

# THE INSPIRATION

Mount Pleasant Baptist Church

A Mount Pleasant Baptist Church Publication Sept-Oct 2025 | Vol 13 Issue 5

## CELEBRATING 159 YEARS

A CHURCH ROOTED & BUILT UP IN CHRIST

COLOSSIANS 2:6-7



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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 & Con-**  
versation 10:30 AM

**Wednesday Night**  
**Word Fuel**  
7 pm  
In Person and Virtual

**Thursday Night**  
**Bible Study**  
via Zoom 7:00 PM  
Resumes August 7

*\* Check Realm for Zoom  
Information*

## Upcoming Events

Health Explosion October 11 & 12  
Seniors Ministry Fall Prayer Brunch October 25  
Light the Night Walk November 7



Rev, Dr. Kevin Donalson, Sr.

## *From The Pastor's Desk*

We are in the midst of one of the most turbulent times in the long history of our country. Whether it's the economy, politics, race, the takeover of American cities or even our spiritual spaces; things seem to be turned upside down. Every day it seems like there is something new that causes chaos. Even as I am writing this, I am watching the President and Secretary of Health and Human Services, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., announce that they believe (not based on any scientific evidence) that women taking Tylenol while pregnant causes Autism.

Two weeks ago, when it seemed like it couldn't get any worse, conservative podcaster, Charlie Kirk, was killed during a speaking engagement in Utah. His death has caused a mixed result of emotion throughout the land. While we pray for his wife and children in the loss of their husband and father, you can't overlook the things that he said and did during his lifetime that caused hurt and anger to so many. In the words of Dr. Howard John-Wesley the Senior Pastor of the Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, Va., "how one dies does not get to change how one lived."

What has been amazing to me has been the response from the Christian Church to Kirk's death. While he was a professing Christian many of his opinions and words were not very Christian like. Jesus said that you would be known as my disciples by your love for one another. That seems to be a forgotten tenant among many Christians today. Instead, they have made Kirk a martyr and saint because of his politics. It has gotten so bad that one United States House of Representatives member said that he believed, "that if Charlie Kirk lived during biblical times he would have been the 13th disciple." There is so much wrong with that statement but most importantly it is idolatry. God was clear that we were not to have "any other gods before me." It seems to me that the "gods" of patriotism and politics have taken over.

My prayer is that the church and true believers would heed the words of 2 Chronicles 7:14, "if my people who are called by my name would humble themselves and pray..." Its prayer time for the Church. It's time for all of us to realize that we need to step back and humble ourselves and seek God's face and then we will hear from God and He will heal our land, BECAUSE WE ARE IN NEED OF HEALING.

## Conversations That Matter

In August, we continued our annual summer series “Conversations That Matter”. This year’s theme was “The Church Filling in the Gap”, with scripture Ezekial 22:30. Each Wednesday night a special guest spoke from the various topics. The panelists and subjects are indicated below.



August 6

Filling In The Gap In The Midst Of Hopelessness  
**Rev. Dr. Dianne R. Malcolm**  
Coordinator for Clinical Pastoral Education at  
Medstar Georgetown University Hospital

August 13



Filling In The Gap In Knowing Your Identity  
**Rev. Joseph Yancey**  
MPBC Pastor of Children and Youth  
and The Bridge



August 20

Filling In The Gap In Meeting Needs  
**Rev. Lisa Howard**  
MPBC Director of Domestic Missions

August 27



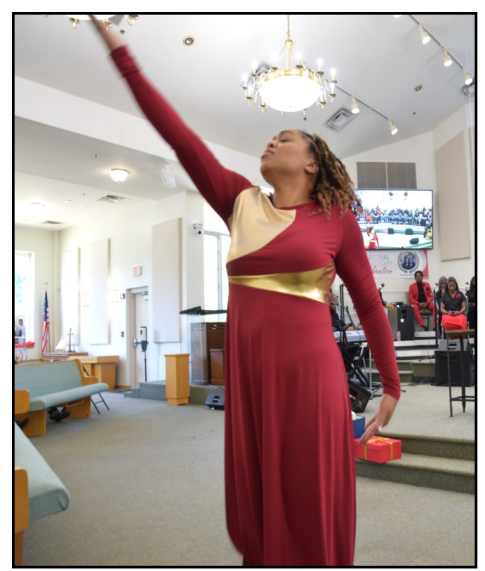
Filling In The Gap In Justice Issues  
**Dr. Wallis Baxter**  
Senior Pastor Second Baptist Church  
District Heights, MD





# 9th Pastoral Anniversary Celebration

On August 10, 2025, we celebrated the 9<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Kevin E. Donaldson, Sr. With red and black being the dominate colors of the day, the vestibule was beautifully decorated, as was the sanctuary and the fellowship hall. The choir and musicians were superior, as was the liturgical dance performed by Sister Sarah Yancey. There were expressions of appreciation from the church leadership and the congregation. A mighty word was preached by Rev. Dr. Andre Jermaine Lewis of New Faith Church in Houston, TX. His sermon topic was "The Reward of a Remembered Life." 2 Kings 20:1-3 NKJV. After worship service a light buffet was served in the fellowship hall. Thank you, Pastor and First Lady, for all you have done and continue to do for Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church.





# Women's Weekend



The Women's Ministry put forth a wonderful weekend in July. On July 19<sup>th</sup> the ladies arrived to a beautifully decorated fellowship hall, enjoying a continental breakfast and musical selection by Deaconess Cherise Simms, prior to receiving an inspiring message and workshop led by Dr. Regina Johnson. The theme was **"Be Still and Know"**, based on Psalm 46:10.



After a delicious lunch and fellowship, the ladies reconvened in a classroom set-up for a flower arranging activity by Bloom and Bubbly. Each lady departed with a vase containing the floral arrangement they had created. We had a ball!



On July 20<sup>th</sup> Dr. Johnson returned to bless us with her powerful preaching during the Sunday morning worship service. Her sermon title was "She Who Stands Shall Not Fall: God's Justice in a Time of Unrest", with scripture focus Exodus 1:15-22 and Psalm 46:5. To God be the glory for the blessings we shared.



A special Thank You to Deaconess Mona Benbow, Lady Kimberly Donalson, Sister Lulu Jackson, Sandra Singleton and the Bloom and Bubbly team, and everyone involved in the planning and execution of this weekend of worship, fellowship and sisterhood.



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# Hurricane Helene Recovery Mission

On June 22, 2025, after a word of prayer with Pastor Donalson, members of MPBC (Kimberly Donalson, Nikki Thompson, Ruth Ashby, Sharon Wilkins, Desmond Marshall, Ronald Linney, Lisa Howard) along with two Christians (James Barbour, Sr. and Debra Jackson) from other congregations traveled from Herndon, VA to Spruce Pine, NC to help its residents recover from the disaster caused by Hurricane Helene.

By the power of God and in partnership with Baptists on Mission and the Spruce Pine First Baptist Church, their goals were accomplished. The goals were to assure the residents that God had not forgotten His children, bring hope through ministry and hands-on repairs to their damaged homes and to understand and share in the experiences of those impacted by Hurricane Helene.



The team helped four residents with labor. The manual labor included working to remove the awning and flooring from the porch of one resident; to sand, spackle and paint rooms in another home; and spray mold remover on the interior of two other homes. The team was housed and fed by the Spruce Pine First Baptist Church, picking up and returning tools each day at the Baptists on Mission. The team also provided prayers, compassion, encouragement and a listening ear.



Our Director of Missions, Rev. Lisa Howard, invites the MPBC family to join in evangelizing and allowing God to use you. There are many activities you can be involved in, such as visiting those in prison, going door-to-door, participating in Bible study, going to shelters feeding the hungry, etc. This is the Lord's work, let Him use you.

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# International Day

On August 17, MPBC celebrated International Day — a time to honor our unity in Christ and the beautiful diversity of our congregation.

We were blessed by a powerful Word from Rev. William Young of Covenant Baptist UCC, Washington, D.C. After service, we enjoyed food & fellowship with 20+ delicious international dishes shared among more than 100 people!

A special thank you to our amazing Hospitality Ministry for making this day unforgettable.



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## International Day (continued)



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## Meet Pastor J.

### Director of C & Y and The Bridge Ministry

As Joseph Yancey, Jr. enters a room you can see his enthusiasm and feel his energy. Pastor J, as he is known, is the Director of our Children & Youth and The Bridge Ministry.

Born into a family of ministers, he is the youngest child of Rev. Joseph Jack Yancey, Sr. and Dorian Yancey. Along with his sister, Kim, and brothers, Jermaine and Sincere, he was born and raised in Mineral, VA, where he resided until his early 20's.

He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Organizational Behavior from Arizona State University, where he graduated Summa Cum Laude. He went on to earn a Master's Degree in Project Management-Contract Dispute Resolution from Georgetown University.



At age 4 he began playing drums and keyboard, preaching his first sermon at age 7 at Rising Sun Baptist Church. He and his siblings were taught to run all phases of the church, everyone moving around on the instruments. Pastor J was licensed in Ministry under Bishop Anthony Brown at God's House of Faith in Charlottesville, VA.

In 2015, he moved to Richmond, VA and became a fireman. While there he worked with the Men's Ministry at Mt. Olive Church, where he oversaw the Rehabilitation and Literacy Ministry, holding meetings at the church and the firehouse for anyone in need due to drugs, alcohol or incarceration in jail.

After the death of his father in 2017 (his mother had passed when he was age 11) he wanted to give up on everything – preaching only once in 2018 and doing nothing ministry related. He and his wife, Sarah, moved to Winchester, VA so that she could complete her education as he continued working as a fireman driving from there to Richmond. Then in 2020 he came upon two brothers who had lost their mother. Initially he didn't know what to do, but as he began to minister to them everything changed. He felt he was being called back into ministry. "When God says you're ready, then you're ready".

He became the Young Adult Pastor (ages 18-35) at Sharon Baptist Church in Richmond. Through him this ministry grew exponentially. While at Sharon he went through the Ordination process which included open catechism in front of the congregation. He came to Mt. Pleasant in March of this year.

Pastor J feels that young people have real world issues and that his most important responsibility is "people – take care of the people". He credits his wife, Sarah, as his greatest blessing; she knows him and balances him out. He also counts Deaconess Cherise Simms and the MPBC volunteers among his blessings.

When asked about challenges, he states "giving them everything they need. If they have a need, they need it now". He believes that his greatest strength is also his weakness: not knowing how to let things go. In his own words:

We're all trying to see what's next.  
We're all in this collectively.  
Give me Grace. Give us Time.  
...And Love **People**.



## Bridge City Ministry Plan

We took an in depth look at our Children and Youth Ministry. At the conclusion of the 90-day observation period, we realized there were significant changes necessary to advance our ministry to the next level. Every volunteer and pupil provided feedback, formally or informally, to help determine our path forward. Their insights—which are captured in the Bridge City Ministry Plan (approved by Pastor Donalson) encompasses but is not limited to administrative duties and operations, service suggestions, curriculum guidance, training enhancements and more—became the foundation of our vision for the future. This plan was created to address conversations and concerns from all ministry stakeholders, ensuring that each idea was translated into concrete steps.

Paramount to our transformation is the reorganization of duties and the creation of newly established positions designed to streamline operations and improve efficiency, while simultaneously presenting fresh opportunities for leadership development. By clarifying roles and aligning responsibilities more closely with individual strengths, we anticipate a more decisive, cohesive team dynamic with new and diverse ideas.

It goes without saying that reigniting interests with our Young Adults and College students is our most urgent priority. Our church will cease to exist without our young people being engaged and being in place to carry the torch into the future. To that end, we are launching targeted initiatives, discussion forums, and mentorship pairings that will foster deeper engagement and a sense of ownership among this vital demographic. These programs will be supported by real-time feedback loops, ensuring that we remain responsive and adaptable to emerging needs.

With these strategic enhancements—rooted in community feedback, structured leadership pathways, and focused youth engagement—we are poised to enter our next chapter with renewed energy and clarity.

In closing, I would like to extend a personal thanks to Pastor Donalson, Pastor Massenberg, Rev. Dr. Todd, Director Cherise Simms, and our wonderful volunteers, parents, clergy, church leaders and membership for opportunity to lead our Bridge City (College, Industry, Teens & Youth) Ministry into the future. Through Christ all things are possible; but we must be open to His possibilities.

## Baptisms



**August 17**  
**Jaxson L., Chelsea Coffin**



**September 21**  
**Allison Wallace, Ashley Masemba**

## Right Hand of Fellowship



**August 3**  
**Trevis Caldwell, Michael Ambers**



**September 7**  
**Malaiya McGee**



## School Supplies



Our August school supply drive benefitted several elementary schools in Fairfax County and Loudoun County; also Dakar, Senegal. Those helping to sort and organize the supplies included Faye Bazemore, Rene Jarrett, Shirley Harper, Beverly Walker and Donna Stroy. Deliveries were coordinated by Rev. J Yancey for MPBC youth and Deaconess Mona Benbow (International Ministry) for Senegal. School deliveries were made by Deaconess Beverly Walker (to Floris Elementary and Hutchison Farm Elementary), Faye Bazemore (to Lake Anne Elementary and Dogwood Elementary), and Rene Jarrett (to Guilford Elementary and Dogwood Elementary). Thank you, Mount Pleasant, for your continuous support.



MPBC front office personnel perform wherever needed. Photos show fallen trees being removed from our campus after one of our summer storms.





## Blessings on Your Next Venture



Best wishes to Brandon Wilkes as he departs after serving 11 years in the Music Ministry. We will miss his dedication and heartfelt desire to use his God-given talent.

On Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> during our worship service, D'Vell Garrison, Jr. and his family came forward so that Pastor Donalson and the Church could pray over him as he takes the next steps following his transfer from Morehouse College. D'Vell Jr. has departed for Spain where he will be continuing his studies at the Universidad Europea de Valencia (UEV). He will also be playing semi-professional basketball for the Spanish Basketball Federation. Congratulations and Best Wishes! (Garrison family photo courtesy Sharon Davis)





## International Ministry Annual Picnic

On 27 July, the International Ministry held their annual picnic at Claude Moore Park. We had a wonderful time fellowshiping with one another, playing games and enjoying great food. Special thanks to all who supported this event.



We are deeply appreciative of Mother Dorothy Lockett and what she has done for Mt. Pleasant and the world. On August 11th she celebrated her 102nd birthday!

Pastor Donalson held an alter call and a special back-to-school prayer for students and school personnel.



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# Get Your Article In The Next Newsletter. Deadline for the November-December issue is November 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 **November 15, 2025**.

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 in Arial font, 12 point.
3. Each article must contain a working title at the beginning of the document followed by a by-line then the article itself (50–350 words is suggested).
4. Articles should be written in newsletter format with proper transitions and correct spelling and grammar.
5. Articles should answer the following: Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How.
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.



## Connect with us!

