



# Letter from Our Pastor

## Love: Our Greatest Need

**CALANDER OF  
EVENTS**

**September**

7<sup>th</sup> All church ministries are back in session  
 18<sup>th</sup> Love and Sharing Birthday Party 1 PM  
 19<sup>th</sup> Pastor's Appreciation Day  
 Speaker: Pastor Larry Tucker, from Christian Union Baptist Church in Philadelphia

24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> Men's Advance at Mt. Pleasant

**October**

6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> Revival at Greater Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Harrisburg 7 PM  
 10<sup>th</sup> Pastor speaks at Asbury AME Church in Chester 3 PM  
 17<sup>th</sup> Mt. Pleasant's 84<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> Women's Advance in King of Prussia

INSIDE THIS ISSUE :	
Men's Ministry	2
Spotlight	3
Marriage Ministry	4
Deacons Ministry	4
Important Dates	5
Women's Ministry	6
Music Ministry	7

Recently, as I stood to officiate a wedding, the surrounding, as well as the setting, caused me to reflect upon God's amazing love. If we were honest, most of us would say our greatest need is to be loved. Acceptance would come in a close second. In fact, for many people, love and acceptance go hand in hand, which is also true from God's perspective. However, His view of love is much different from ours. In human thinking, love is often linked to what we have done right and well rather than freely given, unrelated to performance.

Many times we are tempted to believe that if we can please parents, spouses, employers, or friends, then we will feel loved, but this is never the

case too long. Life lived on this type of performance wheel becomes more of a chore than a motivation. The truth is, we cannot sustain the expectations of others very long. Sooner or later, the walls come crashing down, and life begins to crumble. Paul, in his letter to the Corinthians writes, "If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal... and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing." (1 Cor. 13:1-2). In other words, all the works you may consider advantageous for earning right standing with God are insufficient to gain the love and acceptance He has for you.

In the story of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, Martha rushed around preparing a meal, while Mary sat at Jesus' feet. From God's perspective, it was Mary who demonstrated love in action and who had chosen a "more excellent way." The one thing we cannot live without is the unconditional love of God. This is the only answer to our greatest need.



**Grace and Peace,  
Dr. Willie E. Robinson**

## Brothers United

### By Enrique Josephs, Sr.

The Mount Pleasant brothers are on the move. God continues to bless our ministries in numbers and enthusiasm. The Men's Bible study, led by Deacon Don Voltz and Minister Juan Martinez, has seen tremendous growth. We meet every

Tuesday evening from 6:30 to 8:00 and continue to grow spiritually in the Lord and in our knowledge of His word. *"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."* (II Timothy 3:15).

This fall, we will study the book of Job. Please read the first few chapters and be ready to discuss them on September 28<sup>th</sup>. Our first class will also include a discussion on how we can continue to support all of the

men's ministries at Mount Pleasant, and support brothers in their walk with the Lord. *"Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."* (Psalms 133). We will, again, facilitate a Thanksgiving food giveaway and participate in other community outreach projects.

The Male Chorus grew in numbers with 50 brothers participating in the Mothers Day Chorus. We encourage others to join us, under the direction of Deacon Ted West and Minister of Music Rodney Roberson. Rehearsals are scheduled Tuesdays prior to second Sunday at 8:00 PM, and Saturdays prior to second Sunday at 9:00 AM. Come out and sing to the glory of God. *"I will sing of mercy and judgment: unto thee, O Lord, will I sing."* (Psalms 101)

The Men's Fellowship, which meets on the first Saturday of each month at 8:30 AM in the church

annex, is led by Minister Mike Alvin. We fellowship, are fed the Word of God and then break bread together. The Men's Advance will be held on September 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> at Mt. Pleasant. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Charles R. Miele, Pastor at Greater Zion Baptist greater zion baptist and our theme will be "becoming a man after God's own heart." *"The Lord hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the Lord had commanded him to be captain over his people."* (1 Samuel 13:14). Please encourage the men in your lives to participate in this uplifting event. *"Iron sharpens iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend."* (Proverbs 27:17).



## What's Cooking?

Mount Pleasant's newly formed Culinary Ministry, under the direction of Deaconess Sybil West, held its first fellowship on August 7th. Deacon Larry Dixon was the guest of honor. Ministry members thanked Larry for his untiring devotion to Mt. Pleasant, as he was principally responsible for preparing food for

various functions over for the last 15 years. Larry's love for the Lord can be seen through his service and devotion to the ministry. We would also like to thank Deaconess Denise Dixon for sharing her husband with us all. If you'd like to join the Culinary Ministry and cook in the name of Jesus, see Sybil West for details.



## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

By Gwen Owens

It's been almost a year since Alfreda "Mom Freda" Pryor failed to show up for Monday night choir rehearsal. The 13-year member of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church rarely misses rehearsal, and always calls if she can't come. When Minister of Music, Rodney Roberson called to check on her the next morning, he noticed her speech was slurred and called Deaconess Arlene Waters, a long-time friend of Freda's. She went straight to Mom Freda's house to check on her, and found that Freda's entire right side was limp and her facial expressions weren't normal. Arlene immediately called paramedics, who rushed Freda to the hospital. Tests showed she'd had a series of mini strokes. Doctors also diagnosed her with Eagle's Syndrome, a painful, rare condition that often goes undetected. They also found an aneurysm of the brain. Surgeons chose not to remove the swelling, though. They said operating would be too dangerous.

Freda admits, she first thought "why me?" After all, she was independent and very active as a church van driver, member of three choirs and the Shekinah Praise Dancers, director of the King's Kids, and Case Worker with at-risk children. After her strokes, Freda had to give up that job, could no longer drive and spent months going to doctors' appointments and rehabilitation, learning to walk and talk again. "The pity party began," Freda says. "I thought my entire world had come to an end, not realizing that sometimes, God puts us in various situations to get our attention. I had to endure and learn a lot of things--forgiveness, humbleness, trust, patience and spending time with God."

The turning point, Freda says, came when Pastor Robinson visited and shared **2 Timothy 1:7 "God did not give us a spirit of fear."** He told her to continue to surround herself with Godly people. "After that," Freda laughs, "I started checking the credentials of my doctors, nurses, everybody, even the housekeeper. They thought I worked for the FBI because I'd ask everyone, are you a Christian? Are you saved?"

Anyone who comes to church on Sunday knows what a walking miracle Freda is. Although she's still trying to regain her strength and balance, she's come a mighty long way. "I'm so used to helping other people and I want to get back in that mode," Freda insists. "Everybody is helping me and I'm thankful for them, but I don't want to be a burden."

Freda admits, at one point, she wanted to give up on God, but He never gave up on her. "I had what I needed when I needed it. I'll tell everyone," Freda says matter-of-factly, "Don't give up! Keep fighting the Devil because he's in a no-win situation." While she does get a little down, at times, she clings to **Psalm 56:4 "In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust. I will not fear what flesh can do unto me."**

The mother of three has 13 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren who would love to see her move closer to them in Maryland or Philadelphia, but she says, her supportive church family and friends are here and that's where she wants to stay.

Nowadays, Freda is glad to be back in church singing, greeting people, dancing, and traveling with her Mt. Pleasant family and Pastor to minister to other churches. "I have friends and family who really depend on me to make them laugh," Freda explains. "I always have a joke and it bothers them if I look depressed. I believe God has plans for my life. I am a walking testimony to somebody."

While the doctors say Freda will never drive or work again, she's determined to prove them wrong. She says she felt like a giddy teenager when she recently drove in the church parking lot for the first time since late October. "Watch Out!" she exclaims. "When man says no, God says, yes! We can do all things through Christ, who strengthens us. All we have to do is trust Him because we're not going through anything alone. God is with us and He is able. He brought Daniel out of the lion's den, took the three Hebrew boys out of the furnace, made the blind to see, and fed thousands with just three fish and five loaves of bread. What a mighty God we serve!"



## Mt. Pleasant Marriages Blossom



**Marriage Ministry  
September 17, 2010  
7:00 PM**



The Marriage Ministry continues to grow with the addition of several couples to our ranks. Led by Ministers Mike Alvin and Gloria Voltz, the past semester was very successful. We hosted several events including a Valentine's Day Brunch at the Concordville Inn, a Black History Month Trivia Pot Luck Dinner, a field trip to the Fountain of Life Ministry Easter play "He Is Risen", a Bowling Night and a fabulous cook out. The Marriage Ministry's mission is to support and encourage couples through the word of God, helping them to understand the biblical covenant of marriage.

Our fall semester starts back up on September 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. We will use Stephen and Alex

Kendrick's "Love Dare" as a study and discussion guide as we explore God's unconditional love and how that impacts our marriages and everyday relationships. Provisions are being made for child care services for those couples with young children insuring that they, too, can participate in our 4th Friday ministry meetings. We are also planning a Valentine Weekend Couple's Getaway.

If you're married and want to spend two hours with like-minded Christian couples, come out on September 17<sup>th</sup> and fellowship with us, study God's word and have a good time in the Lord.

The Marriage Ministry would like to congratulate the following couples on their upcoming September and October anniversaries: Deacon Alvoid and Joan Bannister 9/7 -42 years, Trustee Charles and Juanita Webb 9/9-10 years, Cliff & Kenya Isaac 9/12- 7 years, Tanoy and Tekia Douglass 9/23- 3 years, Deacon Ted and Sybil West 9/24- 5 years, Cory and Tonda Reed 10/14- 21 years, Raiford and Maryann Box 10/21-49 years, and Deacon Don and Minister Gloria Voltz 10/21- 32 years.

## Member With Benefits

"To God Be The Glory for The Great Things He is Doing." As the summer comes to an end, we can now look toward a new season. New seasons not only happen with the weather, but within our lives also. Perhaps the season you are coming out of was not as bad as the heated summer we just endured or maybe it was a little more than you could handle. Whatever season you may be in, you can always look to the One who is able to do exceedingly and abundantly beyond all that we ask or think. The Word does remind us that iron sharpens iron and that we do not forsake the assembly. Therefore, if you need someone to pray for/with you or simply to talk to or just share information, go to the yellow pages and call your FAMILY DEACON. He is there for such times and to invoke the spirit of the living God.

You will never know until you try it. After all, you are a family member with benefits.

Thank you for your continued support and feedback concerning the Mount Pleasant Family Ministry Plan.

May God continue blessing you real good.

*-Submitted by the Deacon Ministry  
Deacon Donald Voltz, Chair*



# Youth News

## SEPTEMBER

**25<sup>th</sup> College Fair at the church to help teens learn how to prepare for college.**  
10 AM to 2 PM.

## OCTOBER

**31<sup>st</sup> WWJD night -- a Christian alternative to Halloween-- 6-8:30 PM at the church.**

## SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION:

Too many college scholarships for African American students are going untapped, resulting in the return of thousands of dollars in donated funds every year. If you know any student who's interested in pursuing a higher education, take a look at the scholarship list hanging on the bulletin board in the hallway outside the church office. God is constantly pouring out blessings for us. Don't allow our young people to miss out on any of the blessed opportunities available to them.

## COMING IN NOVEMBER:

**SAFE DATING** – November 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> during Half-Time. This evidence-based program, sponsored by the New Beginnings Recovery Ministry, will assist teens with recognizing the difference between caring, supportive relationships and controlling, manipulative or abusive relationships.

## GOD'S PEARLS

The Young Women's Ministry, better known as God's Pearls, will be starting up on September 12, 2010 at 9:45 AM. We ask all young women to join us, as we discuss being single & Christian, making right choices, and how to enjoy our youth and be Christian.

## MANDATORY CCC MEETING

All individuals interested in taking the class to become Certified Christian Counselors must meet with Rev. Gloria Voltz on September 9th at 6:30 PM for a *mandatory* meeting.

## Important Announcements

### **STRATEGIC COUNSEL**

We thank the Lord for the great things He is manifesting at Mt. Pleasant. We continue to go forward with Pastor's Vision for new directions. "Behold the Lord is doing a new thing" is truly our purpose. He wants us to remember from whence we came. As a result, the Strategic Counsel will help the Library Ministry and its faithful members facilitate the 84<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Mt. Pleasant Baptist on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010. This Anniversary shall put forth the rich past of this Church, its founders and the ministry that is ever-evolving. We pray your continued support and cooperation as we celebrate our history together.

- Rev. Gloria Voltz



### **The Power of Prayer**

The Intercessors will soon be coming to you and asking for your cooperation in our next Prayer Vigil that will take place at 8 PM on November 12th, 2010. Jesus reminds us that His House should be a House of Prayer. Let us be mindful of this mandate and come together and pray. "Little prayer equals little power; much prayer equals much power". Please support our vigil.

## NEW BEGINNINGS

The New Beginnings Recovery Ministry will hold basic and advanced training in the fields of Substance Abuse and Mental Health. Training will be from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM on September 11th, October 2nd, and October 16th. Those interested in attending should leave a message for church manager, Agnes Tillery in the church office, 610-497-1144 extension 101.

**SKATING PARTY**- October 13<sup>th</sup> for kids ages 8 to 17 at CN Skate in Aston from 6:30-9:00 PM. The goal of this activity is to create a drug-free and safe environment for young people that is both recreational and conducive to social growth. See Deacon Sam Laury for more details.

**RED RIBBON DAY**- October 14<sup>th</sup>. This event kicks off "Red Ribbon Week". The New Beginnings Recovery Ministry staff will hand out red ribbons for all church family to wear. By wearing red ribbons, people young and old pledge to live a drug-free life and pay tribute to those who lost their lives for the prevention of drug trafficking.

## Ladies – No more “What-Ifs”

By Romaine Whitaker-Smoak

The clock is ticking, ladies! On October 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, the women of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church (MPBC) and the surrounding area will embark on the grounds of the Crowne Plaza Hotel in King of Prussia for an exciting time, as sisters in Christ gather to share the Word. This is an event you **do not** want to miss. Each time MPBC women attend an advance/retreat, God elevates them higher as He has predestined.

In our busy lives we find time for everything but our self. The time has come for us to stop making excuses such as:

“What-If”

**I don’t have the money.** Wrong excuse, because an easy payment plan has been designed specifically for you. In fact, we have witnessed individuals receiving a blessing just because they got it like that. Do not let a financial hardship block your blessing.

**I’m a care-giver who needs a break from my loved one.** Then this is a time to take advantage of that much needed trip away from home. Speak your weekend getaway into existence by enlisting family members, friends or health care providers to come to your aid. Oftentimes, all we need is a little rest and relaxation.

**I’m a single mother with baby-mama-drama.** You need a break, too. Here’s a helpful and creative suggestion. Talk to your “girlfriends” who are single moms and suggest doing a weekend “child swap”. When you get back, you’ll have more patience, feel less stressed and be renewed.

**I’m a new sister to the church./I’m an existing member who hasn’t found time to get acquainted with the women of MPBC.** Don’t be dismayed. The Women’s Ministry staff will help you find a roommate.

**I don’t have transportation.** No problem. The women are car pooling to the hotel. Finding a ride shouldn’t be hard.

Ladies, God wants to build us higher in the Kingdom, and by doing so, He instructs us to cleanse our mind, body, and spirit. So, invite your mothers, daughters, sisters, aunts, cousins, friends and co-workers to attend our annual advance. As you come and fellowship with us, you’ll receive a Word which has been specifically designed for your ears alone. We’ll have two dynamic speakers: Sharon White of Sharon Baptist Church and our own Minister Claudia Williams.

So get ready for great food, fun, laughter, relaxation, free-time, sisterhood bonding and a long-awaited breakthrough. Our goal is to walk as “Kingdom women bearing fruit.” **John 15:16.** Time waits for no one so sign up to today in the church Narthex or contact Leading Lady Michelle Robinson or Sister Janet Brown at 610-497-1145.





## Make a Joyful Noise



### A Note of Thanks

We, the members of the Music Ministry, would like to thank those who supported us during our Music Room make over.



**CONGRATULATIONS** to Grace and Truth Delegation for making it to the second round in the *How Sweet the Sound* choir competition. They will compete on September 17<sup>th</sup> at the Wells Fargo Wacchovia Center in Philadelphia. Tickets can be purchased for \$5 or \$7 online at [www.comcastix.com](http://www.comcastix.com) or in person at the Wacchovia Center. The competition starts at 7 PM.



### Stay Tuned

The Music Ministry is excited about two new ministries--Judah First and the Young Adult Choir.

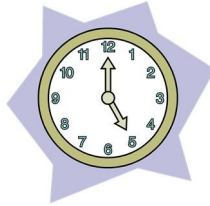
Judah First will minister music at the 8 AM Sunday services. Please see Dana Brisco or Arlene Waters for more information.

The Young Adult Choir is for youth ages 13 and up. Please see Jay Tucker or Maurice West if you're interested in lifting your voices to the Lord.

For the first time, we will feature our Unity Choir for our church anniversary on October 17th. The Unity Choir will consist of the Father's Day and Mother's Day Choirs. Please keep us in prayer as we continue to celebrate our Father in song.

Be Blessed!

## WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT MT. PLEASANT'S NEW 8 AM SERVICE?



**Deaconess Felicia Laury**  
For those who can make it, I think it's a blessing to be able to get up and praise God early.



**Willie Tate**  
I'm going to go to the early service because I get off of work at 6:30 AM on Sundays so it's perfect for me. I look forward to it.



**Dana Briscoe**  
It's good that the services will be basically the same with a Praise and Worship Team, choir, prayer and the same preached word.



**Deacon Alvoid Bannister**  
It's good. We've done it before but it will really help with the parking situation, which we so badly need. I pray that God will touch those who want to come out early.



**Katrina Waters**  
We used to have an early service before. Mt. Pleasant is growing and the 8 AM service is a great opportunity for those who get up early. The late birds can still go to the 10:45 AM service.



**Deacon Ronald Curtis**  
I'm usually not an early person but it's going to help with parking so I understand the need to have an 8 AM service and I support it.