



# The Voice



Mount Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church, 414 Pittman Grove Church Road, Raeford, NC 28376

Telephone 910-875-5744

Fax 910-875-0053

Website: [mountpisgahmbc.com](http://mountpisgahmbc.com) Dr. T. Z. McCrimmon, Pastor

Email: [mtpisgahraeford@gmail.com](mailto:mtpisgahraeford@gmail.com)

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## Editorial

Difficult times call for doing things in different ways. Members of “The Mount” have found themselves adjusting to worshipping at home instead of inside the church building. Surely, that is different; however, each individual has to judge for him or herself how their worship time differs.



Many of us, for the first time, attended Sunday School through Zoom. Others watched Bible classes taught on You Tube or on Facebook. Sermons were presented in the same manner, You Tube or Facebook. June 28<sup>th</sup> was a different scenario, as we had our first parking lot worship service, and it was indeed a blessing. Forward Mount Pisgah as new and different challenges loom ahead; however, we will face them with Pastor McCrimmon leading as Shepherd, Alphonso Robertson, Chairman, Board of Deacons and Steve Shaw, Chairman, Board of Trustees.

*The photo below shows Dr. McCrimmon praying with Governor Cooper and others in Mount Olive*



*Missionary Baptist Church. Dr. McCrimmon is Moderator of the Union Baptist Association which consists of 52 churches from several counties in the region. That has to be another awesome challenge! Keep praying God’s blessings on him.*

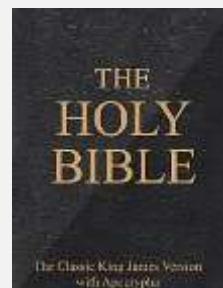
## Mount Pisgah serves local Front Line Agencies of our Community

On Thursday, Mary 21, 2020, ministers, deacons, trustees and lay members spread across Hoke County distributing pizzas to front line agencies. Although this editor does not know everywhere they went or have pictures of all individuals, we want to say a collective “**Thank You**” from the members of Mount



Pisgah. We appreciate all you do for us. Your work is needed and appreciated. You are among the best in the nation!

Each agency representative expressed surprise and happiness as they welcomed members of our congregation. Mount Pisgah opens doors to everyone who wishes to attend and to worship God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit.



**Psalm 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!**

## Graceful Growth Around the Mount

In April, Renee Smith and her sister, Brenda Whitehead planted additional flowers around the Church Marquee, thus enhancing the phrase placed by Deacon Calvin and Sister Flora Hadley *“Jesus The Light of The World.”*



Hadleys, *Congratulations “Class of 2020”... you deserve it. Grow, Grow, Grow!*



*Submitted by Sister Belinda McLeod, Adm. Asst.*

Plants shown below had grown too big for their pots, therefore Sister Smith separated them and repotted them.



Both sets of the plants above were donated the family of Deacon Willie McNeill in memory of his sister Rebecca. They had been donated to the family, and it was the family’s wishes that they be left in the Church. The plants grace the front and side entrances of the church. They are watered weekly by the Sister Belinda McLeod, secretary.



*Mrs. Gertrude Stackhouse was 102 years old on the 4<sup>th</sup> June. She celebrated at New Bethel Church AMEZ, where she is the oldest member*

Also gracing the Fellowship Hall and the breezeway are Poinsettia plants pictured below, which are nurtured by Rev. Vermatine Williams and they look good all year.



As the beautiful lawn (cared for by Brother James Loyd), the flowers and plants

At 102 years old, she’s still sharp as a tack, and can quote Scriptures with the best. If you held a Scripture quoting contest today, Ms. Gert would probably win. She was a community mom in our little neighborhood called the Sandhill, now known as Hoke Loop. Sadly, only two of the original owners are left on the Hill, she and Ms. Annie Bea Smith.

*Many members of the Clark Family were pleasantly surprised to see someone in the community adopted Arabia Road in the memory of Alex Clark, longtime member of Mount Pisgah MBC. This is awesome!*



around and in Mount Pisgah continue to grow gracefully, our 2020 Graduates are also encouraged to grow more in knowledge and skill in their chosen career paths



Heading yet another phrase on the Marquee from the



**Paul instructs us to “test everything and hold to what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.” (1 Thes 5:21-22).**

# **ACADEMIC SCHOOL YEAR 2019-2020**

**Joanna Agard 1<sup>st</sup> Grade (Alpha Academy Charter School)**

Student Academic Achievement Award  
**Promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade**

**Jayden Broadnax 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade (Northwood Temple)**

1<sup>st</sup> 9 weeks, Outstanding Christian Spirit  
2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> 9 weeks "A" Average Award, Perfect Attendance,  
4<sup>th</sup> 9 Weeks Straight A's Extra Effort Award  
Highest GPA in Language  
**Promoted to the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Maliyah Broadnax 5<sup>th</sup> Grade (Northwood Temple)**

1<sup>st</sup> 9 Weeks, Greatest Gains in Reading  
Teacher's Helper Award  
3<sup>rd</sup>, 9 Weeks Greatest Gains Award  
4<sup>th</sup> 9 Weeks "B" Average, Greatest Gains in Language Award, Extra Effort Award, Greatest Gains and Christian Growth  
**Promoted to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Kaleb Geiger (Honeycutt Elementary)**

**Promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade**

**Jeremiah Hamm (Don Steed Elementary)**

**Promoted to 4<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Zamaria Hamm (Don Steed Elementary)**

**Promoted to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Iris Monroe Kindergarten (Alpha Academy Charter School)**

Mathematics Scholar and Achievement Award  
Most Social Butterfly Award  
**Promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Grade**

**Bella Morales 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade (Rockfish Christian Academy)**

Honor Roll  
Great Test Take  
Student Helper  
**Promoted to 4<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Jade Morales 4<sup>th</sup> Grade (Rockfish Christian Academy)**

A/B Honor Roll  
Perfect Attendance  
Great Overall Student  
**Promoted to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Abyssinia Owens 4<sup>th</sup> Grade (Alpha Academy Charter School)**

3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> 9 Weeks A/B Honor Roll  
Science Olympiad Exemplary Participation Award  
Excellence in Reading Award  
Highest Points in Study Island  
**Promoted to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Gregory K. Owens, Jr. 6<sup>th</sup> Grade (Alpha Academy Charter School)**

Academic Achievement 6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Katherine Johnson STEM Scholars Award of Excellence  
Duke University TIP Talented Identification Program  
99% ELA Qualification  
PSAT Composite Score 1020 out of 1400 (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test as a practice for the SAT and National Merit Scholarship programs)  
**Promoted to 7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Cavin Wilson 6<sup>th</sup> Grade (Westover Middle School)**  
**Promoted to 7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Randy Geiger, Jr. (Fullsail University, Masters in Game Design)**  
**Accelerated One Year Program**

**Reverend Dana McNair, (Fayetteville Technical Community College)**  
**Dean's List**

**Congratulations and  
Best Wishes for  
Success in all of your  
future endeavors!**

***Precious Haven, Inc.  
Administrator Surprised  
at Work June 5th***

Trustee Melissa McAllister was surprised when her staff showed love at work. The pandemic has provided lots of manual labor as everyone is doing double duty cleaning, sanitizing and hand washing to ensure the consumers are kept safe. ***To God be the Glory, staff and residents have been safe. Thank you God!***



Some staff members have worked long hours along with Sister McAllister. They now know some of the work in the background and what it takes to keep the business going. Each employee plays a vital part in the company as he or she must help to keep the well-oiled machine going.

***Congratulations Melissa!*** May God continue to bless you, your business and staff along with your consumers and their family members.. With God's blessings, even greater things are to come.

***The View from My Own Front Porch***

These thoughts came to my mind as I sat on my front porch, soaking in the sun and the beauty of God's creation. As the warmth of the sun kissed my face, it reminded me of His Son, His love, and the peace found only in His amazing grace. Even in the middle of a pandemic, one can find peace in the security of the Lord, our Creator.

We all have our own special place.  
To escape the noise of man's hectic pace.



Some may hide away like Walden  
In his lonely, lonely Woods.  
Some chant over crystal's seeking  
Peace and Solitude.  
I could travel the world  
from coast to coast.  
But for me, the place where  
I feel peace the most  
Is the view from my own front porch.

**Psalms 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God;  
the skies proclaim the work of His hands.**

Rev Mary C. Owens

***DEBORAH DAVIS CARPENTER  
HOKE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM  
ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR***



Ms. Carpenter has spent 43 years serving the children of Hoke County. As the Executive Director of Child Nutrition, Ms. Carpenter recently was recognized as a North Carolina Child Hunger Hero and the School Nutrition Association of North Carolina Director of the Year. More importantly, under her leadership, the Hoke County Schools Child Nutrition department has served almost 700,000 mobile meals since remote learning began on Mary 17<sup>th</sup>. We join with Dr. Williamson and members of the Hoke County School System in congratulating Ms. Carpenter for a job well done.

*(Copied from the Internet and revised)*

**Whatever you do, work at it wholeheartedly as though you were doing it for the Lord and not merely for people.**

Colossians 3:23

## Congratulations to Jordan Wallace Hoke High Graduate 2020



On the 13<sup>th</sup> of June, grandparents Steven and Phyllis Wallace invited a small number of family and friends to celebrate their grandson Jordan's graduation from High School. It was a great day!

### ALL! ALL OFFENSES! ALWAYS GRANT MERCY!

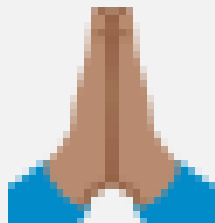
In your free time look at this Math. It's NOT New Math, so no need to fear: If you are a person who keeps score:

- A) Count of the number of times you've Been Wronged
- B) B- Count the number of times you've DONE WRONG.
- C) Count the number of times for which you've RECEIVED MERCY

Which letter equals the Greatest Value A, B, or C?  
\_\_\_\_\_ is > than \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

Forgiveness....your thoughts? Here are my three perspectives:

- 1- Unforgiveness is like drinking poison and expecting the other person to die.
- 2- Treat others, all others, the way you desire to be treated.
- 3- God's expectation of us is to forgive: to **FORGIVE ANY & ALL OFFENSES** done against



us. "But, but he/she...What about.....But they...Got it, but this was serious...But you don't know how badly..."

- #Just What The Doctor Ordered
- #Mercy Pled My Case
- #Commutated My Sentence
- #Brand New Morning
- #Not based upon me, but all because of Him!

*Dr. Adrienne Monroe, Health Ministry*

### Can Anything Good Come from COVID 19?

Early in March, we were hit with the truth of the deadliness of the virus, COVID 19. America went into enforced shutdowns to deter the spread of the virus. Our schools, businesses, restaurants, and even our churches shut down. From this, we learned an invaluable lesson: the building closed, but we gained fresh revelation that we are the church. In five years, Mount Pisgah has gone through so much, foreclosure, a devastating church split, a search for a new pastor, and now being shut down because of the virus. I am strengthened by the words, *I have never seen the righteous forsaken, nor His seed begging bread.* Despite being closed, we are still receiving the preached word through technology. We also learned how to go to Sunday School through ZOOM, and our financial giving seemed to have increased. We have not been forsaken nor begging. I also hear the words, *...all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.* We have seen good resulting in people praying and seeking God more, some even with hunger. We see most families spending more quality time together and rediscovering relationships that had taken a backseat to our busy lives. There is a desire to get back to the "building," but while waiting, each of us can focus on God, on hearing from Him, and allowing Him to teach us, transform us, grow us spiritually, then prepare us to return to His house of worship. May we return new creatures in Christ, putting aside old things, old hurts, old unforgiveness, and enter the sanctuary with joy, thanksgiving, and love for one another.

*Rev Mary C. Owens, CED*





## Greg Owens, Jr.

(Copied from Facebook)

I must admit, I and my family, *The Village*, are very proud of my son, Gregory, Jr. for his academic excellence. He was awarded the Master of Mathematics during today's Academics Award Ceremony, in addition to being spotlighted for competing in Math Counts.

Gregory was invited to Duke University's National Talent Search Program, based solely on his impressive consecutive EOG scores. Is there any doubt that I'm probably the proudest dad in the world, grateful to celebrate my son's academic impressiveness?

Our Village will *always* support, encourage, and celebrate our kids, whether the World does so or not!

*Keith Owens' Facebook Page*

### ***TOUGH TIMES, HOW CAN WE HELP?***

*Copied from The Voice November-December 2011*



If you think you know a family in need, you could help them by providing some of the items listed: *canned meat, vegetables or fruits, peanut butter, rice and pasta, cereal and oatmeal, fruit juice, boxes*

*of mixes such as macaroni and cheese, hamburger helper, shelf-stable milk, and cocoa.* Any of these items would be valued by individuals who need a helping hand. A plus, God will bless you for helping his children. God's hands on earth are our hands. What are you doing with your hands?

**Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.**

Isaiah 49:16 ESV ...

*The Middle School Students' Section follows with the next column.*

How well do you know your local and state representatives?

- ✓ Name the Senator who represents Hoke and Cumberland Counties.
- ✓ Name the State Representative for Hoke County.
- ✓ Name the Mayor of the City of Raeford.
- ✓ Name the Mayor of the City of Fayetteville.
- ✓ Name the Governor of the State of North Carolina.

## ***Do You Know Your Home State?***

If you were on Jeopardy, would you be able to correctly answer questions about North Carolina? Briefly, this article teaches newcomers and refreshes others.

- The official song, "*The Old North State*" was adopted by the 1927 General Assembly.
- The tree is the pine. The Toast, "*The Tar Heel*" was adopted in 1957.
- The General Assembly of 1973 designated the *emerald* as the official state precious stone.
- The General Assembly of 1945 declared Red and Blue shades appearing in the N. C. State Flag and the American Flag as the official State Color.
- The State Motto "Esse Quam Videri" means "*to be rather than to seem*".
- 



*Visit your local museum to learn more about our state. If you cannot go in person, use this website for the Raeford-Hoke Museum*

### ***A Prayer to Heal Stress***

Loving God, please grant me peace of mind and calm my troubled heart. ... **Give me the strength and clarity of mind** to find my purpose and to walk the path you've laid out for me. I trust your Love God, and know that you will heal this stress, just as the sun rises each day against the dark of night. (Copied from the Internet)

## The Devil's Punchbowl: Lost History

Amid the cries to pull down statues and tear down the Market House in Fayetteville, a historical blight on the community for centuries, I wish to share the story of the eradicated history of *The Devil's Punchbowl*. Shrouded in mystery and local folklore, few of us have ever even heard of this piece of history mainly passed down through oral tradition.

Allegedly, The Devil's Punchbowl was an American Concentration Camp where over 20,000 freed slaves were corralled after the Civil War. The population of Natchez, Mississippi purportedly more than tripled with the release of freed slaves. Fear from feeling overrun with freed slaves, the city turned to the Union soldiers for help. The soldiers herded them into the bowl shape ravine called Devil's Punchbowl where they basically walled them in, separating the men from the women and children. Eventually, they all died, either from torture, starvation, or diseases, such as smallpox.

Today, the camp is over grown with thick, impenetrable vegetation and peach trees with lush fruit that no one will eat. Locals contend that no one will eat the fruit because they know what's buried underneath. My fear of destroying detestable monuments and structures such as the Market House is that the history of what really happened there will be so eradicated that only remnants of the truth remain. Just as time forgot the lives lost at Devil Punchbowl, will future generations forget that slaves were sold at the Market House?

The Jews did not tear down concentration camps, such as the notorious Auschwitz, but instead turned

it into a Memorial Museum that would not allow the world to forget what took place there. There are credible arguments on both sides, those for tearing it down and those against, but could this be a viable option for the Market House? That it become a memorial to the thousands of slaves sold there, that America never forgets, much like the Lynching



Museum in Montgomery, Alabama, the Old Slave Mart Museum in Charleston, South Carolina or the House of Slaves Museum on Goree Island, the Door of No Return where slaves were housed upon leaving Africa and heading to America and other western ports. Even now historians and scholars are trying to refute the validity of Goree Island, but it stands today. As long as it stands, the world will be forced to remember what happened to our ancestors there as they enter the Door of No Return.



It's painful, but we must never forget!

Rev Mary Owens,



*Nahum 1:13 "So now, I will break his yoke bar from upon you, And I will tear off your shackles."*



**NEVER FORGET: Devil's Punchbowl  
- When 20,000 Freed Blacks Died  
After Being Forced Into Post-Slavery  
Concentration Camp in the South**

## Darryl S. Shaw, Sr. and Jim Norwood



### *Thank you for your prayers*

Darryl is shown with his donor, Jim Norwood before they underwent kidney transplant surgery on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May.

Darryl and Jim met more than 20 years ago, while serving in the military and attending the Command and General Staff College in Fort

Leavenworth, Kansas.

We, Darryl and Pam, along with all members of his immediate family, church family, military family, and friends, are eternally grateful to the Norwood family for being willing to make such a blessed sacrifice. We pray God's continued blessings on each and every one of them. **Truly, Jim gave a gift of life.** We know through Jesus Christ all things are possible. *God uses His children on earth to do for each other and this is a situation where you can easily see the results of what can and was accomplished.* Words are not adequate to express feelings of love and appreciation! Thank you God! Thank you Jim!

### *Captain Reemashay Nelson*

Nelson's position is a highly selective one. She is only one of 12 Thunderbirds. Since the team's inception in 1953, only 332 officers have made the cut.



*Image: US Air Force)*

According to NBC 4 Washington, one of the team's newest members is a Howard University graduate and its first black female officer.

This year is Captain Remoshay Nelson's first season with the squadron. The regular shows have temporarily

been placed on hold due to the coronavirus pandemic, but the Thunderbirds have been conducting flyovers across D.C., Baltimore, and Atlanta to pay special tribute to people on the front lines battling the pandemic. "I know a small percentage of African American officers, specifically female officers in the Air Force; therefore, to be in a position that is visible, to show little girls that this is attainable, to let them know they can do anything they put their mind to, is an absolute honor," Nelson tells NBC 4 Washington.

Nelson has spent eight years in the Air Force, serving mostly overseas. She says her best decision was the chance to attend Howard University.

**(Copied from the Internet)**

*It was more than a box with Pizza; it was an introduction to Mount Pisgah as deep appreciation was shown to companies in Hoke County. We are grateful to all who are working each day so we are able to provide for our families. The work that essential employees do cannot be measured with a paycheck or words. We ask God's blessings on you.*



### Psalm 121:1



I lift up my eyes to the hills-- where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth. indeed, He who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.

### **NEWSLETTER STAFF**

[EMCNEILLI005@AOL.COM](mailto:EMCNEILLI005@AOL.COM)

- |                                     |                     |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Sister Ellen McNeill</i>         | <b>910-875-3237</b> |
| <i>Deacon Joseph Johnson</i>        | <b>910-425-3709</b> |
| <i>Sister Melissa McAllister</i>    | <b>910-308-6067</b> |
| <i>Sister Marie Daniel</i>          | <b>910-875-5146</b> |
| <i>Sister Denise Wallace</i>        | <b>910-257-1678</b> |
| <i>Dr. Adrienne Monroe</i>          | <b>910-583-3693</b> |
| <i>Sister Pam Shaw</i>              | <b>910-229-2500</b> |
| <i>Sister Courtnie Lennane Lutz</i> | <b>910-868-6092</b> |
| <i>Sister Vinnette Johnson</i>      | <b>410-240-0644</b> |