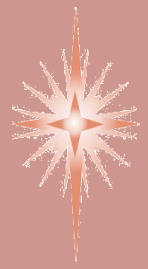




First Rising Mt. Zion Baptist Church  
"81 Years of Walking by Faith"

# MISSION STAR



March 2018 Volume 18, Issue 1

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Fellowship = Relationship



True fellowship stems from your relationship with God and in your deepest moments with others Fellowship includes prayer with others and for others; hearing their cries; and offering encouraging

words. It requires commitment and action. It is also where you will encounter your greatest joys. "Together We Are Stronger" is fulfilled when we engage in fellowship. "As you enter this journey of fellowship, be bold and be blessed." (Excerpts from Ruby Fulbright, Vice President: NABWU Magazine.)

In a book written by Joanne Beaver, NABWU Treasurer, Darlene McGillbery shared, "When we bring to Him our willingness to serve, He'll always, eventually,

point us toward something we can do for Him; and that task will always have something to do with love."

Mark this date, April 28, 2018, at 11:00 a.m. for the Missionary Ministry Fellowship Brunch. I am so grateful to Missionary Anna Smith, Leader of the Margaret Newell Missionary Circle, for volunteering to chair this Ministry's annual activity. As this is her first time, she made me aware of the many areas we need to cover or have information available on record. Thank you Sister Smith for being patient with me and making me stronger in my faith to serve more boldly.

Sis. Jean Whitley  
President

Baptist Women Fellowship  
World Day of Prayer is held  
the first Monday in November.  
First Rising supports this  
national group in its support of  
Foreign Missions for Women.



## BAPTIST CONVENTION OF DC AND VICINITY WOMEN'S AUXILIARY QUARTERLY MEETING

The Women's Auxiliary Quarterly Meeting of the Baptist Convention of DC and Vicinity was held on Wednesday, February 25, 2018, at Abyssinia Baptist Church in Capitol Heights, MD. In attendance were: Sisters Jean Whitley (who gave a report to the Vice President on FRMZ activities); Dorothy Wells-Fowlkes (who led a group discussion on "love." Dorothy E. Fowlkes reported on

lifetime membership. Also present were: Sisters Addie Watson, Virginia Robinson, Ruby Rice, Ann Gilliard, Mary Jackson, Catherine Doleman, First-Timer Queen E. Cook, Ronald Brooks (driver) and Rev. William Fowlkes were also in attendance.

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### EVENTS CALENDAR

- March 24 Missionary Body Meeting
- March 25 Palm Sunday & Combined Youth Choir Concert
- March 29 Maundy Thursday Service
- March 30 Good Friday Service
- March 31 Young Christian Achiever's Oratorical Contest
- April 1 Easter Sunday
- April 10 Senior Luncheon
- April 27 Debutante & Esquire Cotillion
- April 28 Women's Fellowship Brunch
- April 29 Missionary Sunday & Dime-A-Meal
- May 5 Pre-Mother's Day Luncheon
- May 13 Mother's Day & Crowning of Mother of the Year
- May 17 & 19 Church Pre-Anniversary Service and Parade
- May 20 Church Anniversary

## MEET OUR MESSENGERS OF HOPE

**Sis. Mattie Howell**  
Eva Cook Circle



I, Mattie Howell, am a mother of Zion who loves the Lord with all my heart. I joined First Rising Mt. Zion in October and joined the Missionary Society in 1981. As I grew in my relationship with the Lord I moved into leadership in the Eva Cook Circle. In this ministry, I minister monthly with the group visiting with the patients, praying, and sharing the Good News at Unique Residential Nursing Home in DC. I am always willing to serve in whatever capacity that is needed and I'm called upon to teach Sunday School when without a teacher. My love for singing unto the Lord led me to join the Voices of Zion Choir. My favorite scripture is Psalm 27.

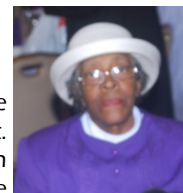
**Deaconess Vanessa Jones**  
Girls Auxiliary & Missionettes



I have been a member of First Rising Mt. Zion for over 30 years. I am a member of the Sunday School where I serve as a teacher in the Junior High Department and a secretary for Adult Class #2. I am a Missionary who was a part of the Sylvia Allen/Inolia Williams Circle but now I am the Director of the Girls Auxiliary and Acting Director of the Missionettes. I am a member of the Spirit of Praise Dance Ministry and serve as a Deaconess. One of my favorite scriptures is *Psalm 103:1-3*.

*Bless the Lord, O my soul and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul and forget not all of His benefits.*

**Sis. Annie White**  
Ethel Dudley/Bessie Walker Circle



*The Lord is my Shepard;  
Psalm 23:1a*

Sister Annie White joined First Rising Mt. Zion Baptist Church on January 18, 1959. She has been the Circle Leader of the Ethel Dudley/Bessie Walker Missionary Circle since 1990. She enjoys the Bible Study and discussion of the lessons. Circle members have bonded during these times and have shared how the Scriptures have personally brought them into a closer relationship with Christ. The Circle's ministry is the "The Carnation Project," whereby red and white corsages and boutonnières are made and given to worshipers on Mother's Day and Father's Day in honor of their parents. This project is shared with the Flower Club Ministry.

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## CHURCH REVIVAL

*If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. 2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)*

Revival Services at First Rising were held on March 14-18, 2018. The guest speaker on Wednesday night was Rev. O. Jemaine Bego from Central Point Baptist Church in Camp Spring, MD. Using the topic "Right Now Faith (Hebrew 1:1) he told us that storms and trials will come, but our faith has to be strong in the Lord.

On Thursday night Rev. Dr. Cynthia Turner, Second Pastor of the Dayspring Community Church in Lanham, utilizing the scriptures in 2 Corinthians, spoke from the subject, "When God Says Instead." That is, God may not answer one's question as Yes" or "No" but provides an "instead" and we should start looking for God's "instead" to get us where He wants us to go. When God closes a door, He opens a window.

On Friday, the Rev. L. K. Floyd (Pastor of Heart Changers Baptist Church, Silver Spring, MD) preached from the topic "From Thou to Destiny" (Jeremiah 1:4-9). He told us that we have a purpose and plan in life beyond where we are and what we are going through.

## BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM

FRMZBC Black History Program, sponsored by the Sunday School was held on Sunday, February 25, 2018. As we entered the Eva Cook Fellowship Hall for the Black History Program, we were given a booklet entitled "Celebrate Black History Month", consisting of various interesting Black History Facts. With the program were poems, puzzles, and cryptograms, that featured the names of our forefathers who struggled, and fought for our civil rights, which was a history lesson in itself. The program opened with singing the Black American National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing" by James Weldon Johnson. Some Highlights of the program were: Readings from our late member, Mary Penny Wortham's, Poetry Book, by her sister, Sister Ruby Penny Morse and Sister Barbara Wormsby. Sister Wormsby's poem was a Tribute to our late pastor, Rev. Ernest R. Gibson, Sr. Arlene Williams and Family gave us a lovely musical instrument selection. "Who Am I" presentations were done by Deacon Terrence Jones and Deaconesses Vanessa and Phyllis Thompson. Famous "What Is My Name" presentations were done by Sisters Patricia Goodwin, Kimberly James, and Louise Fleming.

Our ending presentation was a Fabulous Fashion Parade of African Mode Clothing, modeled by Sisters Addie Watson, Theresa Hamm-Wooten, Odessa White and Barbara Van Hagen. Sister Melanie Matthews was our pianist for the evening. A Pot Luck Dinner, provided by the congregation, was the final highlight, and was ENJOYED BY ALL.

Sis. Louise Fleming, Reporter



Models left to right: Sisters Barbara Van Hagen, Teresa Hamm-Wooten, Odessa White, Addie Watson, Ann Gilliard and Arlene Williams.

**MESSENGERS OF HOPE  
(CONTD)**

**Sis. Annie White**  
**Ethel Dudley/Bessie Walker Circle**

The Ethel Dudley/Bessie Walker Circle meets on the first and second Saturdays of the month at Noon.

Sister White is the mother of three children - Thomas (deceased) David and Deborah. She was married to Deacon George White (now deceased) for over 60 year. Sis White has served as a Deaconess for over 50 years. She enjoys singing in the Senior Choral Choir.

**KEEP ON, KEEPING ON**

*The word of God grew and multiplied. (Acts 12:24)*

It was February of this year when my daughter scheduled a needed vacation for me. It, also, was the Rosalie Jackson/Anna Stewart Circle, of which I am the Leader, time to serve the Body Meeting luncheon. I received such a good report of the delicious meal, sweet hospitality and service that my members provided that I wanted so much to thank them. This pointed me to the scripture, 1 Thessalonians Chapter 5, verse 18, which reads: "Give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Thank God for the relationship of love for their service. All members were not able to attend, but a good report was received on those who were present. Accolades are extended to Sisters-in Christ Audrey Haley, Ruby Rice, Valeria Ruffin, Gloria Williams, Betty Wilson, and assistants Deaconess Vanessa Jones and Shaolin White of the Girls Auxiliary and Brenda Keys, sister of Valeria Ruffin.

I value the members of this Circle for their love and service for the church. It encourages me to know that my leadership, our relationship and love have not been in vain.

Submitted By  
Sis. Loretta Wilson, Circle Leader

**NURSES MINISTRY CELEBRATES 70 YEARS**

"Celebrating the Journey" was the theme of the 70th Anniversary of the FRMZ Nurses Ministry. What a grand celebration it was! We knew we were in for a special treat at the on-set of the processional. Seeing the long line of nurses, attired in their crisp white uniforms and nurses caps, prancing lively down the aisle in unison to the musical sounds of the organ, stirred spiritual excitement within us. Guest Nurse Cheryl Thompson-Wilson served as Worship Leader. The Gospel Concert featuring our very own Moores Special and the renown Vintage Gospel Singers of Washington, DC & Vicinity were superb! We learned that some of their members previously performed with the legendary Clara Ward Singers.

The Moores Special had worshippers on their feet rejoicing to songs like "I Need You" and "It Was a Great Thing." The Vintage Gospel Singers took us back to the times before Contemporary Gospel. We heard: "Oh, When I Come to the End of My Journey," "Since I Met Jesus," "Let God Abide," "Packing Up Getting Ready to Go," "God Specializes" and more. We left church yearning to hear more.

Congratulations FRMZ Nurses for a job well done!



Nurses from 26 churches in the metropolitan area joined the celebration.



The Moore Specials



The Vintage Gospel Singers of Washington, DC and Vicinity.

**"Women of God on the Move"**  
**Fellowship Brunch**  
*Galatian 6:9*

Saturday, April 28, 2018  
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Guest Speaker**  
**Dr. Marie Bowe-Quick**  
*President, Baptist Ministers  
Wives and Widows of DC and Vicinity*

First Rising Mt. Zion Baptist Church  
602 N Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

*Sponsored by Missionary Society Ministry  
Sis. Jean Whitley, President*

Rev. Oran W. Young, Pastor  
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Deadline to submit articles for next issue: June 1, 2018

## BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

March 1	Rose Brown	April 3	Harriet Tweedy
March 1	Dorothy Ford	April 8	Linda Chambers
March 1	Geneva B. Morris	April 13	Leona Norwood
March 5	Virginia Toney	April 17	Addie Watson
March 7	Tanya Penny	April 19	Tamara Wooten
March 11	Tiffany Thomas	April 20	Grace Mims
March 14	Ruby Rice	April 20	Emma North
March 15	Chrisie Cobb	April 23	Maryella Shirley
March 18	Carleen Chalmers	April 26	Stacey Watson
March 18	Cheryl Jordan	April 29	Dezahrea Tanner
March 20	Dorothy Irby	April 28	Leona Person
March 21	Gail Martin	May 1	Alice Butler
March 22	Virginia Robinson	May 8	Novella Coleman
March 22	Mary Samuel	May 10	Thelma Green
March 23	Andrea Hughes	May 10	Gail Harris
March 24	Dorothy Wells-Fowlkes	May 11	Bonnie Murray
March 26	Phyllis Edelin	May 11	Clara Washington
March 27	Audrey V. Haley	May 12	Irene Lewis
March 27	Ada Harris	May 25	Constance Simms
March 31	Deborah Roberson		

Happy Birthday! We thank God for you!

## SENIOR CITIZENS LUNCHEON

The Senior Citizens Luncheon was held on Tuesday, February 13 at 12 noon. We enjoyed our guest "The Young at Heart" from Antioch Baptist Church. Sis. Dorothy Wells-Fowlkes and her Breakfast Ministry served a wonderful lunch. Sis. Whitley read excerpts from the script "If there were no Black People in the World." What an educational moment of the many everyday useful items that Blacks have invented to make our burdens lighter. Minister Shirley Lambert's game of guessing the name of Black people who were being profiled was great fun.

Sis. Mary Jackson, Reporter

**SPECIAL THANKS**  
 to all who contributed  
 to this publication.

## 5 A.M. PRAY BAND

Sunday, February 11, 2018. On this rainy, cloud burst morning, 5 a.m. was a peaceful time to be with God. The atmosphere was fresh with testimonies. Minds were clear, concise and thinking on the goodness of God and thanking God for His many blessings. Prayers and songs were enlightening as we lifted them up to God. This time was needed before the mind is clouded with daily activities.

Deacon Harold Gilliard thanked the Prayer Band members for being at our church, lifted the offering and invited them downstairs to a light breakfast. The Missionary Society members present were: Sisters Jean Whitley, Queen Cook, Deaconess Ann Gilliard, who served the meal and Addie Watson. Also present was Virginia Toney.

Addie Watson  
 Leader, Lucy Davis/Willa Mae  
 Hinton Circle

## MLK SHABBAT DINNER

First Rising fellowshipped with the Washington Hebrew Congregation in the observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday. Pastor Young was one of the clergy that did a reading on the program. Rev. Morris Sherian was remembered for his dedicated service in this program.

The program focus was on the Glen Echo Park segregation era and one person from that era took part in the panel discussion.

Missionary Society members in attendance were: Sisters Louise Fleming, Addie Watson, Patricia Martin, Barbara Wormsby, Dorothy E. Fowlkes, Mary Jackson and Dorothy Wells-Fowlkes. Rev. William Fowlkes and Ronald Brook drove the van.

Sis. Mary Jackson, Reporter