

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa takes pride in recognizing those individuals whose commitment and dedication have made a lasting impact on our community and its citizens. **Reverend Dr. Samuel L. Maxwell, Sr.**, beloved Pastor and Teacher of First Baptist Church of Progress Village in Tampa, Florida, is one such person; and

WHEREAS, born and raised in Havana, Florida, Reverend Maxwell was baptized at New Jerusalem Baptist Church there in 1972, and thereafter he served our nation in the United States Armed Forces stationed in Fort Knox, Kentucky, and following his honorable discharge, he began his education including receiving his Associate of Arts in Business and Management from Tallahassee College, his Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies from the University of South Florida, Master of Science in Religious Education and his Doctorate of Theology from Florida Baptist College/Seminary where he also served as a respected Instructor; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Maxwell has dedicated his life to Christian Ministry and teaching the Word of God including serving as Pastor in Woodville and Sarasota, Florida churches, and he has continued his legacy of outstanding spiritual leadership in Tampa, Florida as the Pastor and Teacher of First Baptist Church of Progress Village since 1994, where his dedication and accomplishments are well-known and greatly respected; and

WHEREAS, for twenty-nine faithful years, Reverend Maxwell's vision, strong leadership, and commitment has positively impacted and enhanced First Baptist Church of Progress Village, its congregation, children, and the Tampa community, and among his many achievements include enhancing its ministries and creating new and effective initiatives such as the Christian Education Ministries, Evangelistic Outreach, Equipping Ministry, Bible Club Children's Ministry, and he established and serves as Headmaster of Progress Village Christian Academy for pre-school through 5th grade students; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Maxwell's commitment and efforts for almost three decades have led to tremendous progress, and to accommodate the growth and needs of his beloved church and its members, in 2010 he implemented the construction of a 27,000 square-foot church edifice, completed in 2011, that houses First Baptist Church of Progress Village's worship services, ministries, school, culinary events, offices, and more; and

WHEREAS, loved and respected by the Tampa Bay community and well-known for his resolute dedication to his faith and sharing it with others, his desire to teach God's word and mentor young ministers so they may become effective Christian leaders, and his compassion, Reverend Maxwell will be honored for his over 42 years of pastoral service, 29 of those years serving First Baptist Church of Progress Village, with a **Retirement Celebration** on Saturday, February 4, 2023, held at the Westshore Grand Hotel, and the special event will provide the opportunity to recognize all he has accomplished, the many individuals he has baptized, guided and inspired, the religious and community leaders and organizations he has mentored, and the legacy he has established within his beautiful church.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Saturday, February 4, 2023, as

"REVEREND DR. SAMUEL L. MAXWELL, SR. DAY"

in the city of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to join me in thanking him for his contributions to the citizens of our community and wishing him continued success, happiness, and God's blessings in his future.

Dated in Tampa, Florida this 4th day of February 2023.



Jane Castor
Mayor