



FIRST RISING MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH  
*"For we walk by faith, not by sight"*  
 2 Corinthians 5:7

# MISSION STAR



March 2020 Volume 20, Issue 1

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE "Relationships in God's Family"



Jean Whitley, President  
 Missionary Society Ministry

Our Pastor has been preaching for many Sundays about relationships in God's family and about our own family members maintaining their relationship with God and studying the WORD to gain a relationship, or a closer relationship to God, or turn back to Him as your first

true love. Nothing is more important in the family of faith than relating to one another in mutual love and support.

The various facets of relationships in God's family are: the need for believers to get along in spite of differences; attitudes of generosity toward fellow believers; the ability to partner with one another in God's work as we give, pray and encourage; and finally, the importance of unity in the body of Christ.

Eternal life is expressed through loving relationships. Luke 10:27 (NIV) tells us to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with your mind; and, love your

neighbor as yourself." A person's love for God must show itself in love for people. For it is said he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen."

All believers are sons of God, NOW!

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.  
JOHN 1:12-13 (KJV)

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## MidCity Development Update

Rev. Oran W. Young, Pastor

I want to give you an update on where we are with MidCity Development and the proposed 363 unit apartment complex. On February 24th, Miles Memorial CME Church, First Rising and the community showed up in good numbers to make a showing at the Zoning Commission meeting to oppose their moving forward with the project. The commissioners agreed the

developers need to do more to blend into the neighborhood and granted an extension of time until March 30th to see what more MidCity could do.

We are concerned about:

1. The difficulty the displaced tenants will have trying to move back into the new development. Many were members of Miles Memorial.

2. The low number of affordable units that have been set aside by MidCity, which does little for a city with a housing crisis.

3. The high income required to be eligible for those set asides, and

4. The likelihood the proposed parking will be inadequate and intrude on our parking on the street which is already strained.

Cont'd on page 4

### EVENTS CALENDAR

- April 18 Prayer Brunch
- May 2 Pre-Mother's Day Luncheon
- May 10 Mother's Day & Crowning of Mother of the Year
- May 14 & 16 Church Pre-Anniversary Service and Parade
- May 20 Church Anniversary & Banquet
- May 31 Missionary Sunday Dime-A-Meal
- June 5 Yellow Rose Tea
- June 13 Sunday School Picnic
- June 14 Discipleship Day
- June 27 Quarterly Meeting
- June 28 Women's Day

## Remembering the Past and Saying Goodbye

### Sister Harriet M. Tweedy

I joined the Christian Strivers Missionary Circle (now the Margaret Newell Circle) in April 2004 under the leadership of Sister Margaret Newell. It was a vibrant group of dedicated ladies. Sister Newell led this circle for over 30 years until illness limited her involvement in many of the circle's activities. On Sunday, July 31, 2012, the President of the Missionary Society officially recognized Mrs. Newell as Circle Leader Emeritus and the Christian Strivers Circle was officially re-named in her honor – the Margaret Newell Circle.

Upon Mrs. Newell's official retirement, Sister Anna Smith was appointed Circle Leader. Under her leadership we continued our bi-monthly study sessions and involvement in outreach activities. Sister Smith's dedication allowed our group to maintain its activities and goals without missing a beat. It was after Sister Smith stepped down (for health reasons) in January 2019 – with much agonizing and prayer – we decided it was time to archive the circle.

To those members who have gone home to be with the Lord – Sisters Virginia Wade, Dorothy Brown, Margaret Newell, Ruth Jolly, Mary McCrea and Henrietta Murry – I will always remember and carry them in my heart. To those who have found new homes – Sisters Sandra Woodard, Carlotta Teal, Gayle Lewis – you are missed but not forgotten and a special thank you to Sister Maryella Shirley for your years of love and advice.

I have enjoyed my time with this wonderful group and it is with a heavy heart that I say goodbye to the Margaret Newell Circle.



Members of Christian Strivers, family and friends celebrate Sis. Margaret Newell's (center) 90th birthday.



## Mount Bethel Baptist Educational Congress

### Deaconess Ann Gilliard

The 66th Annual Session of the Mount Bethel Baptist Educational Congress was held March 9-12, 2020, at First Baptist Church of Highland Park, Landover, Maryland. The theme was: "Igniting the Kingdom of God through Christian Education" (Jeremiah 20:9). In attendance were: Rev. Oran W. Young, Rev. Claudius Jones, Deacon Harold Gilliard, Deaconess Ann Gilliard, Sisters Jean H. Whitley, Dorothy E. Fowlkes, Virginia Toney, Queen Cook, Gwendolyn King, Patricia Martin, and Vivian Obiano.

The curriculum consisted of classes to help us grow stronger in our faith, stronger in our knowledge of the Word of God, and stronger in our commitment to ministry. The classes were challenging and enjoyed by all in attendance.

## Crossing the Mason Dixon Line

### Deaconess Vanessa Jones

On February 23, several members of the FRMZ Dance Ministry paid homage to our ancestors who made the pilgrimage North to escape slavery. Missionary Society First Vice President, Odessa White (wearing clothing appropriate for the time period) gave a brief narrative on slavery to set the stage for the dance. The dance opened with three runaway slaves crossing the Mason Dixon Line into Philadelphia. Being grateful to God for the journey, they began to praise Him in dance while honoring their African heritage. New Jersey Mass Choir's song "I Will Sing Hallelujah" provided the backdrop for the dance. The dancers were Miss Nicole Hugee, Miss Synphane White (Girls Auxiliary) and Deaconess Vanessa Jones (Girls Auxiliary).

To God be the glory for His provision and protection of our ancestors!



*In Loving Memory of*  
**Rev. Reginald M. Green, Sr.**  
June 17, 1939 – February 5, 2020

Servant of God  
Civil Rights Activist  
Freedom Rider  
Pastor and Interim Pastor of several churches  
Counselor and Advisor  
Recipient of many awards and fellowships  
Co-author of several publications  
Humble man of the people



**Church Revival**

**THEME: "The Dry Bones Live" (Ezekiel 37:1-4)**

|   |   |   |  |  |   |
|---|---|---|--|--|---|
| <p><b>Women's Night</b></p> <p><b>Wednesday</b><br/>March 4, 2020<br/>Rev. David McIntosh-Peters<br/>Salem Baptist Church</p> |  | <p><b>Men's Night</b></p> <p><b>Thursday</b><br/>March 5, 2020<br/>Rev. Paige Harris<br/>Third Baptist Church</p> |  | <p><b>Youth &amp; Young Adult Night</b></p> <p><b>Friday</b><br/>March 6, 2020<br/>Min. Charmeka Parris<br/>New Bethany Baptist Church</p> |  |
|---|---|---|--|--|---|

Celebrated as a community revival, First Rising held its 3-day revival in partnership with pastors of neighboring churches.

Each session commenced with devotions, prayers, testimonies and songs of praise from our Praise Team. Thus, the congregation was spiritually charged when the official services began.

Rev. David McIntosh-Peters and his choir were our Wednesday night guests. First Rising's Volunteer Missionary Chorus also sang. Utilizing the revival theme and scriptures shown above, Rev. Peters titled his message, "A Revival in the Valley." In his message, Rev. Davis told us that God is in control of the valley filled with dry bones. As He did with Ezekiel, He can tell us where He wants us to be, what to do and what to

say. Dry bones only live by the spirit and Word of God. God shall breathe the breath of life in you and you shall live. As He revives you, He wants you to revive someone else.

Rev. Paige Harris, Pastor of Third Baptist Church, was Thursday night's speaker. His musician and FRMZ's Men's Chorus sang. Rev. Harris' subject was "A Dead Situation." In his sermon, he asked the question, Can dead churches live? He said if they are to live three things must happen. There must be an anointing of the hands of the Lord upon us to make things change. Anointing flows down. No anointing, no change. There must be action. All actions are God's. We have to allow God to do His work. The third thing to happen is prophecy and obedience. If God said it, I believe

it and it shall be done.

Friday's speaker was Min. Chermeka Parris, Youth Leader at New Bethany Baptist Church, whose subject was "The Valley of Bones." She spoke about her younger years when she thought she was living her best life. She realized in later years that those were just dry bones, she had to be more consistent with her faith and it was time to speak the life. It is the Lord that makes all things possible. He breathed life into the bones and He breathes life today. We should let the world know that Jesus is the life and through Him, life is eternal. New Bethany's Young Adult Choir and First Rising's Young Adult Choir sang. Each night was a blessing.

## Nurses Ministry Anniversary

### Sister Louise Fleming

**REVIVAL IN THE LAND**

Because the experience of Black people in America have closely paralleled those of Israel in exile, this has been a favorite preaching passage for African American preachers. Slavery left our bones dry. They became very dry through the reconstruction, lynching, and segregation. But God's Spirit breathed on us during the dynamic leadership of people like Martin Luther King.

Taken from an article by  
Reverend Reuben Green

The Nurses Ministry was organized at First Rising on March 10, 1948, under the leadership of the late Pastor George E. Galloway. This year marks its 72nd anniversary, which was celebrated on Sunday, March 15, 2020, at 3:00 P.M. This year's theme was "Let There Be Light," Psalm 1:105.

Prior to the service, a delicious dinner was served for all.

The service began with a lively procession of nurses into the sanctuary. It was a beautiful sight to remember. Nurses from twenty-one churches were represented.

The guest speaker for the afternoon service was the Rev. Freddie Davis (Senior Pastor of Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church of

Washington, DC) who preached a wonderful, heart-rending sermon "God is Still Hearing from a Distance Remotely," Matthew 8: 5-11. His sermon reminded us that God can heal us from anywhere. Rev. Davis and his Men's Mass Choir blessed us with selections before and after the sermon. The Moore Specials, accompanied by musician Bro. Ernest Gibson, also provided songs of praise and were recognized for their services.

Nurse Shelia Coleman Floyd and her committee are to be commended for their foresightedness and initiative in putting together such a dynamic program.



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## 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  | March 27 | Harris, Ada           |
| March 5  | Virginia Toney    | April 3  | Harriet Tweedy        |
| March 7  | Tanya Saunders    | April 17 | Addie Watson          |
| March 11 | Tiffany Thomas    | April 30 | Emma North            |
| March 14 | Ruby Rice         | April 23 | Maryella Shirley      |
| March 15 | Chrisie Cobb      | April 26 | Stacey Watson         |
| March 18 | Cheryl Jordan     | April 28 | Leona Person          |
| March 20 | Dorothy Irby      | May 8    | Novella Coleman       |
| March 21 | Gail Martin       | May 10   | Thelma Green          |
| March 22 | Virginia Robinson | May 10   | Gail Harris           |
| March 22 | Mary Samuel       | May 12   | Irene Lewis           |
| March 23 | Andrea Hughes     | May 25   | Constance Simms       |

**As you celebrate your special day, may God always guide you and show you the way to righteousness and happiness.**

## MidCity Development Update (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

MidCity sent us a proposal [recently] which only extends their help from 2 years to 5 years. This is an improvement from the proposal they made in February, but it doesn't solve many of the concerns listed above. As such, a response letter I prepared is under review and will be submitted [shortly] to strongly suggest MidCity add to their proposal, to address our concerns and establish a "good neighbor" policy. In the meantime, the church should continue to pray, fast on Thursdays to seek the Lord's divine intervention and the bringing down of strongholds against His church.

## Coronavirus Pandemic

Thank you for taking the Coronavirus, public health crisis seriously and for doing your part to keep your family and fellow neighbors safe.

We ask you to continue to participate in this effort. It is important that you only go out into public areas and spaces when you absolutely need to. When in public, avoid gatherings of more than 10 people. Avoid spreading illness by staying at least six feet away from people. Avoid touching your face and highly touched surfaces (e.g., elevator buttons, handrails, etc.) in public spaces. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, particularly after coughing or sneezing or having been in a public place. Stay at home if you are sick. Avoid close contact with people who are sick and wear a face mask if you are a caregiver of a sick person. At home, keep frequently touched hard surfaces (such as your door knobs, cell phones, computers, remotes, table, counter tops etc.) cleaned and disinfected. Also, remember to call and give support and encouragement to our seniors during this critical time.

In the words of Dr. Tony Evans, "God allows us to be concerned about situations, but He does not want us to worry because He is a Father and He loves and cares for us." God's Got Us! Pray and trust Him.



Sister Rose Brown (Ethel Dudley/ Bessie Walker Circle) celebrated her 100th birthday among 200+ family members and friends on March 7, 2020, at the Jaycee Community Center in Waldorf, MD. She was absolutely radiant. The out-pouring of love and appreciation towards her was something to behold! She even graced us in singing (along with the Gibson Gospel Singers) one of her favorite songs, "Can't Nobody Do Me Like Jesus." God bless you, Sister Brown.

Thoughts of a 15 year old, written in 1966.

**BEING**

- Being the oldest*
- You are expected to do a lot*
- Set examples*
- Handle responsibilities even*
- Before you can handle yourself*
- You have it better*
- Better than your parents*
- But you want change*
- You need to have a say in*
- Dealing with your life*
- You'll make mistakes*
- What human hasn't?*
- They try to baby you*
- Mix you up until you don't*
- Know you're you.*