

Flash Points



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From the Pastor's Pen

Happy New Year! Like the Lord helped the Hebrew people get across the Red Sea, the Lord has helped us cross over into 2018. The Lord has allowed us to be an anchor and a spiritual asset to the community. For this we should give thanks and celebrate. Seeing that the Lord is a Lord of progression, we still have work to do. The 2018 Officers have been chosen, the Ministry Presidents are in position and the Leaders are in place to move the church forward into new horizons.

I am happy to tell you that based on your results from the information provided to me by the Spiritual Wholeness Taskforce and much meditation with the Lord, He has given me a mission and vision for the church. As you will soon see, the primary focus is for the church to become whole or complete. His mission and vision is what the Lord will guide us through in 2018 and in years to come. It is my prayer that our faith will be strengthened and expressed, our fellowship with the Lord will be deeper, there will be spiritual unity in our families, our personal finances will be managed well and our fitness enhanced. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will find ourselves facing our challenges, overcoming the obstacles and becoming what and who the Lord will have us to be. The Lord is able to complete the work that He has started in us!

Ministry News

- ♥ On Sunday, **January 14**, the installation of the 2018 officers will be held at the worship service. Officers of **all** ministries are encouraged to be present.
- ♥ This is the 12th year of the existence of *Flash Points*. If you have 'Ministry News', information for 'In the House Spotlight' or other items of interest to share with the church family, please report the upcoming news at either of the contact numbers listed at the end of *Flash Points*.

In the House Spotlight

- ♥ Happy birthday to January birthday babies: Ms. Virginia McCray (January 1), Ms. Debbie Smoot (January 4), Deaconess Lela Banks (January 7), Mrs. Nancy Simmons (January 10), Ms. Frances Claiborne (January 14), Mrs. Jean Whitley (January 16), Trustee Carl Peerman (January 25), Mrs. Mattie James (January 31) and Ms. Ruby Morgan (January 31).
- ♥ Mr. Peter (Jones) Perkins was interviewed by a local news station about his blossoming street dancing career. Catch the interview via Instagram.
- ♥ Mr. Alexander Plummer has become well known in the Atlantic gospel and secular music scene. Now he can add to his resume, Grammy nominee as producer of Best Album of the Year for his work on "*Feel the Real*" with R&B group Musiq Soulchild. Tune into the Grammy Awards ceremony on Sunday, **January 28, 2018**, on CBS to see how he fairs against famed artists such as Ledisi and Bruno Mars. Good luck, Alexander!
- ♥ Miss Synphane White, is a beginner violinist in the Kettering Middle School Orchestra located in Landover, Maryland. On Sunday, December 17, Kettering and four other P.G. County schools participated in the presentation "Rejoice! An Inspirational Christmas Story" at the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage Theater. (Synphane is the granddaughter of Mrs. Odessa White.)

Culture in the City

The Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage Theater is located in the grand foyer of the John F. Kennedy Performing Arts Center and offers free shows every day. A few of the performances scheduled for January are on:

- ♥ Tuesday, **January 9** – The Native Pride Dancers educate, inspire, and motivate through the beauty and power of Native American music and dance! Learn about the dances and importance of the traditions of Native American people.
- ♥ Monday, **January 15** – Grammy nominated Vanessa Williams and the Let Freedom Ring Choir will perform to celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Get these tickets early.
- ♥ Sunday, **January 21** – The Joy of Motion presents an evening of fun and participatory dance as they inspire audience members to be fit and healthy. Dress ready to move!

All events start at 6:00 p.m. Tickets will be distributed at 4:30 p.m. The Kennedy Center is located at 2700 F Street in northwest, DC. Check online at www.kennedy-center.org for a complete 2018 schedule and for parking information.

Maryland Polar Bear Plunge

Sandy Point State Park is the site for the 2018 Polar Bear Plunge. During this charity event for Special Olympics Maryland, thousands of participants of all ages are daring enough to take a dip in the wintery waters of the Chesapeake Bay. The event begins on Thursday, **January 25** through Saturday, **January 27**. While plungers pay for the pleasure, spectators are encouraged to attend and enjoy the festivity that includes contests and live entertainment. Take advantage of the free shuttle bus that will run continuous routes from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. from the Naval Academy Stadium. It's sure to be a great time!

HBCU Festival

Alfred Street Baptist Church of Alexandria, Virginia, is hosting its 16th Annual HBCU College Festival at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center (the Gaylord) on **February 10**. The event is free although everyone (students, parents, guardians, counselors, siblings etc.) must register to attend. Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Go to the website at <http://alfredstreet.org/ministries/outreach-and-missions/hbcu-festival/> to review the list of colleges and universities represented, to register and to retrieve the list of documentation that must be provided in preparation for on-site interviews. It's only one day, Saturday, **February 10**, from 8:00 am until 3:00 pm; but the amount of knowledge shared can make all the difference. A mind is a terrible thing to waste. The Gaylord is located at 201 Waterfront Street in Oxon Hill, Maryland.

Thanks

I would like to thank Rev. Oran W. Young, Ms. Frances Claiborne, Ms. Mary Jackson, Deaconess Lolita Plummer, Deaconess Yvonne Stewart, Mrs. Odessa White, and Miss Shaolin White for information shared in this issue. I also want to thank Mrs. Chrisie Cobb who is always cheerfully available to confirm calendar dates. ♥ Vivian Jones Obianyo



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. "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee."
Isaiah 60:1 (KJV)

The next publication deadline is Sunday, January 21 for distribution on Sunday, February 7.

Send your Flash Point news to vivian.obianyo@gmail.com or call 301-322-4039.