

To the Community of Bastrop,

Thank God that we made it through this full week of extremely cold weather - together.

Saturday was our final day of direct service - providing both food and shelter. The cots are down and the kitchen is closed.

Yesterday, Saturday, Pastor Joey Kennedy and members of the New Life Church prepared and served three full meals for persons in our community at the Saint John MBC center on West Madison Avenue - the experience felt like the last supper in a certain way: we knew that it would be a while before we would meet in fellowship again.

Harmony Baptist Church served the first Saturday, St. John on Sunday, Saint Mary on Tuesday, with Jimmy Christmas adding steak to the menu. First Baptist on Wednesday, Horseshoe Baptist Church of Mer Rouge prepared and served on Thursday with Willie Parker grilling chicken, as did Allen Darel, and Christ Episcopal on Friday and New Life Church preparing and serving on Saturday.

New Life Church is located at 10091 Peach Orchard Road in Bastrop, Louisiana.

I would like to especially thank Pastor Steven R Conley and the entire Saint John Missionary Baptist Church family for the full use of their fine facility - the St. John Community Enrichment Center - over the past eight days.

I also want to thank all individuals, churches, businesses, and organizations who contributed money in order to make this full community effort work for persons in need of our help.

Because of your contributions, work, time, money, prayers and expressions of encouragement we were able to complete this chapter in our mission to become a more loving and compassionate community.

I am asking representatives of participating churches and organizations to attend this Thursday's city council meeting. I am also directing our City of Bastrop's clerk's office to present a full summary of collections and spending to the public during council meeting.

To my knowledge, all expenses were paid at the time they were incurred - with the exception of the Saint John MBC utilities, mainly natural gas for heating. See utility meter video posted here ... The payment toward utilities to St John will be made on Tuesday, January 16th.

No taxpayer funds were used to purchase food, clothing, utilities or supplies during this effort. All expenses are being covered by the free will contributions of cheerful givers.

If you, or your organization, would like to make a financial contribution to this effort, bring or send your check to the City of Bastrop. Please memo: "Emergency Housing Fund".

We at the city of Bastrop, are pleased to serve this great Morehouse Parish community. Thank you for allowing all of us the opportunity to serve.

I would like to personally thank my Chief of Operations Dianne Lenoir, and my Public Works Director Mr. Issac Gray, for coordinating and managing this day to day community-wide effort. Special thanks to all other City of Bastrop employees who participated directly in this effort, as well as those who kept the city running in the absence of city staff directly involved.

**Is Morehouse Parish the home of loving and caring people, or what?
Absolutely and positively YES!**

Mayor Henry Cotton