Theme:
“The Definitive Choir Equipped For Worship”

Scripture Reference:
“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord”
(Colossians 3:16).

When:
Thursday, October 22, 2015 at 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Friday, October 23, 2015 at 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 24, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.

Location:
St. John Missionary Baptist Church - South Campus – 662 So. 52nd Street, Richmond, CA

Guest Clinician:
Pastor John Paul McGee, St. James United Methodist Church, Alpharetta, GA

Description:
The iChoir Symposium is designed to bring all choir members into an unforgettable experience that goes beyond just notes and techniques. They will become a closer-knit Ministry that is spiritually focused, musically prepared, and biblically equipped for worship. This experience will burst with love, joy and enthusiasm as it opens your heart, touches your soul and demonstrates how you can be free with gospel music.
Our Guest Clinician

Pastor John Paul McGee, a gifted young servant of God, is the son of Pastor Steven McGee (Cincinnati, OH) and Carol Bonds (Baltimore, MD). He received Christ at the tender age of five and accepted his call to the preaching ministry at age 12. Elder McGee was licensed to preach on February 21, 1999 at the New Friendship Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor Ralph D. White, and ordained an Elder on June 20, 2007 at Hope Fellowship Church by Bishop Derek T. Triplett. There he served as the Associate Pastor of Music and Ministry Development. Pastor McGee currently serves the St. James United Methodist Church, the fastest growing African American Church in Alpharetta, GA as Pastor of Worship and Arts.

Since a young age, by God’s grace, Pastor John has been frequently engaged as a motivational speaker, lecturer, orator and revivalist for various churches and organizations throughout the United States and various international locations. Most recently in the summer of 2010, Pastor McGee was featured in a 10 day preaching and miracle crusade in Ghana, West Africa. His unique preaching gift and writing prowess was recognized in 2009 when his sermon “Handle Your Business” was featured in the Seminarian’s Issue of the African American Pulpit Journal, the premier publication in the United States for preaching in the African American tradition.

In addition to the ministry of proclamation, John is also an anointed minstrel of music. At the age of four without any formal training, he began to play familiar hymns and church songs by ear. Pastor McGee’s mother, aware of his special gift, made the sacrifices necessary to ensure that John received official musical training and development. By age of eleven, he was studying piano and pipe organ at the New Shiloh School of Music under the tutelage of the late Dr. Nathan Carter. He graduated in 2002 from Baltimore School for the Arts, a national leader amongst college preparatory arts high schools, with an arts certificate in Piano and Opera Studies. His studies and performances also extend to the Boston University Tanglewood Institute, the Washington Opera Institute for Young Singers, Nationally Syndicated NPR Radio Show “From the Top”, and many more.

While growing as a musician academically, John also pursued his musical gifting in gospel music. He began his career in church music at the age of 12 as full-time minister of music at Waters AME church in Baltimore. For the next five years, he served in various administrative and musical capacities at major churches in the Baltimore/Washington Metropolitan area. As a keyboardist, vocal arranger, producer, and songwriter he has been privileged to grace stages on major platforms with many popular gospel and secular artists such as: Patti Labelle, The Isley Brothers, Twinkie Clark-Terrell, Karen-Clark Sheard, Judith McCallister, Byron Cage, Shirley Caesar, Dorothy Norwood, Kierra Sheard, Lecresia Campbell, Cynthia Wilson, Bruce Parham,
Alvin Darling, Tedd Winn, Wess Morgan, IZZY, Kim McFarland, Maurette Brown-Clark, Vashawn Mitchell, Stephen Hurd, Steve Lawrence, Jonathan Nelson, Anthony Brown and many others. His work at production extends to the Central Florida Mass Choir, Derek Triplett and the Hope Fellowship Chorale, Bishop W.L Washington and the Powerhouse Church of Deliverance Choir, B Chase Williams and the Shabach Choir, the Arkansas Gospel Mass Choir, and Bishop Rudolph McKissick and the Word and Worship Mass Choir, to name a few. John currently serves independent gospel label Emtro Records as vocal producer.

John’s style of playing is referred to as a unique intermingling of the gospel, classical, and jazz genres. As such he has been awarded several honors and claimed first place in several national piano competitions. He has been the featured guest for the Daytona Beach Symphony Society annual luncheon as well as an invited pianist for varying types of events. Through his unique musical gifting God has opened doors for Pastor McGee to touch lives across the state of Florida and various portions of the world, at various jazz festivals, competitions, dinner engagements, and tours. John traveled with the jazz combo as the featured pianist on a performing tour of Barcelona and Madrid, Spain. He is frequently engaged as a clinician and workshop instructor in the music arena. In 2006 and 2008, he was blessed to serve the people of Copenhagen, Denmark during their annual Gospel Music Festival as a clinician and instructor Most recently, he was engaged for Sangfesten 2010 in Flekkefjord, Norway. There he was responsible for planning and leading their annual week long celebration of gospel music. He also won first place in the 2006 James A. Hefner HBCU National Piano Competition, held at Tennessee State University. Pastor McGee regularly appears as collaborative pianist with Grammy Nominated artist Rev. Cynthia Wilson, leading worship in many of the foremost conferences for the United Methodist Church Conferences across America (Convocation for UMC Black Pastors, Convocation of UMC Extended Cabinets, Aldersgate Conference). Also in 2014, he released his first solo musical project, “A Christmas With John Paul” featuring his dynamic piano ministry which instantly went to Billboard’s top 10 gospel charts.

Pastor McGee is a 2006 graduate of Bethune-Cookman College with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music with a concentration in Piano Performance. He is a May 2008 graduate of Liberty University with a Master of Arts in Religion with a concentration in Church Ministries. There at Liberty, his seminary professors and homiletics classmates elected him “Preacher of the Semester”. Pastor John has also studied at Regent University, Asbury Theological Seminary, and Gammon Theological Seminary of the ITC in Atlanta, GA. He is a 2015 graduate of Emory University in Atlanta, Ga with a Master of Sacred Music Degree with a concentration in Pipe Organ Performance. Although his accomplishments are many, Pastor McGee does not want to be known simply as a great musician or preacher. He desires that in whatever form of ministry he executes that God’s people would have an authentic encounter with the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.
Symposium Outline

Servanthood – At St. John Missionary Baptist Church, we take serving the Lord very seriously. Involvement in ministry on any level is a privilege and honor as we have been chosen and anointed by virtue of God’s amazing grace. Therefore, in the Music Ministry, we endeavor to selflessly serve, meaning that we take care of God’s house and God’s people in God’s way and not our own.

Servanthood, of course, comes with its challenges and we realize this at St. John. However, Jesus reminds us that those who would become great must first serve. God honors our commitment to servanthood as we come into a deeper knowledge that ministry is not about us, it’s all about God. In the context of our ministry servanthood includes the following:

- Being on time and holding to the commitments of the Worship and Arts Ministry Covenant you signed.
- Focusing on assigned tasks doing your absolute best, at all times, to complete it.
- Handling conflict in a Godly manner. When issues arise, our leadership team will do its best to make sure they are handled spiritually and judiciously. However, when issues arise it is your responsibility to make them known, and attempt to deal with it in a way that resolves the conflict at hand and minimizes personal offense.

In serving in the Music Ministry of St. John we ask that you assess the following areas:

The Lifestyle of the Worshipper

- Participants must be born-again believers of Christ, and their lifestyle must resemble that of a born-again Christian.
- It is very important for those who participate in the Praise Team to feel that they are “called, appointed, and anointed”
- to the ministry at hand
- Participants must model worship on and off the platform. Worshippers engage in worship at home, while in the congregation on their “off” Sundays, and while leading worship on the stage. Anyone who has difficulty worshiping when “off-duty” is not ready to be a part of the Music Ministry.

The Skill of The Worshipper

Although we recognize the importance of a pure heart, we also operate in the spirit of excellence at St. John. Persons serving in the Music Ministry should be gifted in the area they have signed up for. All Christian believers have been given spiritual gifts for the exaltation of God’s glory and the edification of the body of Christ.
In order to follow the flow of the Spirit, Music Ministry members should be committed to the proficient use of and growth in their ministry gifting. All servants should have open hearts to receive advice, correction, and training, “Kenaniah the head Levite was in charge of the singing; that was his responsibility because he was skillful at it”. (1 Chronicles 15:22) One does not need to be a professional artist (musician, dancer, actor, singer) to worship the Lord, but we believe that God honors the discipline of additional practice and preparation.

The Commitment of the Worshipper

- Music Ministry members should be actively involved at St. John, dedicated to its mission, vision, and leadership. This commitment is shown minimally through prayer, regular worship attendance, and financial support through tithes and offering.
- Music Ministry members are asked to commit to punctual attendance at weekly rehearsals. Forasmuch as Music Ministry members commit to ministry, we ask that they do their best to minimize other obligations that interfere with their ability to serve in the ministry to which they have been called. Lack of attendance and chronic tardiness is a display of a lack of discipline and against the terms of the Music Ministry Covenant.

The Presentation of the Worshipper

- As leaders, Music Ministry members must dress appropriately and modestly for the corporate worship experience. Although, God does not judge us by outward appearance (1 Samuel 16:7), we believe that proper attire shows respect for God, the house of God, and our task to lead God’s people into an experience with the divine. Consequently, members are encouraged to be neat, clean, and appropriately dressed for all services.
- Inappropriate dress for regular worship services includes T-shirts, old jeans, sweats, short skirts, tight pants, sleeveless dresses, fishnet stockings, etc. “All the Levites who were musicians . . . stood on the east side of the altar, dressed in fine linens . . . “. (2 Chronicles 5:12)

The Process of Assimilating New Worship Arts Ministry Members

At St. John Missionary Baptist Church, we constantly seek to expand our Music Ministry. Anyone interested in serving is encouraged to set up an appointment with the ministry leadership discuss the guidelines and expectations presented in this manual. Depending on the ensemble, the prospective Music Ministry member will also have a brief and informal audition at this time to determine proper voice placement. Please be advised that new applicants to all Music Ministry ensembles may be asked to attend 2 rehearsals before “taking the platform” to minister publicly. This period is a necessary step to evaluate how persons function within the Music Ministry ensemble, as well as to discern commitment and skill level.
DRESS CODE GUIDELINES

What You *Shouldn’t* Wear

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. No hems on skirts or dresses that are more than three inches above the top of the knee.</td>
<td>1. No tank tops or sloppy T-shirts. Also, No shirts with large logos.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. No sweat pants</td>
<td>2. No shorts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. No see-through (e.g., lace) blouses without an under blouse.</td>
<td>4. Nice jeans are appropriate, no holes or designs permitted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. No printed logos are allowed on clothing</td>
<td>5. No tight, form fitting clothes (hint: any clothing that excessively outlines intimate parts of the body or underclothing is too tight).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. No tight, form fitting pants or dresses (hint: any clothing that excessively outlines intimate parts of the body or underclothing is too tight).</td>
<td>6. No hats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. No hats are to be worn while ministering</td>
<td>7. No earrings or excessive jewelry. Wedding bands and modest bracelet allowed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Please do wear deodorant.</td>
<td>8. <strong>NO COLOGNE OR HEAVILY SCENTED LOTION</strong> (many people have allergies or asthma and perfumes can cause adverse reactions in such individuals). Deodorant is a MUST.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. No dangling earrings or gaudy jewelry. Modest earrings, necklaces, wedding rings are allowed.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. <strong>NO PERFUME OR HEAVILY SCENTED LOTION</strong> (many people have allergies or asthma and perfumes can cause adverse reactions in such individuals). Deodorant is a MUST.</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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Business Casual is the Appropriate Standard for Weekday Services. Choir Robes/Church Dress Attire is the Appropriate Standard for Sunday Services Unless Otherwise Noted by Worship Arts Ministry Leadership.
St. John Missionary Baptist Church
Music Ministry Covenant

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. 2 Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. (Romans 12:1, NLT)

Welcome to the Music Ministry! Your participation as a member of this department is an overflow of your life's devotion to glorifying Jesus Christ. Living the Christian life depends not only on our own effort but upon God our Father, who in Jesus Christ accepts us as heirs of God (Galatians 4:4-7) and strengthens and sustains us to do God's will (Philippians 4:13). As God is the superior party in this covenant, we will look to God daily for strength and guidance in meeting its terms.

Therefore I:

- Covenant to grow and nourish my faith by maintaining a personal devotional life, including private worship, prayer, and the study of the Holy Scriptures. As such I will live, with the Spirit's help, a lifestyle that conforms to the standards of God's word and agrees with the doctrines and practices of the St. James United Methodist Church.
- Covenant to pray for the Music Ministry of St. John Missionary Baptist Church, its ministry leaders, and the entire church body at large.
- Covenant to faithful and punctual attendance at all scheduled rehearsals and meetings, using my gifts and graces whenever and wherever needed in the Music Ministry, promoting the spirit of humility and servanthood.
- Covenant to full commitment in growing in the skillsets required for technical excellence in the Music Ministry, with aims to lead others to a genuinely spiritual, yet aesthetically/audibly pleasing corporate worship experience.
- Covenant to faithfully attend worship services and to enroll in bible study. I do this in full remembrance that commitment to corporate worship and bible study is a part of my willful response to God’s grace, both having been designed for God’s glory and my Christian discipleship growth.
- Covenant to do all I can to maintain the unity of the Church, especially in regards to my relationships with my fellow Christian brothers and sisters. In the face of conflict and disagreement, I consider it my responsibility to seek resolution in a prayerful and gentle manner that reflects the fruit of the Spirit, settling any differences with others in the spirit of love and unity.
- Covenant to abide by Music Ministry Policies and Procedures as outlined in, “Roles and Responsibilities of Worship and Arts Ministry Members”.

Signature: ________________________________ Date: ______________________
Thank You
Richard Smallwood

CHOIR VERSE 1:
For the many times I've fallen
Yet You forgave me, thank You,
Lord, I thank You For unmerited favor,
And Your brand new mercies
Thank You, how I thank You
For wakin' me up this morning
For letting me see one more dawning
Thank You, Lord, I thank You,
I thank You, Lord, Oooooh

CHOIR VERSE 2:
For life, health, and strength
For food and for shelter,
Thank You, Lord, I thank You
If I had ten thousand tongues
It just wouldn't be enough to say
Thank You, how I thank You
For waking me up this morning
For letting me see one more dawning
Thank You, Lord, I thank You,
I thank You, Lord, Oooooh

BRIDGE (Call/Response with Lead):
For saving my soul, for making me whole
For calming my fears, for wiping my tears
And letting me know that I'm not alone
For wakin’ me up this morning
For letting me see one more dawning

VAMP:
Thank You
Psalm 117
Earl Bynum

Praise the Lord, All ye nations! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord, All ye people! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord, All ye nations! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord, All ye people! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord, All ye nations! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord, All ye people! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord, All ye nations! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord, All ye people! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, All ye nations! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord, All ye people! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord, All ye nations! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord, All ye people! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

For His merciful kindness is great toward us!
And the truth of the Lord endureth forever!
We were made to praise the Lord! We were made to praise the Lord!
We will praise, praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

With my whole heart, I will bless Him!
With my Spirit, I will praise Him
With my soul, I will say, Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord!
**Even Me**  
Patrick Lundy

Sop: Lord I Hear of, Showr’s of Blessings, Thou Art Scattering Full and Free

Sop/Alt: Showr’s The Thirsty, Souls Refreshing, Let Some Drops Now Fall On Me  
(Repeat from the top with All 3 Voice Parts)

Vamp: Even me Lord, Even Me, Let Some Drops Now Fall on Me

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**All of the Praise**  
Dr. F Bruce Williams and Bates Memorial Baptist Church

Jesus, You’ve Been So Good to Me  
When I see How Far You’ve Brought Me  
And Given Me the Victory, Oh Jesus  
I Cannot Tell It All  
My Mind’s Made Up, I’m Gonna Give You All of the Praise

BRIDGE:  
Where Would I Be  
I Could Not See  
I Would Be Lost  
You Paid the Cost

VAMP:  
All of the Praise 2X  
Glory and Honor Belongs to You
Search Me Lord
Ricky Dillard

You Know Lord, Whether I’m Right
You Know Lord, Whether I’m Wrong
You Know Lord, Whether I’m Right or Wrong, Whether I’m Right or Wrong

Alt: While I’m Down Here Praying, Lord Search My Heart
Sop: While I’m Down Here Praying, Lord Search My Heart
Ten: While I’m Down Here Praying, Lord Search My Heart

Choir: You Know Lord, Whether I’m Right
You Know Lord, Whether I’m Wrong
You Know Lord, Whether I’m Right or Wrong, Whether I’m Right or Wrong

Bridge: We’re Your Children Lord, And We Need Your Direction
Guide Us In Your Way, So We Don’t Stray

Choir: You Know Lord, Whether I’m Right
You Know Lord, Whether I’m Wrong
You Know Lord, Whether I’m Right or Wrong, Whether I’m Right or Wrong

Vamp: Search Me, Search Me Lord