

Shiloh Baptist Church Quarterly Newsletter

Fall Quarter 2026 Page 8

Do not look where you fell, but where you slipped – African Proverb

his company runs programming at Howard University, including internships and fashion initiatives. He also collaborated with Clark Atlanta University a couple of years back.



Pressed on what drives the investment, Madden framed it as filling a gap he believes goes overlooked. He described HBCUs as an area that doesn't receive the attention it deserves, calling the institutions "a wonderful thing" and adding that he wishes his company could do more, a sentiment he underscored as particularly urgent given the current climate in America.

Madden said he grew up in a community adjacent to Far Rockaway in New York, where he formed friendships that shaped him early on. "I've been very influenced by Black culture in my life," recalling those years as formative.

He also spoke openly about his time in prison, describing it as another period of cultural immersion. Madden recounted a cellmate essentially taking it upon himself to introduce him to hip-hop, an education he described with affection. Racism and bigotry ultimately closes people off from the

kind of learning Madden described. Navigating funding pressures and enrollment challenges, corporate partnerships like the ones Madden described carry real weight, offering HBCU students internships and industry pipelines that can be difficult to secure otherwise.

SOULS TO THE POLLS

California residents may think these efforts are not necessary because we're a solidly "blue state", but we also thought we would never see the likes of a Supreme Court upend centuries of civil rights accomplishments and a president who is unrelenting in how he treats people not in his billionaire circle.



The Supreme Court's gutting protections in the Voting Rights Act made that easier. Louisiana, Alabama and Tennessee quickly drew new maps that dilute Black voting power, raising fears of the civil rights gains of the past 60 years are being destroyed. But these actions have galvanized Black voters, who have mobilized protests in many states and turned out in historic numbers in primaries in South Carolina, for example. That turnout helped prompt the South Carolina legislature to abandon plans to dissolve a majority-Black district. The Georgia legislature also

opted not to act after an outpouring of opposition.

Reverend Earle Fisher, pastor of Abyssinian Missionary Baptist Church in Memphis, an outspoken, ardent group of faith leaders in the city, assisted in mobilizing turnout efforts after the redistricting by Republicans went into effect.

In recent months, the faith-based communities, unions and other civic organizations have hosted poll parties, texted citizens, staffed phone banking, and gone door-to-door to canvass voters.

Fisher said he and other pastors have been planning another "Souls to the Polls" rally like the one that drew more than 1,000 people in Spring 2026. The latest show of force gives him cautious optimism for November.

THE WAY TO VICTORY—VOTE

This is the time of year where we gear up to face a barrage of robocalls, junk mail and signs on lawns. It may be annoying but it's crucial to our democracy. We all need to commit to voting, its our right!

Reverend Joseph Bryant,
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Voices of Shiloh

Shiloh Baptist Church Quarterly Newsletter

Fall Quarter 2026 Issue 4

CHRISTMAS COMES BUT ONCE A YEAR

This is the day we celebrate Christ's birth. Cherish it, Enjoy the festive spirit, Be generous and Share moments with loved ones.

Congregations across the country wonder why they're loosing or can't attract new members, yet there isn't a decrease in people celebrating Christmas. So, keeping Christ in Christmas is a fair request.

Some traditions can, however, be traced back to early pagan cultures and celebrations. Ringing bells, for example, is thought to have originated in an early pagan winter celebration for driving out evil spirits. Bells in later centuries were rung to welcome the joy of the Christmas spirit. Today, when Christians hear a choir singing Christmas carols and ringing bells, it reminds us of Jesus' coming into the world.

Another early pagan tradition is lighting candles to drive away the forces of cold and darkness, but our hearts are drawn to rejoicing our Savior who is the Light of the World (John 1:4-9) when we light candles. Also, it's unlikely that when we give gifts today, we offer a goat.



The gifts given by the Magi (Matthew 2:11) at Jesus' birth, reminds us that Jesus is the greatest gift ever given, and therefore His birth is worthy of celebration.

December 25 is not mentioned in the Bible as the day Jesus was born, but that day gives so many people who wouldn't ordinarily go to church any other time of the year, go on Christmas day to hear the gospel of Christ.

Think about what biblical practices are observed in your Christmas celebration. Feasting is biblical, but gluttony is not, so that's an area Christians should reflect on. Drinking alcoholic beverages is not forbidden by the Bible, but getting drunk is. Giving gifts is biblical, but going into debt or spending beyond your means is not. We should examine our celebrations to make sure they truly honor God.

Romans 14:5-6 says "One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Who ever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. If a Christian does not feel comfortable with some or all aspects of a celebration, Christmas or otherwise,

don't do it.

No one should judge another who believes and celebrates differently, nor should others judge another when no clear biblical guideline is involved.

KWANZAA ~ First Harvest
"matunda ya kwanza," which is Swahili for "first fruits."

Also celebrated during the month of December is Kwanzaa, a holiday tradition based on the "first harvest" celebrations in Africa.

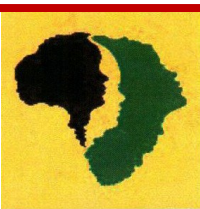
In recorded history, these first harvest celebrations can be traced back to Nubia and Egypt and can be found in cultures all over Africa.

While many of these first-fruit celebrations may differ from one society to another, they all have a



few principles in common. These principles include people gathering together to celebrate, acknowledging the creator and thanking him for his blessings, a commemoration of the past, a re-commitment to African culture, and a time to celebrate community.

In the United States and other countries with populations of African descendants, Kwanzaa is from December 26 to January 1 . It honors



Shiloh Baptist Church Quarterly Newsletter

Fall Quarter 2026 Page 2

Wisdom is like a Baobab Tree, no one person can embrace it— African Proverb

Member Spotlight

Will return with the
Winter 2027
Quarterly Newsletter

DUAL CITIZENSHIP IN AFRICA

The concept of dual citizenship, allowing individuals to hold citizenship in more than one country, has gained significant traction globally, particularly in Africa. As Africa entered a new era of globalization and economic integration, the perspective on dual citizenship began to shift.

The growing connectedness of the world, coupled with increasing migration patterns and the desire to attract foreign investment, led many African nations to reconsider their stance on dual nationality.



Dual citizenship offers enhanced travel freedom as well as strengthening familial ties. Individuals can leverage their dual status to access employment, investment, and business opportunities in both their home countries and their adopted nations, which can lead to increased earning potential, career

advancement, and financial stability. For individuals with family members residing in another country, dual citizenship can facilitate easier communication, visits, and overall family integration.

The evolution of dual citizenship policies in Africa reflects complex historical, political, and social factors. Initially, many newly

independent African nations adopted a restrictive stance towards dual citizenship, largely influenced by a desire to forge strong national identities.

African countries currently allowing dual citizenship include: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, The Gambia, Kenya, Nigeria, Niger, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tunisia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Several nations still maintain policies prohibiting their citizens from holding multiple passports. They often cite concerns regarding national loyalty, security, and the potential for individuals to exploit their dual status for personal gain.

They fear individuals with dual citizenship might prioritize their foreign allegiances over their home country's interests. This sentiment was particularly prevalent in countries that had experienced significant ethnic tensions or political instability, where

maintaining national cohesion was paramount.

Countries that currently don't offer dual citizenship are: Cameroon, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Liberia, and Tanzania.

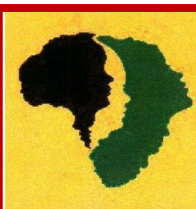
As Africa continues to develop and integrate into the international community, expect to see further developments in dual citizenship policies, reflecting a more inclusive approach to citizenship.

HOPE IN GRIEF by Alyson Kieda

Grieving the loss of a loved one is a natural process that takes time. With death can come gut-wrenching pain and heartache. But here we're instructed to not grieve like "the rest of mankind"—nonbelievers—"who have no hope" (1 Thessalonians 4:13).

Our grief is made more bearable because the Holy Spirit, our Comforter, is with us (John 14:15-17); and we have the assurance of being reunited with our believing loved ones and of enjoying our Savior together, forever.

Believers in Jesus know this life is not all there is. We have the promise of eternal life. Our loved ones are safe in Christ's arms, and one day we'll be reunited in that place where "there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain" (Revelation 21:4) and where "death has been swallowed up in victory" (1 Corinthians 15:54).



Shiloh Baptist Church Quarterly Newsletter

Fall Quarter 2026 Page 7

"If you don't know your history, you won't appreciate your future" — Gail Waiters Coates

Black History All Year Long

HBCUs DISCOVER NEVER REVEALED BLACK HISTORY by Kay Wicker



Cassandra Illidge is the Vice President of Global Partnerships and Executive Director of

HBCU Programs at Getty Images, a major global visual media company founded in 1995. She is responsible for Getty's HBCU archival project launched in 2021 to provide HBCUs with the resources and technology needed to digitize their archives through a first-of-its-kind grant program. Currently there are 11 schools participating.

HBCUs are sitting on hundreds upon hundreds of images, some dating as far back as the 1800s, depicting rarely seen moments of Black collegiate life and beyond.

Once digitized and reviewed by the institutions, the photos are made available for licensing through Getty Images, with 50% of the royalties going back to the school, 30% supporting scholarships and the remaining 20% reinvested into the grant to help fund future digitization.

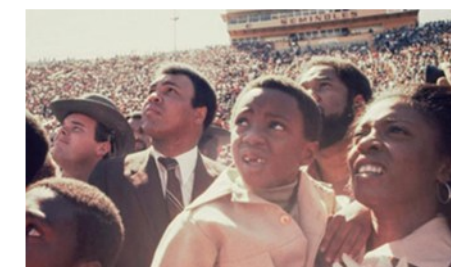
The images will become integral to the larger record of American history. For instance, Lincoln University in Pennsylvania has rare

images connected to Albert Einstein's 1946 visit to the campus, when he delivered a lecture and received an honorary degree; and the University couldn't believe they found images of a young Langston



Langston Hughes on right

Hughes as a student long before his literary legacy ever took hold. A digitize image from Florida A&M of a crowd from a 1980 football game shows Muhammad Ali among



Muhammad Ali in middle of photo

the group. And, at Claflin University in South Carolina, they found numerous rare images dating back to the 1860s.

Getty is also working with Ancestry to preserve these vital physical archives and make them accessible for genealogy research. With the development of artificial intelligence (AI) threatening the

authenticity of the images we see, particularly those depicting Black life and at a time when the Trump administration has been attacking DEI (diversity, equity and inclusion) initiatives and programs that support HBCUs, are critical to the history of African Americans.

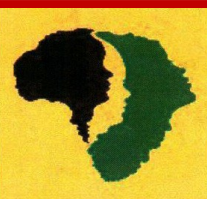
Illidge explains that once revealed, the images will never be forgotten -- "you are the ones to tell the story, not us," which reminds us of the African Proverb that says, "Until the Lion tells the story, the hunter will always be the hero." Illidge believes editorial content should not be enhanced in any way, shape, or form, not even by AI, taking away from the integrity of the time period or the image itself. The authenticity of imagery and history should remain sacred.

STEVE MADDEN'S COMMITMENT TO HBCUs

by Bolarinwa Oladeji

Steve Madden tells why supporting historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) has become a priority for his company. The entrepreneur reflected on his upbringing, his introduction to hip-hop and why he believes HBCUs deserve greater corporate investment.

Madden detailed the work his brand has done across HBCU campuses, and acknowledged that



Shiloh Baptist Church Quarterly Newsletter

Fall Quarter 2026 Page 6

If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together—African Proverb

African culture not only in the African-American community but around African nations.

The celebration created in 1966 by Maulana Karenga is based on “Nguzo Saba”, the seven principles.

1. Umoja (Unity): Striving for and maintaining unity in the family and the community; 2. Kujichagulia (Self-Determination): Defining oneself and speaking for oneself; 3. Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility): Building and maintaining a community and making our brothers’ and sisters’ problems our own and solving them together; 4. Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics): Building and maintaining our businesses for ourselves and each other; 5. Nia (Purpose): To build and develop our collective communities together; 6. Kuumba (Creativity): To do whatever we can to leave our communities more beautiful than when we inherited them; and 7. Imani (Faith): To believe with our hearts in our people, our families, and the righteousness of our struggle.

All symbols are placed on a special mat called a Mkeka— a candle holder for seven candles called a Kinara; fruits; nuts and vegetables; a unity cup; an ear of corn; and gifts.

On the seventh day, gifts are exchanged to reward accomplishments and commitments. It is recommended that these gifts be handmade to promote self-determination.

SHINE SHINE SHINE

Theme of the Year

Matthew 5:16



In our journey of faith, we understand how vital it is to let our light shine through our good works. When we serve others and perform acts of kindness, we demonstrate God’s love in action.

People often notice our actions and may be drawn to inquire about the source of our joy and generosity. These opportunities allow us to share our faith and inspire others to do the same.

By shining through good works, we not only glorify God, but we also encourage those around us to follow His example.

Letting our light shine isn’t just about our individual actions; it also extends to how we engage in our communities. When we work together to uplift each other, we create a powerful testimony of God’s love at work. Whether we participate in volunteer efforts or simply support our neighbors, our collective light can illuminate even the darkest corners.

Love is at the heart of letting our light shine. God’s love for us is immense, and as we receive this love, it inspires us to share it with others. When we choose to love selflessly and unconditionally, we

create an atmosphere of warmth and light that attracts others to the source of our love, God.

Our faith is a fundamental element of letting our light shine. When we stand firm in our belief in God, we naturally respond to life’s circumstances remembering our faith in God’s promises. We have to allow our faith to be a source of inspiration, guiding us and those around us toward a deeper relationship with God.

Reflecting on Bible verses that have become a part of our everyday life, it’s about letting our light shine, it’s about how we live our daily lives. We have the opportunity to shine in our communities and be a source of hope for those around us. Even in challenging times, our faith can illuminate our paths and those of others.

I’m Just Sayin’...

Be fair with the Lord
and He will be
fair with you



Shiloh Baptist Church Quarterly Newsletter

Fall Quarter 2026 Page 3

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

CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM INFILTRATES THE BLACK

CHURCH by Rashad Grove
excerpted by Gail Waiters Coates

I’ve been itching to write about our engaging more with other churches and our community, but a comment from Pastor Bryant and the Deacon Board convinced me otherwise. After reading the uplifting charge from Bishop William J. Barber, a Professor in the Practice of Public Theology and Public Policy at Yale Divinity School, and the founding director of the Center for Public Theology & Public Policy, I decided to share my thoughts with Shiloh along with Bishop Barber’s.

I’m focused on finding ways Shiloh can become a major voice in saying, we’re not going to take it anymore. As a church we can participate in “No Kings” rallies; get people to the polls to vote; communicate about things that impact our freedoms for which generations before us fought so hard.

Maybe we need a ministry that focuses on the things that we have control over that will make our lives better; maybe it’s time to develop a partnership like cities. The concept of a “sister city” was created to share ideas, best practices, and support each other. Shiloh can approach other Baptist churches, in particular, that may already have a “civic” ministry and would be willing to open its doors to other churches to help them spread God’s Word;

assist the poor; and give the silent a voice. Money doesn’t have to exchange hands. We can work with the gifts we have.

America has a little more than two years of this administration left. I truly have no confidence that it will do the right thing. Isaiah 1:17, tells us to Learn to do right. Seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless. And, Plead the case of the widow.

Hearing what Barber advocates gives me hope that we too can make a difference in our Bay Area community.

With the rise of “Christian nationalism,” the work of the Black Church is more vital than ever, according to Barber. He believes the time is now for the Black Church to reclaim its “prophetic voice.”

Spotlighting the ever-growing influence of “Christian nationalism” in conservative politics, Barber is bringing his prophetic message directly to the Trump administration



Bishop William J. Barber

and MAGA with “Moral Mondays” demonstrations in the nation’s capital.

Barber leads a diverse coalition of interfaith leaders, civil rights advocates, and low-wage workers

who are actively claiming what Barber calls “policy violence.”

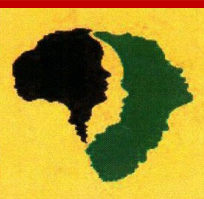


The Black Church must “remain fiercely and unapologetically socially engaged.” He warns that turning inward only or focusing solely on personal salvation leaves communities defenseless against oppressive systems.

“We have too many congregations having praise parties like nothing is wrong. And they think that doing social justice is having a Martin Luther King Jr. program once a year,” Barber told The Root.

“There’re no consistent teaching and action around the issues of justice, mercy, and love. Just because you have Black people in the church, doesn’t mean it’s focused on social justice.

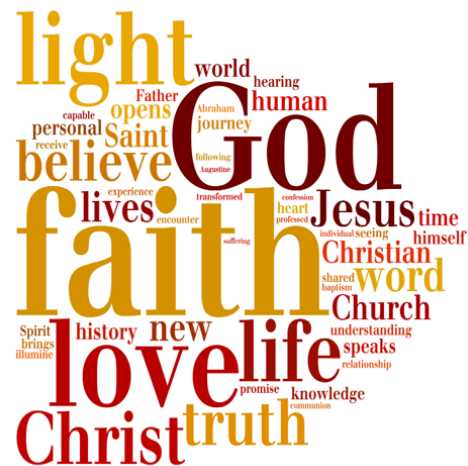
The threat of Christian nationalism is not just external but has infiltrated the Black Church as well. Some Black churches have decided to follow the tenets of religious nationalism. The only thing they talk about is being against gay people, abortion, and some kind of choreographed holiness that doesn’t have anything to do with justice. He claims this is one of the reasons something like 21 percent of Black males voted for Trump in the last



Shiloh Baptist Church Quarterly Newsletter

Fall Quarter 2026 Page 4

No matter how full the river is, it still wants to grow - African Proverb



election.

Along with his critique of the Black church, Barber shared his thoughts on white churches that have openly supported the current “oppressive regime.” He said they have masked their racism and xenophobia with empty religious rhetoric.

They really don’t even talk about Jesus and basically have decided that their alternative messiah is Trump. Their focus is greed, and their public policy is rooted in racism, classism, tax cuts for the wealthy, more bills for guns, and they are not preaching the gospel.

“The very resurrection of Jesus is the divine ‘no’ to anything that kills us, distorts our humanity, and wants to keep us forever in a place of depression. A church doesn’t necessarily have a color; it’s more important that the church is made up of people who are committed to the moral and ethical categories of the ministry of Jesus and the biblical prophets.”

IT’S FALL Y’ALL — Thanksgiving, Christmas, Kwanzaa

What’s the one thing Thanksgiving, Christmas and Kwanzaa have in common? It’s *Giving!*

Thanksgiving is the time to give thanks, preferably as a family, for the bounty the Lord has provided us throughout the year.

Fall is often seen as a time of endings — leaves falling, harvests winding down — but it’s also a season rich with potential for fresh starts. The crisp air, shorter days, and vivid autumn colors invite reflection, making it ideal for setting intentions and embracing change.



Trees shed their leaves not out of defeat, but to make space for renewal. This natural rhythm mirrors our own lives: letting go of what no longer serves us — old habits, outdated beliefs, or past relationships — creates room for growth.

Then there’s Christmas. A time when we give thanks for the birth of Christ, our Savior; and we give gifts because we love one another. Christmas is a season of giving,

reflecting love, compassion, and generosity. It also serves as a time for personal reflection, gratitude, and strengthening relationships. It encourages individuals to consider how their actions can positively impact others, fostering a culture of empathy and shared humanity.

And lastly is Kwanzaa. While this giving time is not as well known or well celebrated, it still has significance to our culture. What we give at Kwanzaa is knowledge, understanding, hope and love.

I say all this because it’s a fact that we cannot out give God no matter what season it is and how hard we try. As believers we are not supposed to wait until something or for something to give. There are daily opportunities for us to give and I don’t know about you, but it makes me feel good to give. I don’t want to wait for something, I always want to be in the giving mode.

We have a wonderful opportunity to give back to the Lord, not only during the fall season, but every Sunday morning as well.

As Tiny Tim says at the end of the movie *A Christmas Carol*, “God Bless Us, Everyone!”



Shiloh Baptist Church Quarterly Newsletter

Fall Quarter 2026 Page 5

When you follow the path of your father, you learn to walk like him - African Proverb

Weekly Schedule

- ◇ Sunday School - 8 am
- ◇ Sunday Church Service - 9 am
- ◇ Children’s Church - 2nd & 3rd Sunday 9:15 am
- ◇ Food Ministry - Monday 9 am
- ◇ Brotherhood Breakfast - 3rd Saturday 8:30 am
- ◇ Men’s Choir Rehearsal - 3rd Saturday 9:30 am
- ◇ In Person & Zoom Bible Study - Tuesday 12 noon
- ◇ Weekly Zoom Prayer - Tuesday 6 pm
ID 2674943546; Password: Shiloh
- ◇ 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 9:30 am
- ◇ Praise Team Rehearsal - 1st, 2nd & 3rd Saturday 10 am
- ◇ Usher Board Meeting - 1st Saturday 12:00 noon

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Happenings at Shiloh

October

- ◇ 10th Young Adult Conference
- ◇ 11th Young Adult Annual Day— 9 am
- ◇ 17th Total Praise Dance Explosion 3:30 pm
- ◇ 18th Homecoming Dinner
- ◇ 19th Men’s Event 5 pm
- ◇ 24th Health Fair—12 noon

November

- ◇ 8th Mass Choir Annual Day— 9 am
- ◇ 21st Calendar Meeting —11 am
- ◇ 29th Mission Sunday— 9 am

December

- ◇ 5th Youth Ice Skating
- ◇ 12th Christmas Giving-3 pm
- ◇ 19th Christmas Musical
- ◇ 25th Christmas



October

- 5th Annie Daniels Birthday
- 8th Mark Dennis II Birthday
- 21st Angela Williams Birthday
- 27th Success Smith Birthday

November

- 1st Rebecca Hunter Birthday
- 3rd Gail & Paul Coates Anniversary
- 6th Robin Teague Birthday
- 13th Ethel Higgins Birthday
- 20th Anthony Reynolds Birthday
- 22nd Yvette Carr Birthday
- 23rd Elijah Joaquin Birthday
- 25th Doris & James Anniversary
- 26th Arterlia Goodwin Birthday

December

- 4th Patricia Morgan Birthday
- 6th Alma Bryant Birthday
- 6th Kay Burse Birthday
- 12th Oladayo & Jennifer Osanyinbi Anniversary
- 15th Thomas Miles Birthday
- 17th Veronia Lunkins Birthday
- 18th Donald Dupree Birthday
- 22nd Bobbie Brooks Birthday
- 23rd Sandera Spears Birthday
- 24th Richard Wright Birthday