

THE INSPIRATION

Mount Pleasant Baptist Church

A Mount Pleasant Baptist Church Publication Jan-Feb 2024 | Volume 12 Issue 1

Spiritual Growth. GOD'S DESIGN FOR THE BELIEVER!

WE GROW HERE

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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 an-
nounce yourself.*

Sunday Morning Word Fuel
(2 classes, in-Person and
Zoom
9:00 AM until 9:55 AM

Monday Night Bible Study
via Zoom 7:00 PM
And 7:30 PM

Tuesday Night Bible Study
Via Zoom 7:00 PM

Wednesday Night
Word Fuel with the Pastor
In-Person and Virtual 7pm
Facebook and YouTube

Thursday Night
Bible Study
via Zoom 7:00 PM

** Check Realm for Zoom
Information*

Upcoming Events

MPBC Television Broadcasts of Pastoral Sermons are listed as **Pleasant Hope** and can be viewed on the following channels:

Fairfax Public Access for Verizon FIOS users Channel 36 on Mondays at 1 am, Thursdays at 6 pm, and Sundays at 9:30 am. Also, on Channel 10 Sundays at 1:30 pm

Herndon Community TV for Verizon FIOS Channels 28 and Cox Channel 23 on Sundays at 9 am

Pleasant Hope radio broadcasts air on Praise 104.1 FM on Sunday nights at 7 pm.



Rev, Dr. Kevin Donalson, Sr.

From The Pastor's Desk

“Unity in the church is so important that the New Testament gives more attention to it than to either heaven or hell. God deeply desires that we experience oneness and harmony with each other. Unity is the soul of fellowship. Destroy it, and you rip the heart out of Christ’s Body. It is the essence, the core, of how God intends for us to experience life together in his church. Our supreme model for unity is the Trinity. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are completely unified as one. God himself is the highest example of sacrificial love, humble other-centeredness, and perfect harmony.”

— Rick Warren, *The Purpose Driven Life: What on Earth Am I Here For?*

Unity has to be more than just a word. It has to be something that the church is serious about. Unity was so important that you see more about Unity in the New Testament than heaven or hell. Jesus spent an entire Chapter (John 17) talking about and praying for Unity in the Church.

Mount Pleasant, we have to “examine ourselves”. We have to take a serious look at what we are doing individually to cause us to not be unified collectively. No matter how we try to shape it, God is not pleased with where we are right now as a church. We have allowed Satan to come in our midst and cause confusion and disunity.

Oh, we will still have church every Sunday. We will still worship and praise God. We will continue to do ministry. We will continue to receive tithes and offerings. BUT CAN WE BE THE CHURCH THAT GOD WANTS US TO BE continuing on the path that we are on? I don’t think so. I don’t think we can have God look at us and say, “This is my church in whom I am well pleased” if we stay where we are.

How can we fix it? It starts with prayer. We must be a “praying church”. Jesus said, “my house shall be a house of prayer. We have to get back to the basics of prayer. Once we do that, I think there are other steps that we must take to be a truly unified church but for right now I want to focus on prayer. Let each one of us commit to praying for the unity of the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church. I believe that prayer works and that if we are serious about prayer, God will be serious about answering our prayer.

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2023 December Community Outreach Events

Each year Pastor Donalson appoints a team from the Directorate to plan a summer event for the community. With focused events this year such as Men's Weekend, Women's Weekend, and C&Y Weekend, he asked the team to plan a community event for December. The team came up with the Adopt-A-Community concept and the theme scripture was Matthew 22:39 (NIV), **Love your neighbor as yourself.**

The two communities MPBC adopted were Coppermine Run Apartments and Kendrick Court Apartments located in Herndon, VA. The families were very appreciative to receive the gifts.

On Friday, December 1, 2023, the MPBC Community Outreach Planning Team kicked-off the month by hosting a Meet & Greet and Gift Pick-up for families at the Coppermine Run that were donated by MPBC members. We were able to transform the atmosphere at the Coppermine Run Rental Office into a spirit of loving, giving, and making the families feel special.

The families were treated with hot apple cider, cookies, chocolate candy, candy canes, and fruit. The takeaways also included water bottles, book markers, a Christmas card, and reusable tote bags. It was a blessed day!

The 2023 December Community Outreach Team thanks our MPBC Family for donating the toys and gift cards that made this day possible.

Coppermine Run Outreach



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2023 December Community Outreach Events (continued)

On Saturday, December 16, 2023, the MPBC Community Outreach Team hosted a Holiday Luncheon for residents at the Kendrick Court Senior Community located in Herndon, VA. The residents were served a delicious 4-course meal, entertained by a soloist, sang Christmas carols, played bingo, and participated in arts & crafts. All in attendance were very appreciative of the love that was showered upon them.

The 2023 December Community Outreach Team thanks all the volunteers who came out to help make this event a success.

Kendrick Court Senior Community



Socio-Economic Empowerment Ministry in the Community

The Socio-Economic Empowerment (S.E.E.) Ministry is comprised of six core ministries. These core ministries are: Business Mind of Christ; Community Outreach; Faith Based Initiatives; Health, Wellness & Fitness; Political Awareness and Warriors For Christ. Through out the year the ministry is involved in numerous activities to build families, communities and the “Body of Christ.” Below are two of the many activities the ministry participated in during the month of December.



S.E.E. Ministry Director, Sister Lulu Jackson, presenting \$500 to Cornerstone Virginia in support of the Stonegate Community Center as part of the S.E.E. Community Outreach.



Sister Lulu Jackson, presenting a \$500 donation to Sarah Ford, Executive Director for Serve Our Willing Warriors –Bull Run Retreat, on behalf of MPBC Herndon as part of the S.E.E. Ministry Warriors for Christ. This is in support of their new retreat home for wounded warriors.



Baptism and Baby Dedication



Garrett Osumah II
January 21, 2024



Arya Deavina Registe
January 21, 2024



On December 2, 2023, the Loudoun County Care Group packaged 84 care boxes for the Potomac Falls Rehabilitation Center. This compassionate initiative provided essential items to those in need. The Potomac Falls Rehabilitation Center expressed immense gratitude for the donations, emphasizing that for some residents these care boxes might be the only Christmas gift they receive.

~Deaconess Cherise Simms

Before Rosa Parks

Much is said about Rosa Parks not giving up her seat up on the bus in Montgomery, AL, but did you know she was not the first Black female to do so? Let's take a quick look at some who preceded her.



Born in March 1827, **Elizabeth Jennings Graham** was a teacher and civil rights figure. Her father was a free man and her mother was born enslaved. Her father patented a process for dry cleaning clothing and with the proceeds from the patent he bought his family's freedom. On Sunday, July 16, 1854, Graham was running late for her position as organist at her church. At that time, all the streetcars were privately owned and had segregated cars. She boarded the first streetcar that came by and was ordered to get off by the conductor. When she refused, he attempted to remove her by force but was unable to. Eventually, with the help of a police officer, she was ejected. Graham insisted that she had the right to ride on any New York City streetcar

that was available. Her father, Thomas Jennings, filed a lawsuit on behalf of his daughter against the driver, the conductor, and the company. Her case was handled by young attorney Chester A. Arthur, future President of the United States. The case was decided in her favor in 1855. The incident sparked an organized movement among Black New Yorkers to end racial discrimination on all streetcars, leading to the eventual desegregation of all New York City transit systems by 1865.



Born April 9, 1917, **Irene Morgan** was from Baltimore, MD. She was arrested in Middlesex County, Virginia in 1944 (while on a Greyhound bus), under a state law which imposed racial segregation in public facilities and transportation. At the time of her arrest and conviction, she was travelling on an interstate bus from Gloucester County in Virginia headed to Baltimore, Maryland that operated under federal regulations and law. In July 1944 (while on a Greyhound bus), she refused to give up her seat in what the driver said was the white section. The driver got off the bus and came back with the sheriff and a warrant for her arrest. She torn up the paper and threw it out the window. When the sheriff touched her to pull her out of the seat, she kicked him in the groin. Another sheriff was called. She explained to him about the physical altercation which had taken place with the first sheriff. After a conversation with him the second

sheriff got off and sent for a deputy. Morgan was arrested and charged with resisting arrest and violating Virginia's Jim Crow transit law. She agreed to pay a fine for resisting arrest but would not plead to the segregation violation. The NAACP Legal Defense Fund took up her case, with attorneys William H. Hastie and Thurgood Marshall as her legal counsel. The Virginia Supreme Court ruled she was in violation of the law. Her case, "Irene Morgan v. Commonwealth of Virginia, 328 U.S.373", was appealed to the United States Supreme Court, which ruled in a 6-1 decision in 1946 that the Virginia law was unconstitutional because it violated the Interstate Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution, protecting interstate travel and that only Congress could regulate interstate commerce.

Footnote: In 1960, in *Boynton v. Virginia*, the Supreme Court extended the Morgan ruling to include bus terminals used in interstate bus service.

Before Rosa Parks (continued)



Nine months prior to the arrest of Rosa Parks, **Claudette Colvin** refused to give up her seat to a white woman on a crowded bus in Montgomery, AL. On March 2, 1955, at the age of 15, she was arrested. Colvin was one of four plaintiffs in the first federal court case filed by Civil Rights Attorney Fred Gray, which challenged bus segregation in the city of Montgomery. In **Browder v. Gayle**, on February 1, 1956, a three-judge panel heard the case in U. S. District Court. In June of 1956, the judges determined that state and local laws requiring bus segregation in Alabama were unconstitutional. The case went to the U.S. Supreme Court on appeal by the State of Alabama, but the District Court's ruling was upheld on November 13, 1956. The Supreme Court affirmed the order to Montgomery and the state of Alabama to end bus segregation. The Montgomery Bus Boycott (which had begun) was then called off. For many years, Colvin's pioneering efforts were not publicized; many believe because she was unmarried and pregnant. It is now widely believed that Montgomery civil rights campaigners did not credit Colvin due to her circumstances at the time of the incident.



Aurelia Browder was a civil rights activist in Montgomery, AL. On April 19, 1955, almost eight months before the arrest of Rosa Parks and a month after the arrest of Claudette Colvin, she was arrested for refusing to give up her bus seat to a white rider. She was convicted and fined for her alleged crime. Civil Rights Attorney Fred Gray filed suit. The court filing, **Browder v. Gayle** originally listed five plaintiffs: Aurelia Browder, Claudette Colvin, Susie McDonald, Jeanetta Reese and Mary Louis Smith. Browder was picked as the lead plaintiff because of her age (37). Both Susie McDonald and Mary Louis Smith were arrested on October 21, 1955. Two of the plaintiffs were teenagers and the other two were senior citizens. (Jeanetta Reese withdrew from the case soon after filing, probably due to intimidation from the white community).

William A. Gayle (the namesake defendant) was the Mayor of Montgomery, but other defendants were Montgomery Chief of Police, Montgomery Board of Commissioners, Montgomery City Lines, Inc., two bus drivers and Alabama Public Service Commission. On June 5, 1956, judges released their decision that segregated buses violated the equal protection and due process guarantees of the Fourteenth Amendment and were therefore unconstitutional. Both the city and the state appealed the decision. On December 17, 1956, the Supreme Court upheld the ruling, issuing a court order to the state of Alabama to desegregate its buses.

While the Montgomery bus boycott, sparked by Rosa Parks' actions, gained lasting national attention, it was actually Browder's court case that resulted in segregation laws being declared unconstitutional. On December 19, 1956, federal marshals handed the mayor of Montgomery official notice to desegregate the Montgomery buses. They were desegregated the next day. The boycott had lasted 381 days.

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The Kingdom

Happy New Year, MPBC family!

I hope everyone had a joyous Christmas break and start to the New Year. The Kingdom ended the year with a beautiful worship service and Christmas production on December 10, 2023. The play, Lo and Behold, was directed by Deaconess Cherise Simms and Carmen Mazyck. In the story, two angels, Lo and Behold have lost their way and are trying to get back to heaven when they happen upon Jesus' birth.

Kingdom Kids of all ages participated in the cast. Many of the young people sang and helped narrate portions of the play. The children did an awesome job. After the play ended, the congregation was treated to an encore of some songs during the 10:30 am worship service. It was a blessing to see so many children and their families participating in the performance.

A heartfelt thank you goes to all the Kingdom staff and parents. We couldn't do ministry without you. As we expand our Kingdom outreach, we still need more volunteers. Please reach out to Rev. Vital and Deaconess Simms at mpbccandy@mtpleasantbaptist.org to get involved.

The Kingdom is looking forward to returning to full worship service downstairs for all ages 3-12th grade and a full-function parent nursery. We are anticipating what 2024 holds for the Kingdom with a theme focused on the possibilities of FAITH. Our focus scriptures are Matthew 17:20, Matthew 21:22, and 2 Corinthians 5:7.

Kingdom Worship Dates for February -March

February 2024

Worship Services

- February 4, 10:30 am worship ages 3-12th grade
- February 11, Youth Sunday Main Sanctuary and Black History Program
- February 18, 10:30 am worship ages 3-12th grade
- February 25, 10:30 am worship Children only ages 3-6th grade; 5:30p-8:30 pm Teen Communion, Fellowship & Worship grades 6th-12th

March 2024

We plan to return for in-person Bible study with a "March Madness" theme on Wednesday, March 6, 13, 20, and 27, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Worship Services

- March 3, 10:30 am worship Children ages 3-12th grade
- March 10, Youth Sunday Main Sanctuary
- March 17, 10:30 am worship Children ages 3-12th grade
- March 24, 10:30 am worship Children only ages 3-6th grade; 5:30p-8:30 pm Teen Communion, Fellowship & Worship grades 6th-12th

Photos from Lo and Behold



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Lo and Behold Cast and Crew



INSTALLATION OF MPBC LEADERSHIP 2024

Sunday, January 21, 2024



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Learning Opportunities



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Word Fuel with Rev. Dr. Todd 9:00 am-9:55 am "From Many People to One People" In-Person (Toddler Room) & Virtual via Zoom	Word Fuel with Rev. Dr. Todd 7:00 pm-8:00 pm "The Disciples Prayer Life" Virtual only via Zoom	Seniors Ministry Bible Study "Prayer and Conversation" Rev. Alexander In-Person (Fellowship Hall) and Virtual via Zoom	Word Fuel with Pastor Donalson 7:00 pm-8:00 pm In-Person (Sanctuary) and Virtual via Facebook and YouTube	New Testament Bible Study Rev. Dr. Todd 7:00 pm-8:00 pm
Word Fuel with Rev. Massenberg 9:00 am-9:55 am "From Many People to One People" In-Person (Rm 10L-11L) & Virtual via Zoom	Sharpened Sword Men's Bible Study Rev. Sharpe 7:30 pm-8:30 pm Virtual via Zoom	Old Testament Bible Study Rev. Massenberg 7:00 pm-8:00 pm "The Book of Ezekial" Virtual via Microsoft Teams	Young Adult Word Fuel Rev. Hawkins 7:00 pm-8:00 pm Virtual via Zoom	
For information on accessing the sessions via Zoom and Microsoft Teams, please check the Realm Events Calendar or contact the facilitator directly. Facilitators are Rev. Dr. Leon Todd, Rev. Samuel Massenberg, Rev. Shirley Alexander, Rev. Felicia Hawkins and Rev. Marlon Sharpe.				



In support of our focus on Spiritual Growth, each member of Mt. Pleasant is urged to be involved in at least one Biblical study. Our Director of Christian Education, Rev. Dr. Leon Todd, has designed a course, "The Gospel According To John", which can be administered through our Care Groups. Additional information will be forthcoming. Please check the Sunday morning announcements and Realm for more information regarding this initiative.

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Need a copy of your contributions for 2023? Here's how to print your giving statement.

Step 1

Step 2

Step 3

Giving Statement

Detail		Deductible	Nondeductible
Gift Date	Fund	Reference	
		\$0.00	\$0.00

Step 4

Community News

A reminder that enforcement of **Real ID** will begin on **May 7, 2025**. You will need Real ID to board all domestic airline flights and to access federal facilities (i.e. buildings and grounds). Basically, your driver's license or ID card should have a star on it. If it does not, you will need to get a Real ID compliant card by going to your state drivers license department with proper documentation in order to obtain the proper ID.

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. Please check Realm for contact information. Deadline to submit articles for the next issue is **March 15, 2023**.

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 phone.



Connect with us!

