

For Immediate Release

Contact: sjmbc_secretary@yahoo.com

Phone: 501.374.8833

St. John Missionary Baptist Church (East) Presents Annual Black History Awareness Program

February 18, 2026 – St. John Missionary Baptist Church, 1920 E. 6th Street in Little Rock, will present its annual Black History Awareness Program, “Growing Through” on Saturday, February 28, 2026, from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm at the church.

This year’s program will feature the following presentations:

11:30 a.m. - “I Have a Dream” and excerpts from other famous speeches made by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Performed by Minister Byron Blackmon

Minister Byron Blackmon has been an ordained minister for more than four decades. He is the founder of Lift Up Your Heads Ministry, a para-ministry founded to help build the Body of Christ and to complement and support the local church, advancing the Kingdom of God together. A native of College Station, Arkansas, he and his wife Pamela have been married for thirty years and are the parents of six children and eight grandchildren.

1:00 p.m. - The History of Josephine I. H. Pankey, Presented by Ms. Regina Norwood, and Ms. Nancy Robinson-Lott

Ms. Norwood, a native Arkansan, along with Nancy Robinson Lott, is co-author of the published biography, “Josephine – Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Josephine Irvin Harris Pankey.” They are also co-founders of the 501(c)(3) non-profit, “Friends of Josephine Pankey”.

2:00 p.m. - Documentary: “Buffalo Soldiers: A Quest for Freedom,” Presented by Mr. Marq Boyle, President of the Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club, Little Rock.

This non-profit, family-oriented organization is comprised of males and females from military, law enforcement and other professional occupations, both active and retired, who strive to improve the communities in which they live. Their hope is to educate the public about the rich history of the Buffalo Soldiers.

Admission to the program is free, and all are welcome to attend.

About St. John Missionary Baptist Church (East):

Founded in 1865, St. John Missionary Baptist Church is a family-focused church, that has served as a cornerstone in the East Little Rock community. Our services are as follows:

Sunday School – 9:00 am

Worship (Sunday) – 10:00 am

Bible Study (Wednesday’s) - Noon (in-person), 7:00 pm (Online)