

THE INSPIRATION

Mount Pleasant Baptist Church

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Congratulations Graduates!

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Upcoming Events

Pastor's Anniversary
Tea With First Lady
International Day
Mt. Pleasant Church Anniversary

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 are on hiatus for
the summer.**



Rev, Dr. Kevin Donalson, Sr.

From The Pastor's Desk

On the 2nd Sunday in August I will celebrate 10 years as Pastor of the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church. I can't believe it's been a decade now that my family and I uprooted from South Carolina and moved to Northern Virginia.

As I reflect on my time I can't help but think about my children. When we moved here, my children were in the 10th and 8th grade. They are both now grown young adults. That awkward young girl is now a graduate of Yale and Georgetown and that short young fella with all the hair is now a graduate of Morehouse and an officer in the Navy. I truly believe they were able to accomplish what they have because we decided to follow the Holy Spirit and say yes to Mount Pleasant.

When I think about my wife I can't help but be thankful. For almost 17 years she lived hundreds of miles from her family. Ten years ago she was able to move closer to her mother, father and siblings. As her father deals with health challenges now I am grateful that we are near him for my wife. You see, I have learned that we don't always understand why God is doing what He is doing but if you trust in Him, He will make your pathway straight.

For 10 years I have blessed your babies, buried your loved ones, married your children and counseled you when needed. I have seen the ups and downs in your lives and in the lives of your families. I have prayed with you, cried with you, celebrated with you and sometimes even disagreed with you. Through it all, we have all trusted that God's will would be done. It hasn't always been easy and it hasn't always gone the way I wanted, but I am grateful for the journey.

It recently dawned on me that I have been at Mount Pleasant longer than the other two churches that I pastored. I look forward to what God has in store for the next 10 years.



BRIDGE ACHIEVERS



The final recognition of the school year for our young achievers:
Congratulations to everyone for all of your accomplishments.

1st Row: Jaydon L., Kendrick T., Sydney A., Lauren G., Olivia A.
2nd Row: Palmer E., Ethan A., Naima B., Addison B. Sasha C.
3rd Row: Jakiyah B., Stassi E., Garrett O., Emrie K., Evonne R.
4th Row: Robert B., Jaxson L., Victoria R., Jozy H., Mason S.
5th Row: Jakobi B., Grayson O., Kasai K., Nylah B, Gavin O.

#OUTREACH

High School Graduates

On May 31st, we held our annual Graduate Recognition Celebration.

The graduates paraded into the sanctuary and were presented to the congregation, followed by the awarding of MPBC scholarships. College scholarships were awarded to (1st place) Cameryn DeShields, (2nd place) Tehillah Garrison, (3rd place) Gabrielle Gaillard and (4th place) Layla Henry.

Pastor Donalson gave the Charge To The Graduates, followed by our guest preacher, Rev. Dr. John J. Cox of The Vine Fellowship Church.

Sophia Bullard



IMG Academy
Attending North Carolina A&T
University
Major: Psychology

Cameryn DeShields



Chantilly High School
Attending Spelman
College
Major: Political Science

Tehillah Garrison



Colgan High School
Attending Univ. of So. Carolina
Major: Exercise Science

Frederick "Tre" Scott



Herndon High School
Attending: Virginia Tech
Major: Chemistry & Chem. Eng.

Layla S. Henry



Ashville College –United Kingdom
Attending NC Central University
Major: Biomedical Sciences

College Graduates

Lainey Brooks



George Mason University
BA - Creative Writing

Ashlee Brown



Howard University
BA - Art Design Concentration:
UX & Minor in Computer Sci.

Nyla Desamours



Howard University
BA - Bus. Admin. Concentration:
Supply Chain Mgmt.

Kaitlyn Easterling



Clemson University
BA - Criminal Justice

Myah Howard



North Carolina A&T State University
BS - Chemistry Concentration: Biochem-
istry & Biomedical Sciences

Theresa Southerland



Strayer University
BA - Bus. Admin. Concentration:
Accounting



Vaughn Knight

Virginia Tech University
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science

#OUTREACH

Post College Graduates

Princess Aghayere



Harvard University Business School
MA - Business Administration

Candace Person



George Mason University
MA - Education Concentration: Educational Leadership

Sarah Yancey



Shenandoah University
PhD - Medical Science
Specializing in Physician Assistant Studies (PA-C)

Mikayla Watt



Univ. of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
1st PhD in Curriculum of Toxicology and Environmental Medicine

A Feast of Fellowship: International Ministry Annual Picnic Success!

The International Ministry Annual Picnic on Saturday, July 11th, was a resounding success! Hosted across the beautiful grounds of Mount Pleasant and inside the Fellowship Hall, the day was filled with laughter, incredible food, and wonderful community spirit.

The Master Chefs

Our tastebuds were truly blessed thanks to our amazing culinary team:

- **Walter Johnson** mastered the grill with perfectly cooked burgers, hot dogs, and grilled corn.
 - **Cal Spratley**, his new bride **Donna**, and sister **Ora Wooten** kept the fryer going with perfectly battered fried fish.
 - **Sister Ora** also treated everyone to her famous Fried North Carolina Cornbread, which paired beautifully with a refreshing hibiscus drink prepared by **Angele Kalongo**.
- Sister Charita Mayo** provided the delicious baked beans to round out the feast.

Music, Games & Fellowship

The atmosphere was joyful all afternoon! **Brother Reggie Wesley** served as our DJ, keeping spirits high with a wonderful mix of international gospel music. Between the meals, everyone enjoyed a fantastic array of games provided by **the Garners** and **Deacon Limon Watt**.

Serving Our Neighbors

True to our ministry's heart, the picnic was also a time of giving back. We were privileged to welcome guests from the **Embry Rucker Shelter** to share a meal with us. Thanks to your incredible generosity, we also successfully collected a wonderful supply of travel-sized toiletries to donate back to the shelter.

A Huge Thank You!

An event like this takes a village. A huge thank you to all the volunteers who helped set up and break down the event, with a special shout-out to **Kelly Aghayere** for doing so much of the heavy lifting to make the day run smoothly. Thank you to everyone who contributed to a beautiful day of joy, food, and ministry!

Save the Date: Annual International Day!

The celebration of our global family continues! Mark your calendars for **Sunday, August 16th, 2026**, for our **Annual International Day**. Come dressed in your national attire as we celebrate our diverse heritages and honor where we all come from. See you there!

International Ministry Annual Picnic



#OUTREACH



Baby Dedication
05-17-2026



Baby Dedication
05-24-2026



Two of our MPBC Scholarship Winners with
Deaconess Mary Todd



Cassidy Mazyck is acknowledged for
receiving a scholarship from the
EverBless Foundation

#OUTREACH

Thank you to all those who donated clothes for our 2nd quarter Outreach Project. Because of your generosity we were able to bless two organizations with 144 bags of clothing.

Women Giving Back, located in Sterling, has a mission to support women and children in crisis and build their confidence and self-esteem by providing great quality at no cost. Dulles South Neighborhood Closet in South Riding helps Dulles South residents gain access to needed clothing through free community-wide clothing exchanges.

Also, a big thank you to those who showed up to load and unload the truck.



#OUTREACH

Conversations That Matter

THEME FOR 2026

Healthy Minds, Strong Faith:

Biblical Conversations About Mental Health







SESSION 1
AUGUST 12

When You Are Running on Empty:
Burnout, Stress and Rest
Matthew 11:28-30

 Dr. Napoleon Bradford,
Pastor, Teacher, Counselor



SESSION 2
AUGUST 19

Faith Over Fear:
Dealing with Anxiety and Worry
Philippians 4:6-9

 Rev. Nick Young,
Pastor and Licensed Therapist



SESSION 3
AUGUST 26

Breaking the Silence:
Depression, Grief and Finding Hope
Psalm 42

 Rev. Dr. Stephanie Joy-Griggs,
Preacher and Clinical Psychologist

 mtpleasantbaptist.org #WEGROWHERE

Tax-Free Holidays

Both Maryland and Virginia will be having sales tax holidays in August, meant to help parents purchase school supplies, clothing and footwear for their children. Each state has a price per item limit.

In Virginia this Tax-Free Weekend runs from Friday, August 7th through Sunday August 9th.

The dates in Maryland are from August 9th through August 15th.

Please check each state's website for possible dollar limits per item.

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The Seasoned Saints Seniors Ministry 2026

Oh my my, it's already July, where has this year flown? Half of 2026 is already in the rear-view mirror. The Seasoned Saints Seniors Ministry has had a wonderfully busy year thus far. We kicked off 2026 with **Prayer & Conversation** as we continually strive to dig deeper into studying GOD's WORD, paying close attention to the health & fitness of our temples so we are able to do what God has called us to do within and outside these church walls.

Catching the 2026 Outreach Vision, the seasoned saints strive to continually help those in need, share the Gospel and encourage other believers to grow closer to God, while not forgetting to stay connected to one another rejoicing and celebrating our lives as GOD is blessing us to grow and fulfill HIS purpose for us.

We began our studies in the Book of 1 John applying the **How to Study the Bible using the S.O.A.P. METHOD: S = Scripture, O=Observation, A=Application, and P=Prayer.**

As Daylight savings time kicked in, we completed **Spiritual Gifts Surveys** to determine our dominate gifts for this season before diving deep into our study of **Spiritual Gifts**. A study of the **Holy Spirit** followed. And who would have thought that asking a simple question like **"Is Your House in Order?"** would yield such an informative series. We were reminded to not only be good stewards, but we must be mindful of the legacy we leave. Proverbs 13:22 *"A good man leaves an inheritance for his children's children."* Are we establishing and transferring sustainable generational wealth? Hmmmmmm! This is not just monetary – Are you prepared for long-term care, emergencies and disasters? Do you have plans in place? Do you know the resources available to you? Many thanks to all the presenters.

After our hands-on CPR training and awareness, it was time to get our hands dirty. Yes, it was planting season. Our own Dr. Mamie Parker (well-known Fish and Wildlife biologist) and her team came for a **POLLINATORS, POTTING & GARDENING Fellowship Day**. We learned about How Bees Make Honey and the surprising benefits – presented by Farmer Joe Guirrerri also known as "Joe DA Beekeeper". The seasoned saints received a wealth of knowledge surrounding environmental stewardship, STEM learning, wellness and rich fellowship. We engaged in various activities including potting flowers and vegetables to take home. It was an amazing time. Not only did they take care of us inside, but they also took great care of our garden outside. We were tremendously blessed by them sharing their gifts, talents and abilities with us.

We want to thank Dr Mamie Parker, Joe DA Beekeeper, the Reston (VA) Chapter of The Links, Inc., Connecting Links Rock, Pierre and Randall. Their community partners included Loudoun County Master Gardeners, Virginia Cooperative Extension, REI Co-op Action and Old Apple Valley Farm.



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And the fellowship and engagement has not stopped. We enjoyed a creative and relaxing Craft/Art Day. Then our next adventure took us on a road trip up to Lancaster, PA to the Sight and Sound Theater where the Bible Story **Joshua** came to life. What an experience to witness Faith and Obedience in action as the Walls of Jericho came tumbling down!



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Get Your Article In The Next Newsletter. Deadline is September 15

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 **September 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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Connect with us!

