

Celebration of Honor

The Occasion

Bishop Oscar Benton, Jr., shepherd of this flock, First Lady Diane Benton, visiting clergy, and all who love the Lord, Who is the Good Shepherd:

We have come to celebrate the service given by our shepherd, who has the heartbeat of the Good Shepherd. The word, **celebrate**, is a verb. It means *to mark as an anniversary* or as *a festivity*. The word, shepherd, is a noun. It means *one who tends sheep*.

Since coming to us 28 years ago, our pastor has done great things in and through our church. Our pastor is a praying man. Through prayer, he is enabled to serve by the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Through his preaching, he lets us know what thus says the Lord. Lord. Knowing what the Lord says to us keeps us steadfast, unmovable and always abounding in the work of the Lord. With a heart for missions, our pastor has inspired and encouraged to support the preaching of the Gospel in far away places such as Panama and India. His love for members of the Body of Christ in India has inspired and encouraged us to help provide for the needs of the Saints in India.

Our pastor's service is undergirded by the fervent prayers of our First Lady. She has been kind and loving, doing and sharing in all her husband's undertakings. Her presence and favor enhances our special occasions. We love her and pray that God's richest blessings will forever grace her life.

Surrounded by prayer, including the prayers of the Saints here at our church, our pastor is fulfilling God's call on his life. Therefore, we celebrate the goodness of God to us all.

We hope this celebration today, the 302nd day of 2023, inspires you to be diligent to be about your Heavenly Father's business. Our Lord, the Good Shepherd is soon to come.

By Stella Matthews Pete