

# THE INSPIRATION

Mount Pleasant Baptist Church

A Mount Pleasant Baptist Church Publication Jan-Feb 2026 | Volume 14 Issue 1

## OUR BLACK HISTORY



Keyes House was built in the 1880's on land owned by Henry and Arabella Cook. The house stood on property which is a part of the current Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church Campus. There is signage designating the site (by Fairfax County) as Historical.



Henry Cook, one of the founders of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, also donated land in 1882 where the first Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church was built.

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**MPBC  
Weekly  
Learning  
Opportunities**



**Noon Day Prayer**  
Via Free Conference Call  
Dial Number  
(712) 832-7000  
Access Code 7928416#  
*Please make sure your phone is on mute. There is no need to announce yourself.*

**Sunday Morning Word Fuel**  
(2 classes, in-Person and Zoom)  
Time Change 8:30 AM

**Monday Night Bible Study via Zoom** 7:00 PM

**Tuesday Seniors Prayer & Conversation**  
10:30 AM

**Wednesday Night Word Fuel With The Pastor**

**\* Check Realm for Zoom Information**

## Upcoming Events

- Health Action Team Interest Meeting - Feb 8
- Tax Planning Webinar - Feb 12
- Weekend Enrichment Academy (begins) - Feb 21
- Shirnesha Simpkins Church Trial Sermon - March
- Outreach Project (Food & Toiletries) - now thru March 10



Rev. Dr. Kevin Donalson, Sr.

## *From The Pastor's Desk*

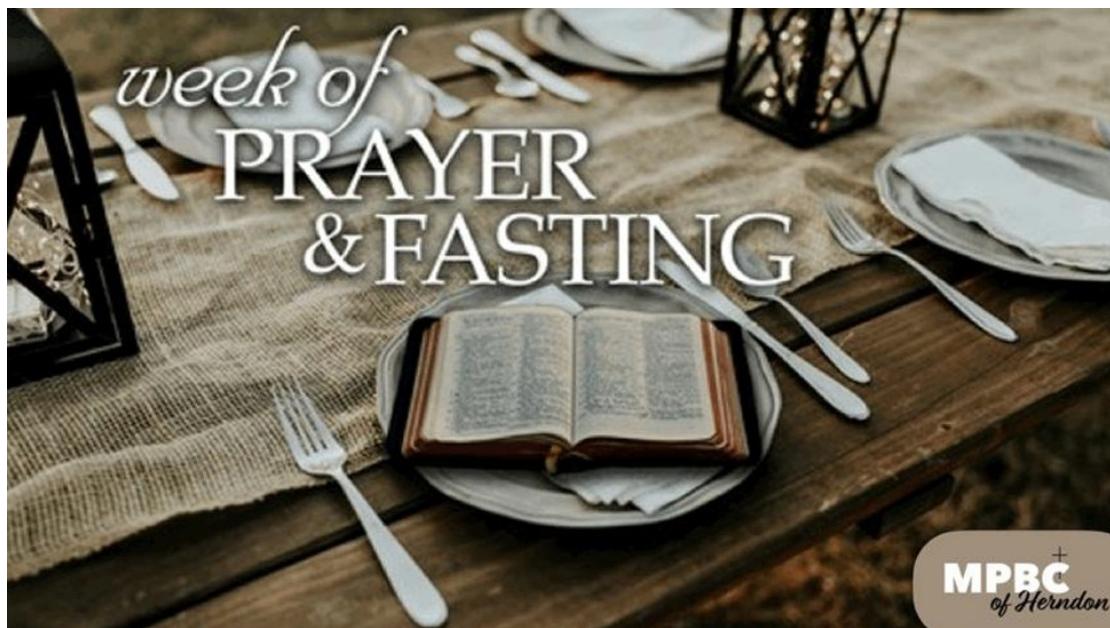
**T**

his past weekend we were hit with a snow storm that has paralyzed much of the country. As I sat in my house, not wanting to go outside in the bitter cold I couldn't help but think that God was trying to show me something.

As I lamented all the snow and the cold weather, I could hear God saying, "Hold on, the season will eventually change." I began to think about that. Eventually the snow will melt. The temperature will wise. We will look up and it will be Spring.

That's a message to someone today who is dealing with a storm in your life. Right now I know you can't see the end of the tunnel, but the Psalmist said, "weeping endures for a night but joy comes in the morning."

Hold on. God has got your back. Your season is about to change. It's cold right now but sunshine is on the way.



We began the year at Mt. Pleasant with Fasting and Praying: January 5-9, 2026. The overall theme was “Reaching the World. One Soul at a Time”, with Isaiah 6:8 being our reference.

The daily schedule consisted of fasting (as an act of dependence and spiritual focus) from 7 am to 7 pm, midday prayer (for corporate prayer and spiritual focus) at 12 noon, and evening prayer (and reflection) via Zoom at 6 pm.

Scripture Readings, Word of the Day and Prayer Points were provided via Realm. The themes for each of the 5 days were:

Monday - A Heart for the Lost

Tuesday – Boldness to Witness

Wednesday – Empowered by the Holy Spirit

Thursday – Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges

Friday – The Harvest is Ready

Our overall theme at MPBC for 2026 is **OUTREACH**.

#OUTREACH

## Ushers Annual Day

The MPBC Ushers celebrated their annual day on December 14, 2025. This was the first time they have done so since pre-Covid.



The celebration began with the processional of Mt. Pleasant Ushers prior to the beginning of Praise and Worship. The Ushers Program consisted of our youth step team, a short comedy video by William Vaughn (titled "Coach, We Need Ushers"), and special presentations. Among the acknowledgements there were presentations for the Longest Serving Ushers (both male and female), the Longest Serving Officers and Special Recognition to Brother Payton Bailey.



The Guest Preacher was Rev. Dr. Rodney D. Waller, Senior Pastor of First African Baptist Church in Richmond, VA. His subject was "Ministry At The Door", with scripture focus Psalm 84:10 NIV.



We are grateful to the ushers of Heritage Fellowship Church for their service on this special day.



#OUTREACH

# Domestic Missions

## Branch of Love

### Holiday Giving Program

Branch of Love is the Mount Pleasant ministry dedicated to providing Fairfax County incarcerated inmates' children, and this year, members of Mount Pleasant children affected by the shutdown, with gifts, ensuring they have a gift for the Christmas holiday season.

A mini tree decorated with gift cards was placed in the lobby of the church. Gift cards were the primary request with only one family preferred clothing. Donors placed gift card(s) inside a Christmas card with the child's name and family number on the outside of the Christmas card and on each gift card sleeve. Additionally, donors had a choice to purchase something extra if they desired, which occurred for some families. In all, nearly 45 recipients were provided gifts for the season.

A hardy Thank You goes to Sister C. Jones, Deacon Ron Linney, Deaconess Beverly Walker, Sisters Velma Gordon, Shellia McKan, Shirley Harper, Brianna Roy and Deacon Antonio Clemons. May God continue to bless you and your families.



## Loudoun County Care Group Christmas/End of Year Fellowship

On December 13, 2025, members of the Loudoun County Care Group (LCCG) of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church (MPBC) gathered for a joyful Christmas holiday and end-of-year fellowship at the home of Care Group leaders Keith and Sandra Million. The evening was a meaningful blend of worship, reflection, and celebration as members came together to close out the year in unity and gratitude.

The gathering marked the conclusion of LCCG's Bible study journey through the **Gospel of John** for 2025. Members reviewed **John 12: 37-50 – The King's Last Acts** and reflected on the lessons learned throughout the study, focusing on Christ's love, truth, and promise of eternal life—an especially fitting message during the Christmas season.

Following the final lesson, the group transitioned into a powerful time of prayer. Members formed several prayer circles, sharing personal prayer requests and lifting one another up in faith. The atmosphere was filled with encouragement, compassion, and a deep sense of spiritual connection as voices joined together in prayer.

The fellowship continued with delicious food, laughter, and festive games that brought joy to all in attendance. The evening was filled with warm conversation, smiles, and the unmistakable spirit of Christian community.

The LCCG Christmas gathering was a beautiful reminder of the strength found in fellowship—supporting one another through prayer, sharing meals, and celebrating together. As the year came to a close, members left encouraged, uplifted, and grateful for the bonds formed through faith and fellowship, looking forward to what God will continue to do in the year ahead.



**#OUTREACH**

# Leadership Empowerment & Encouragement Training Recap

On **Saturday, January 10, 2026**, Ministry Leaders, Ministers, Directors, Trustees, the Diaconate, and Emerging Leaders gathered in the MPBC Fellowship Hall for a powerful **Leadership Empowerment & Encouragement Training** session focused on strengthening our discipleship mission and expanding our Kingdom impact. With **more than 60 participants in attendance**, the atmosphere was energetic and engaged—leaders arrived prepared, ready to learn, and eager to grow together.

## A Discipleship-Focused Call to Action

The first half of the session was facilitated by **Rev. Samuel Massenberg** to increase clarity around our leadership call and aligning MPBC more intentionally toward **Discipleship-Focused Ministry**. Participants reflected honestly on how MPBC has historically supported spiritual growth through:

- **Individual discipleship**
- **Small group engagement**
- **Corporate worship and ministry participation**

This discussion helped us identify clear growth opportunities. As we were reminded, “**The harvest is great, but the laborers are few.**” Together, we connected this reality to our **2026 outreach strategy**, considering the greatest needs in **Loudoun, Fairfax, and Prince William Counties** and how the church is called to respond.

## Rooted in Scripture and Equipped for Growth

A key focus of the training centered on **Matthew 28:16–19**, examined through the lens of the RightNow Media course “**Discipleship Pathway**.” Leaders walked through a clear discipleship progression that challenged and encouraged everyone:

- **Delivered** – Christ saves us
- **Devoted** – we commit ourselves to Him
- **Developed** – we mature through teaching and training
- **Deployed** – we are sent to serve and make disciples

## Small Groups, Big Kingdom Work

Following the teaching portion, participants broke into small groups and began the important work of assessing MPBC ministry areas that need strengthening in order to better carry out Kingdom work. Leaders took on key assignments and shared insights that will help shape ministry improvements moving forward.

**Be on the lookout for upcoming announcements and a renewed emphasis on: “Reach One, Teach One.”**

## Leadership Empowerment & Encouragement Training Recap (continued)

### Realm: Strengthening Our Discipleship Journey

The training closed with **Trustee Kevin Brown**, who expanded our understanding of **Realm** and its role in supporting the life and discipleship journey of our church family. He encouraged all members to take full advantage of Realm by completing the following:

- Set up profiles for yourself and your family
- Enable notifications for your ministry group
- Set up online giving
- Use the newsfeed for announcements, prayer requests, and calendar events
- Join a ministry group through Realm

### Helpful Tools and a February Challenge

Leaders were also reminded about **RightNow Media**, a powerful free resource available to members, families, and friends.

### February 1, 2026 Challenge:

- Start the You Version Bible Study: **“Declare the Gospel.”**

### Next Session

We're looking forward to continuing this growth together.

- Join us in person at MPBC for the next Leadership Empowerment & Encouragement session:**

**Saturday, April 11, 2026**



## Right Hand of Fellowship



12-07-2025



01-04-2026

## Baptisms



12-21-2025



01-18-2026

#OUTREACH



Meet our new Director of Administration, Sister **Nico Gittings Critcher**. Drop by and give her a warm welcome.



Sister **Shirnesha Simpkins Church** will be doing her trial sermon. Due to the weather, a new date and time will be announced. Please show your support by being in the sanctuary.

## OUTREACH

Our first quarter Outreach project of 2026 involves collection of food and toiletries items for Western Fairfax Christian Ministries. This organization offers food, toiletries, diapers and more to those in our communities in need. There is a list of most needed items, which is divided by Care Groups. Please pick up a copy of the list from your Care Group leader or in the church vestibule. Collection boxes will be located in the coat closet through March 10th.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

The US Postal Service is undergoing significant changes in 2026 which could impact the timing of mail delivery and the accuracy of postmark dates. The postmark will now reflect the date an envelope is first processed by an automated sorting machine, which could be days after it was dropped off. This change means that the postmark date may not be the actual date you dropped it off.

These changes could lead to late fees and penalties for time sensitive documents, such as **Tax Returns**, bill payments and **Mail-In Ballots**. It is recommended that these type items be mailed several days before the deadline or use Certified Mail for proof of timely mailing. Understanding these changes is crucial for anyone mailing legal, financial, or election documents beginning in 2026.

## #OUTREACH

# Get Your Article In The Next Newsletter. Deadline for the March-April issue is March 15th

## The Inspiration Newsletter

The Inspiration newsletter is a bi-monthly publication for Mount Pleasant Baptist Church (MPBC) family, friends and the community. The goal for this publication is to provide our readers with timely and relevant information about what MPBC is doing to spread God's word.

Articles and questions may be submitted to Shellia McKan. Deadline to submit articles for the next issue is **March 15, 2026**.

We pray and hope that everyone will find the information in this issue informative and inspiring.  
- God Bless.

### Guidelines for submitting articles are:

1. All articles must be approved by your Ministry Director before submission.
2. Each article must be in a separate MS Word document, Arial font, 12 point is preferred.
3. Each article must contain a working title at the beginning of the document. The article itself should be **no more than 400 words**.
4. Articles should be written with correct spelling and grammar.
5. Articles should answer the following: Who, What, When, Where, and Why.
6. Be sure to include your contact information.
7. **Do not** embed photos, graphics or charts in the Word document. **Send each photo, graphic or chart as a separate attachment. Photos should be full size (do not reduce) in jpg or png format.** Contact Shellia McKan regarding photos being sent by cell phone.



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703.793.1196

## Connect with us!

