



## **Greetings, Bushy Pond Baptist Church family.**

Let us come together with a unified purpose. Our history, rooted in the hard work of our ancestors who established this church after the Civil War in the 1860s, teaches us that we are a resilient, purposeful people.

### **A Voteless People is a Hopeless People.**

We must remember the immense suffering and sacrifices our forebears endured during Reconstruction and the Jim Crow era. They faced violence, terror, poll taxes, literacy tests, and threats of death simply for trying to exercise the right to vote. They did not endure the burning of churches and the loss of lives for us to stay home. We must honor their sacrifice by showing up at the polls.

### **Voting for the "Least of These"**

Jesus said, "When you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!" (Matthew 25:40). Our vote is our voice to care for the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the sick, and the imprisoned. We must put people in office who demonstrate concern for the poor, the marginalized, and the vulnerable in our community.

### **Character Over Rhetoric**

As Pastor Dr. E. Dewey Smith has reminded us, we must look beyond those who merely talk about Jesus, and instead choose leaders who actually **demonstrate** the character of Jesus—leaders who have character, integrity, and love. We must remove those who call on the name of Jesus but whose actions do not align with His teachings.

### **Action Plan for Bushy Pond**

1. **Transport:** Let's organize our church bus to take people to the polls to ensure everyone has a ride.
2. **Support:** Let's purchase water and coolers to provide for people standing in long lines, echoing the care we should have for one another.
3. **Mobilize:** Let's encourage everyone to go out and vote with the same passion and unity that we displayed when we elected President Obama.

Let us be inclusive, welcoming everyone to participate in this righteous duty.

Let us make our voices heard, Bushy Pond!