

First Rising Mt. Zion Baptist Church
83 years of Walking by Faith.

MISSION STAR



Volume 19, Issue 2
December 2019

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sis. Jean Whitley

Spreading the Word Through Testimonials



Alfred North Whitehead, an English philosopher, once said "The art of progress is to preserve order amid change and to preserve change amid order. The Missionary Society Ministry put this theory to test this year after having five circle leaders step down from their leadership positions due to health or other extenuating circumstances. As a result, five circles were archived to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of operations and to maximize the spiritual growth of members. Thus, the number of circles was reduced from 12 to 7. Members affected by the archive voluntarily joined another circle. The Missionary Society Ministry sincerely thanks Sisters Dorothy E. Fowlkes of the Anne Barnes Circle, Josephine Holland of the Myrtle Biscoe Circle, Anna Smith of the Margaret Newell Circle, and Deaconesses Clara Washington of the Iretha T. Whoie/Rose Hicks Circle, and Annie White of the Ethel Dudley/Bessie Walker Circle for their many years of leadership and dedicated service. While it is regrettable that these missionaries are retiring from their posts, we are thankful they will

continue as members of this Body. In light of it all, the Bible tells us to be strong and courageous; do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord our God is with us wherever we go.

Let us move forward with the changes that have been made with confidence and progress will come through our faith and testimony of how good God is and never forgetting to praise Him with glory and honor. We cannot stop now; the journey is getting closer than we think and the steps of the ladder are getting shorter. It is He who calms our thoughts and speaks to our storms!

Through Bible study, discipleship training and evangelism; our Shepherd is moving us onward. The Missionary Ministry has a spirit of teamwork. Everyone leads with their spiritual gift or gifts. God has a plan and purpose for each of us! We are to acknowledge our gifts, develop our skills and use them to help one another and to do His will.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A BLESSED AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO ONE AND ALL.



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CHRISTMAS DAY



Festive lights, trees so bright, rich with delight, all the while children smile. Gift giving galore, presents to explore. Christmas carols ringing in our ears, snow covers the ground and sights of cheer.

These traditions are familiar to us but the true essence of Christmas has yet been discussed!

On the evening of December 25th the world was bestowed with a sacred gift.

The earth permeated with chaos, suffering, and sin, a new transformation is commencing to begin. The beginning of Christ represents love, life, and the utmost sacrifice.

Our savior has been birthed! Hallelujah rejoice throughout the earth!

Frankincense, myrrh, and gold were given. God's plan so that one day we'll be forgiven. The baby lay comfortable in the manger. Jesus, also known as the nation changer.

His mission ordained by God to disseminate the word near and abroad. To commemorate Him on Christmas Day, we exchange gifts, eat, and pray.

So give thanks and praise to our beloved Messiah and His teachings. Honor and duty for His effective preaching. Hold your applause for Santa Claus because our adoration, devotion, and earnestness is expressed upon December 25th.

~ Tiffany Thomas ~

A LOOK BACK AT THE YEAR 2019

YEAR-END REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Due to the repositioning of missionary circles in March, the Missionary Society Ministry is now comprised of the following circles and auxiliaries.

- Sylvia Allen/Inolia Williams Circle - Sister Patricia Martin, Leader;
- Arbell Brooks Circle - Sister Harriett Penny, Leader;
- Eva Cook/Evelyn Jordan Circle - Sister Mattie Howell, Leader;
- Ethel Dudley/Bessie Walker Circle - Sister Addie Watson, Leader (Sister Watson was reassigned from the Lucy Davis/Willia Mae Hinton Circle, which was archived.);
- Rosalie Jackson/Anna Stewart Circle - Sister Loretta Wilson, Leader;
- The Goldie O. James/Ida Wade McCall Circle - Sister Dorothy W, Fowlkes, Leader
- The Frances McMulling Circle - Sister Virginia Robinson, Leader;
- Missionettes Auxiliary - Deaconess Vanessa Jones, Acting Director;
- Girls Auxiliary - Deaconess Vanessa Jones, Director;
- Young Women's Auxiliary - Vacant, Director;
- Sisters In Fellowship - Sister Christie Cobb, Director; and,
- The Chrysanthemums - Sister Geneva Morris, Director.

Listed below is a summary of this year's achievements by the Missionary Society Ministry, as a whole.

- ◆ Partnered with Women's Endeavor in their flower landscape project;
- ◆ Evangelism – Mailed introduction letters to homes in the Shaw area: Gibson Plaza, Washington Apartments on 6th & 7th Street, individual homes on 5th & 6th Street. Distributed tracts and flyers in the Shaw area (N, O, 6th & 7th Streets);
- ◆ Participated and provided handout packages during the "Backpack Blessing" held at the Kennedy Playground on 7/21/19;
- ◆ Developed plans to conduct a Christian Education Seminar to provide training to members of the Missionary Society Ministry;
- ◆ Donated \$50 to Lott Carey's African Project for Girls;
- ◆ Provided monetary gifts (ranging from \$50 to \$100) to assist families within and outside of First Rising Mt. Zion Baptist Church.
- ◆ Donated three Thanksgiving food bags to SOME (So Other's May Eat) for the homebound;
- ◆ Represented the Missionary Society Ministry in First Rising's pre-anniversary parade;
- ◆ Made monetary donations to the Community Fair and Pre-Thanksgiving Brunch. Assisted in preparing and serving the Pre-Thanksgiving Brunch. Served as volunteers for the Community Fair. Conducted an arts and crafts workshop for the young and seniors;
- ◆ Provided seniors with transportation to doctor appointments;
- ◆ Prepared and served nutritious, tasty meals to our church family and our visitors;
- ◆ Supported Pastor Young through attendance at his outside speaking engagements;
- ◆ Donated cakes for church repasts;

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THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS

The Joy of Christmas was celebrated in grand style at the Missionary Society Ministry's Christmas Party on December 21, 2019. Fellowship Hall was festively decorated and merriment was all around us. The program opened with the lively singing of "Joy to the World." Sis. Fannie Butler gave a heart-felt prayer and Miss Synphane White read the scripture. Sis. Tiffany Thomas delighted us with an original poem entitled "Christmas Day" (found on the front page of this newsletter). Following grace by Sis. Addie Watson, we settled down to a scrumptious meal. Sis. Barbara Wormsby came next with the delightful religious version of "The Night Before Christmas." There were challenging games (i.e., crossword puzzle and a 15 question Christmas Quiz); and yes, there were prizes for the winners.

Christmas is a time of giving and we are particularly sensitive to the needs of others this time of year. Accordingly, the Missionary Society Ministry was very pleased to present Ms. Anne Taylor, a mother of three and guest at the Christmas party, with a monetary donation, as well as clothing for her children from First Rising's Sweater and Coat Ministry. This endeavor was Chaired by Sis. Addie Watson. Ms. Taylor expressed sincere appreciation to the Missionary Society.

The gift exchange and special presentations among other partygoers were also exciting. I believe everyone went home with a gift. Mrs. Whitley seems to have brought a sleigh full of gifts and she received a sleigh load in return from the Missionary Society, auxiliaries, circles and others.

We closed with remarks and prayer by Pastor Oran Young and with everyone singing the all-time favorite "We Wish You A Merry Christmas."

After the party, a group of members went Christmas caroling around town.

It was a delightful day!



A LOOK BACK AT THE YEAR 2019

2019 COMMUNITY FAIR & PRE-THANKSGIVING BRUNCH

First Rising Mt. Zion Baptist Church, in cooperation with Howard University Hospital and Howard University School of Dentistry hosted its 15th Annual Community Fair & Pre-Thanksgiving Brunch on Saturday, November 23, 2019. More than 300 persons attended the event and were privy to approximately 32 exhibitors/vendors, 8 mini-sessions, free clothing, a variety of health screenings, a scrumptious meal and more.



139th ANNUAL SESSION, NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, USA, INC.

By Deaconess Ann Gilliard

The 139th Annual Session of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. was held September 2-6, 2019, in New Orleans, Louisiana. The Convention typically draws 20,000 or more delegates from the USA and from countries around the world.

It was a real joy for me and other delegates to meet for a God-centered convention worship experience anchored in expository preaching, singing, prayer, and fellowship.

On Monday evening, a musical was held at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. The theme was "Singing Praises with Thankful Hearts unto our Great God" (Psalm 92:1 and Psalm 95:3). A grand time was enjoyed by all.

The Convention officially opened on Tuesday, September 2, at 9:00 a.m. A spirit-filled devotional period was held, and prayers for the convention, the church and the nation were offered by several dynamic preachers. The Convention President, Rev. Dr. Jerry Young, welcomed conventioners. Many dignitaries were in attendance including Governor John Bel Edwards and Mayor LaToya Cantrell, the first Black female mayor in the 300-year history of the city.

One of the highlights of the Convention was Rev. Al Sharpton, Founder of the National Action Network, and keynote speaker for the President's Educational Banquet. Rev. Sharpton delivered a powerful message! He reminded us that we are at a critical time in this country. Various social, religious, political, and governmental problems are dominating the American consciousness. He also reminded us that we must keep our eyes, not on the things seen, but on the things unseen, for the things seen are temporary, but the things unseen are everlasting. (2 Corinthians 4:18). Black Americans must be more proactive in addressing the current affairs in our community, such as crime, education, and unemployment, etc. He stated that we run the risk of losing the power to define our own reality, relegating ourselves to an agenda-less future and increasingly being absorbed by partisan politics and continued manipulation by special interests.

As the delegate from our Missionary Society Ministry, I attended the Woman's Auxiliary Annual Session. Dr. Cynthia Smith, President of the Woman's Auxiliary, delivered a compelling annual address. Her subject was "God's Plan - Our Season" with emphasis on the scripture found in Jeremiah 29:11. In her message, she reminded us that it's okay to make plans, but it is better when you consult the master planner. So, we must let go of our plan and embrace God's plan. It is our Season to exchange our ideas for His plan.

The Woman's Auxiliary supports Home and Foreign Mission. They make yearly contributions to and participate in the North America Baptist Women's Union and the Baptist World Alliance that support women in need in Third World Countries and around the world. The Women

(Cont'd on page 4)

A LOOK BACK AT THE YEAR 2019

BUILDING SOMETHING BIGGER THAN OURSELVES



Pastor Oran W. and First Lady Linda D. Young celebrated their third anniversary with First Rising in grand style, utilizing the theme "Building Something Bigger than Ourselves" (Matthew 7:24-29). It started with a pre-anniversary celebration on Friday evening, September 13, 2019. The Rev. Dr. Michael L. Miller, of New Jerusalem Baptist

Church was the speaker. His choir accompanied him. Rev. Miller reminded us in his message that the will of God is much bigger than us, We must trust God and do the work we are called to do according to His will. We must give God the glory, the honor and the praise.

Spirits were high on Sunday, September 14th at the official start of the celebration. The Pastor asked us to come in our Sunday's Best, and we did the best we could to comply. The Praise Team got us all tuned up for the morning service; they did not hold back on their songs of praise. The Rev. Dr. Carolyn Graham, Associate Minister of Israel Baptist Church, delivered a stirring message. BTU was at 12 noon and the Anniversary Banquet started at 1 p.m. Kudos to the culinary and decorating teams.

The 3 p.m. service was indeed "SPECIAL." It commenced with a processional of Pastor Oran W. and First Lady Linda Young and their family members. Members of Israel Baptist Church were well represented in the congregation and several were participants on program. (Israel was Rev. Young's prior church before coming to First Rising.) The Worship Leader was Minister Karen Morgan from Israel Baptist Church. The Response to Welcome was done by Dea. Colden McAllister from Israel Baptist, The melodious guest choir was from Israel. Another highlight on the program was the nostalgic Moment of Remembrance given by Rev. Young honoring the Rev. Dr. Morris L. Shearan, Sr., the former Pastor of Israel Baptist Church who passed away this year.

The Dance Warriors for Christ from New Hope & Life Church of God performed beautifully in a Liturgical Dance.

The icing on the anniversary cake (figuratively speaking) was the message delivered by the Rev. Reginald M. Green (former Interim Pastor at First Rising and current Interim Pastor at Israel Baptist Church). In Rev. Green's soul stirring sermon "It Ain't All About You," (Roman 12:1-3), he related in strong terms that "we cannot make the journey by ourselves; we always need Jesus. The body of Christ is bigger than we could ever be. It doesn't mean that we are unimportant because God allows us to be His resource. If you let God take charge, you will find a way out of no way."

Rev. and Mrs. Young were showered with gifts and other tokens of love at the service. God Bless You Both!



67TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY MINISTRY

On Sunday, November 17, 2019, the Missionary Society Ministry joyfully celebrated its 67th year on the quest To GO, teach and reach the lost, the unsaved, teaching them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Our service to God and our community is a never-ending one for "We are on the Battlefield for Our Lord" (the anniversary theme).

Following a magnificent lunch in the Fellowship Hall, the 3 p.m. service began with a processional of missionaries, beautifully dressed in white, accented with a gold and white corsage. The auxiliaries were dressed in black and white. Approximately 30 missionaries from other churches were in attendance.

Minister Shirley Jacobs (First Baptist Church of Glenarden) was the Worship Leader. Deaconess Sandra Powell (St. Stephens Baptist Church) read the scripture and the Rev. Shirley Lambert (Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church) offered prayer. The congregation was graciously welcomed by Sis. Marie Block (FRMZ) and Sis. Donna Hatcher (Mt Pleasant Baptist Church) responded to the welcome. We were happy to have Rev. Lucy Horne (daughter of FRMZ) introduce the circle leaders. Sis. Fannie Butler (FRMZ) honored deceased missionaries in her Time of Remembrance presentation. The Missionary Charge was administered by the Rev. Dr. Edna Owens (Abyssinia Baptist Church). We were honored to have the Rev. Earnestine Jones, President of the Baptist Convention Women's Auxiliary of DC and Vicinity give remarks. The five circle leaders who retired from their leadership role this year were presented plaques in honor of their dedicated service. Sis. Dianne Tarmely introduced her pastor, the Rev. Deborah Jefferson of Reid Temple AME Church, who was the guest speaker.

Rev. Jefferson chose the subject "A Fight to the Finish" for her sermon, which was taken from Ephesian 6:10-18. Rev. Jefferson told us we must establish our own relationship with God.. We must get to know who we are and get on one course. We must learn to apply trust. God is an indispensable weapon. He is strong and He wants us to be strong, as well. We must stay on the battlefield for our Lord.

It was a memorable program.



139th ANNUAL SESSION, NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, USA, INC. (CONT'D)

in White Grand March is set aside for this effort. This is always an exciting time at the convention and this year was no exception. Women from the USA (including Washington, DC) and countries from around the world participated. The march was very lively and colorful as women showed off their creativity and beautiful attire. Next year the Convention will be held at the National Harbor in Oxon Hill, Maryland, on September 7-11, 2020.



A LOOK BACK AT THE YEAR 2019

2019 WOMEN'S DAY ACTIVITIES

By Sis. Dorothy E. Fowlkes, Chair

The month of June is always an exciting month in the life of Women at FRMZBC! This year was no exception! The Women's Day Committee began the year in support of the Revival Services by serving dinners each evening. This enabled working women to come directly to the Revival service and enjoy dinner with members of the church family. On June 1st, the Annual Pre-Women's Day Yellow Rose Tea was held. It included a "Fashion Show" and Speaker was Lady Edna Owens of Abyssinia Baptist Church, Capital Heights, MD. Lady Owens expounded on the theme, "Becoming Active in Our Purpose by Responding to His Word" (Joshua 1:7-9). It was an excellent message as she challenged us to become "doers" and not just "hearers" of His Word. We must be diligent seeking to spread the good news every day of our lives, she stated. There is no such word as "retirement" in our journey, for there is much work to be done. She concluded "When each disciple does her part using her God-given gift(s), God will get the glory, not us." It was indeed an inspiring message encouraging us to search ourselves and prayerfully ask ourselves, "Is God pleased with my service?" She reminded us that we are all servants.



Lady Edna Owens



Sis. Teresa Banks

Also, a new feature this year was the History of Hats presented by Sis. Theresa Banks, who is a designer and milliner of hats and a griot. In her one-woman show, entitled "H' Attitude and Herstory" she told educational stories about the evolution of the hat and of famous people and events with the use of hats as props reminiscent of the times.

Our Annual Women's Day service climaxed Women's Day activities for 2019. Our guest speaker, Rev. Karen Taylor, Associate Minister, Mt. Airy Baptist Church challenged us by asking the question, "What Happens at Midnight"? It was an inspiring message supported by great music being provided by the "Gross Family" of Royal Oak Pentecostal Church, Landover, MD. They sang with the anointing and blessed our souls immensely.

As we move into the year 2020, we are left with the challenge to continue seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we work together for His Kingdom Building. The question is: "Can God count on you"?



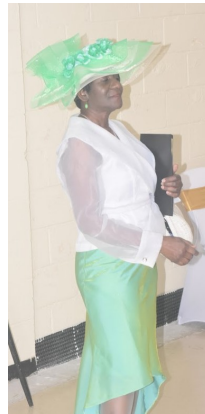
Yellow Rose Tea Fashion Models



Hat Models - Winner: Deaconess Irene Lewis (2nd left)



First Lady Linda Young



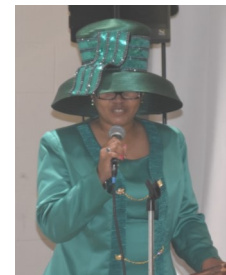
Teresa Wooten - Worship Ldr.



Sis. Vivian Obijayno



Min. Shirley Lambert



Antoinette Webster Rogers - Commentator

MOTHER'S DAY PROGRAM

Addie Watson, Chair

Were you there for the crowning of the Mothers of the Year on May 12? If not, you missed something special. This year congratulations were extended to Sister Bertha Mobley on her crowning as the 2019 Senior Mother of the Year. Sister Jean H. Whitley and Deaconess Irene Lewis (nominated by family members) will share the reign as 2019 Mother of the Year. The awardees have made appearances at several church functions wearing their crown and sash.

Additionally, this year, Certificates of Merit were presented in honor of those seniors who passed away during the year and had not been recognized as a Senior Mother of the Year. Certificates of Merit were awarded posthumously to Sisters Doris Morris, Vermell Gaither, Joyce Motley and Phyllis Edelin. The certificates were presented to family members of the deceased.



Sis. Jean Whitley, Sis. Bertha Mobley, Deaconess Irene Lewis & Rev. Oran Young



Judges of hats: Minister Shirley Lambert, Sis. Brenda Irby and Evangelist Naomie Martin



MISSION STAR

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Deadline to submit articles for next issue: March 1, 2020

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

September 4	Marie Beattie	December 1	Kyle Ford
September 4	Lelia Gibson	December 11	Delores Bennett
September 8	Lillian Jones	December 24	Avis Cook
September 12	Maggie Hamer	December 25	Geraldine Green
September 18	Geraldine Ford	December 27	Eula Jackson
September 18	Bertha Mobley	December 28	Katie Crawford
September 23	Mary Jackson	December 30	Diane Jones-Washington
September 24	Gloria Abney	January 1	Virginia McCray
September 27	Queen E. Cook	January 3	Carrie Johnson
September 28	Valeria Ruffin	January 4	Debbie Smoot
September 30	Catherine Doleman	January 7	Lela Banks
October 6	Barbara Boyette	January 14	Frances Claiborne
October 11	Sheron Ferguson	January 15	Farlene Gaither
October 15	Ann Gilliard	January 16	Jean Whitley
October 22	Karen Harris	January 17	Vanessa Jones
October 23	Fannie L. Butler	January 26	Mary Washington
October 23	Barbara Wormsby	January 28	Barbara Walker
October 24	Denise Simmons	January 31	Mattie James
November 2	Ernestine Hogue	January 31	Ruby Morgan
November 7	Yvonne Stewart	February 14	Ivy Owens
November 17	Josephine Holland	February 15	Darlene Perry
November 20	Betty Wilson	February 16	Loretta Wilson

May God's grace be with you today, on your birthday, and forever.

FIRST RISING CELEBRATES 83 YEARS

First Rising celebrated 83 years of walking by faith and vowed in this year's theme that we are "Keeping Our Eyes on the Prize." The pre-anniversary celebration began on May 16th, with an evening service. The Rev. Kevin Graves, Pastor of Sharon Baptist Church was the guest speaker. On Friday, May 17, our young adults and friends were invited for an evening of fun and artistic expressions at the Young Adult Gospel Café in the Fellowship Hall. On Saturday, May 18, church ministries and friends marched in a parade around the Shaw area and continued the fellowship at the church picnic.



Excitement was in the air at the opening of Sunday's service on May 18. The Praise Team pumped us up for what was in store for the day with their melodious voices. The 9:30 a.m. speaker was the Rev. Anthony Motley (a son of First Rising, who inspired us (utilizing 2 Timothy 4:1-8) to "Keep Our Eyes on the Prize Through Obedience and Sacrifice. Rev. Motley reminded us that there are hurts

and disappointments in all our lives. Jesus didn't say it would be easy; but we must keep pressing for the mark of the high calling. We have to hold onto our faith and be duty bound to keep our eyes on the prize so that we may be able to get beyond the problems that confront us. God will make a way out of no way.

BTU followed the morning service and then we dined in the beautifully decorated Fellowship Hall. Following a delicious meal, we reconvened in the sanctuary for the 3:00 p.m. service. The Rev. Regretta B. Ruffin, from the Greater New Saint Paul Baptist Church, delivered the message.



2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS YEAR-END REPORT (CONT'D)

- ◆ Planned and coordinated the Mother's Day Program;
- ◆ Hosted a Prayer Brunch.
- ◆ Provided corsages and boutonnieres to church goers on Mother's Day and Father's Day.
- ◆ Furnished clothing and items for the needy for the Christmas holiday.
- ◆ Donated \$200 to the Flint, Michigan water project.

- ◆ Made telephone calls and visited the sick and shut-in at various homes, hospitals and nursing homes within and outside the city; mailed birthday, sympathy and get-well cards in benevolence;
- ◆ Participated in the American Heart Association's 5K walk;
- ◆ Co-sponsored the trip to the Alfred Street Baptist Church HBCU College Fair;
- ◆ Collectively and individually celebrated the graduation of our high school seniors with gifts and monetary donations;
- ◆ Participated in the American Heart Association's 5K walk;
- ◆ Continued growth through study guide discussions; bible study; participation in ministry activities, including coordinating and presiding over 5th Sunday worship services;
- ◆ Published the *Mission Star* newsletter;
- ◆ Attended and/or participated in a wide variety of services, revivals, conferences, retreats, annual sessions, and conventions for biblical enrichment and spiritual growth; and,
- ◆ Some served as active members of Lott Carey, the Christian Education Council, and/or WISE.

