



Mount Pleasant Baptist Church

154th
CHURCH
Anniversary

7th
PASTORAL
Anniversary



Rev. Dr. Carl M. Johnson
Pastor

SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

10:00AM

"Emerging Renewed and Stronger"

Isaiah 40:31

Theme: "Emerging Renewed and Stronger"
Isaiah 40:31 (NKJV)

Sunday, September 12, 2021 | 10:00 a.m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/>
Meeting ID: 840 3287 4413 | Passcode: 507096
Dial-In: 1-301-715-8592

Worship Leaders
Deacon Kenny Jackson and Deaconess Rita Jackson

Call to Worship and Invocation.....	Rev. Dr. Vonda Batts
Scripture ReadingIsaiah 40:31 (NKJV).....	Sister Sharon Williams Morris
Prayer.....	Brother Derrick Allen
Music of Inspiration "Even Me"	MPBC Combined Choir
Offertory Appeal and Prayer	Rev. Dr. Vonda Batts
Liturgical Dance Presentation	Wise Women of Praise
Introduction of the Guest Speaker.....	Sister Patricia Harris
Music of Preparation "Psalm 117"	MPBC Combined Choir
The Preached Word.....	Dr. Valerie Martin-Stewart Founder/CEO of Taking It By Force Ministries, Inc., Fredericksburg, VA
Invitation to Christian Discipleship.....	Pastor Carl M. Johnson
Historical Moment	Power Point Presentation
Special Recognition (50+ Years).....	Video Presentation
Memorial Tribute.....	Deacon Edward Robinson
Special Acknowledgements.....	Trustee Walter Hogan Rev. Dr. Vonda Batts Deacon Michael Hardy Deaconess Faye Stark Trustee Tyrone Bradley
Benediction/Closing.....	Pastor Carl M. Johnson

Biography

Dr. Valerie Martin-Stewart



Dr. Valerie Martin-Stewart is a licensed and ordained minister who loves preaching the gospel and has been doing so for 20 years. Under the non-profit ministry she founded and directs, she awards scholarships to the under privileged, conducts conferences/revivals and leads mission teams to impoverished areas in Jamaica and Peru.

Dr. Stewart's educational accomplishments include an Associate's Degree in Computer Science, a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering, a Master's Degree in Biblical Studies and a Doctorate Degree in Theology, graduating Magna Cum Laude in both her Master's and Doctoral programs. She was inducted into her Alma Mater's Hall of Fame, University of Alabama in Huntsville, for her academic and athletic achievements.

Dr. Martin-Stewart has served the Department of Defense (DOD) as an Electrical Engineer for 25 years. She started her career with the Department of the Army, Space and Missile Defense Command which is where she acquired her knowledge of weapons and communications integration on Army platforms and modeling and simulation. From there she transferred to the Department of the Air Force and later joined the Department of the Navy, working for Naval Sea Systems Command at Naval Surface Warfare Center, Dahlgren Division (NSWCDD) in Dahlgren, VA. She currently works with the Flight Test and Mission Assurance team where her duties include conducting tests of missiles and targets.

Dr. Stewart is a prolific author and has written several books; her second which is now a screenplay which has prospects for becoming a movie. Recognized as an expert on the subject of fear, overcoming struggles and personal setbacks, she has been interviewed on various radio shows across the U.S.

Other accomplishments and notable achievements for Dr. Stewart include but are not limited to serving as the keynote speaker for many Government agencies, national organizations and professional associations.

She is the recipient of numerous awards from the Army, Air Force and Navy for her service and performance as an electrical engineer.

Dr. Stewart is a philanthropist at heart as she began returning to her hometown of Oxford, MS in 2004 preaching, teaching, and awarding scholarships; she believes everyone has greatness living on the inside of them, but it must be tapped into. She now travels both nationally and internationally hosting conferences, seminars, mission trips and crusades sharing her messages of survival, endurance, and perseverance as she challenges all people to RISE and simply "Do It Afraid!"



“Gone but Not Forgotten”

For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die,
we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.
Romans 14:8



Joseph Anthony Bray
October 30, 2020



Trustee William Duke
December 22, 2020



Janice Brown
March 18, 2021



Hazel Gooden
October 11, 2020



Katherine Caison
November 23, 2020



Avery Gray
December 11, 2020



Willie Coles
October 30, 2020



Jennifer Johnson
September 26, 2020

“Gone but Not Forgotten”



For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die,
we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.
Romans 14:8



Ambassador Larry Palmer

April 21, 2021



Paul H. Sheppard

November 16, 2020



Minister Ronald Spinner

February 7, 2021

On our 154th Church Anniversary,
We salute the members of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church
who have served for 50 years or more.

Sister Brenda Bradley

Sister Aaronita Brown

Deacon Carlton Brown

Sister Gwendolyn Brown

Deaconess Josephine Byrd

Sister Mirenda Hall

Sister Nancy Hardy-Dewberry

Deacon Michael Hardy

Deaconess Rita Jackson

Sister Elizabeth Jackson

Sister Jeanette Lewis

Sister Mary Lockett

Sister June Marshall

Sister Barbara Moore

Sister Frances Robinson

Sister Frances Ross

Sister Merle Summers

Deaconess Susie Taylor

Sister Maggie Tucker

Sister Sally White

Sister Lou Emma Wilson

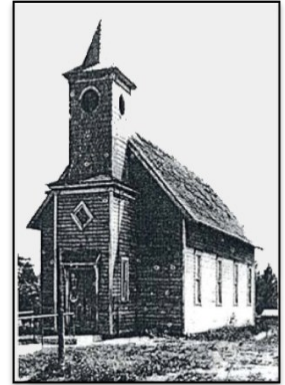


**Mount Pleasant Baptist Church (MPBC)
Alexandria, VA**

1867-2021—A PROUD HISTORY

A church is its people. The history of a church is the story of what God has done through people. Thus, when we consider the history of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church it is really a part of God's story. Each success and each challenge should remind one that only what we do for Christ will last.

The history of the people comprising Mount Pleasant Baptist Church extends back to 1863 when many of them were granted freedom from slavery and similar servitude. This group of brave men and women out of slavery traveled hundreds of miles by foot through unfamiliar territory comprised mainly of trails, cow paths and murky swamps and settled in the Alexandria area. Although they arrived as freed slaves with no formal education, and no previous business knowledge, God blessed them to make homes for their families.



The success of these men and women attracted the attention of Mr. Charles H. Brown (a white man) and he offered 60 acres of land for sale. Many persons bought the land and built homes. These early settlers included such persons as Catherine Johnson, Giles Payne, William Nutt, John Curry, Andrew Jackson, Fenton Somers, Michael Miner, Jim Hinshaw, Ennis Jackson, Brown Sheppard, and Georgianna Sheppard.

The village created by the homes of these persons was named Mount Pleasant as a reflection of the cooperation and pleasantness that existed among the residents, and because the village was located on a hill. Mr. Brown, who sold them the land, thought that a settlement would not be complete without a church, so he gave one acre of land "to be used exclusively for religious and school purposes, and for a burying ground by and for colored people." On September 7, 1867, Mr. Brown and his wife, Eliza, deeded the land "to Andrew Jackson, Fenton Somers, William Nutt, and John Curry, freedmen of Fairfax County." These men organized the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in 1867.

The first church had one small room and was made of pine logs. It was used for worship services on Sunday and as a school during the week. In 1881, a mere 14 years later, a frame church was built, and it doubled the size of the original building. New families into the community included names such as Pinkett, Scott, Warner, Moore, Butler, Gaskins, and Wheeler. These families continue to be an integral part of the church.

As the people worked for the cause of Christ, the church continued to grow, making it necessary to build again in 1931. The program of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church broadened to provide varied avenues for Christian worship, service, fellowship, and religious education. All was designed to address the needs of the people and promote the cause of Christ.



In the mid-1970's, a new building became mandatory. The official groundbreaking for the new edifice was held July 17, 1976. The March-in followed a year later on August 7, 1977. God blessed the people and on April 3, 1983, being free of debt, the mortgage for the new sanctuary was burned.

On September 20, 1992, the sanctuary of the church built in 1931 was refurbished, officially dedicated and named the Pinkett and Sheppard Memorial Chapel thus celebrating the work of two former pastors. The nursery and other areas of the building were modified in recent years.

Having recognized a need, on July 21, 2012 the church authorized a feasibility study for an elevator to enable elderly or physically challenged individuals to conveniently get to the lower level of the church. On March 22, 2014 ground was broken for the elevator, and praise God, the elevator was put in service on September 6, 2015.





Mount Pleasant Baptist Church is one of the oldest Black Baptist churches in Northern Virginia. It has been officially recognized as a historic institution by the Fairfax County Historic Commission. The unveiling and dedication of the Historical Marker was held on August 5, 2017.

A list of Pastors who faithfully served at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church through its 152 years includes Rev. Laws, the first pastor; Rev. Randolph Scott; Rev. Pryor; Rev. Randolph Peyton; Rev. John Pinkett; Rev. Milton Sheppard; Rev. Dr. Carroll Baltimore; Rev. Clary Brown; Rev. Dr. Harry J. Pilson; and our current pastor Rev. Dr.

Carl M. Johnson. Pastor Johnson accepted the call of the Church and began his tenure on July 6, 2014. He was installed on October 5, 2014.

Under Pastor Johnson's leadership, Mount Pleasant has welcomed many new members and seen great change. Pastor Johnson has licensed eight ministers to preach the Gospel and ordained nine Deacons, seven Deaconesses, and consecrated five Trustees. Many other changes on behalf of the Church were initiated, implemented, and instituted. Some of the highlights of his tenure include: a viable strategic plan for Mount Pleasant that included a series of Leadership conferences, streaming church worship services, on-line giving, Youth "Thursday Night Take Over" (TNT), Capital Campaign for facility improvements, and dedication of the elevator in memory of Beatrice White. In 2018 the Mount Pleasant Board of Directors was reorganized to add three at-large lay members selected from the congregation. Currently there are 20 deacons and 22 deaconesses under his guidance.

Pastor Johnson established the popular summer worship schedule and community Bible study cookout. Mount Pleasant had its first two-day noonday Senior Revival in 2018. Discipleship classes for men and women have been established. The Grief Ministry and Safety & Security Ministry were reactivated.

In April 2018 Pastor Johnson was selected to participate in a three-year Strategic Pastoral Excellence Program (SPEP). The Program is designed to recognize and support significant pastoral leaders and their congregations through a curriculum that focuses on personal and business financial skills. Dr. Johnson was appointed Region 1 President of the Northern Virginia Baptist Association, Inc., Gainesville, VA and served a one-year term. (Rev. Dr. Augustus Henderson, Moderator). He also serves on the Executive Board of the Baptist General Convention, Richmond, VA. He is a member of the Kingdom Associates of Covenant Pastors (KACP).

Always looking forward, Pastor Johnson initiated a Youth Council for children ages 10 through 18. Mount Pleasant has been blessed to have an outreach ministry that offers nurturing to all of God's Children. To help meet the needs of the members, many ministries have been added. They include ministries for children, youth, young adults, singles, deaf, seniors, men, women and the grieving, to name a few.

On March 16, 2019, the church honored the retired Church School Director, Sister Aaronita Mackley Brown after 50 years of dedicated service and named the library in her honor the Aaronita Mackley Brown Church School Office. Sister Yvonne Bush was appointed Church School Director in December 2018.

The church continued its missionary work by packing over 20,000 meals on October 5, 2019 for the "Kids Against Hunger" project. The meals, along with other needed supplies were sent to Africa. The Deaconess and Women's Ministries held a Women's Lock-in in October. The event was a celebration in song, preached word and inspiring talks. On November 16, 2019, the first Community Fellowship Day was held, labeled "Unity in the Community," where free meals and clothing were provided.

In January 2020, Pastor Johnson introduced the 2020 Faith Giving initiative which entailed giving above and beyond the regular tithes and offerings. Starting in February 2020 members were asked to give in amounts of 2020, example \$2,020.20, \$220.20, or \$20.20. The Trustees developed a list of projects to beautify and sustain the physical building for which the funds will be used.

On March 15, 2020 Mount Pleasant Baptist Church cancelled all worship services, in-person church activities, programs and events as a precautionary measure due to the state of emergency caused by the corona virus disease, COVID-19. The church office staff began practicing social distancing while continuing to meet the administrative and communication needs of members. Even though the church building was closed, Pastor Johnson used his technological acumen to put in place ways to meet the church's spiritual needs using several digital platforms for ministry meetings, prayer meetings, Bible studies and Sunday worship services.

Specifically, on March 24 he established Tuesday evening virtual prayer service using conference calls to augment the already established Friday 6:00 a.m. morning prayers. Wednesday noon-day Bible study and Thursday evening prayer and Bible study were conducted virtually using Zoom teleconferencing and conference calls. The annual Homecoming celebration and Revival services were conducted virtually with guest pastors delivering their messages live streamed via the MPBC website. The music ministry continued to minister through soloists, liturgical dance, and even a virtual choir. Ministry meetings were conducted using Zoom and conference line. The digital platforms afforded us the opportunity to continue our studies and grow in the knowledge, understanding and application of biblical principles. Despite not meeting in person, Mount Pleasant continued to grow, gaining three new ‘E-members’ in 2020 as a result of our online services.

The Theme for 2020 was “At The Mount We Are Committed to the Spirit of Excellence - Matthew 5:16. Such a theme was very appropriate for that time. The spirit was evident with our first dial-in prayer service during the start of a coronavirus epidemic. The excellence of us all learning to use various forms of technology to keep God’s church alive and reaching souls. The first virtual worship service was Sunday, March 22 with a recorded sermon by Pastor Johnson. Church members (the WE) helped each other to use technology. The Church School conducted virtual lessons using Zoom video teleconferencing.

Community food distributions sponsored by the Emergency Preparedness Committee and Ezekiel Missionary Ministry were held on May 23 and August 18. Children and Youth Day was held June 28th. Graduates were honored. The first-ever virtual church meeting was held on August 29, 2020. The commitment to the Spirit of Excellence by all church members has been remarkable.

It is evident that, from the birth of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in 1867 many persons have given their time, talent, service and means to the cause of Christ. On October 11, 2020, long time member (69 years) and Head of the Culinary Ministry, Mrs. Hazel Gooden was called home to be with our Lord and Savior. On December 22, 2020, at the Inova Hospital in Leesburg, Va., one of Alexandria’s successful African American businessmen succumbed to Covid-19. Trustee William “Sonny” Duke was well known in Alexandria for owning five dry-cleaning businesses. His success in business is a model for many African Americans.

The year 2021 found us “Trusting God for our Future”. The church continued having virtual meetings and classes to include the Women’s Ministry’s cooking and exercise classes and Vacation Bible School. Several community food drives was held on the church parking lot. All were welcome. In addition, communion supplies were distributed so that individuals could partake in their homes.

Throughout the pandemic, the church has continued to keep members engaged – with the aim of gradually returning to live services (re-entry). Accordingly, Phase III of re-entry started on Sunday July 25, 2021, with approximately fifty (50) people in attendance. This was made possible using an online pre-registration process and strict protocols for admittance to the sanctuary. As we look forward to a new normal, there is high expectation that Mount Pleasant Baptist Church will emerge renewed. We have not stood still – we are stronger! Mount Pleasant Baptist Church celebrates its 154th Anniversary in 2021, while Pastor Johnson and First Lady Robin Johnson will be celebrating their 7th at MBPC.

The mission of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church is to minister to all age groups – from infants to the elderly. Our highest goal is to serve others by using the gifts that God has given to each of us. The heritage has been rich and varied; our labors hard and long. As we remember the triumphs of the past, let us renew our commitment to the challenge which lies ahead - to make Christ known to ALL as the Savior of the world.

The church is its people.

2021 CHURH ANNIVERSARY PLANNING COMMITTEE

MEMBERS

Deacon Robert Brooks

Deacon Kenneth Jackson

Deaconess Rita Jackson

Rev. Brian Morgan

Deaconess Sherri Morgan

Deaconess Averil Tomlinson

The members of the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church Anniversary Planning Committee always enjoy working together planning the Anniversary Church Services.

It is our sincere prayer that the services are a blessing to the Mount Pleasant family and friends.

We would like to thank the members who accepted our invitation to serve on the program and to those who assisted in various other capacities.



THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, September 12—1:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Anniversary Celebration—Fellowship Meal. All invited. Location: Locust Shade Park—Indian Pipe Pavilion, 4701 Locust Shade Drive, Triangle, VA 22172. Sign-up at <https://www.perfectpotluck.com/GSIE2963>. Contact: Deacon Karl Henderson at Karl.Henderson@mtpleasantbc.org.

Monday, September 13—6:30 p.m. Virtual Grief Ministry Session. Join Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/> Meeting ID: 841 3701 5054 | Passcode: 499669 Dial-In: 1-301-715-8592. To register: <https://www.griefshare.org/groups/129508>.

Tuesday, September 14—6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting. Dial-In: 1-848-220-3300 | Conference ID: 1571206#. (This is a toll number. Charges may be incurred.) Submit prayer requests at prayer@mtpleasantbc.org.

Wednesday, September 15
12:00 p.m. Virtual Noon Day Bible Study.
Led by Pastor Carl Johnson

7:00 p.m. Evangelism Meeting.
Join Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/> Meeting ID: 827 5728 0195 | Passcode: 998724 Dial-In: 1-301-715-8592. Contact: Deacon James Watson, James.Watson@mtpleasantbc.org.

Thursday, September 16
6:30 p.m. Virtual Youth Bible Study "TNT."
Led by Rev. Chris White. Ages 5-18.

6:30 p.m. Virtual Prayer Service.
Led by Deacon Ronald Hampton, Deaconess Averil Tomlinson, and Deaconess Josephine Byrd.

7:00 p.m. Virtual Bible Study.
Led by Pastor Carl Johnson.

Friday, September 17—6:30 a.m. Morning Prayer.
Dial-In: 1-848-220-3300 | Conference ID: 1571206#. (This is a toll number. Charges may be incurred.) Submit prayer requests at prayer@mtpleasantbc.org.

7:00 p.m. Virtual Initial Sermons. Brother Derrik Allen, Sister Penni Ford, Sister Kimberly Seward, and Sister Middi Spinner will present their Initial sermons. Let us celebrate this *Calling* to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Saturday, September 18—8:30 a.m. Virtual Men of Valor.
Join Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/> Meeting ID: 886 7964 7261 | Passcode: 070481 Dial-In: 1-301-715-8592
Inviting all men and youth males for Virtual Word Study and Fellowship.

Phase III Re-entry. Members interested in attending the Sunday Morning Worship Services in person can sign up on the MPBC website at <https://mtpleasantbc.org/> or register on the new mobile app.

ATTENTION!

Ministry Leaders Slate of Officers and Calendar Events/Activity Form. MPBC officers and ministry leaders must submit a slate of 2022 officers and calendar of events/activity form by **September 15th**. Call (703) 256-1268 extension 11 or email at secretary@mtpleasantbc.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, September 19—3:00 p.m. CCM Fellowship Alexandria zip codes 22304 and 22311. Join Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/> Meeting ID: 842 2621 3859 Passcode: 591253. Dial-In: 1-301-715-8592. Inviting members for virtual fun and fellowship. Contacts: Deacon Barry Newsome, Barry.Newsome@mtpleasantbc.org and Deacon Glenn Blackwell, Glenn.Blackwell@mtpleasantbc.org.

Friday, September 24, 2021—7:00 p.m. CCM Christian Comedy Event. Join Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/> Meeting ID: 868 9214 6694 | Passcode: 108930. Dial-In: 1-301-715-8592. Featuring: Rev. A.D. Black, Galilee Baptist Church, Suitland, MD and Washington, DC. Sponsored by the PWSSC&L Congregational Care Ministry. Contact: Deacon Karl Henderson, Karl.Henderson@mtpleasantbc.org.

2021 Fall Messenger Newsletter. Theme: "Don't Fall Apart!" (Philippians 4:6-7) (NKJV). Submit articles, poems, and announcements at mplibnewsletter@mtpleasantbc.org by October 1st.

A New Website Giving Page announcing ways to give electronically. A detailed flyer has been mailed to you. Scan the QR code or visit: <https://mtpleasantbc.org/give/>.

Download Our New Church App! Register for events and see what's going on at your church with the convenience of your phone. Scan the QR code or visit <https://e360.ministryone.com/landing/PL6P>.

Mount Pleasant Baptist Church

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