



First Rising Mt. Zion Baptist Church
"81 Years of Walking by Faith"

MISSION STAR



Volume 17, Issue 4

December 2017

Happy Holidays



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sis. Jean Whitley

**Embark in the Service of God:
Catch the Vision.**



*MERRY
CHRISTMAS
& HAPPY
NEW YEAR
TO ALL OF
YOU*

I thank God for all of your steadfastness, commitment and love this past year. I have tried to be a servant-leader, studying the Word so that I may move further up Jacob's Ladder toward spiritual maturity. My goal is to encourage my fellow missionaries to step out in boldness using our spiritual gifts to become Christ-like in meekness, temperance, joy and peace.

The 65th Anniversary Celebration of the Missionary Society Ministry was well received. The God Promise Liturgical Dancers, under the leadership of Sister Gwendolyn King, led the procession. The messenger, the Rev. Dr. Darryl D. Roberts of 19th Street Baptist Church, his sermon and the choir made the occasion a majestic spiritual high. The Culinary Ministry prepared a feast with the Girls Auxiliary assisting as servers. The gift of hospitality at First Rising Mt. Zion is well

known among the churches with whom we fellowship. Thanks again to the Missionary Leader Sister Loretta Wilson and her Circle for such a well-planned program.



Sis. Dorothy E. Fowlkes conducts the Memorial Service. Missionaries hold candles honoring deceased members.

More spiritual workshops and seminars are being planned for 2018 which will be open to everyone. Sessions will include: Leadership Training; Here I Am To Worship; Church Etiquette, Parliamentary Briefing; a Prayer Brunch on April 16th; An Evening of Reflection in the Eva Cook Fellowship Hall where you can smile and laugh if you wanna; and you will be encouraged to move forward with the four skits, namely: "The Three Churches," "Did You Say Evangelize," "I Know I Am A Disciple," and "What Is My Stewardship?"

As we celebrate Christmas, we are thankful for the gift of faith and the gift of The Good News." God loved us so much that He gave His only son, Jesus-Emmanuel-God with us, to die on an old rugged cross for our sins. But He arose on

the third day, greeted His disciples and then they who cried crucify Him knew that He was truly the Savior of mankind. We will have the opportunity to both give and receive gifts for Christmas. The best Christmas Gift we can give each other, our family, friends and strangers is to share our faith. It is my prayer that many who are given the invitation to receive God's wonderful gift will choose to accept it with joy.

SPREADING JOY AND BEARING CHRISTMAS GIFTS

FRMZ missionaries visited the Stoddard Baptist Nursing Home, 1818 Newton Street NW, Washington, DC on Thursday, December 7. We had devotion, testimonies, sang Christmas songs, and went down memory lane of Christmas past with the residents.



Attendees were: Sisters Elizabeth Taylor, Jean Whitley, Virginia Toney, Patricia Martin, Queen Cook, Virginia Robinson, Addie Watson, Louise Fleming, Mary Jackson and Bro. Ronald Brooks.

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EVENTS CALENDAR

- December 10 Founders Day
- December 16 Missionary Society Christmas Party
- December 25 Christmas Day Service
- December 31 Watch Night Service
- January 1 New Year's Day
- January 13 Mt. Bethel Baptist Association Meeting

MEET OUR MESSENGERS OF HOPE

Sis. Anna Smith Margaret Newell Circle



Having been born and raised a Methodist, I accepted an invitation from a friend to go with her one Sunday to visit First Rising Mount Zion Baptist Church. After

hearing Rev. Ernest Gibson's sermon and listening to Sis. Rose Brown sing "Can't Nobody Do Me Like Jesus," I was overwhelmed and joined this church on my very first visit. I was baptized at First Rising on March 7, 1978. Later that year, I joined the Christian Strivers Missionary Circle under the leadership of Sis. Henrietta Murry. Sis. Margaret Newell became the Circle Leader when Sis. Murry stepped down. On July 31, 2012, Sis. Newell was recognized as Circle Leader Emeritus and the Christian Strivers Circle was renamed the Margaret Newell Circle. For approximately two years prior to that time, due to Sister Newell's illness, I served as the Acting Circle Leader. Upon Sis. Newell's official retirement, I was appointed Leader of the Margaret Newell Circle.

In addition to the Missionary Society Ministry, I have been a member of the Women's Auxiliary Usher Board #2 for approximately 38 years and served as President of this Usher Board on two occasions (1985 and 2000). I have chaired the Mother of the Year Committee since 2010; served as a member of the Community Fair Committee since 2011; and, assisted with Vacation Bible School activities since 2013. Recently, I became a member of the Flower Ministry.

During this holiday season, I am reminded of Matthew 1:21, which states *"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shall call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."* I wish everyone a happy and blessed holiday.

Sis. Virginia Robinson Frances McMullin Circle



"The Lady That's Involved In It All." I joined First Rising during the winter of 1972. At that same time I became a member of the Frances McMullin Circle.

Following the leadership of those who paved the way, I have been the Circle Leader of this unique organization since 2008. I am also a member of the Women's Usher Board #2, Pastor's Aid, Bible Study, Culinary Ministry and the Sunday School. My vision for my ministry is to be able to work with others. I am still seeking my spiritual gift.

Sis. Geneva Brooks Morris Chrysanthemums



My name is Geneva Brooks Morris. I am the daughter of the late Deacon Raymond and Arbell Brooks. I was born in Roxboro, NC and have lived in DC since the age of two. I am the mother of two children, Eraina and Etienne Brooks. I joined First Rising Mt. Zion in 1956. Throughout the years, I have been actively involved in numerous ministries. For example, I served with the Junior Choir for 36 years. I was a former member of Gospel Chorus, Voices of Zion, Sunday School, BTU and the administrative staff. In 1972, my sister and I were instrumental in establishing the Chrysanthemums Auxiliary. I was appointed Director of this ministry in 1999. I am a retiree from the Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration with 36 years of Federal service. I enjoy traveling, gardening and cooking. My motto has always been "May the work I've done speak for me." I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



Sis. Harriett Penny Arbell Brooks/Mattie O. Jones Circle



I joined First Rising Baptist Church in 1958. My family later moved away and it wasn't until 1966 that I rejoined First Rising. On or about 1971, I joined the Mattie O. Jones Missionary Circle and I believe it was in early 2000 when I was appointed Circle Leader of the combined Arbell Brooks/Mattie O. Jones Circle.

It is a pleasure being the leader of the Arbell Brooks/Mattie O. Jones Missionary Ministry. It's always a joy to work and fellowship with honorable Christian women. Their love for the Lord is evident in their deportment. Because our group is small we are making every effort to bring young woman as well as others, to study the Lord's words. I have recruited members from the job, church and family. For many years our members were seasoned ladies and were mostly home bound and we would have our meeting in their homes. They have now gone on to be with the Lord. We also make every effort to stay in contact with our inactive church members which includes visits, telephone calls, cards and fruit/food baskets when needed.

Several years ago we started the Share Food Ministry. We named the ministry after the organization that supplies food to the needy families across the country. Once a month we purchase food baskets for the six families that we adopted in the community. We supplied them with turkeys and Giant Food certificates for Thanksgiving. Our members are such loving and caring women that they want to start a new ministry that will give out lap warmers to a nursing home. It is a joy to give to those who are in need.

I give credit to our Savior and the Circle's seasoned Christian ladies, who molded and guided and encouraged me in leading our ministry. They taught me to be bold and direct. I am neither shy nor afraid to express myself as a Christian woman. God is first in my life. I know that everything that I possess belongs to the Lord. *"Let everything that have breath praise the Lord." Psalm 150.*



Sis. Henrietta Murry
08/31/34 - 10/26/17
Margaret Newell Circle

IN MEMORIAM



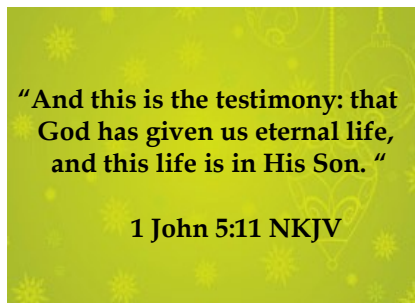
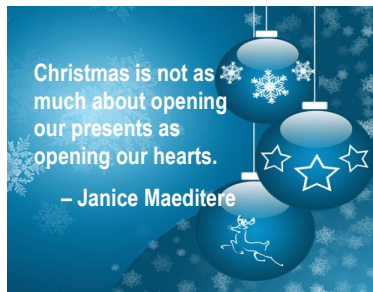
The Dance Ministry of FRMZ held its annual recital on Sunday, October 22. Spirit of Praise (adults) and God's Promise (youth) danced to a variety of gospel/worship songs from the more traditional "Steal Away" by Shirley Caesar to the contemporary "Bigger" by Jekalyn Carr. We were also blessed by a powerful solo from Felicia Thompson. A good time was had by all!

13TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY FAIR & PRE-THANKSGIVING DINNER

First Rising was buzzing with activities on November 17, 2017, as it hosted its 13th Annual Community Fair and Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner. The event, sponsored in cooperation with Howard University Hospital and Howard University School of Dentistry offered an array of health screenings, e.g., cholesterol, blood pressure, body fat, glucose, geriatrics, HIV, chiropractic. Dental, vision... There were CPR demonstrations, a sermonette and seminars on topics related to male health issues, hospice care, medicare, citizenship and immigration, cancer prevention, and etiquette. Vendors were on hand to provide information on financial services, self-improvement, college recruitment, career development, real estate and more. Our ministries contributed brown bag snacks, helping hand items, crafts and clothing distribution. There was an abundance of youth activities and door prizes. Let's not forget the bounty of scrumptious food served at the Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner. Approximately 400 people attended the event and 519 dine-in and take-out meals were served.



Rev. Oran Young preached an inspirational message on Sunday, October 29 at the Living Water Worship Center, 1015 D St., NE, Washington DC 20002. Several missionaries were present.





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March 1, 2018.

**LUCY DAVIS/WILLA MAE
HINTON CIRCLE**
Sis. Addie Watson, Leader

The Lucy Davis/Willa Mae Hinton Circle welcomes its newest member Barbara Boyette at the October Body Meeting.



Standing left to right are Addie Watson; Barbara Boyette and Jean Whitley

The Flower Ministry of FRMZBC was one of the guest groups in attendance at the Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church Flower Ministry's Anniversary on December 3, 2017. Everyone's birthday for the entire twelve-month period in 2017 was celebrated. In attendance were: Addie Watson (President, FRMZBC Flower Ministry), Mary Jackson, Maggie Hamer, Elizabeth Taylor, Gloria Veney and Jean Whitley.

On behalf of the Lucy Davis/Willa Mae Hinton Circle, I extend a Merry Christmas to all and a Blessed New Year.

CRAFT WORKSHOP

A Floral Techniques and Other Craft Workshop was held on October 14 and continued on November 4. Sis. Addie Watson taught the class on how to make elegant corsages. In the second class attendees made their own purple corsages to be worn at the Missionary Society Anniversary. The light refreshments, with her banana pudding specialty was a winner. It was wonderful that she shared her God given talent with all. Much thanks!!



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

December 1	Kyle Ford	January 10	Nancy Simmons
December 3	Tamara G. McRae	January 14	Frances Claiborne
December 11	Delores Bennett	January 15	Darlene Gaither
December 11	Christine DeLoatch	January 15	Laryn Reid
December 24	Avis Cook	January 16	Jean Whitley
December 25	Geraldine Green	January 17	Vanessa Jones
December 27	Eula Jackson	January 26	Mary Washington
December 28	Katie Crawford	January 28	Barbara Walker
December 30	Diane Jones Washington	January 31	Mattie James
January 1	Virginia McCray	January 31	Ruby Morgan
January 3	Carrie Johnson	February 14	Ivy Thomas
January 4	Debbie Smoot	February 15	Darlene Perry
January 7	Lela Banks	February 16	Loretta Wilson
January 7	Louise Barnes		

Wishing you love, joy and peace on your birthday.



Notice

Mt. Bethel Baptist Association of DC & Vicinity Meeting is on January 13, 2018, at First Baptist Church of Highland Park, Hyattsville, MD.



Sis. Whitley addresses the congregation at the 145th Annual Session Baptist Convention of DC and Vicinity, which was held October 11-12, at Tenth Street Baptist Church. Washington, DC.