment to become all God intends by celebrating, operating, and sharing our *Most Favored Status*. May the Lord richly bless *The Springs* as we continue to *Breathe: New Life* into our experiences!

As always, I am at your service,
Pastor Mathis

BREATHE: NEW LIFE 2022 MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Ministry of Administration

- Continued to increase our visibility and presence in social media and other outlets through marketing and other outreach strategies
- Increased our online giving, especially from non-members
- Continued to identify and pursue other streams of income, including but not limited to exploring and implementing ministries that yield profits as well as pursuing Grant opportunities
- Continued to identify and mentor new Leaders, including restructuring our spiritual leadership and/or adding additional staff persons to meet our need
- Continued pursuit and renovation of the Church Properties

Ministry of Worship

- Expanded Live Streaming audiences for all our Worship Experiences
- Expanded the Ministry of Music to incorporate a diversity of gifts and abilities to enhance the Worship Experience
- Appointed and Hired a Minister of Worship/Music
- Acquired additional equipment to advance not only the in-person Worship experience but also to support the Streaming of the Worship Experiences

MINISTRY OF WHOLENESS

- Continued to establish schedules and recruit for Bible Study opportunities on a quarterly basis, including but not limited to establishing small group studies, expanding options for Bible Studies
- Sponsored a Holiday Bazaar to foster fellowship as well as exposure
- Conducted Breast Cancer awareness event
- Developed a new network to help support the causes of the non-profit Girls Uplift Inc.

Ministry of Education

- Judah's Army and We2 expanded active participation in the main Worship Experiences and expanded participation in other ministries of the Church
- Continued development and transformation of Saturday School to collaborate with Ubuntu: Circle of Influence; an opportunity to foster our Blackness through integrating our traditions, cultures, responsibility, and accountability as a community, for our future, including addressing challenges and creating triumphs, into the Judah's Army and We2 Christian Discipleship programming.
- Instituted an application process for the Tutoring Program
- Added a Prayer Worship Experience specifically for Judah's Army and We2
- Added a quarterly reading list for all:
 - 3-5 y/o
 - 5-8 y/o
 - 8-12 y/o
 - 13-17 y/o
 - Adults

Ministry of Service

- Strived to commit 10% of our income toward urban and global outreach ministry
- Expansion of Prison Ministry and Development of Reentry Ministry
- Redevelopment of the Ministry of Missions, specifically urban and global ministries, and serving as a community convener for mission-related causes
- Explored and begin the development of a Community Resource Center

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MOST FAVORED STATUS 2023 VISION HIGHLIGHTS

Ministry of Administration

- Continue to increase our visibility and presence in social media and other outlets through marketing and other outreach strategies
- Increase our online giving, especially from non-members
- Continue to identify and pursue other streams of income, including but not limited to exploring and implementing ministries that yield profits as well as pursue Grant opportunities
- Continue to identify and mentor new Leaders, including restructuring our spiritual leadership and/or adding additional staff persons to meet our need
- Continued development of Operational Manual for Ministry, including but not limited to Policy Manual
- Continued pursuit and renovation of the Church Properties

Ministry of Worship

- Expand Live Streaming audiences for all our Worship Experiences
- Perfecting and expanding Media Ministry to assist with the streaming of our Worship Experience that is online and broadcast friendly
- Expansion of the Ministry of Music to incorporate a diversity of gifts and abilities to enhance the Worship Experience

Ministry of Wholeness

- Accommodate venues for virtual and in-person relational Bible studies.
- Expand studies to focus on stewardship
- Expand studies to accommodate and meet people where they are, including Net-work study opportunities
- Increase Social Media Presence (Witness)
- Increase focus and participation in Women's Ministry (R.E.A.L.)
- Sponsor Retreats

Ministry of Education

- Quarterly Judah's Army and/or We2 Forums
- Judah's Army and We2 Ministry Getaways
- Expansion of collaborative opportunities, locally and globally, i.e. Project New Generation

Ministry of Service

- Continue to commit to tithing 10% of income toward urban and global outreach ministry
- Continue redevelopment of the Ministry of Missions, specifically urban and global ministries, and serve as a community convener for mission-related causes
- Continue to develop the Community Resource Center, especially as a partner with the Ministry of Education and local service providers
- Continue to expand and develop our annual Christmas Giveaway

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SPRINGS OF LIFE-GIVING WATER CHURCH LEADERSHIP

**The Very Reverend William L. Mathis, J. D., M. Div.
Pastor**

COUNCIL OF ELDERS AND MINISTERS

The Very Reverend Geraldine Brown
The Very Reverend Allison Hobson-Gulley

DIACONATE

Deacon Joyce Hunter, Chair	Mother Mary Heyward, Vice-Chair
Deacon Walter Bailey	Mother Estelle Barfield, Emeritus
Deacon Ezekiel Barfield, Emeritus	Deacon Andrea Scott Boyd
Deacon Kia Carrington	Deacon Zelinda Clark
Deacon Mary Dixon, Emeritus	Mother Rosie Buie-Edwards
Deacon Wanda Howard	Mother Annie Hudson
Deacon Robin Hobson Sims	Mother Cynthia Lyde
Deacon Tamara Prescott	Mother Vaundella Tucker
Deacon Yvonne Walker, Emeritus	

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Very Reverend William Mathis, Pastor-Chair
The Very Reverend Geraldine Brown, Executive Pastor (Ex-Officio)
Deacon Joyce Hunter, Vice-Chair (Diaconate)
Shaynise Rose, Secretary (Member-at-Large)
David Moye (Member-at-Large)
Darius Staggers, Ministry of Finance

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Darius Staggers, Chair	Louis Gripper
Joyce Hunter	David Moye
Frank Ponteau	Claudette Robinson-Thorpe
John Tucker	

STAFF

The Very Reverend Geraldine Brown, Executive Pastor/Minister of Education
Deacon Kia Carrington, Administrative Assistant to the Pastor
Aaron Armstrong-Michelle, Minister of Worship
The Very Reverend Allison Hobson Gulley, Minister of Wholeness
Morris Sumpter, Sexton

MISSION

To assist people and communities in becoming all God intends through worship, wholeness, education, and service in a spirit of excellence.

VISION

The Springs is the place where God and I meet in a liberating and relevant worship in order that Christ will lead us through our everyday experiences and empower us to spring forth as His witness in our lives, our community, and our world. (Revelation 7:14-17)

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