

VP NEWSLETTER

JULY 2025

Office Hours
Tuesday - Thursday
9am - 4pm
708-753-1975 (o)

No internet?
No problem.
Call in for
Sunday Service
at 10am
202-926-1080
Access Code
981434

Children's Church
is held following
Praise and Worship.

JULY 6, 13, 20, 27



BUSINESS DIRECTORY

We are gathering information about VP business owners. This will help us foster a supportive network, promote local businesses, and identify opportunities to collaborate. Please complete a short survey if you are interested in information about our Directory.
[Link for Business Directory Interest](#)

**IT'S GENERATIONAL!
NO BRAG, JUST FACTS!**

**Highlighting: Dr. Tosha Jackson
See Page 3**

FAITH IN PLACE PRESENTS...

Double Dutch Festival
Saturday, July 12th @ 11am

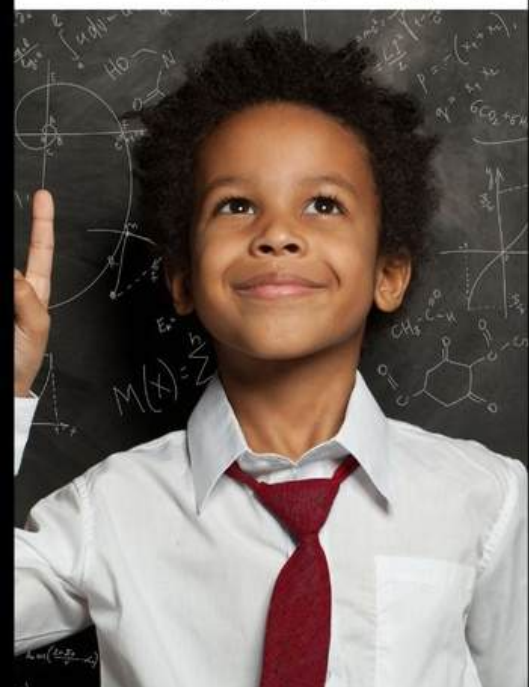
See Page 4

MOTHER CARR'S FARM SHARES
Now Available

See Page 5

HEALTH & WELLNESS MINISTRY

National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month
See Page 6



July Anniversaries

Emerson & Patricia White

18 years...July 7th

Kenneth & Pamela Jackson

58 years...July 7th

Walter Alexander & Carolyn McGlown-Alexander

3 years...July 9th

Fred & Brenda Williams

28 years...July 11th

Gerald & Elizabeth Ford

12 years...July 13th

James & Rugena Turner

57 years...July 20th

Dwayne & Kim Featherston

13 years...July 21st

Paul Alston & Denise Turner Alston

37 years...July 23rd

John & Dawn Hatchett

14 years...July 23rd

Olan & Jaimese Kellogg

4 years...July 25th

Kenneth & Jackie Morris

24 years...July 27th

Pray for our sick and shut-in

Bro. Robert Hillsman

Pray for our bereaved

Pastor Jerald (Maura) January in the
loss of his brother, Bro. Keith January

**He heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.**

~ Psalm 147:3

NEW CONTENT ON:
[Facebook](#), [YouTube](#),
[Instagram](#)
and [VPCOG.ORG](#)

MONDAYS - 5PM
Moments in Marriage
(coming soon)

COMING SOON

TUESDAYS - 6PM
Poetic Perspectives
Catlin & Lady Maura

THURSDAYS - 6AM
Prayer Call
202-926-1080
Access Code 981434

THURSDAYS - 6PM
Power of Prayer
Min. Cassandra Ward &
The Prayer Team

SATURDAYS - 12PM
See What I'm Sayin'
The Bible & ASL
Talayah Stovall &
Carmen Banks

3RD SATURDAY-12:30PM
Monthly
Men of Destiny

4TH SATURDAY-10AM
Monthly
Encouraging Cards
Women Of Purpose

SUNDAYS - 12PM
This Week in...
Black History

IT'S GENERATIONAL! NO BRAG, JUST FACTS!

Highlighting: Dr. Tosha Jackson

Only God Knows What You Will Become

I grew up in my grandmother's home, where positive affirmations were few and far between. Instead, I was often met with sharp words that left lasting impressions. She frequently told me I wouldn't amount to much. I vividly remember being around 12 or 13 years old when, after doing a poor job cleaning the kitchen, she called me "trifling," one of her favorite words, and added that no one would ever hire me to clean their house. Even at that young age, I had a quiet confidence in God's purpose for my life. I muttered under my breath, "I don't plan on cleaning anybody's house but my own."

Looking back, I don't believe my grandmother said those things out of malice. In her own way, I believe she loved me deeply and thought her words would push me to be better. It was her version of tough love. Still, we now understand that there's a fine line between tough and harmful. Despite her well-meaning intentions, her words planted seeds of doubt and chipped away at my self-worth.

Though I grew up in the church, my teen years were filled with mistakes and missteps. It wasn't until I was 21, while singing in the University of Toledo's Gospel Choir, that I made the life-changing decision to fully commit my life to Jesus Christ. That decision marked a turning point, redirecting my path toward God's divine plan.

As a young single mother, I faced many challenges. At one point, I considered dropping out of college for a full-time job offering a \$15,000 annual salary. It felt like the responsible choice at the time. But my father stepped in with words of wisdom I'll never forget: "Tosha, if you finish that degree, you'll be turning down jobs like that for better ones that pay much more." His encouragement kept me focused. I turned down the job, stayed in school, and eventually earned my Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, an achievement that marked just the beginning of my journey. Nearly three decades later, I look back with gratitude for the challenges that shaped me. With almost 30 years of experience in education, I've had the privilege of serving in various roles within Chicago Public Schools, including Assistant Principal, Principal, Network Deputy Chief, and Chief of Schools. Each of these positions deepened my understanding of how school systems function and fueled my passion for creating transformative learning environments.

Over the years, I've remained committed to equity, student success, and faith-informed leadership. I earned a Master of Arts in Counseling from Oral Roberts University and a Master of Education in Educational Leadership from Lewis University. I recently completed my Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Educational Leadership at National Louis University.

Today, I serve as the Head of Schools at Daystar Academy, a Christian, International Baccalaureate (IB) World School in Chicago's South Loop, where we serve students from Pre-K through 12th grade. In this role, I'm honored to bring together my professional expertise, personal faith, and unwavering belief that every child deserves access to an excellent and nurturing education. My mission is clear: to lead with love, serve with purpose, and help others, especially young people, see that their story isn't defined by where they start, but by who they choose to become.



**If you have a WIN to share, email: Vparkcog@gmail.com
for instructions on what we need in order for you to be included.**

FAITH IN PLACE PRESENTS...

DOUBLE DUTCH FEST

**TO REGISTER
CLICK HERE**



**SIGN
UP!**

**SATURDAY
JULY 12TH
11AM-3PM**

MUSIC

GAMES

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

FACE PAINTING

EDUCATION

+ MORE!



**RAINBOW BEACH PARK
3111 E. 77TH ST. CHICAGO, IL 60649**





Mother Carr's Farm

A Community Supported Agriculture Project of Vernon Park Church of God

Join our CSA!

\$300

[Click Here to Sign-up](#)



Our Mission

To create a sustainable farm that connects our community with the environment through fresh local produce, education, and economic empowerment.

Our Produce

**BEETS
BELL PEPPERS
CABBAGE
CORN
COLLARD GREENS
MUSTARD GREENS
TURNIP GREENS
KALE
TOMATOES
EGG PLANT
CUCUMBERS
YELLOW SQUASH
WATERMELON**

Benefits of our CSA:

- Reasonably priced
- Locally grown without pesticides
- Harvested for optimal flavor and nutritional value
- Contributions to local food pantries
- Fair compensation for workers
- **African American - owned farm**



Contact is @ Mothercarrsfarm.com or 708-753-1975



July is...

National Minority Mental Health Awareness

Minority mental health awareness month is a national observance that raises awareness of the challenges that affect the mental health of people in racial and ethnic minority groups. Mental health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel, act, handle stress, relate to others, and make choices. We know that people of all ethnicities and cultures experience mental health conditions and that black individuals experience mental health challenges at rates similar to other groups. However, when considering the mental health of black Americans, it's important to look at the historical and cultural factors, some of which have led to significant disparities. "Disparity is defined as a difference in level or treatment, a lack of equality or similarity, especially one that is seen as unfair." Be it historically or culturally, black Americans have an understandable mistrust in the medical and mental health systems. Black people are far less likely to seek care. Statistics tell us that about 25% of African Americans seek mental health treatment, compared to 40% of white Americans. When members of the black community do seek mental healthcare, they are more likely to receive it from an emergency department than from a mental health specialist. All too often, our healthcare system fails to adequately address mental health struggles of minority populations. Failure to provide access to mental health facilities, failure to properly screen and provide appropriate referrals and resources continues to plague the minority community.

Culturally responsive mental health treatment is one way of addressing the disparities in psychological well-being in the black community. As we continue to learn and educate others, let's use this month to raise awareness of the challenges that we face as a people and community.

For more information on the effects of mental health in the black community, visit:

[Addressing Mental Health in the Black Community | Columbia University](#)

[Department of Psychiatry](#)

W E L C O M E
N E W
M E M B E R

**New to VP?
Married?
New Parent?
Start Here**

4 Things to do:

- **Get Connected**
- **Sign up for the VP Newsletter**
- **Download the VP Church App**
- **Enable PUSH notifications**

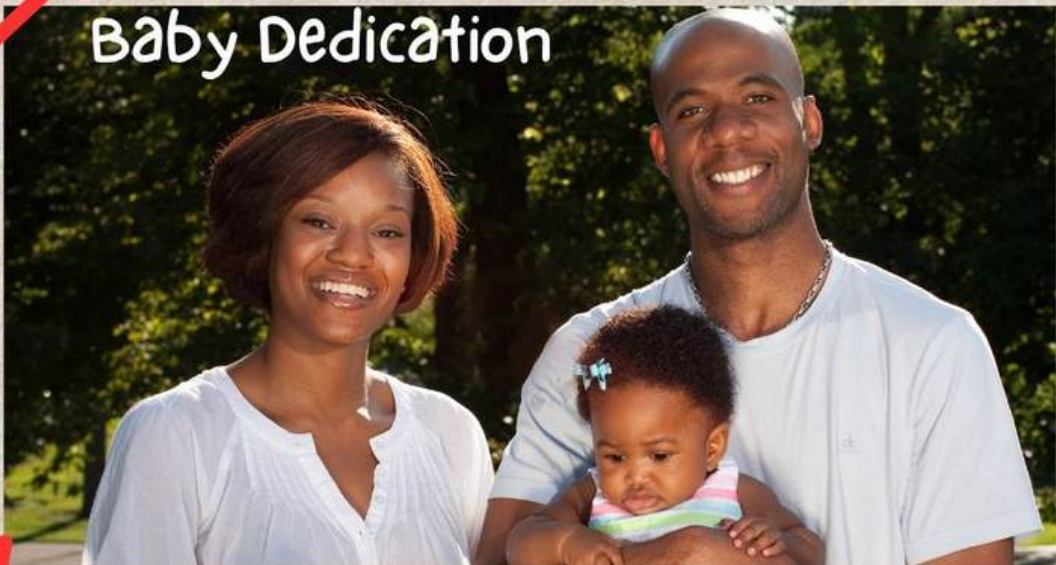


**We acknowledge anniversaries
Email: Vparkcog@gmail.com**

Questions?

**We
are
here
to
help!**

Baby Dedication



Call Church office 708-753-1975

Scan QR Code or visit App Store

SEARCH: Tithe.ly Church App

Search: NEARBY CHURCHES or type:
VERNON PARK CHURCH OF GOD



THE TITHE.LY CHURCH APP

**Vernon Park Church
of God**

Scan to download the app



OR



Download on
App Store



Download on
Google play

Please enable PUSH Notifications