

THE VOICE

Mount Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church 414 Pittman Grove Church Road Raeford, North Carolina 28376
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87th Edition

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January-February 2017



1 Corinthians 12:12-27

12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been

all made to drink into one Spirit. 14 For the body is not one member, but many.

As we begin a New Year, we can look back at 2016 and truly give thanks for the Lord has bought us all of the way. Mount Pisgah, many of you have proven your faith as you stepped out to work and to save your Church. Together, we have labored to bring our facilities up to standards, as a minimum.

Additionally, you are again attending the Union, the Association, the General Baptist State Convention, the Women's Auxiliary, and other bodies of which we are members. We not only met the proposed budget, but exceeded it. We have gained over 50 new members, and many of them are already working in various ministries in Mount Pisgah. We give all honor and glory to our Savior, Jesus Christ.

This is the LORD'S doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. Psalm 118:23.

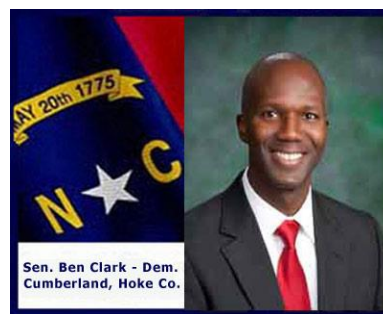
The New Year will bring new and different challenges. You must be prepared and face them. To do this, you will need to remember Scriptures that will aid you. Each member is asked to do his or her share as each one is important in the life of this Church. To be fully equipped, we will need the Divine guidance of The Holy Spirit. Also, attendance and participation in Bible Study, Sunday School and other ministries of the Church will help to equip each member to do his or her best. Truly this Church will then be one body with many members.



Hoke High ROTC Veteran Day Services



We were blessed to have the Hoke County High School ROTC and the director worship with us in our Veterans services. ROTC students posted the colors before the services at 7:55 and again at 10 a.m. The students helped us to feel thankful and proud. ***Congratulations students!***



Democratic Caucus Leader Ben Clark

A unanimous vote handed Senator Clark the leadership of the N. C. Senate Democratic Caucus. He stated, ***"We will be working to build a strong Democratic bench into 2017."*** He represents Senate District 21, and is a member of several committees. During his tenure, he has primarily sponsored more than 140 bills.

We will continue to pray for you as you make decisions that impact our State.
Congratulations Senator!

HOMECOMING — MOUNT PISGAH NOVEMBER 2016 A PICTORIAL

Many members of our Church family enjoyed time together during our annual Homecoming Celebration. How many different individuals are you able to identify?



Mount Pisgah's New Website

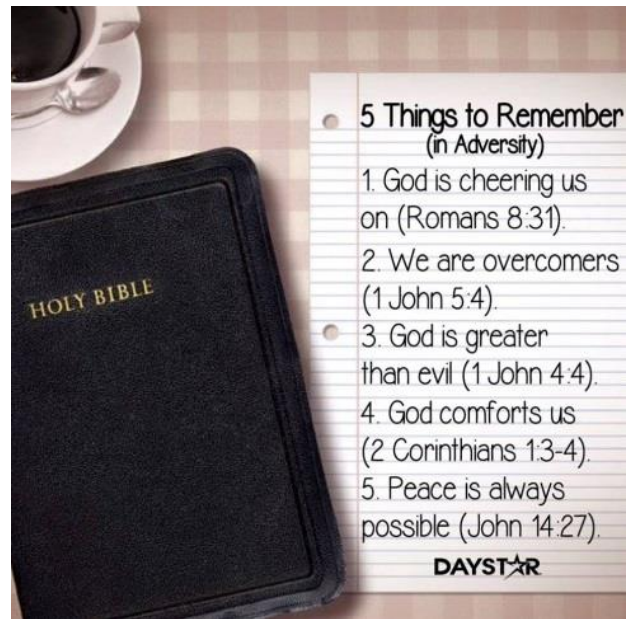
This article is to encourage you to take the time to view our new website in its entirety. The website was professionally constructed and has current information. The web address follows:

<http://www.mountpisgahmbc.com/>

(A Facebook page is also available, this photo of the 8 a.m. Christmas Day Service was copied from the Facebook page Christmas night).



Viewing the website will give you an opportunity to learn more about our pastor, the church history, ministries, newsletter, and the photo gallery. The information is presented in a user-friendly manner. Copy the web address and forward it to your family, friends, other church members and business associates.



This year, in order to grow spiritually, learn more Bible verses and how they may be applied to your life. Read the book of John in the New Testament the first full week of the New Year.

WILL YOU CHOOSE TO LABOR?

People and more people. Traffic and more traffic. Some streets seem to have a traffic light on every block. It's not just this community. This reality is true wherever there is major growth. Some of our big cities affect traffic for miles around. I have heard some people complain about how long it takes to drive through the Washington, D.C. area.

Unfortunately, all of the crowds we see around us every day are not choosing to accept Jesus into their lives. It is reported that many churches are experiencing a drop in attendance. Consequently, that straight road to heaven is a narrow road, and it is never crowded.

Let us labor to spread the word about Jesus and the Cross of Salvation.

When Jesus was here on earth, He said ... ***"The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers' are few."*** (Matthew 9:37) *Deacon Joseph Johnson*

The Angel Choir and Youths on Second Sundays

It is a joy to see our *Angel Choir* sing on the second Sundays of each month. They are learning, and some of them are so brave. They are leading songs and showing enthusiasm as they worship.

Without their full knowledge, they are being "caught and taught!" This is our hope for future Mount Pisgah! First, as is stated in John 17:21, ***"That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me."***

With youths opening services, praying, delivering the announcements, reading the Scriptures and singing, this brings the congregation together. Personally, I would have a difficult time keeping a frown on my face, as I watch our young people. It is so refreshing. I am thankful for the musicians,

choir directors, Children's Church advisors, and others who work with our children.



The Old Testament has promised, ***"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them."*** Isaiah 11:6

Now, we are challenged to reach and teach our children so they may lead us. If they follow Jesus and direct our paths, we will be a part of God's Kingdom on earth and later in Heaven.

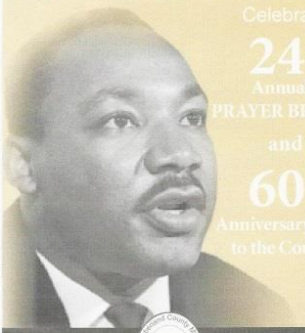
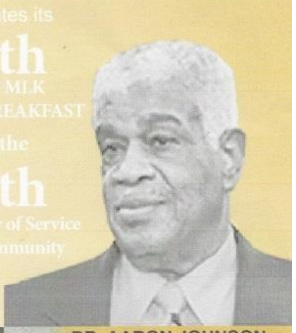
Sisters Willie Artis' class presented a Thanksgiving poster in candy to Pastor Fuller. A true saying, ***"It was a sweet gift!"***



Fayetteville Cumberland County Ministerial Council

Celebrates its

24th
Annual MLK
PRAYER BREAKFAST
and the
60th
Anniversary of Service
to the Community

DR. AARON JOHNSON
Founding President FCCMC
Pastor Emeritus, Mt. Sinai MBC

Reverend Mary Owens
President FCCMC
Associate Minister
Mount Pisgah MBC

Dr. Otis McMillan
Director of Bureau of
World Evangelism, A.M.E. Zion
KEYNOTE SPEAKER
MLK Prayer Breakfast

WORSHIP SERVICE
Sunday, January 15, 2017 - 5:00PM
Lewis Chapel Missionary Baptist Church
5422 Preston Road - Fayetteville, North Carolina

Dr. Christopher Stackhouse
Host Pastor
Lewis Chapel MBC

Dr. Cureton Johnson
First MBC
KEYNOTE SPEAKER
MLK Worship Service

MONDAY
JANUARY 16, 2017
8:00 AM

CROWN EXHIBITION CENTER
Fayetteville, North Carolina

TICKET DONATIONS:
Advance: \$18
At The Door: \$23

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
REVEREND MARY OWENS 910.670.5662
DR. MAXIE DOBSON 910.624.7785
REVEREND YVONNE HODGES 910.797.5679

TICKET LOCATIONS:
Heal The Land Outreach Ministries 910.494.8274
Lewis Chapel MBC: 910.424.2344
Mount Pisgah MBC: 910.875.5744
New Life Bible Church: 910.818.1228
Kingdom Impact: 910.488.9456
WGU Radio Station: 910.483.5111

Mount Pisgah Choirs in Concert, “By the Grace of God, We Made it”

A record number of individuals came out to hear our choirs and to see our young praise dancers as they rejoiced in a ministry in memory of Sister Valeria Davis.

Jesus the Light of the World was a great opening song that uplifted and gave hope and promise of God’s love. It was refreshing to see so many youth participating along with our “Keenagers”, those over 55.



Choirs sang their selections with enthusiasm and you could feel the joy throughout the building. Along with the choirs, the Praise Dancers also performed. The young ladies do an amazing job under the direction of Sister Regina Fuller-Small (shown in picture above).

Reverend Mary Owens wrote a tribute to longtime choir director Valeria Davis, which is included in this edition.

The concert ended on a high note with songs by the Church Mass Choir which consists of all ages. It is indeed a beautiful sight to see individuals of all ages raising their voices in songs of Praise, Adoration and Worship.

A TRIBUTE TO VALERIE DAVIS

Valerie Denise Davis-McKoy was such an integral part of the Mount Pisgah Church family but especially within the Music Ministry. Valerie, born about one mile from the church grounds, grew up in this community, joined the church at an early age where she began using her voice to sing for God’s glory. She sang in the Junior Choir, Young Adult Choir, Divine Voices, Mass Choir and the Disciples Choir. The one thing everyone knew about Val was that she loved God, her family and her church. These were the loves of her life.

If you would, walk with me down Memory Lane as we reflect upon Valerie and her contributions to

the Music Ministry. I think Val would say that **Down Through the Years, the Lord’s Been Good to Me**, and after giving her life to God, she said **Lord, I’ll Do Your Will, Lord If You Can Use Me**. So God used her for His Glory, leading the choir even in the times of storm, knowing that He didn’t **Bring Us This Far to Leave Us**. Moreover, Val knew to **Lift Up Her Eyes Unto the Hills** from whence Came Her Help, knowing that All her help Came from the Lord. Val was a people’s person who longed for peace and unity in the body of Christ. She was someone **Who Could Reach Out and Touch Somebody’s Hand**, assuring them that **Yes, God Is Real**, and that **He’s Amazing**. The more she grew in the Lord, the stronger her faith grew, declaring **I Will Trust in the Lord**. Sometimes she had to sing **Trouble in My Way**, but knowing she could say, **When I Call on the Lord, He’ll Come to My Rescue**. And if she were to look across **From the Other Shore** to the choirs today on this glorious anniversary, she might say, “beloved choirs always remember **How Great Is Our God** and to always give **Him Total Praise** because **How Excellent Is His name and Hallelujah He’s Worthy to be Praised**. She might remind us, lest we forget our purpose in singing, that not only is He **Alpha and Omega**, but **He is Lord, He is Emmanuel** and continue to **Worship Him in the Beauty of Holiness and Give Him the Praise**. The choirs have **Come a Mighty Long Way** since Valerie took over as Choir Director around 1994 when **Salvation and Glory** became the unofficial theme song for the newly merged Divine Voices and Young Adult Choirs. Finally, Niecy might encourage the choirs To **Hold to God’s Unchanging Hands** and that in all things **Be Grateful and Don’t Complain because Our Good Days, Outweigh our bad days**, nor do we want **God to Be Unhappy with Our Praise**. In closing, we honor her memory with two songs that became her testimony of faith, **Because He Lives, Valerie knew That It Is Well With My Soul and can joyfully sing with her Grandmother Lee, Praise the Lord, I’m Free!**

Reverend Mary C. Owens,
Christian Education Director



THE CHRISTMAS MINISTRY

A record sized crowd and participants were in Mount Pisgah for its annual Christmas Ministry.



The picture above shows about 80 percent of the participants in the program. All ages were represented — from the Angel Choir through senior citizens. That's a great example of a Church using many of the gifts and talents owned by its members. Small children, with their recitations, individuals singing, *"The 12 Days of Christmas"* with the traditional Christmas twist to it (shouting shoes, etc.), the musicians, ushers, hospitality staff (preparing food and fruit), and congregational singing, all added to the true spirit of Christmas.

A LOOK BACK – The Editor's Memories (My Personal Rearview Mirror)

Brotherhood Month (previously named Negro History Week) provides a time to think or to look back. Recently, while sitting in the congregation at Beauty Spot, our Sister Church, I thought of days gone by.

Those were the days when preaching was held in Mount Pisgah on the first and third Sundays and in Beauty Spot on the second and fourth Sundays. On fifth Sundays, those who didn't attend Sunday School or the Union, had a few off days. Those were the days, when the two churches worked together for annual days. Participants from both churches were in programs in each. Whoever passed out recitations for the children gave them to members of both churches. Specifically, I

recall Sister Ida (Murchison) McLean and I both recited, *"On Yonder Hill"* during the Easter services.



A great thing about the Sisterhood of the two churches includes how they worked together during funerals. If the funeral was in Beauty Spot, you knew that Mount Pisgah members would be in the choir, ushering and assisting wherever they could. Flip the switch and you saw Beauty Spot members working in Mount Pisgah. Over the years, many times we shared the musicians—Sister Bea Ray or Brother Houston McLean. If some of the lead singers couldn't get off work, you knew in the background, a mass choir was formed and only those who really knew both churches and their members could tell which choir was in which church. ***(The picture above reminds me of the board structure of Mount Pisgah of my youth. The stucco building was constructed in 1956 and the current Sanctuary was completed in 1990). See the Church website for other information.***



Another time of great participation was during revivals. You knew you would be attending at least two. Often it became three as members of Beauty Spot, Mount Pisgah and New Bethel joined each other for at least three of the five nights. ***Young people didn't have a choice; you were going and that was a fact.***

The arrival of station churches 1975+/-, with preaching each Sunday, changed the environment. Choirs could no longer be completely combined as they were needed in their own churches on Sundays. New jobs, a lesser farming community, and other situations caused the demise of the unity and sisterhood of the neighboring churches. However, all is not lost; we still share the same love of God, country and being one-in-Christ.

Sister Ellen C. McNeill





Zamiah Robinson,

a third grade student at Renaissance Classical Christian Academy has won second place in her fall speech meet. She continues to excel in her grades by making the A/B honor roll. She also

participated in the spelling bee at her school. Zamiah sang in her Christmas Cantata at school. Way to go Zamiah!
Sister Ligeia Robinson

A NEW DAY CALLS A NEW WAY (In Transportation)



A happy congregation voted to approve the purchase of a van. The van is to ensure that members of the church and others in the region are able to attend worship services, unions and sessions of the General Baptist State Convention. The first trip in the van was to travel to Shady Grove Baptist Church, Mount Olive, North Carolina for the installation of the Rev. John D Fuller, Jr., as pastor. Several individuals drove and in addition a 55 passenger bus transported others.

If you need a ride to church or know of someone who needs transportation, please call the church office. Someone will respond back to you to determine when, and/or how to get that need fulfilled.

John 14:31 - But that the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go hence.

Reverend Tyman Wallace (Installed as Pastor)



In November, the Mount Pisgah Church family traveled to Autryville, NC to install Reverend Wallace as pastor of Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church. The installation sermon was by Pastor Fuller who was accompanied by the choir, ushers and members. It was a joyous occasion as one of our members was installed as a pastor.

We pray God's blessings on Reverend and Sister Wallace as they labor in the Elizabeth MBC.

HOKE COUNTY MISSIONARY UNION ANNUAL YOUTH SESSION

Sunday, January 8th at 3 p.m. Hoke County Baptists will assembly in the Leach Springs MBC for its annual youth session. The guest speaker is Dr. Adell Baldwin, Executive Director of Career and Technical Education in the Hoke County School System. Dr. Baldwin was reared in the Arabia Road Community area and attended Hoke County Schools. Dr. Baldwin is pastor of *Helping Hands Ministry*, Raeford, NC.

The Youth Session gives everyone an opportunity to show their school pride. Students are encouraged to wear their school or church shirts. Additionally, all who wish may wear their favorite team shirts — college or university, work, non-profit or other agencies. Hopefully, they will be in Christian taste (none advertising, especially that of products and/or agencies that would not promote Christian harmony.)





FEBRUARY IS AMERICAN HEART MONTH

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States, killing more than 600,000 people each year. So what can you do to protect yourself from heart disease? The first and most important steps are to stop smoking and to eat healthy.

Eating a healthy diet that includes fresh fruits and vegetables along with exercising regularly for at least 30 minutes a day are ways to improve your health. Also, regularly you should monitor your blood pressure, have your cholesterol and blood sugar levels tested and work with your health care professional to ensure that you take charge of your health.

Huge Sweet Potatoes Grew in my Flower Bed



It is true that facts are often more fascinating than fiction. A year ago, I saw beautiful greenery in my sister's yard. In response to my inquiry, she stated it was potato plants, and they were in the yard to add greenery. This year, I decided to do the same thing. Yes, the plants grew and covered an unsightly space with beautiful green leaves. Over the summer, I would cut sprigs and replant them; and they continued to grow. By fall when the leaves were turning brown and were later killed by the frost, I was pleasantly surprised when began to pull up the foliage. I saw two of the largest sweet potatoes that I have ever seen. The largest one (covered by the bag) probably weighed three pounds or more. Along with the two extra-large potatoes, I gathered about one-half bushel of assorted sized sweet potatoes. Mother Nature had prepared a nice surprise for us. You bet, I'll try this again next summer. We'll see what happens then. Reverend Vermatine Williams took a picture of the potato and posted it on Facebook. Without her photo, I would not have proof of my extra-large amazing potatoes. I heard the huge potatoes made some good pies.

Women who did the math to help to get men on the moon

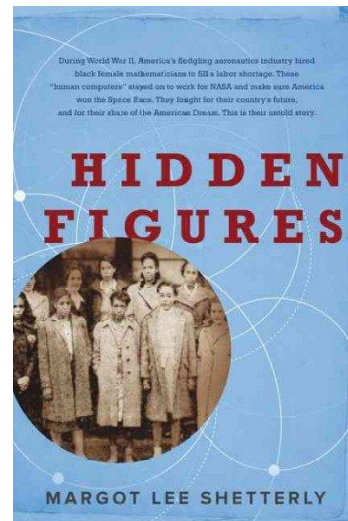


Many Americans are familiar with the astronaut heroes of the 20th century space race — names like Gus Grissom and Neil Armstrong. But who did the calculations that would successfully land these men on the moon? Women led in doing the math.

Several of the NASA researchers who made space flight possible were women. Among them were black women who played critical roles in the aeronautics industry even as Jim Crow was alive and well.

"When the first five black women took their seats in the office in 1943, it was in a segregated office with a 'colored girls' bathroom and a table for the 'colored' computers," author Margot Lee Shetterly tells NPR's Michel Martin.

Shetterly, a Hampton, Virginia, native and daughter of a former Langley scientist, tells the story of these women in the new book, [Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race](#). The book has already been



adapted for the big screen; the film starring Taraji P. Henson, Octavia Spencer and Janelle Monae premieres in January. Plan to do both—read the book and see the movie. Blacks must do better in supporting good, positive films. The folks who make movies do so to make money. ***If we don't help them to make money, Blacks and other minorities do not get good roles or money. Nuff said.***

FAYETTEVILLE POLICE ACADEMY FOR LOCAL CLERGY

On Thursday, December 15, 2016, Interim Chief Anthony Kelly and the Fayetteville Police Department (FPD) held a simulated Police Academy experience for ministers and pastors in the community. This is part of the FPD continuing initiatives to provide open communication, transparency and interaction between the department and its citizens. Around August, a group of ministers had formulated some questions to ask now retired Chief Medlock as it relates to the diversity training, various screenings, and strategies for defusing or de-escalating potentially volatile situations. This Academy experience was designed to expose the ministers to the rigid training that all cadets go through prior to becoming police officers.



Reverend Charles Jackson and I participated in the nearly five hours of training. We learned how quickly an officer has to assess a situation and make a decision, as to whether it has the potential to be dangerous to anyone involved, including the officer or the person in question. We watched several videos of real life incidents and had to apply knowledge we'd learned. Honestly, some of the incidents were mentally and emotionally difficult to watch. That, however, was only about two hours; officers in training review hundreds of incidents to assess their knowledge and understanding of the steps used in de-escalating a situation or making a life threatening decision.

Then we moved from the virtual classroom to real life scenarios. In one incident, we witnessed an actual tazing incident, hearing the pain and seeing how it immobilizes the suspect. Then some of us actually were outfitted in protective gear, from

head to full body armor. The total equipment an officer wears when out in the field weighs about 15 pounds. Each minister either participated in a shooting stand-off or in a moving traffic violation. I drove a squad car and pulled a suspect who ran a stop sign and also had an open, legal weapon on his dash. I did it first without the gun on the dash and the second time, with the gun. My reaction was very different when I walked to the car and saw the gun. This really made me realize just how vulnerable the police are. The other group participated in trying to talk down a suspect who had a loaded gun and was threatening to shoot first the cop and then, himself. Reverend David Camps was one who played this role, and when the suspect raised his gun, he had fired 5-6 times before realizing he had shot that many times. We'd asked that question during class, and he experienced the reaction, first-hand. Within 1.5 seconds time, the average person will shoot 6 times or more.

Overall, it was a very informative class, and it was not just one-sided. We were able to ask some hard questions, particularly about some of the



shootings happening across the nation, but from what I experienced in the class FPD is working diligently to train their officers to try to make the best decisions possible. If offered again, I would encourage others to take the class, as well.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

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You are invited to write articles and to provide pictures