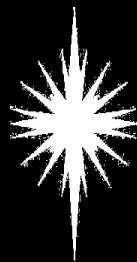




First Rising Mt. Zion Baptist Church
"81 Years of Walking by Faith"

MISSION STAR



March 2019 Volume 19, Issue 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Doing What It Takes



"To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak, I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings."

(1 Corinthians 9:22-23 ESV)

My prayers always are to thank God for your love for the missionary ministry and your relationships with each other. Our pastor has been preaching from scriptures which encourage love because Christ was the example for us. As we begin a new year of rededication to our commitment, purpose and vision of the church, we must take a quick look back to see why we chose to join the missionary ministry and become a learned disciple for Christ. It is, indeed, a learning process to be able to serve with commitment, dedication and integrity. We must always be on the ladder of moving up and outward to assist the spread of the gospel. "Doing what it takes."

This year is another opportunity for us as leaders, presidents, directors, officers and members to recommit ourselves to remain on the journey that our first president, Sister Etta C. Gibson started in 1952 – the journey of recruiting and establishing Circles with dedicated members of the church. We must never forget the service of our fallen leaders. "Doing what it takes."

As we move on in faith making decisions, we must make them wisely. I am looking at our ministry as a ladder. We must let go of one step to move up to the next. Therefore, it is important that we have a strong and sturdy "Jacob ladder" – well planted and organized. We must pray for the wisdom to guide. God said He would provide all our needs if only we ask, pray, believe and have faith that it will be done. Be yourself, but do not bar improvement. We are one puzzle and it takes every piece to make it whole. Every age is special to the missionary ministry. We must pray for guidance so that we will be able to do whatever is necessary to draw young people into missionary work. "Doing what it takes."

God uses ordinary things for His glory. He used a stick of wood that Moses called "the Staff of God." The wheelchair, which once signified confinement really represents hope and salvation. We have to accept circumstances as they come upon us and try not to be dismayed when trouble arrives. God promised not to put more on us than we can bear. He will use the difficulty for His purpose and for our good. Just keep on pushing, keep on believing and He will see us through. "Doing what it takes."

WHEN PEOPLE ASK

"What do you do?"

TELL THEM

"Whatever it takes."

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EVENTS CALENDAR

- March 28 & 29 Lott Carey Annual Spring Missions Conference
- March 31 Missionary Sunday, Dime-A-Meal
- April 14 Palm Sunday
- April 18 Maundy Thursday Service
- April 19 Good Friday Service
- April 21 Easter Sunday
- April 27 Prayer Brunch
- May 4 Pre-Mother's Day Luncheon
- May 12 Mother's Day & Crowning of Mother of the Year
- May 16 & 18 Church Pre-Anniversary Service and Parade
- May 20 Church Anniversary
- June 1 Yellow Rose Tea
- June 8 Sunday School Picnic
- June 9 Discipleship Day
- June 20-22 Family Week
- June 23 Women's Day
- June 30 Missionary Sunday Dime-A-Meal

BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

Black History Month was celebrated at First Rising on Sunday, February 24, 2019. Many members wore Afrocentric attire. What a spectacular sight. Worshippers were beautifully dressed in a variety of styles, colors and fabrics representative of the diverse culture of people across the African continent. Some wore traditional African print or modern African-inspired dresses, wrap-around skirts, head wraps, dashiki shirts and/or dashiki ties. Choir members and members of the clergy wore dashiki scarves. Pastor Oran Young preached a powerful sermon at the 9:30 a.m. service from the subject "Do You Understand" (Matthew 13: 47-51) The 12:00 p.m. Black History Program, produced by the Sunday School, featured excerpts of African and Slave Scenes from the Play "Lift Every Voice and Sing." It portrayed a Black History Collage in Music written by Angela V. Moore. Slavery attire was most prevalent in these scenes. The cast list consisted of members of First Rising Mount Zion Baptist Church, who gave stellar performances. A delicious "Pot-Luck Lunch followed the program.



WHO IS SISTER ADDIE SMITH WATSON?



I am Addie Smith Watson. I am the second oldest of ten siblings and the mother of two sons. I reside in Fort Washington, MD. As a member of First Rising Mount Zion, I am involved in a variety of church activities. I am currently President of the Flower Ministry and a Past President of the Pastor's Aide Ministry. I have served in the Ushering Ministry for 30 years (having membership in the Interdenominational Church Ushering Association) and was Past President of Usher Board #2. I am serving as Circle Leader of the Willa Mae Hinton/Rev. Lucy Davis Circle. Previously, I served as Recording Secretary and Vice President for the Missionary Society Ministry.

I am a lifetime member of the Women's Auxiliary to the Baptist Convention of the District of Columbia and Vicinity and the Assistant Recording Secretary for the Mount Bethel Women's Auxiliary. I am a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter, Electra Chapter #6, and have held offices in the Golden Circle and State Grand Assembly of the Golden Circle.

Having worked for the Department of the Treasury, National Capital Housing Authority and the General Services Administration, I retired from the Federal Government after 31 years of service. As an entrepreneur I am engaged in sewing, floral arrangements, decorations, crafts and wedding planning. I graduated from the University of the District of Columbia with a BS degree in Sociology and Business Administration credits.

Through all of my travels and experiences, I learned to trust in God because perseverance and determination pay off. My favorite scripture is "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:5, 6). My motto is "If I can help somebody along the way, then my living will not be in vain."

71ST NURSES ANNIVERSARY

The Nurse's Ministry of First Rising Mount Zion Baptist Church celebrated its 71st Anniversary (1948 - 2019) on Sunday, March 19, 2019. At 12:00 noon, our church family and guests gathered in Fellowship Hall for a spectacular reception prepared by the Nurse's Catering Team. We were pleased to have as our honored guests the Rev. Dr. Michael T. Bell and his congregation from Peace Baptist Church, 712 18th Street, NW, Washington, DC.

The anniversary service started at 3:00 p.m. This year's theme "The Year of Restoration was based on Joel 2:25, "So I will restore to you the years that the locus have eaten..."

Our guest speaker's wife, Rev. Dr. E. Faith Bell, was our Worship Leader. She did a dynamic job keeping the program moving. Led by our Nurse's Unit Leader, Sister Sheila Coleman Floyd, the procession of nurses from the various churches was a lovely sight. Nurses from 16 churches were represented. In Rev. Michael Bell's sermon "The gift of the Nurse's Ministry is Rare and Special," he told us what it takes to be a good nurse. Our Moore Specials, Peace Baptist Men's Choir, as well as their regular choir, provided soul-stirring selections. The Nurse's Unit 71st Anniversary Service was a success.

Sister M. Louise Fleming, Reporter

GIRLS AUXILIARY GOES TO ALFRED STREET BAPTIST HISTORIC BLACK COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY FESTIVAL

The Girls Auxiliary along with the Higher Education Ministry organized a trip to the Alfred Street Baptist Church's Historically Black College and University Festival which was held on Saturday, February 23 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in DC. Several youths of First Rising along with their parents, grandparents and youth leaders took the opportunity to attend break-out seminars and visit college booths and exhibits. With over 70 colleges and universities onsite and the largest crowd in the 17-year history of the event, maneuvering the event took some creativity.

Shaolin White, who is a senior, pre-scheduled onsite interviews with Norfolk State University and Coppin State University. She said that it was a positive experience. Others attended some of the seminars offered, such as: STEM Education and Careers, Paying for College and Searching for Internships.

Deaconess Vanessa Jones,
Director, Girls Auxiliary



Pictured, left to right: Malik McRae, Synphane White, Shaolin White, Micayla Garriss, Nicola Wheeler, Maliko Wheeler and Aaron Williams. Not pictured but also in attendance was Wendell Wray, Jr.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In keeping with Pastor Young's vision for First Rising to foster outreach to the Shaw Community, Gloria Veney of the Ethel Dudley/Bessie Walker Missionary Circle has partnered with New Endeavors by Women for fitness walks around the neighborhood.

Commencing with a ritual touch of hands on the starting pole, the group walks for one and one-half miles on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Ladies are encouraged to join the walk.



Sister Gloria Veney. Reporter

CHURCH REVIVAL

Utilizing the theme "Moving Forward in Unity" (Ephesians 4:1-3), revival services were held at First Rising on Wednesday, March 6 through Friday, March 8, 2019. Three dynamic speakers preached the word. Wednesday's revivalist Bishop Anita V. O'Brien, Senior Pastor of LightWork Ministries, Inc., Worship Center, was the Revivalist on Wednesday night. Her topic which resonated the words "On Second Thought" was derived from Psalm 13. On Thursday, we heard from Rev. Dr. Keith W. Byrd, Jr., Pastor of Zion Baptist Church. Dr. Byrd fervently dissected Psalm 23 operating from the subject "A Peculiar Promotion." Not to be outdone by the other preachers, Rev. Dexter U. Nutall, Pastor of the New Bethel Baptist Church, added more fire to the sizzling furnace on Friday evening during his sermon entitled, "Blessings and Burdens" (derived from Luke, Chapter 23 and 26). You had to be there to get your blessings!



Bishop Anita V. O'Brien



Rev. Dr. Keith W. Byrd, Jr.



Rev. Dexter U. Nutall



Halleluiah! Praise Him!



MISSION STAR

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Deadline to submit articles for next issue: June 1, 2019

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

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

May the joy that you have spread in the past
 come back to you on this day. Wishing you
 a very happy birthday!



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



The Missionary Society welcomed two new members and one transfer member at the January 26th Body Meeting. Sister Ruby Penny Morse was introduced by Deaconess Harriett Penny, Circle Leader for the Arbell Brooks/Mattie O. Jones Circle. And, Deaconess Vanessa Jones, Director of the Girls Auxiliary, introduced new member Nikola Wheeler and Synphane White, who transferred from the Missionettes, Rejoice Disciples! Rejoice!

SPECIAL NOTICE Mother's Day is on May 12, 2019. Get ready to nominate that special lady in your life for the First Rising Mount Zion Baptist Church 2019 Mother of the Year Award. Nomination forms will be out soon. Contact Chairperson, Sister Addie Watson for more information.

REMEMBERING

Deaconess Catherine A. Parks

July 28, 1943 - February 27, 2019

Member of
The Chrysanthemums Auxiliary



IN MEMORY OF

Sister Phyllis Edelin

March 26, 1932 - January 3, 2019

Member of
 Frances McMulling Circle

