

THE INSPIRATION

Mount Pleasant Baptist Church

A Mount Pleasant Baptist Church Publication Sept - Oct 2026 | Volume 14 Issue 5



#OUTREACH

TABLE OF CONTENTS

From the Pastor's Desk.....	page 3
Women's Weekend.....	page 4
International Day	page 5
Pastor's 10th Anniversary	page 6
Crowns & Calling Luncheon Tea	page 7
Vision Is Easy, Delivery Is Different	page 8
Bridge Ministry	page 9
Fairfax County Care Group.....	page 10
Baptisms & Right Hand of Fellowship.....	page 11
Your Vote, Your Voice, Responsibility.....	page 12

Upcoming Opportunities

Seasoned Saints Weekend ... Nov. 7 & 8

The S.E.E Ministry invites you to join our Mt. Pleasant team for these annual events. Below are the links to register or to donate. Have questions - please contact Sister Lulu Jackson.

- (1) Blood Cancer Light the Night on October 23 at Reston Town Center. <https://pages.ils.org/ltm/nca/NorthVA26/mpbcherndon>
- (2) S.O.M.E. Trot For Hunger on Thanksgiving Day (Nov 26) at Freedom Plaza in Washington D.C.
<https://runsignup.com/RaceGroups/185891/Groups/2207095>

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
8:30 AM

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

**Week night Word Fuel
Classes**

This issue is dedicated to the
memory of our Beloved
Deaconess Na Tosha Clemons



Forever in our Hearts.



Rev, Dr. Kevin Donalson, Sr.

From The Pastor's Desk

Today we celebrated 160 years as a church. What started in 1866 is still standing all these years later. As I reflect on where God has brought this church from one word continues to come to mind: grateful.

I am grateful for all that God has done in the life of Mount Pleasant.

Grateful for every Pastor.

Grateful for every Deacon.

Grateful for every Choir Member.

Grateful for every Usher.

Grateful for every Trustee.

Grateful for every Sunday School Teacher.

Grateful for every Servant who has spent time at Mount Pleasant walking out their call.

But just as grateful as I am for the past, I'm grateful for what God is doing at Mount Pleasant.

I'm grateful that we continue to do meaningful ministry. 'm grateful that we continue to touch lives.

I'm grateful that God has allowed me to serve Mount Pleasant these last 10 years.

But finally I'm grateful for what I know God is going to do.

I'm grateful for a community life center that will be built.

I'm grateful for lives that will be changed.

I'm grateful for souls that will be saved.

Yes I'm grateful for the past, the present and the future.

Happy Anniversary Mount Pleasant, let's stay grateful!



Empowered by Purpose

MPBC Women's Weekend 2026

The Mount Pleasant Baptist Church (MPBC) hosted an inspiring Women's Weekend from July 18th to July 19th, 2026, focused on the theme "The Woman God Created You to Be."

The multi-day event featured powerful spiritual growth, fellowship, and global outreach:

- **Saturday Workshop (July 18):** Best-selling author and speaker Kimberla Lawson Roby led a dynamic day featuring a continental breakfast, an interactive workshop, fellowship lunch, an interactive workshop and book signing.
- **Sunday Worship (July 19):** Guest Speaker Dr. Shakina Dunbar Rawlings delivered a powerful sermon during the church's morning worship service and the women of MPBC praised God through song.
- **Purse of Purpose Drive:** The weekend highlighted an outreach initiative to collecting new or gently used purses filled with hygiene products in support of the Women's Giving Back organization accompanied by handwritten "*Letters to My Sister*" words of encouragement. Monetary gifts were also raised to provide hygiene supplies and education partnerships for girls in East Africa.

The impactful weekend beautifully blended spiritual revival with local and global outreach.



#OUTREACH

Celebrating Global Unity: MPBC International Day

The Mount Pleasant Baptist Church (MPBC) recently hosted its vibrant International Day 2026 on August 16th. The successful event brought together church members and neighbors for an impactful day dedicated to global unity, fellowship, and international outreach.

The congregation welcomed Guest Preacher Rev. Dr. John Rhodes Sr., Pastor Emeritus of Trinidad Baptist Church in Capital Heights, MD, who delivered a moving sermon tailored to the day's theme of global community.

Following the service, attendees gathered for a lively fellowship hour. The highlight of the gathering was a shared tasting of international cuisine, allowing participants to connect over diverse traditional dishes and celebrate the multicultural fabric of the community.

Driven by a mission of global stewardship, MPBC used the occasion to spearhead a major international outreach drive. Thanks to the generosity of the community, the church successfully collected school supplies to benefit students at the Centre ESTEL in Senegal.

The donations received by International Day will directly support these students by providing them with the necessary tools and educational resources for their upcoming academic year.



#OUTREACH

Pastor Donalson's 10th Anniversary

This year marks the 10th anniversary of Rev. Dr. Kevin E. Donalson, Sr. serving as our Senior Pastor. We began the celebration with a Pre-Anniversary service on the night of August 6th, featuring a sermon from Rev. Jonathan T.G. Wilkins, Sr. of Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Centreville, VA, along with their Music Ministry. He preached from the subject "You Are One of Us", with scripture from Esther 4:12-17 (NIV).

On Sunday, August 9th the celebration continued with our guest minister, Rev. Dr. Andre Jermaine Lewis, Senior Pastor of New Faith Church in Houston, TX. His subject was "We're Just Built Different". Scripture was taken from Nehemiah 4:6 (NASB).

Thank you Pastor Donalson and 1st Lady Kimberly, for your ten years of dedication, leadership and service to Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church.



Crowns & Calling Luncheon Tea

The Mount Pleasant Baptist Church (MPBC) of Herndon community gathered for a beautiful afternoon of fellowship, tea, inspiration, and celebration on Saturday, August 1, 2026. The special "Crowns & Calling" Luncheon Tea was held to honor First Lady Kimberly Donalson and mark her remarkable decade of grace, service, and faithful support to the ministry.

The luncheon provided a meaningful opportunity for the congregation to pause and celebrate the woman who has walked beside Pastor Donalson with strength, dignity, faithfulness, and love.

The event's theme, "Crowns & Calling," beautifully reflected the words of Proverbs 31:25: *"She is clothed with strength and dignity..."* It celebrated the many roles women are called to carry with grace, strength, and purpose, reminding all in attendance that while physical hats and crowns are beautiful, the true crown is a life devoted to Christ.

Reflecting the spirit of the occasion, attendees donned elegant summer afternoon attire, beautifully complemented by an array of vibrant hats and fascinators. The stunning headwear served as a visual expression of both the symbolic crowns women wear and the divine calling they embrace daily.

The afternoon concluded with heartfelt tributes, shared stories over tea, and a collective expression of gratitude for First Lady Donalson's unwavering journey of faithful leadership and dedication to the MPBC community.



Vision Is Easy, Delivery Is Different

The ability to dream and have vision has been with me for as long as I can remember. I grew up poor. We didn't have a bunch of TVs. We had dreams and work to do. How much dreaming we could do depended on the day and just how broke we were at the time.

Over the years, Sarah has heard every dream, helping me harness ideas, sharpen my skills, and turn dreams into reality. Today, the Lord continues blessing me with visions that fuel the Bridge's creative engine.

From the "Spark Party" to "Sundresses and Shades" to "College Prayer, Pampering, and Pancakes", our "Servant Serving Spa" Volunteer Appreciation Day (I borrowed the alliteration from Johnnie Cochran, but that's another story), and our "What Failed Meetings", which focus on my failures as a leader, failed Bridge Ministry programs, and more. I believe vision and accountability are family. If there is vision, there must be accountability to deliver it.

But the Bridge's vision doesn't belong to me alone. It develops through conversations with our youth and volunteers. I listen. From Day One, I've maintained that our young people's opinions must carry the greatest weight in programming. That conviction hasn't changed. Practically every volunteer has contributed ideas. Neither side wins every time, but I ensure their voices prevail more often than mine.

We meet regularly, and no vision moves forward without the collective. Regardless of outcomes, we examine systemic failures, I take responsibility, and we improve.

Every volunteer and young person has heard me say:
"God gave us victory already, so losing is 100% a choice."

Some call it excellence. I call it Scripture. I want people to experience our ministry, culture, and leadership as reflections of Scripture's complex beauty. It may be different, but that's what makes it beautiful. That complex beauty is why we have grown and continue to do so.

Vision is easy. Delivery is different. Delivery demands humility, accountability, and collective effort. Every voice matters. God's vision may challenge assumptions and create discomfort, but that's no reason to dim it. It's an invitation to listen, discern, and lead faithfully. Vision shouldn't always reflect what we already think. Sometimes, it requires trusting God enough to do something we wouldn't ordinarily consider.

Teen Retreat



#OUTREACH

Bridge Ministry



Sundresses
and Shades



Volunteer Appreciation I

Volunteer Appreciation II



#OUTREACH

MPBC FCCG Fellowships 2026

Movie & Game Night & Bull Run Cookout

Did you know, The MPBC Diaconate plans for each of the three County Care Groups to have two fellowship activities every year? This year the Fairfax County Care Group (FCCG) planned and executed their events by one held internally at the church and one externally offsite from the church. The events were open to all Fairfax County residents in the congregation and their guests.

The first fellowship event was held on Friday 24 April 2026 at MPBC downstairs in the church Fellowship Hall and adjoining rooms, and was attended by 29 people. It was a Movie & Game Night. The festivities and activities consisted of food (hot dogs, cheese and pepperoni pizza, chips, popcorn, cookies, assorted movie candies, assorted sodas, juice and water), various board and card games and a movie (Sarah's Oil). After everyone got their eat on, all engaged in one of the many games available, until it was movie time. About 75% of the attendees opted to view the movie while the remainder stayed to continue some competitive gaming. During the movie things heated up over the board game Rummikub and the card game Spades. The Rummikub game was fun and enjoyed by all while the Spades game was a dreary challenge for some who suffered a few spankings at the hands of others. You can ask anyone who attended what a great time they had. There was plenty of fellowship, food and fun.

The second fellowship event was held on Saturday 22 August 2026 at Bull Run Regional Park, and was attended by 45 people. It was a cookout that was catered instead of cooked. The delicious menu consisted of: BBQ and jerk chicken, North Carolina pulled pork, beef brisket, collard greens, baked beans, potato salad, cole slaw, chips, cornbread, sandwich rolls, assorted desserts, watermelon, assorted sodas, and water. We were blessed with great weather, despite an ominous forecast for a very high probability of thunderstorms.

Next up for the FCCG is an outreach event to be held in October, which will entail sponsorship of a book drive for the Britepaths relief and support organization, that provides short-term safety-net services to those in need in the community. Look for details on that in the coming weeks.



#OUTREACH

Baptisms and Right Hand of Fellowship



08-16-2006



07-19-2026



Baptism at Rehab Center



Right Hand of Fellowship
Shirley Pullings and Jordyn Williams
09-06-2026

We apologize for the omission of the names of these young achievers in our July-August Issue. They are: Jayce B., Joseph A., Jakeem B., and Caden W.



#OUTREACH

YOUR VOTE. YOUR VOICE. YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.**Church Family, Make Your Voice Heard in the 2026 Mid-Term Elections!**

As people of faith, we are called to be good stewards of the opportunities God has given us. Voting is one way we can positively impact our communities and help shape the future for generations to come.

Don't miss these important election dates:

- ✓ **Voter Registration Deadline: October 23, 2026** (Virginia)
- ✓ **Early In-Person Voting: September 18, 2026 – October 31, 2026**
- ✓ **Election Day: Tuesday, November 3, 2026**
Polls are open from **6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

Why Vote?

- Honor your civic responsibility.
- Be a voice for your values.
- Help strengthen our communities.
- Participate in decisions that affect families, schools, businesses, and places of worship.

Plan Ahead:

1. Verify your voter registration.
2. Make a plan to vote early or on Election Day.
3. Encourage family and friends to participate.
4. Pray for our nation, our leaders, and the electoral process.

"Let your voice be heard. Faithful citizens make a difference."

2026 General Election: November 3, 2026

For voter information and registration assistance, visit the Virginia Department of Elections.

[Virginia Dept. of Elections: Upcoming Elections](#)

"Pray. Prepare. Participate. Vote."



2516 Squirrel Hill Road
Herndon, Virginia
703.793.1196

Connect with us!

