

# Flash Points



Issue 11, July 2017

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## From the Pastor's Pen

It's during the long, hot, humid and hazy days of summer when; if you are not careful, the grass turns brown and the weeds begin to thrive. The weeds have spores, which like seeds, fall from the plant so it can regenerate itself for the next year. To combat the weeds, you have to water the grass so it can dominate the soil and thrive. The same holds true for our souls. We have to be careful to keep our souls refreshed with the Word of God to keep the weeds of life from creeping in. Jesus told the woman at the well if she drank from the water *He* has she will never thirst. So, as you take vacations, go to family reunions and visit friends, be sure to water your soul daily with the Word of God to thrive in this world which is full of weeds.

## Speaking Engagement

The Pastor is preaching for Love Lifted Me Ministries (3911 Austin Avenue, Richmond, VA) on Saturday, **July 22**, for their Men's Conference. There is a 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. service. Rev. Young will preach at 4:00 p.m. The conference cost is \$30 and includes breakfast and lunch. Contact the church office for transportation.

## Ministry News

- First Friday Youth Fellowship will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, **July 7**. Food will be served at 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday, **July 8**, the Royal Ambassadors will meet. Bring your young men out at 10:00 a.m.
- Vacation Bible School is on Monday, **July 10** through Friday, **July 14**. Please register your 5 to 12 year old as soon as possible. Teens 13 to 17 can earn community service hours. For more info contact Mrs. Dorothy Wells Fowlkes (301-288-4506) or Ms. Teresa Hamm-Wooten (301-256-1325). This is a free program!
- August is vacation month. All ministries will take a pause and resume meetings in September.
- The Vacation Choir is open to all church members and will provide the music in August. Rehearsals are on Saturday, **July 8**, at 10:00 a.m. and on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. from **July 20** to **August 27**. Mr. Ernest R. Gibson, Jr., is the director/musician.
- A Young Adult Choir is being formed to sing at the Youth and Young Adult Anniversary. The choir is open exclusively to members 18 to 35. The rehearsal schedule is currently on Mondays at 7:00 p.m. Future dates will be announced later. The choir will sing at the worship service on Sunday, **July 23**. An anniversary dinner will be served at 12:00 p.m.
- Missionary Sunday is on **July 30**. The Women's Volunteer Missionary Choir will rehearse at 9:00 a.m. on Saturdays, **July 22** and **July 29** in preparation.
- If you have an upcoming birthday or anniversary, please send your (and/or family members') name, day and birthday month to [vivian.obianyo@gmail.com](mailto:vivian.obianyo@gmail.com) to be included in future issues of *Flash Points*.

## In the House Spotlight

- Greetings to our birthday babies: Rev. Oran Young (July 1), Deaconess Harriett Penny (July 2), Mrs. Verletic Devane (July 9), Ms. Jaya Jones (July 10), Deaconess Phyllis Thompson (July 11), Deaconess Annie White (July

11), Mr. Paul Brown (July 16), Mr. Paul Eades, III (July 18), Mrs. Louise Flemings (July 24), and Mrs. Dorothy Davis (July 28). Hope your special day will be wonderfully memorable!

- Happy Wedding Anniversary to: Deacon and Deaconess Prince and Lillian Jones (July 9), Rev. and Mrs. Reginald and Olivia Green (July 11), Trustee and Mrs. McKinley and Leanna Clark (July 29) and Rev. and Mrs. William and Dorothy Wells Fowlkes (July 29). May God continue to bless your union with love and happiness!
- Clarice Crawford is a teacher at St. Albans' School. She is very hands-on with her 4th and 5th grade students; going above and beyond her job description. As a result, Ms. Crawford won one of St. Albans' most prestigious recognition – The Life Changer of the Year Award.
- Courtney Crawford attended St. Anthony Catholic School and was awarded the Blue and Gold Award for Excellence in Academics and Character. (Courtney is the daughter of Ms. Tynea Crawford.)
- Mayla Lynn Jenkins will spend two weeks this summer (June 26 – July 9) at the Rock School of Ballet in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She will be staying in the dormitories at Cabrini University. Mayla and her brother, Myles, have been attending the Maya Angelou French Immersion School and now speak fluent French! (Mayla and Myles are the children of Dr. Wanda Govan Jenkins.)
- Every year the Center City Shaw Campus Public Charter School gives out three top awards. Wendell Wray, Jr. was the only student to win the Service Award. (Wendell is the grandson of Ms. Trovander Wray.)
- Five esteemed men of Zion were selected as *Father of the Year*: Trustee McKinley Clark, Mr. James Cobb, Mr. John Croom, Trustee Carl Peerman, and Trustee Albert Smith. Congratulations!

## Promotions and Graduations

Congratulations to the youth and young adults of First Rising on their promotions and graduations to the next grade level and/or entry into the workforce. Keep up the good work!

- **Kindergarten through Elementary School Promotions:** (kindergarten) Israel Plummer; Trinity Samuel and Trenton Samuel; (1st grade) Cody White; (3rd grade) Jordan James, Myles Jenkins, and Sasha Plummer; (4th grade) Kimory Balam, Montrell Hayes and Alexis Williams; (5th grade) Sirina Bowser, Nicole Hugee and Mayla Jenkins; (6th grade) Christian Eades, Jayden Hayes, Synphane White and Aaron Williams.
- **Middle and High School Promotions:** (7th grade) Katoria Balam and Michael Hayes, Jr.; (9th grade) Courtney Crawford, Gregory McPhaul, Taneshia Tanner and Wendell Wray, Jr.; (11th grade) Malik McRae, Shaolin White and Tamara Wooten; (12th grade) Tehjara McBride and Darshala McPhaul.
- **High School Graduates:** Andrew Hetmyer will be attending Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia; Jaya Jones has yet to decide on a college.
- **College Students:** Breana Carraway, Ayana Crawford, Erin Crawford, Allyson Jones, Constantine Shelton, and Laesha Shelton.
- **College Graduates:** Corbin Ford graduated from the University of Maryland, College Park in May with a degree in Computer Science and is now employed with Dante Consulting, Inc. as a Software Developer. Bianca Penny graduated from Catholic University of American with a Master of Social Work degree.

## Summer Fun

Summer is a great time for the family to experience all the opportunities that the DMV has to offer. Go to <https://www.tripsavvy.com/summer-family-fun-in-dc-1039793> to find a list of events that will keep the whole family (including visiting relatives) busy this summer.

## Thanks

The following are to be thanked for sharing information in this issue of *Flash Points*: Rev. Oran W. Young, Mrs. Chrissie Cobb, Ms. Isie Collins, Ms. Tynea Crawford, Deaconess Kyle Ford, Mr. Ernest R. Gibson, Jr., Dr. Wanda Govan Jenkins, Mr. Andrew Hetmyer, Ms. Jaya Jones, Mrs. Tamara McRae, Mrs. Rhesha Plummer, Ms. Ruby Rice, Deaconess Yvonne Stewart, Trustee Barbara VanHagen, Mrs. Odessa White, Mrs. Arlene Williams, Ms. Teresa Hamm-Wooten, and Ms. Trovander Wray.



**BE A SHARE GIVER!** Flash Points is a news sheet developed to point out activities in the church, accomplishments of its members, and opportunities available to all members of First Rising Mt. Zion. Please share your information with me at either of the contacts listed below. **“And He said, “My presence shall go with you, and I will give you rest.” Exodus 33:14 NIV**

**Publication deadline is Sunday, July 16 for distribution on Sunday, August 6.**

**Send your Flash Point news to [vivian.obianyo@gmail.com](mailto:vivian.obianyo@gmail.com) or call 301-322-4039.**