



First Rising Mt. Zion Baptist Church  
For we walk by faith, not by sight.  
2 Corinthians 5:7

# MISSION STAR



Volume 17, Issue 1  
March 2017

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sis. Jean Whitley

### GOD HAS MADE US TO SERVE



We live in a society that worships retirement. How odd that we should spend all our lives doing **some things** so we don't have to do it anymore. That is not to say that we should not retire, but we should be cautious about what we are retiring from. We should look critically at the notion that the good life is to be rewarded for long years of labor including your spiritual gift. Perhaps, we should see retirement instead as a reason to slow down, but not to stop what we are doing with a talent or gift(s) or a spiritual gift God has blessed us with.

Retirement can be a marvelous occasion for God to put the finishing touches on our lives so **that the world will see Christ in us**. Cooperation with the Father is a lifelong process that does not end with retirement.

Our Sis. Rose Brown (and many others who have paved the way for us) has demonstrated authentic Christlikeness, e.g., loving with the love of Jesus; living for the glory of God; confronting life one day at a time; remaining stable in the storm of suffering; being a servant; knowing Christ intimately; keeping the joy; depending upon the love of Christ with a lovely family loving her; and she is still singing! To God be the glory!

God has given us all a gift. God matches gifts with the functions. Seek to know them or the one you find yourself engaging in mostly, and especially those that minister the most in the deepest way. We can set the church **afire** so others may hear, see and come running to be saved.

### IN-REACH/OUT-REACH MINISTRIES CELEBRATION

In-Reach/Out-Reach Ministries Celebration, with Reverend Lucy Horne chairing, delivered a message that the leadership gifts are resident in flawed men and women who are called to lead the church in their passion for mission. They are the ones who prepare us and that preparation is demanding. The leadership gifts stretches us, challenges us, and irritates us. But without them, we wouldn't take the message of God's love to the world.

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#### EVENTS CALENDAR

- March 22-25 NBC, Eastern Region Meeting
- March 26 Combined Youth Choir Concert
- April 6-7 Lott Carey, Spring Missions Conference
- April 8 Missionary Society Ministry Prayer Brunch
- April 9 Palm Sunday
- April 16 Easter Sunday
- April 30 Missionary Sunday & Dime a Meal
- May 6 Deaconess Ministry Pre-Mother's Day Luncheon
- May 14 Mother's Day & Crowning of Mother of the Year
- May 15 NBC, Women's Day of Prayer
- May 17-21 Church Anniversary Celebrations

## REVIVE US O LORD

Revive us Again! Yes, it is all about you. It is important for us to see that it is the presence of God that actually creates worship. You can be taught to pray and sing, to praise, to give thanks; but, no one can teach you to worship. It is in the Lord's Prayer - we can say it is an expression of love, that it releases all of your adoration, your mind's determination and it releases the strength of your body to worship the Lord with your whole heart. It's Revival Time!!

Revival services at First Rising commenced on Wednesday, March 15, 2017 and concluded on Friday, March 17, 2017. The congregation was treated to sermons from three dynamic speakers. On Wednesday evening, the Rev. Jonathan Allen, Sr. (Assistant Pastor of Love Gospel Church in Temple Hills, MD) preached from the subject, "It's Revival Time - Restore, Revive and Rejoice." (Psalms 85: 3-6). Rev. Allen substituted for Rev. Larry Owens, Jr., Pastor of Canaan Baptist Church, who had a family emergency and could not attend. Canaan's congregation and choir accompanied Reverend Allen. On Thursday, the Rev. Dr. C. Que Hickerson (Pastor, Springfield Baptist Church in DC) was the speaker. He spoke from the topic, "Righteous Resistance" (Romans 12: 1-2). And, on Friday, we heard from Rev. Louis B. Jones, II (Pastor, Pilgrim Baptist Church in DC) who spoke from the subject "Faith That Knows No Failure" (Mark 5: 21 & 35). Praise God for the Blessings!

## VALENTINE'S DAY LUNCHEON

The Senior Citizen's "Valentine's Day Luncheon" was held on February 14, 2017. The delicious meal was prepared by Sis. Dorothy Wells Fowlkes (President of the Senior Citizen Ministry) and her committee.

The Eva Cook Fellowship Hall was decorated with beautiful heart shaped valentines that were made by Sis. Addie Watson, Circle Leader of the Willa M. Hinton & Lucy Davis Circle and assisted by Mary Jackson, member of the Ethel Dudley/Bessie Walker Circle. Special thanks to Sis. Frances Claiborne and Bro. John Boyd for helping.



The highlights of the event were bingo, games and gifts. Recognitions were for the oldest person present, Sis. Louise Fleming; youngest person, Bro. John Boyd; the married couple, Bro. Michael and Sis. Mary Washington.

The event was very enjoyable. Special thanks to Pastor Young for his present.

Reporters,  
Sis. Addie Watson  
Sis. Mary Jackson



Pictured at left: Sis. Geneva Morris (Director of the MUMS) led the Body in fun and games at the Missionary Society Ministry's Post Christmas Fellowship on January 14. Middle Picture: Sisters Teresa Hamm-Wooten, Jean Whitley and Harriett Penny are enjoying the Post-Christmas Fellowship.

Missionary Sunday Call to Worship, February 29, 2017.



Members of the Sunday School Ministry enact Maya Angelou's poem, "Phenomenal Woman" at First Rising's Black History Month Program on February 26, 2017.

FRMZBC 69th Nurses Ministry Anniversary, March 19, 2017. Nurses from twenty-seven different churches were represented at the anniversary celebration.

## ANOTHER GLORIOUS DAY

Members of the Mt. Bethel Women Auxiliary attended their Annual Prayer Breakfast on March 4, 2017. Present were: Sisters Ann Gilliard, Gwendolyn King, Rev. William and Mrs. Dorothy Fowlkes, Patricia Martin, Ruby Rice, Carol Rose and Jean H. Whitley. It was a glorious time with a sermonette by Rev. Stacey Anderson Roy from the New Home Baptist Church, Landover, MD.

Afterwards, we went to visit Deacon William Ford at Carroll Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. He was glad to see us. Missionary Carol Rose closed out our visit with prayer. The next stop was Providence Hospital, where (his wife) Deaconess Dorothy Ford had been temporarily moved. She smiled with gladness and surprise to see us. Missionary Ruby Rice closed out the visit with prayer. Then, it was on to see Smitty, who was also at Providence. When Sis. Rice and I approached the information desk, neither of us could think of "Smitty's first name. While standing off trying to think, praise God, Deacon Harold and Deaconess Virginia Logan walked through the door. He said, "follow me" and told us Smitty's first name. It is Albert, you know. Deacon Logan gave Communion - read the Scripture, quoted the rites and closed out with prayer. All of us then went to visit Deacon Logan's brother at the Veterans Hospital. Deacon Logan administered Communion to him, as well. We left the Logans there. It was another glorious day for all of us.

Reporter, Sis. Jean Whitley

## CATCH THE VISION

Vision! It comes from an understanding that life is intended for something, and that something is good. It is to be used. When we stop using it, we begin to fall apart...

Having passed fourscore years, I find that the vision is what gives old age its splendor. It can turn wrinkles into beautiful smiles, senility into seniority, and slowness of speech into wisdom. It can change complaining spirits into prayer warriors. It can suffuse the gradual process of aging with dignity, and so attract the admiration and affection of younger people. Can you imagine what a thrill it is when someone says to you, "When I get old, I would like to be like you".

As the vision takes hold of you and gives you direction, God will write a new chapter in your biography – a chapter you never dreamed was possible. You will find that God is a Master Host: He serves the best for the last - He saves the sweets [desserts] for the end of the banquet, the last for which the first was made ...

[Verse John 15:8 Passage John 15:1-12] (Writer: Sherwood Eliot Wirt)

## SHARING THE MISSION WORD

Every second Saturday, the Eva Cook & Evelyn Jordan Circle go to the Unique Residential Care Center to share the mission word with patients. Our members are committed to serving the Lord in spirit and truth. Acts 13:3 says, "And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away." So, God's children should be at least as wholehearted in seeking to bring Christ's love to everyone.

In January, we were saddened to lose a long-time member of our Missionary Society Ministry, Sis. Gladys Epps. Sis. Epps was a member of the Eva Cook Circle, who shared many talents, devotion and Christian principles with us. She will be remembered for her humanitarian offerings she shared in our church, among our members and in the nearby community. She chaired our Annual Pre-Thanksgiving Day Dinner. She assisted the elderly with food, transportation to doctor's appointments and food shopping. She had a willing spirit and was loved by many. May she rest in peace for her work down here is done.

Reporter, Sis. Mattie Howell, Circle Leader





MISSION STAR

Published quarterly by the Missionary Society  
 First Rising Mt. Zion Baptist Church  
 602 N Street, NW  
 Washington, DC 20001

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Deadline to submit articles for next issue: June 1, 2017

**BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS**

March 1	Rose Brown	March 27	Ada Harris
March 1	Dorothy Ford	March 31	Deborah Roberson
March 1	Geneva B. Morris	April 3	Harriet Tweedy
March 5	Virginia Toney	April 8	Linda Chambers
March 7	Tanya Penny	April 13	Leona Norwood
March 11	Tiffany Thomas	April 17	Addie Watson
March 14	Ruby Rice	April 20	Grace Mims
March 15	Chrisie Cobb	April 23	Maryella Shirley
March 18	Cheryl Jordan	April 26	Stacey Watson
March 20	Dorothy Irby	April 29	Dezahrea Tanner
March 21	Gail Martin	April 28	Leona Person
March 22	Virginia Robinson	May 1	Alice Butler
March 22	Mary Samuel	May 8	Novella Coleman
March 23	Andrea Hughes	May 10	Thelma Green
March 24	Dorothy Wells-Fowlkes	May 10	Gail Harris
March 26	Phyllis Edelin	May 11	Bonnie Murray
March 27	Audrey V. Haley	May 11	Clara Washington
		May 12	Irene Lewis

*Celebrate the life that God has given you by sharing your joy with others and by spreading His message of love to everyone. Happy Birthday!*



**News & Views**

- Circle Leaders and Auxiliaries Directors now have the responsibility for preparing the entire program for Body Meetings and Fifth Sundays on a rotational basis. Programs, however, must be cleared in advance by President Whitley.
- To foster Christian growth of members, consideration is being given to alternating the Body Meeting Business Session with a full program every other month.
- Position openings are available for Director of the Missionettes and Director of the Young Women's Auxiliary. Help is needed in recruiting dedicated candidates for the positions. If you are interested or know of others who may be interested, please contact Sis. Whitley.
- Have you contributed to the Foundation Campaign? The Church is in need of major repairs to the foundation of the church and a Foundation Campaign has been launched to raise \$100,000 by December 31, 2017, to fix the problem. Each member is asked to give \$1,000 or donate as much as you can to the cause. It's tax deductible.

- If a group of people will think together and work together for the good of all, a ministry can accomplish great things. A willingness to learn and serve requires flexibility, yet holding to conviction to assist and suggest - not taking over is truly one to be praised. There are so many missionaries who have been observed perhaps stepping out from a comfort zone into a boldness of saying, "Let me help, I can do this, I would like to do more, etc." Report Cards this period include Missionary Sisters Anna Smith, Virginia Robinson, Audrey Haley and Addie Watson.
- Plans are underway to celebrate First Rising's 81st Church Anniversary. If you would like to purchase a T-Shirt to commemorate the event, drop by the Copy Room after Sunday's worship service to place your order.
- Nominations for the **2017 MOTHER OF THE YEAR AWARD** is now open. Celebrate that special mom, grandma, aunt, cousin or other guardian instrumental in your life by submitting your one page nomination letter to the church office, Attention: Sis. Anna Smith, Chair of the 2017 Mother of the Year Committee. The deadline for submissions is 12 o'clock noon on Sunday, May 7, 2017.
- We need your **HELP**. Please go to the website: <http://www.dccycletrack.com> and dispute the accuracy of the DC Department of Transportation's report on bicycle lanes. Please enter your comments on the website to help the Church maintain its current parking availability, which includes angled parking. This is vital to our worship experience.