



# THE SANCTUARY AT KINGDOM SQUARE

# TSAKS National News

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WITH TSAKS NATION

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**Mission Statement...** Our mission is to promote the spread of the Gospel, the winning of souls to Jesus Christ, the changing of lives, and establishing the presence of the Lord in the world through evangelizing, biblical teaching, economic development, and community outreach. With faith in Almighty God, we seek to be a church preparing born-again believers for the Kingdom of God.

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## THE YEAR OF TRANSITION

*For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland. | Isaiah 43:19 NLT*

### Embracing a Divine Journey: A Vision for Growth and Leadership

**Minister Brandon Maclin** admits that his journey to the position as Pastor in Succession has been unexpected, yet deeply inspired by a strong sense of faith and a willingness to boldly follow the path laid out for him.

“To be honest, this role was not something I was pursuing, at all. However, I’ve always known that I would end up here. I had no idea it would be this soon,” Minister Maclin wrote in response to questions via email. “With hindsight being twenty-twenty, it all makes sense, but while I was on the journey, I didn’t know what was going on. The Lord was instructing me to make changes, personally that were immensely bold. Changes that I’d never make on my own, but the Lord provided me with every step of the way, and I learned the invaluable lesson of being obedient to what God instructs.”

The TSAKS congregation voted Minister Maclin in the position, following the announcement from Bishop Anthony G. Maclin that he will retire as pastor in three years.

### Leadership was Inevitable

Minister Maclin also shed light on the transition from an internationally recognized musician to being on the path to pastorship.

“I’ve always known that leadership was inside of me. I knew that I would step into some level of high leadership as I grew older, so I’m accepting this new assignment as the high leadership role.”

Minster Maclin noted how his father, Bishop Anthony G. Maclin has always been one to pull the best out of people.

“I truly believe that I’ve inherited those traits from him. I am passionate about leading, but furthermore, I’m passionate about seeing others fulfill their purpose on earth.”



*Continued on page 2*

*Year of Transition continued from page 1*

## Casting & Catching

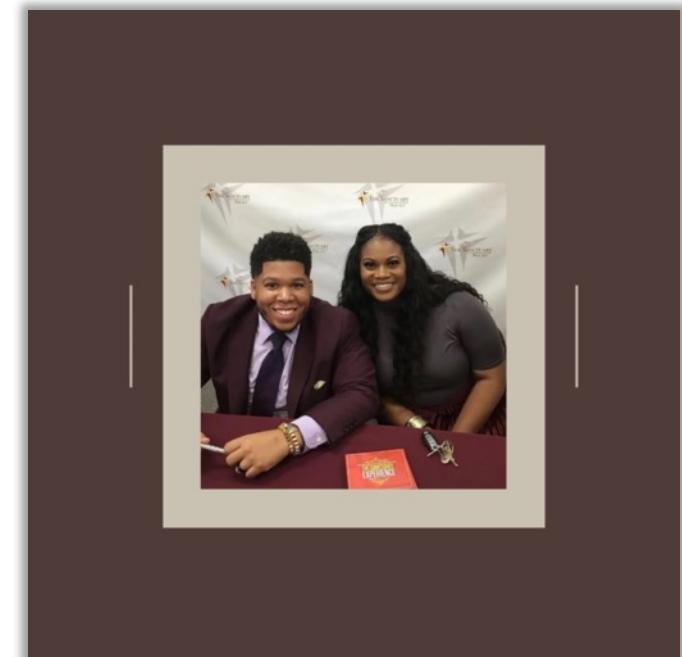
When questioned about the essential responsibilities of a pastor in guiding and nurturing a congregation, Minister Maclin enthusiastically shares, “casting and catching.”

He explains that one of the nuggets he received in training from Bishop Maclin is that a church that’s not doing, is a church that’s dying. “Not only has he taught us this principle but he also modeled this principle during his pastorate. So, a vibrant church is a direct result of its pastor casting vision that the congregation can grab ahold of (catching). Once the vision is CAST in a way that the congregation can CATCH, this model becomes to reciprocate into growth. Growth in participation, growth in membership, growth in generosity, and most importantly, growth spiritually.

## From Transition to Transformation

On the topic of establishing his unique identity and leadership style within the church, Minister Maclin is convinced that the mesh will happen organically.

“We are living in a world where cultures are changing drastically, and the ever-changing cultures affect each of us differently. The succession doesn’t take effect for another three years, so inevitably our church will have expanded. Honestly, we’re seeing change now. When Bishop declared 2024 as our year of Transition, I don’t think any of us knew what would happen, but now we probably can feel the winds of expansion/change happening all around us,” Minister Maclin said, adding that he is currently in a learning and observation mode. “Inevitably, what we see now will not be what will be in three years.”



## Following the Call

Speaking from experience, Minister Maclin says growing up as a pastor’s kid, most offspring of pastors are not interested in leading a church because they know first-hand what happens behind the scenes.

“The grace that’s upon Bishop’s life is just different,” Minister Maclin said. “Ministry is a true calling. In my case, even after seeing everything that has transpired, to be used by God in that manner in which He uses Bishop, there’s a desire to grow closer to God so that He can similarly use me. Bishop’s anointing is his, and his alone. There’s only one Bishop Anthony G. Maclin. However, I realize that every time he wakes up and starts his day, it’s not always his strength and excitement to serve God’s people. A lot of times, it’s God’s miraculous power that flows through him giving him the strength and resilience to continue the work. The anointing of God is truly attractive, but the closer you get to God, the more He unveils about the uniqueness of each of our anointings.”

# MEMBER ACCOMPLISHMENTS . . .

## Chosen Chef Cooks Up Program to Offer Second Chance for Non-Violent Offenders



**Former Metropolitan Police Officer Duriel Barnes** has spent nearly two decades in law enforcement, and during this time, he has noticed something important: some individuals who commit crimes may be in need of guidance and a fresh start. Recognizing the potential for transformation, Barnes has teamed up with local restaurants to expand a criminal justice diversion program called “Taking Root,” offering a new path to non-violent offenders. The program aims to provide participants with the opportunity to develop culinary skills and work towards securing employment, ultimately helping them avoid incarceration.

The initiative was launched by a Fairfax County prosecutor and represents the only prosecutor-led diversion program in the country. Over the past year, the program has already seen 20 individuals graduate, with another 100 currently on their way to completion. Participants who successfully finish the program are given the chance to return to court, where the judge can dismiss the charges against them. Furthermore, partner restaurants across Fairfax County have committed to offering employment opportunities to these program graduates, thereby supporting their reintegration into the workforce.

Barnes launched his catering business, The Chosen Chef, a full-service private company, specializing in the fine dining experience in 2016.

He has been a guest on local news stations such as Good Morning Washington, WTTG Fox 5 DC, WJLA ABC 7 Evening News, and the WBGR Network.

# MEMBER ACCOMPLISHMENTS . . .

## Family Stories Inspire Genealogy Career



A birth certificate of Ellen Butler's ancestor that was found through her research.

*"I really think it is important that we as a people and a culture find out about our history and our ancestors."*



Growing up in Edgefield, South Carolina, **Ellen Butler** was captivated by the stories her grandparents would tell about their family members.

Her grandfather often shared anecdotes about his six brothers.

These and other stories stayed with her into adulthood. Intrigued and eager to learn more, Butler embarked on her own genealogical journey.

Butler's grandmother passed away 30 years ago, prompting her to take on the task of documenting her family's history. What started as a personal hobby soon evolved into a full-fledged profession as Butler began researching for others. Her dedication to preserving family legacies led her to publish a book, "Our Ancestors Our Stories," around a decade ago.

To hone her skills, Butler delved into studying the craft of genealogy and actively participated in genealogy conferences. "I tell people this is probably the first time in life I can say I have an addiction," Butler joked. "You do have to have a drive to do it."

Her research has unearthed numerous discoveries, including the revelation that, in addition to her grandfather's brothers, there were also four girls in the family. Butler emphasized the importance of delving into one's

history. "I really think it is important that we as a people and a culture find out about our history and our ancestors. We need to know where we came from, and we need to know the conditions under which our ancestors lived. We need to know their accomplishments."

Butler's genealogical pursuits began before the widespread use of the internet, leading her to frequent the National Archives to sift through microfilm and microfiche. Reflecting on the challenges of the past, she noted, "Some of the younger genealogists have no idea of the struggle we went through to get information. The internet has made everything so much easier, but everything is not digitized. It's still very important that you know your hometown, that you perhaps visit your hometown state genealogy society or the state archives, because that is where the majority of the documents are maintained."

Her research has traced her lineage back to the 1800s, revealing a record of her third great-grandmother listed in the church membership where her slave owners were recorded in 1826. Genealogy, Butler explains, involves thorough research, encompassing the examination of old documents, census records, newspapers, bible records, and church documents.

"Church records are very important because we were able to find out about the establishment of our family in the black church since the minutes were recorded in the white church," Butler emphasized.

Highlighting the significance of oral history in family research, Butler stressed the importance of engaging with elderly family members. She believes that storytelling is a vital way of preserving family history, drawing parallels to her own experiences listening to her grandparents' stories.

"You need to know a little about your family before you go searching the internet," Butler said.

# ONLINE CHURCH. . .

## Introducing Our Online Campus Ministry: A New Way to Connect and Grow in Faith

By Rev. Dr. Pamela Stanley

Rev. Dr. Pamela Stanley



As digital connectivity becomes an increasingly significant part of our everyday lives, The Sanctuary at Kingdom Square is excited to announce our expanded Online Campus Ministry. With this innovative platform, you can experience more than

just a virtual church; it becomes a vibrant community where faith, fellowship, and flexibility blend to create an enriching spiritual experience for everyone, no matter where they live.

### A New Era of Spiritual Connection

We have designed the Online Campus Ministry to meet the diverse needs of our congregation, particularly those who may not be able to attend services in person due to distance, health, or other life circumstances. You will always have access to our digital services regardless of whether you are at home, on the road, or living abroad.

### What to Expect

Our online ministry offers interactive and engaging experiences.

- **Live-Streamed Services:** Join us in worship with live-streamed services that allow real-time participation. It's a shared sacred experience that transcends physical boundaries.
- **Podcasts on Spiritual Topics:** Tune in to our podcasts featuring inspiring messages, Bible teachings, and discussions on relevant spiritual topics.
- **Prayer and Support:** Submit prayer requests through our online platform and

receive support from our dedicated prayer warrior team.

- **Virtual Community Events:** From Bible study groups to special seminars, our online events are perfect for growing your faith and meeting others in the congregation.

### Under the Guidance of Bishop Anthony G. Maclin

Under Bishop Anthony G. Maclin's spiritual leadership, the Online Campus Ministry promises to be a beacon of hope and guidance. His visionary approach blends traditional values with modern methods, ensuring that each member of our online community feels connected and valued.

### Join Us and Grow

Our initiative extends beyond streaming services. It is about creating a comprehensive online environment where individuals can explore their faith, discover their spiritual gifts, and communicate with others. We believe that the church is more than just a place to attend, it is a family we belong to. This belief serves as the foundation of our online ministry.

### Stay Connected

We invite you to join us on this exciting journey. Whether you are exploring faith for the first time or looking for a church home, our Online Campus Ministry is here for you. We invite you to join us in this endeavor and stay tuned for further updates.

Please feel free to contact Rev. Pamela Stanley, our Online Campus Minister, at [tsaksnation@gmail.com](mailto:tsaksnation@gmail.com) with any questions or to become involved. Our growing online family is just a click away, and we look forward to welcoming you.

# Drama Ministry Revamped

## Breathing New Life into Drama Ministry



de Raye Sisco

The TSAKS worship experience will soon get an enhancement with the resurgence of the drama ministry, headed by **de Raye Sisco**.

The mission, Sisco says, is to bring the gospel alive through dramatic presentation.

“It’s to tell the story to really let people know about Jesus in a way that they may not receive it from a sermon,” Sisco said. “People may not come to church necessarily, but they will come to see a play, and they can get the gospel message through a play. If they can get the gospel message through a play, then the mission has been achieved.”

Sisco’s foray into playwriting commenced almost two decades ago, when she was presented with the opportunity to write a play for a women’s retreat at her former church. Encouraged by the words, “I know the Lord is going to give it to you,” she took a significant step forward.

Her journey was marked with a fear of public speaking, which lead her to pursue voice and diction and introduction to acting, during her college years.

Although, she enjoyed the acting aspect, she hadn’t thought much more about her training.

Her first play, “Nothing Without You,” which depicted the life of a pastor’s family and the challenges they faced in life, was soon performed for the entire church congregation.

A few years later, that church’s drama ministry was established, and Sisco continued to write plays.

“It was really a passion of mine that was unearthed by this woman. She saw this gift in me, and I guess the Lord spoke with her about this gift that I didn’t even know that I had.”

Upon joining TSAKS nearly a year ago, Sisco noticed the drama ministry listed among the church’s ministries, but observed a lack of activity. Encouraged by fellow members, she approached Bishop Maclin about overseeing the ministry.

In her initial plans for the ministry at TSAKS, Sisco emphasizes the importance of assembling a team. Her vision includes identifying individuals interested in participating and pinpointing their talents. She seeks not only actors, but also individuals with a penchant for behind-the-scenes work.

Sisco envisions staging one or two major productions annually and also plans to incorporate smaller-scale skits.

“For me the biggest opportunity of the drama ministry is to draw people to Christ. If someone can come to know Christ or be encouraged in their current walk in the Lord, or be encouraged to do better in their walk in the Lord, then yeah, let’s do more of it because people learn in different ways,” Sisco said.

“If people can see a play on stage or see themselves in a particular character, we have done our job and done it well. I’m really excited about the opportunity to lead the drama ministry, and I just look forward to God doing great things through drama.”

*“For me the biggest opportunity of the drama ministry is to draw people to Christ.”*

# LEGENDS AND LEGACIES. . .

The TSAKS Black History Month Celebration theme of “**Legends and Legacies**,” highlights members of the congregation and their accomplishments in various industries.



**Brother Warren Newton** served his country in the U.S. Army and is carrying on the legacy of family members who served before him and who are now serving. He continued his service to the country with a Law Enforcement career at the Department of Defense.



**Brother George W. Elzey, Jr.** served his country in the U.S. Air Force. He continued the legacy of military service of his ancestors who served before him. He identified an ancestor that he shares a name with who served in the U.S. Navy during the Civil War. Brother Elzey continued his service to his country with a Law Enforcement career with the U.S. Park Police, the State Department, the Peace Corps, and the General Services Administration.



**Sister Vanessa Colston**, daughter of the late Reverend Abraham Lincoln Colston, who was the former pastor of the Glendale Baptist Church. Sister Colston reflects on her experiences of growing up in the church as a pastor’s daughter, and her family’s background and history within the church.



**Mrs. Muriel Jeanette Carter Logan**, our Centurion, who celebrated her 100th birthday last year. Mrs. Logan is a retired educator who began her teaching career in a one-room school in West Virginia. She taught at schools in Washington, DC and retired as the Principal of Phoebe Hearst Elementary School in 1963.

**The Holmes/Coleman family** was also recognized for their deep-rooted church history (not pictured).

*Legends and Legacies continued from page 7*

**Deacon Emeritus John Addison**, former chairman of the Diaconate Ministry, shares with us his experiences during the Civil Rights Movement, his service in the military and his employment and diaconate services at TSAKS.

## DEACON EMERITUS JOHN ADDISON



Deacon Addison's Sisters



**SEEKING WRITERS  
FOR THE . . .**  
**TSAKS National News**

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