

Shiloh Baptist Church Quarterly Newsletter

Spring Quarter 2026 Page 8

Commitment: Love God, Love People, Be Healed *by Unknown*

In the Book of Hosea, God speaks to a people who believe love can be found in self-gratifying, ungodly pursuits. But God uses Hosea to gain their attention by calling him to live a life that shows forth the kind of love God offers His people. God instructs the prophet to marry a prostitute named Gomer. She habitually breaks the marriage covenant and strays into the arms of others; but Hosea continually seeks her out and brings her back.

The gist of Hosea's prophetic life message is that God's unfailing love is ever available to us; even when we resist Him and run toward worldly excuses for love. God will continually reach out toward His unfaithful people to lead us back into His embrace.

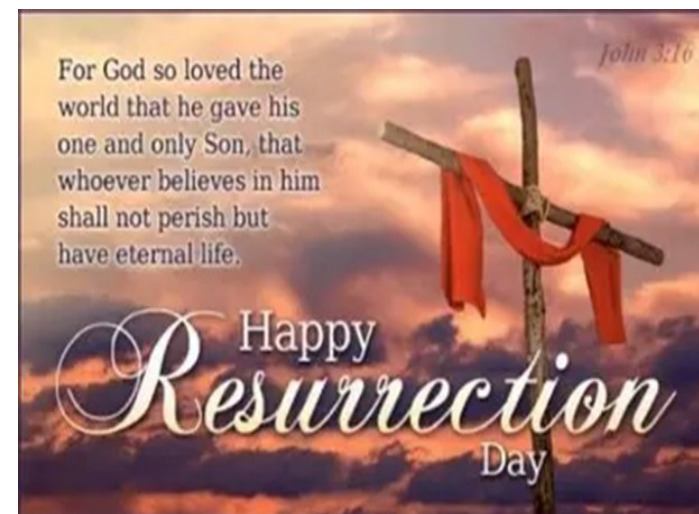
Observe how society's perception of commitment in relationships affect our lives. It's as if there's an escape clause stating, "If this relationship doesn't turn out the way I want it to, I can get out of it." This starkly contrasts with the unconditional commitment called for between God and His people. No matter how far we wander, God has promised to never leave us nor forsake us (*Hebrews 13:5*).

In biblical text, there are two types of covenants: vertical, wherein God created us to be in covenant with Himself, and horizontal, wherein we are to be in a covenant with others in the context of marriage (*Malachi 2:14*). Let's purpose in our hearts to model God's faithfulness because when we love one another, we testify that we are God's children and show forth to the world the only true love – the limitless, unfathomable love of God (*John 13:34-35*).

Weekly Schedule

- ◇ Sunday School - 8 am
- ◇ Sunday Church Service - 9 am
- ◇ Weekly Zoom Prayer - Tuesday 6 pm
ID 941 301 1716; Password 872111
- ◇ Zoom Bible Study - Tuesday 6:45 pm
ID 267 494 3546; Password Shiloh
- ◇ Women's Bible Study - 4th Saturday 9:15 am
- ◇ Mass Choir Rehearsal - 1st Saturday
- ◇ Praise Team Rehearsal - 1st, 2nd & 4th Saturday 10 am
- ◇ Men's Choir Rehearsal - 3rd Saturday 9:30 am
- ◇ Usher Board Meeting - 1st Saturday 12:00 noon

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Voices of Shiloh

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Joseph Bryant, Interim Pastor



In life we understand things will happen. Of the many, **change** is ever present. Whether it's in our personal lives, family relationships or at work, the question we must ask ourselves is "how should we handle these changes?"

None of us are able to predict what will happen in the future, and we are not expected to. Our future is in God's Hands and He has made it clear that if we stay true to His Word, if we trust in Him and follow His greatest commandment, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength" (*Matthew 12: 30*). There is no need to worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself (*Matthew 6: 34*).

Tomorrow is not within our grasp; the only time we truly possess is the present. Excessive worry about the future reveals a lack of trust in the One who holds our tomorrow in His Hands. Rejoice in it!



Shiloh Trusts God With The Changes We Experience

June 2026 will mark one year that Reverend Joseph Bryant was selected as our Interim Pastor. Ongoing Pulpit Committee meetings are being held to select our next pastor after the death of Pastor David Hill in January 2025.

We're looking to hire a "bivocational" pastor, a gifted, and selfless individual who regularly serves the Lord and the church in addition to his full-time secular job (*Word by Word Ministry by Karen Engle*).

Churches typically go this route when they aren't

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LAST WORDS FROM THE CROSS



Good Friday gives Christians another opportunity to meditate on the depth of Jesus' sacrifice for us — suffering a humiliating death by crucifixion.

Jesus spoke seven times during the six hours He was hanging on the cross, and each time He spoke, He revealed something of His love.

1. FORGIVENESS. "Father forgive them, for they do not know what they do" (**Luke 23:34**). By interceding for His transgressors through this prayer, Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament prophecy foretold by Isaiah hundreds of years prior. This prayer, from upon the cross would have been a confirmation of His identity to those awaiting their beloved Messiah.

2. SALVATION. "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." (**Luke 23:43**). Jesus expresses assurance and comfort to the repentant criminal. Despite the crucifixion's agony, Jesus offers this man hope and forgiveness.

3. CARE. "Woman, behold your son!" and to the Disciple, "Behold your mother!" (**John 19:26-27**). When Jesus recognized His mother standing near the cross with the Apostle John, He entrusted His mother's well-being to John's responsibility.

4. ABANDONMENT. "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" (**Matthew 27:46**). It occurred about the ninth hour after sunrise. Jesus had been in agony on the cross for six hours. Some have noted it was "a cry of distress, not of distrust." Here, we see the Father turning away from the Son as Jesus bore the full weight of our sin.

5. HUMANITY. "I Am Thirsty." (**John 19:28**). Here, Jesus was answering the prophecy from Psalm 69:21; "They put gall in my food and gave me vinegar for my thirst." Out of physical exhaustion Jesus declares his thirst.

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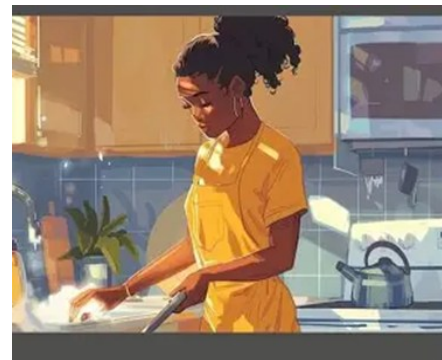


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The Unnamed Women by Elisa Morgan

After wiping down tables with disinfectant, Shelia stooped to tie a garbage bag filled with used cups and plates. She heaved the bag over her shoulder and turned to survey the church's multipurpose room. She'd volunteered to clean it for the next gathering and wanted to make sure it was ready. A thought fluttered through her mind: Would anyone notice?



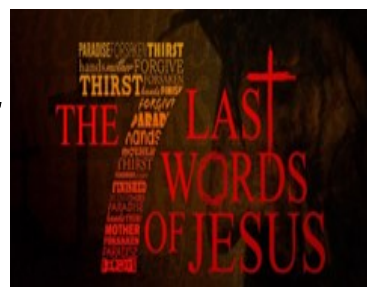
It's easy to wonder if our everyday contributions to the kingdom are valued. Whether we clean, balance spread-sheets, lead a Bible study, or give money, so many of us remain unseen in our places

of service and unnamed in public commendations.

In Luke 8:1-2, the historian catalogs the faithful service of women in the ministry of Jesus. He lists three by name from among the women freed of evil spirits and diseases: Mary of Magdalene; Joanna the wife of Chuza, who managed Herod's household; and Susanna. Then Luke says, "Many others . . . were helping to support [Jesus and His disciples] out of their own means". Luke spotlights these unnamed women who invested themselves in supporting the gospel, and so underlines their value.

Just as God includes unnamed women in His account of valuable contributions to His kingdom, He sees our efforts. He knows our names (*John 10:3*), and He sees our investment in His work (*Hebrews 6:10*).

Please join us in attending our Good Friday Service on April 3 at 7 pm where the **Last Words From The Cross** will be delivered by guest Bay Area Ministers and Pastors.



Sister Shirley Clay Has Gone Home To Glory



Sister Shirley Clay was recently called home to be with the Lord. Her celebration of life was held at Shiloh on Saturday, March 21 at 11 am. Shirley was highlighted in our Fall 2024 Quarterly Newsletter. Noted

below are a few excerpts of that interview: She was born an only child in St. Louis, Missouri. Her mother and Momma (grandmother), left Arkansas in 1963 and travelled 1816 miles on Amtrak to forge a new start in California. Shirley's favorite pastime was to walk a few miles two to three times a week, which allowed her to enjoy nature, meditate and visit a few friends along the way. One of the things Shirley hoped for was for Shiloh to continue to grow in membership, and as God would have it, before she passed, she began to see a spurt in our growth. We miss our Sister and pray that the support we give her son Cedrix and other family members will provide the comfort they need during this time of grief.

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6. ACCOMPLISHMENT. "It Is Finished." (John 19:30). The debt owed by man on account of Adam's sin is forever dealt with. It is finished, done, signed, and sealed because of the blood of Jesus.

7. SURRENDER. "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit. (Luke 23:46) After hanging on the cross for three hours, Jesus finally gave up his life. The Son of Man came to give his life as a ransom for many.

These last words give insight into Jesus' heart, mission, experience, and love for us. Each phrase teaches us about his ability to empathize with our humanity. They demonstrate his unwavering commitment to his Father's will and his complete fulfillment of the prophecies found in the Scriptures.



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Happenings at Shiloh

- ◇ Apr 3 - Good Friday Service 7 pm
- ◇ Apr 5 - Resurrection Sunday
- ◇ Apr 18 - Church Bylaws Meeting 11 am
- ◇ Apr 21-23 - "REFRESH" Church Revival 7 pm
- ◇ Apr 26 - Autism, Light It Up Blue
- ◇ May 2 - Young Adult Retreat
- ◇ May 10 - Mother's Day
- ◇ May 16 - Health Care Workshop 10 am-12 noon
- ◇ May 17 - Pastor Appreciation
- ◇ May 25 - Memorial Day
- ◇ May 31 - Mission Sunday
- ◇ Jun 2 - Church Anniversary
- ◇ Jun 19 - Juneteenth
- ◇ Jun 20 - Career Day
- ◇ Jun 21 - Father's Day

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able to provide the person full-time pay. The "birth" of the bivocational ministry goes back to the Apostle Paul, (*1 Thessalonians 2:9*) who supported himself financially by making tents as he traveled from city to city" so he would not be a financial burden on those to whom he was ministering.

When blessed with a bivocational pastor, churches can increase their ministry without depleting their often limited budget. Some bivocational pastors may struggle with their pastoral identity, but one pastor serving in this capacity said it has given him a deeper sense of his vocation. His secular job is how he makes a living, but he says being a pastor "is who I am. It is who God has called me to be."

Shiloh is collectively praying for God to send us a pastor that understands our limitations and is excited about where He is leading us. Whomever God chooses, that person will not only have God as his guide, but will have a full complement of ministerial and administrative staff, a strong Board of Trustees, auxiliary leadership and a loving congregation.



April

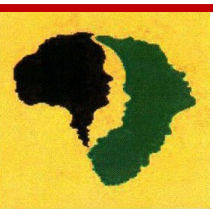
5th Jawaan Rubin Birthday
11th Dimarea Capers Birthday
13th Anthony Jackson Birthday
15th Jackie Galloway Birthday
26th Ashlee Harrell Birthday
28th Carlotta Parks Birthday
28th Artesia Dupree Birthday

May

6th Willie Lewis Birthday
10th Chris Clark Birthday
11th Shelia Davis Birthday
13th Ton'ica Deamison Birthday
15th Gail Coates Birthday
18th Celeste and Willie Jones Anniversary
21st Corey McDonald Birthday
29th Quincey Carr Birthday
29th Alma Davis Birthday
29th Jennifer Ferguson Birthday
31st Terry Powe Birthday

June

7th Michelle Wilson Birthday
11th Celeste Jones Birthday
26th Jeanette Blackmon Birthday



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Dottie Peoples: Alma Bryant



Shirley Caesar: Yvette Carr



Bettie Mae Fikes: Sundria Wright



LaShun Page: Pam Lige



James Cleveland: Joseph Bryant



Historian: Gail Coates



Creator: Beverly Riley



Welcome: Yoranna Reynolds
Mistress of Ceremonies: Robin Teague

Our 2026 Black History Program was a long-time vision of Sister Beverly Riley. It was historically representative. We were comforted and inspired; it was renewing to our spirit, reminding us of what we carry with us in our family and hearts every day.

Watch the entire program on: YouTube, Shiloh Baptist Church Hayward CA, February 15, 2026.

We must put on the full armor of God to fight off the stress and despair of the evil and heartless actions coming from Donald Trump and his administration.



Belt of Truth: Buckled around your waist. The Lord says the truth will set you free. **1 John 3:7**

Breastplate of Righteousness: Protect your heart. Righteous acts are no match for Satan. **Isiah 64:6**

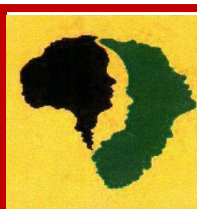
Feet Fitted with Readiness: Deliberate and secure preparation, emphasizing the importance of being grounded in one's beliefs. **Ephesians 6:15**

Shield of Faith: Confidence that God is who he said he is and will do what he said. **Ephesians 6:16**

Helmet of Salvation: Renew our mind, reject doubts that arise from circumstances; keep an eternal perspective; remember that victory is already accomplished; and find all our hope in Him. **1 John 3:9; Matthew 6:20; Hebrew 11:6; Romans 12:1-2.**

Sword of the Spirit: The Word of God. The more we know and understand the Word of God, the more useful we will be in doing the will of God and the more effective we will be in standing against the enemy of our souls. **Hebrews 4:12.**

On March 22, 2026, Shiloh member Malaysia Morris committed her life to Jesus Christ as she was baptized in the Holy Spirit. She performs in Shiloh's Praise Dancers group; and is a member of the Chosen Generation Sunday School Class.



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Until the Lion Tells the story, the hunter will always be the hero—African Proverb

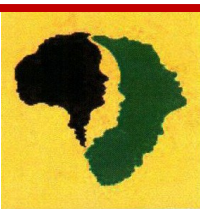
Test Your Memory

1. What year was the first Juneteenth celebration?
2. Which music genres originated in African American communities in the early 20th century?
3. Who wrote "Their Eyes Were Watching God."
4. During the 1920s and 1930s, what movement celebrated Black art, music and literature?
5. Who was the first Black woman to win an Academy Award for Best Actress?
6. What historically Black college did Kamala Harris attend?
7. What African American holiday starts Dec. 26?
8. Who is known as the "Godfather of Soul"?
9. What civil rights leader gave the "I Have A Dream" speech?
10. Who was the first African American President of the United States
11. The first Black woman to be nominated for Best picture at the Academy Awards
12. The first Black woman to travel in space?
13. The first African American to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court?
14. The law that declared segregation in public schools unconstitutional?
15. Who founded Tuskegee Institute in Alabama?
16. The first African American woman elected to the U.S. Congress?
17. One of the oldest civil rights organizations in the U.S.?
18. The all-Black military pilot group that fought in World War II?
19. Legislation that outlawed discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.
20. What tragic event destroyed a thriving Black community known as "Black Wall Street"?
21. Who is known as the "Queen of Soul"?
22. Which jazz trumpeter with puffed cheeks was a leading figure in the development of bebop?
23. What pioneering hip-hop group released "It Takes a Nation of Millions to Hold Us Back?"

24. Which blues guitarist was nicknamed "King of the Blues"?
25. Which artist's song What's Going On is widely considered one of the greatest of all time?
26. The first Black woman to win an Emmy for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series
27. What groundbreaking film by Spike Lee tackled issues of race and police brutality in Brooklyn?
28. What actor portrayed Jackie Robinson, James Brown, and Thurgood Marshall on film?

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| •Booker T. Washington | •B.B. King |
| •The Harlem Renaissance | •Zora Neale Hurston |
| •Spellman College | •Thurgood Marshall |
| •Toni Morrison | •Selma |
| •Marvin Gaye | •Sojourner Truth |
| •Idris Alba | •Rosa Parks |
| •Aretha Franklin | •Civil Rights Act of 1964 |
| •Luther Vandross | •Jay-Z |
| •Viola Davis | •Halle Berry |
| •1863 | •Beyonce |
| •Outkast | •Howard University |
| •Louis Armstrong | •Jazz and Blues |
| •Kwanzaa | •James Brown |
| •Tuskegee Airmen | •Dr. Mae Jamison |
| •Shirley Chisom | •Brown v Board of Education |
| •Harriet Tubman | •Dizzy Gillespie |
| •Common | •Public Enemy |
| •Tulsa Race Massacre | •The Last Poets |
| •Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. | •Chadwick Boseman |
| •1866 | |
| •Do The Right Thing | |

I'm Just Sayin'...
NOT ALL SKIN FOLK
ARE KIN FOLK!



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Member Spotlight



CARLOTTA PARKS

We know her as “Cookie.” She has been Cookie since before she could remember. She said her grandmother gave her that name when she was a baby.

Her birth certificate, however, says her name is Carlotta. “All I know is that no one was able to spell or pronounce my real name” Cookie said.

Her only sibling, Yvette Carr, is also a member of Shiloh. In fact, Cookie, Yvette, and their mother Lydia Mitchell were among the charter members that started Shiloh Baptist Church in 1968 when it was located in Oakland. Records show Cookie is the oldest charter member still living.

Cookie was born in Mobile, Alabama. In the early 1950’s Cookie and her family came to California because her father was stationed here, first in the Navy and then serving in the Airforce. She grew up in the Brookfield Village of Oakland.

Around the time Cookie graduated from Castlemont High School jobs were hard to come by, so she took a job working as an In-Home Care Provider for Alameda County Social Services. Cookie was a high-achieving employee and said her colleagues admired her because she developed a system that allowed her to be more productive. She noted that it wasn’t anything earth shattering, she was just able to combine tasks across several of her clients that allowed her to use her time more effectively. “I am very organized,” Cookie said proudly.

Shopping, eating, and going to the casino are a few of Cookie’s pastimes. She loves to have fun, but esophagus cancer had her down for a few years. She is cancer free now, but her doctor said she had to quit her caregiving job. No problem, Cookie just went and got a part-time

job at the Oakland Coliseum helping a concessionaire sell hot dogs, popcorn, and other snacks. You can check her out at Stand #113.

Cookie doesn’t drive anymore but she’ll tell you in a minute she had her own car at 14 years old. She rides the bus to church on some Sundays and on other Sundays her sister Yvette or Sister JoAnn makes sure she is in attendance. Cookie said, “I know how to get around. The bus helps me learn how to get around.”

Fifty-eight years later and Cookie is as committed to Shiloh as she was in the beginning. She sees the changes and wants to be a part of them, but she also says she would like to see a few of the old traditions come back, like when the choir used to march into the sanctuary on a Sunday morning.



Celebrate June 19, 2026

Attend Local Events ~ Learn and Educate ~ Support
Black-Owned Businesses ~ Host a Gathering

Top 10 Cities for Juneteenth Celebrations

Galveston, TX
Washington, DC
Atlanta, GA
Houston, TX
Philadelphia, PA
New York City, NY
Chicago, IL
Los Angeles, CA
Detroit, MI
Baltimore, MD



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“If you don’t know your history, you won’t appreciate your future”

Black History All Year Long



I’ve heard white people ask “Why do we need a Black History Month?” I say they aren’t just curious, but haters. “White” people (including Spaniards and the Portuguese) raided African nations because they needed people to do the hard and grueling work of clearing, building and cultivating US land so that white people could have autonomy from British rule and create their own nation. So, they choose our ancestors. The details and receipts are a much larger story to be told.

These same people failed to recognize that since the 17th century, the unintended reality is that African Americans’ hard labor was the catalyst to building the foundation of America.

Nikole Hannah-Jones writing for *The New York Times Magazine* points out that black Americans, as much as those men casted in alabaster in the nation’s capital, are this nation’s true “founding fathers.” “...No people have a greater claim to the US flag than us. We were told once, by virtue of our bondage, that we could never be American. But it was by virtue of our bondage that we became the most American of all.”

Ask anyone about when enslaved Black people first arrived in the US and they will say 1619. Technically however, the year was 1526 in Winyah Bay, South Carolina. Africans were brought to the US with about 600 European settlers in an attempt to start a colony.

It should be obvious why a Black History Program or celebration of Black History Month is important to us, and it has less to do with the color of our skin and

more about recognizing and acknowledging our contributions to building the greatest nation in the world.

Shiloh’s celebrations throughout the month culminated with the program, “Africa to America – Where Music and Faith Live In Harmony.”

We heard renditions of music through the ages from artists Mahalia Jackson, 5 Blind Boys, James Cleaveland, and Aretha Franklin. Our own members displayed their vocal talents to pay homage to those that came before us and to those rising stars. Thank you to the Music Department for their “on time” rhythm, coaching and patience.



The 5 Blind Boys: Gary Blodger, Willie Jones, Anthony Jackson, Antoine Hodges and Lewis Galloway



James Cleveland: Jesse Davis, Jr.



Aretha Franklin: Carolyn Bigham



Mahalia Jackson: Delma Rubin



Stevie Wonder: Quincy Carr

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