

Theme: "It's Fishing Time"

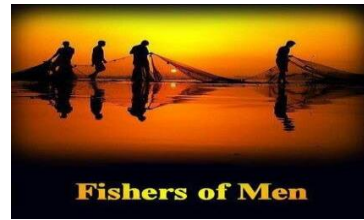
*"¹⁷ And Jesus said to them,
"Follow me, and I will make
you become fishers of men."'"*

(Mark 1:17) (ESV)

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK . . .



(Mark 1:17)

Greetings Mount Pleasant Family,

The theme scripture is nestled in the passage of Mark, chapter 1 verses 16-20 where Jesus calls His first disciples. Jesus was passing alongside the Sea of Galilee and saw two fishermen, Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net from their boat into the sea. Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men". Verse 18 says, "And immediately they left their nets and followed Him".

Going a little farther, Jesus saw two more fishermen, James the son of Zebedee and his brother John who were in a boat repairing their nets. Jesus immediately called them; and James and John left their father in the boat along with hired servants and went after Jesus.

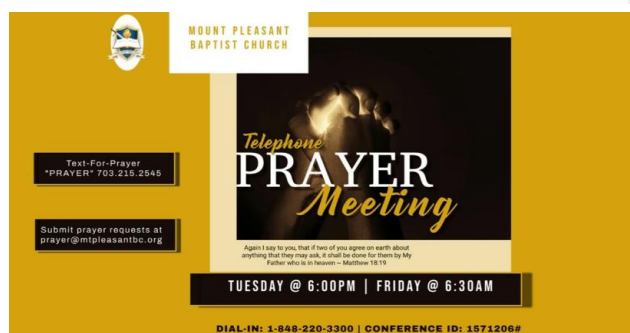
How does the theme scripture and this passage of scripture apply to believers in Jesus Christ today? I'm glad that you asked. Using a fishing metaphor, these first disciples whose original mission was to spread their nets to catch fish, lives were transformed and they now had a new mission to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to catch people. Like these first disciples, we were transformed as a new creature and have the same mission to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to catch people.

One thing that's for certain, fish will never be caught unless a net is casted. Likewise, people will never be caught to receive salvation unless the gospel of Jesus Christ is shared. Fishers will tell you that fishing is hard work and requires patience. So, don't get discouraged and give up when you don't immediately have a catch. Share the Gospel of Jesus Christ again and again. Eventually someone will come to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and your fishing will not have been in vain. "For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name" (Hebrews 6:10a).

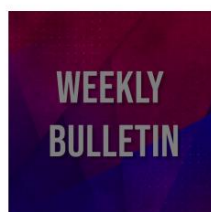
Be encouraged, be blessed and continue to keep safe.

MPBC Connect

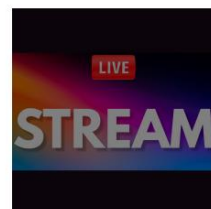
Visit our website at www.mtpleasantbc.org to stay connected.



Give Online



Bulletin



Live Stream



The Hearts Cry Podcast

Inspirations



Lessons

They said you'll never make it,
And they thought that they were right,
But I kept on plodding onward,
Because I hoped I might.

And they shook their heads in wonder,
That I lacked the sense to quit,
But I held my chin up higher,
And I didn't mind a bit.

They said you'll never make it,
As the problems multiplied,
But I had to make an effort,
And to know at least I tried.

So I dug my heels in deeper,
Though sometimes my spirits lagged,
And I shouldered what was lightest,
And the rest I sort of dragged.

And I found to my amazement,
At the ending of the day,
That what they said I couldn't,
I had managed anyway.

It only took three little words,
"Lord help me,"
And I rid myself of doubt,
And all they said I'd never do, I did.

By Grace Easiey

Submitted by Deaconess Karin Henderson (MPBC)



Theme: “Ministry on the Move” (Philippians 3:14)



Dear Ministry Member and Fellow Christian,

Greetings to all!

We pray that all is well. Please know we are here for you. We ask for your continued prayers and thank you for your continued support. We need you! If your address and/or other pertinent information has changed, please send Sister Anita Johnson, MPBC Church Clerk, an email to clerk@mtpleasantbc.org.

A calendar of events for our CCM have been emailed to you for the remainder of 2025. They are as follows:

- Zoom Game Night (TBD)
- Community Outreach Projects (August 23, October 24, December 20)
- Zoom Bible Study (July 25, September 26, December 19)
- Picnic Fellowship (August 9)
- Worship in the Park (September 20)
- Christmas Fellowship (December 13)

We want to extend a welcome to our new ministry members and greetings to ministry members who have celebrated and/or are celebrating a birthday, wedding anniversary, retirement or any other celebratory event in June, July and August.

God bless you, continue to keep safe.

Deacon Karl Henderson, Deaconess Karin Henderson, Deacon James Cook and Deaconess Marlene Fields; Ministerial Team: Minister Myra Cook. Minister Angela Sheppard, Minister Kimberly Veney and Minister Jennifer Madison
(Prince William/Stafford/Spotsylvania/Caroline Counties and Lorton (PWSSC&L) CCM)

—Thought for the summer—

“Rise above the storm and you will find the sunshine.” – Mario Fernandez



Word Search



WORD LIST

AUGUST
 BASEBALL
 BEACH
 CAMP
 FISHING
 FLIP FLOPS
 HOT
 ICE CREAM
 JULY
 JUNE
 LEMONADE
 OCEAN
 PICNIC
 POOL
 SAND
 SHORTS
 SPRINKLER
 SUMMER
 SUNGLASSES
 SUNSCREEN
 SUNSHINE
 SWIM SUIT
 SWIMMING
 TOWEL
 UMBRELLA
 VACATION
 WATERMELON

SUMMER

WORD SEARCH

S	T	S	P	R	I	N	K	L	E	R	D	T
J	B	N	N	V	V	L	K	T	O	W	E	L
P	U	V	A	C	A	T	I	O	N	I	M	M
O	I	L	W	Z	G	F	I	S	H	I	N	G
Y	U	C	Y	E	B	O	U	Y	T	F	W	H
N	X	D	N	N	M	A	O	U	P	K	O	O
Y	O	L	N	I	B	F	S	D	P	T	H	F
G	A	L	X	E	C	R	A	E	K	M	L	Y
Z	L	A	E	L	E	P	O	V	B	I	A	S
X	L	S	H	M	I	R	B	C	P	A	A	C
J	E	S	T	B	R	E	C	F	E	N	L	R
Y	R	W	F	R	A	E	L	S	D	A	E	L
L	B	I	J	C	O	O	T	J	N	M	N	I
E	M	M	H	B	P	H	H	A	M	U	C	S
M	U	M	S	S	C	O	S	U	W	E	S	U
O	S	I	V	W	Y	Z	S	I	C	H	E	N
N	S	N	N	R	I	M	C	R	H	R	N	S
A	O	G	S	O	X	M	E	G	Y	V	U	H
D	S	U	N	G	L	A	S	S	E	S	J	I
E	Y	F	M	U	M	U	W	U	M	F	Z	N
B	F	G	L	O	O	P	S	T	I	K	E	E
T	S	U	G	U	A	D	U	X	T	T	G	L



MPBC FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Notes & News

SUMMER 2025 EDITION



HAPPY SUMMER!

Your MPBC Federal Credit Union wishes you a pleasant and joyful summer! Stay hydrated!

WE'VE GOT LOANS!

Are you seeking extra money to get you through summer expenses? An MPBC FCU signature loan up to \$10,000 can help with that. This loan paired with our low interest rates can come in handy for expenses such as:

- summer vacations
- a new car down payment
- paying down a high interest credit card
- household repairs
- unexpected expenses
- and MORE!

We are YOUR Credit Union.

2025 SUMMER LOAN SPECIAL

Have you heard about our 2025 Summer Loan Special? It's a wonderful opportunity to apply for a loan with **incredibly low rates starting as low as 4.50%**! This special runs from July 1st - August 31st. Rates, terms, and conditions may vary based on credit score. **Apply today!**

Stay safe and enjoy your summer!

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

The Credit Union is open for business on Sunday mornings from 8:45 AM - 10:00 AM.

Stop by before worship service to say hello and make a savings deposit or a loan payment to your account!

CONTACT US:

MPBC Federal Credit Union

P.O. Box 11146
Alexandria, VA 22312



(703) 256-4802



mpbcfcu@mtpleasantbc.org



www.mtpleasantbc.org/credit-union



Thanks for your business.

From the Lighter Side



Hymn #365

A minister was completing a Temperance sermon. With great emphasis he said, "If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river." With even greater emphasis he said, "And if I had all the wine in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river."

And then finally, shaking his fist in the air, he said, "And if I had all the whiskey in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river."
Sermon complete, he sat down.

The song leader stood very cautiously and announced with a smile and nearly laughing, "For our closing song, let us sing Hymn #365, 'Shall We Gather at the River?'"

Walter L. Moragne

Contributed by Deaconess Karin Henderson
(MPBC)

God is sitting in Heaven when a scientist says to Him, "Lord, we don't need you anymore. Science has finally figured out a way to create life out of nothing. In other words, we can now do what you did in the 'beginning.'"

"Oh, is that so? Tell me..." replies God.

"Well," says the scientist, "we can take dirt and form it into the likeness of You and breathe life into it, thus creating man."

"Well, that's interesting. Show Me."

So the scientist bends down to the earth and starts to mold the soil.

"Oh no, no, no..." interrupts God, "Get your own dirt."

Contributed by Deaconess Karin Henderson
(MPBC)

I was testing the children in my Sunday school class to see if they understood the concept of getting to heaven.

I asked them, "If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale and gave all my money to the church, would that get me into heaven?"

"No!" the children answered.

"If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the yard, and kept everything neat and tidy, would that get me into heaven?"

Again, the answer was, "No!"

By now I was starting to smile. Hey, this was fun! "Well, then, if I was kind to animals and gave candy to all the children, and loved my husband, would that get me into heaven?" I asked them again.

Again, they all answered, "No!"

I was just bursting with pride for them. "Well," I continued, "then how can I get into heaven?" A five-year-old boy shouted out, "YOU GOTTA BE DEAD."

Contributed by Sister Anita Johnson (MPBC)



"It's Fishing Time: Have You Prepared Your Nets?"

by Minister Bonita Easter (MPBC)

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."
(Mark 1:17) (EVS)

In a single moment, everything changed for the four fishermen Jesus called by the Sea of Galilee. They had no idea that their simple "yes" would launch them into a journey that would reshape history. Ordinary men became foundational voices in the spreading of the Gospel, empowered by Christ to partner in God's redemptive work—casting spiritual nets to gather souls into the Kingdom.

We, too, can remember the moment when the Good News was shared with us—when a "fisher of men or women" crossed our path, and something in us shifted. That divine encounter became the beginning of a new purpose: to be used by God to lead others to Jesus.

Yet, like the first disciples, we don't always get it right.

In Mark's Gospel, the disciples are portrayed not as spiritual heroes, but as deeply human—often confused, afraid, and slow to understand. They struggled to grasp Jesus' mission, especially His path to the cross. Their hearts were hardened. They misunderstood His parables. They couldn't heal when given authority. They rebuked children whom Jesus welcomed. They fell asleep instead of praying. They vowed to die for Him—yet scattered when the time came. One betrayed Him. Another denied Him three times.

Still, Jesus looked past their failures—and He looks past ours too.

He didn't give up on them, and He hasn't given up on us. Instead, He equips us. He restores us. He teaches us how to mend our nets.

So, the question remains: **Have you prepared your net?**

In this season, we are again being called to fish—to reach the lost, the hurting, the searching. But our nets must be ready. They must be strong woven with faith, obedience, resilience, and grace. Our nets must be crafted by Jesus himself through prayer, study, worship, and community.

We are not perfect, but we are chosen. We are not always prepared, but we are called. And the good news is Jesus still makes fishers of people out of imperfect vessels like you and me.

It's fishing time.

Are your nets ready?

MPBC News and Events

WHEN: JUNE 29-JULY 27, 2025



ITEMS NEEDED:

- COMPOSITION NOTEBOOKS
- COLORED PENCILS
- ART SUPPLIES
- WASHABLE/DRY ERASE MARKERS
- HILIGHTERS
- BIG ERASERS
- NOTEBOOK ADDS
- INDEX CARDS
- SPONS: ROUND NOTEBOOKS
- 3-Pocket COLORED FOLDERS
- CRAYONS
- SCISSORS
- GLUE STICKS
- BOOKSTICKS
- RESOURCES

Duration bins will be located in the vestibule and outside the Church School office on the lower-level.

DISTRIBUTION FOR MPBC STUDENTS
August 10
FOLLOWING MORNING SERVICE

Sponsored by the Deaconess Ministry to support the students of MPBC and Parklawn Elementary School.

MOUNT PLEASANT BAPTIST CHURCH
6477 LINCOLNIA RD., ALEXANDRIA, VA 22312
PHONE: (703) 256-1268
REV. DR. CARL M. JOHNSON, PASTOR

POC: Deaconess Tawanna Tillman
Tawanna.Tillman@mtpleasantbc.org

WWW.MTPLEASANTBC.ORG

A DAY OF SERVICE **JOIN US!**

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 2025 @ 8AM

A "Day of Service" cleaning headstones in the church cemetery. An opportunity for children, youth, and young adults who received savings bonds, scholarships, and other support from MPBC over the years "to give back".

MOUNT PLEASANT BAPTIST CHURCH
6477 LINCOLNIA ROAD
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22312 (703) 256-1268
REV. DR. CARL M. JOHNSON, PASTOR

Questions?
Contact: Yvonne Bush
Email: tusc341@gmail.com

MOUNT PLEASANT BAPTIST CHURCH 6477 LINCOLNIA ROAD, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22312 703.256.1268 REV. DR. CARL M. JOHNSON, PASTOR

REMEMBERING OUR ROOTS
and
ADVANCING WITH THE NEXT GENERATION
ROMANS 15:5-6

PRELUDE
BISHOP CARROLL A. BALTIMORE
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CHURCH
USA & PHILIPPINES
Sunday, August 3rd @10AM

PROCESSION
REV. DR. HENRY P. DURING, JR.
STAR BETHLEHEM MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
TRIANGLE, VA
Thursday, August 7th @7PM

HOMECOMING & REVIVAL SERVICE

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL OUTING

URBAN AIR ADVENTURE PARK
AUGUST 16, 2025 11AM-2PM
A VBS & CHURCH SCHOOL JOINT ADVENTURE

14173 Crossing Place
Woodbridge, VA 22192

Limited Transportation Available
A "meetup" for those in the Woodbridge area.

Inviting All Vacation Bible School & Church School Children & Youth to JOIN us for this event!

For planning purposes contact us by Sunday, August 10, 2025.

Rev. Margaret Barr
Email: margaret.barr@mtpleasantbc.org

Church Office
Email: secretary@mtpleasantbc.org
Phone: (703) 256-1268

Mount Pleasant Baptist Church
WOMEN'S MINISTRY PRESENTS

The SELF CARE Workshop
PART 2: 'The Stewardship of Self-care'

THE MISSION: EMPOWER THE WOMEN OF GOD TO HONOR THEIR GOD-GIVEN WORTH BY EMBRACING HOLISTIC SELF-CARE

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2025
7:00PM
MEETING ID: 853 8121 0187
PASSCODE: 985572

Speaker:
Khadeejah Henestry

6477 LINCOLNIA ROAD, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22312
PHONE: (703) 256-1268
REV. DR. CARL M. JOHNSON, PASTOR

TUESDAY

BOOK TALK

August 19, 2025
August 26, 2025
6:00PM-8:00PM

Join our Zoom Book Club Discussions featuring "Divine Interruption" by Dr. Tony Evans.

To register, visit
<https://mtpleasantbc.org/ministries/christian-education/>

Books are available for purchase at MPBC for \$10.00. For inquiries, contact Deacon Bryant Black or call the church office at (703) 256-1268.

"It's Fishing Time"

by Deacon Maurice Evans (MPBC)

Its summertime once again, bringing back childhood memories of fun times. One of the most memorable times was going fishing with my dad. I can remember the joy the family had as we prepared to go fishing. Gathering snacks, bait, equipment and all the things needed to have an enjoyable time.

When I became a dad, my son wanted to go fishing. I can remember the first time I took him fishing, he was determined to catch a fish. We fished for hours in the sun under a big willow tree. As the sun began to go down, I reminded him that we may not catch anything. I explained that fishing is a sport that builds patience, perseverance, requires you to hone your skills, and take advantage of opportunities. The sun continued to go down and as the brink of dusk was upon us, his patience and perseverance paid off; he caught a fish.

Mark 1:17 (NKJV) "And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men."

Being a fisherman and a "fisher of men" have a lot of similar characteristics. They both require patience, perseverance, require you to hone your skills, and taking advantage of opportunities. As Christians we are called to tell the good news and the story of Jesus Christ and tell everyone of His mercy and goodness. We are to go out and win souls for Christ. Being "Fishers of Men" is a metaphor for evangelism and spreading the good news about Jesus Christ. Every time we take advantage of an opportunity to witness to someone, they may not accept Jesus Christ. Remember whenever we do witness we are planting a seed. We must remain persistent and patient. Like fishing we don't stop if we don't catch a fish, being fishers of men, we don't stop if someone doesn't accept salvation initially.

Luke 10:2 (NKJV) The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.

Let us practice becoming better "fishers of men" doing this fishing time.



Public Safety Alert

For more information on Fentanyl, go to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) website.

The screenshot shows the DEA website with the 'One Pill Can Kill' campaign banner. The banner features the text 'ONE PILL CAN KILL' in large, bold, white letters on a dark background, with a red diagonal line striking through the word 'PILL'. Below the banner, there are statistics for DEA Fentanyl Seizures in 2023:

- DEA Fentanyl Seizures in 2023**
 - In 2022, DEA seized more than 59.6 million fentanyl-laced fake pills and more than 13,300 pounds of fentanyl powder. The 2022 seizures are equivalent to more than 397 million lethal doses of fentanyl.
 - The 2023 fentanyl seizures represent over 360 million deadly doses. *
- 75,600,000+ Millions of Fentanyl Pills Seized**
- 11,503+ lbs. Pounds of Fentanyl Powder Seized**

Below the statistics, there is a 'Public Safety Alert' section with a red warning triangle icon. The text reads: 'Laboratory testing indicates 7 out of every 10 pills seized by DEA contain a lethal dose of fentanyl. DEA has seized a record 74.5 million fentanyl pills to date in 2023, which already exceeds last year's totals of 58 million pills.'

To the right of the alert, there is a graphic showing 10 red pills arranged in a pyramid shape, with 7 pills marked with a red 'X' and the word 'DEADLY' in red text. The text above the graphic reads: '7 out of 10 DEA tested pills with fentanyl are potentially DEADLY'.



Brightly-Colored Fentanyl Used to Target Young Americans.

Ministry Opportunities

*“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand ...”*

Ephesians 2:10

Audio/Visual — Assistants — contact Church Office

Church School — Teachers — contact Sister Yvonne Bush

Grief Share Ministry — Members — contact Sister Denise Mackie-Smith

Health and Wellness Ministry — Nurses — contact Sister Phyllis Jordan

Nursery Ministry — Helpers — contact Deaconess Allie Hollister

Youth Ministry — Teachers — Youth Bible Study — contact Reverend E. Chris White, III

To inquire about other opportunities to serve, contact the Church Office.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY (CCM) by DEACON, DEACONESS, MINISTERIAL STAFF and ZIP CODE				
Pastor Carl Johnson: Deacons, Deaconesses and Family, Out of Town Members				
John White (MD) Jerry and Rosie Brown Annette Colclough Marcia Gilbert-Gregory Rev. Vonda Batts Rev. Dwight Cokely	Karl and Karin Henderson James Cook Marlene Fields Min. Myra Cook Min. Angela Sheppard Min. Kim Veney Min. Jennifer Madison	Jerald and Faye Stark Maurice Evans Gloria Giron Min. Myron Euille Min. Stephanie Gillus Min. Leticia Watson Min. Eldred Williams	Carlton Brown Amanda Brown Karen White Dalton Martin Min. Bonita Easter Min. Linda Hayes Min. Percell Spinner	David Evans Michael and Sylvia Hardy Mattie Charles Tawanna Tillman Min Penni Ford Min. Henrietta Nelson
DC and Maryland All Zip Codes	Prince Williams County (excluding Manassas and its independent cities) Lorton: 22079, 22199 Stafford, Spotsylvania, and Caroline Counties	Centreville, Chantilly Manassas, Sterling Nokesville, Herndon Reston, Fauquier, Warren and Loudoun Counties Fairfax: 22030, 22031, 22032, 22033, 22037 Vienna: 22180	Alexandria: 22312	Ft. Belvoir: 22060 Alexandria: 22301, 22302, 22303, 22305, 22306, 22307 22308, 22309, 22310, 22313, 22314, 22315
Barry Newsome Glenn Blackwell Tasha Brown La’ Tonia White Rev. Margaret Barr Rev. Chris White	John (VA) and Barbara White Bryant and Jacqueline Black Edward Robinson Rev. Cornella Carter-Taylor	Kenneth and Rita Jackson Robert Brooks Sherri Morgan Averil Tomlinson Rev. Brian Morgan Min. Mark Miller Min. Jackie Wrice	James and Jean Watson Michael Wilson Sherry Allen Susie Taylor Rev. Jessie Reynolds Min. Derrick Allen	Ronald Hampton Robert Smith Josephine Byrd Allie Hollister Marilyn McPherson Min. Carl Hollister Min. Aleia Taylor Ellington
Alexandria: 22304, 22311	Arlington: All Zip Codes 22201, 22202, 22203 22204, 22205, 22206 22207, 22209, 22211, 22212	Burke: 22015 Fairfax: 22039 Springfield: 22150, 22151, 22152 22153	Annandale: 22003 Mclean Merrifield	Falls Church and Bailey’s Crossroads: 22041, 22042, 22043 22044, 22046

Rev. May 2025

Mount Pleasant Baptist Church
6477 Lincolnia Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22312
(703) 256-1268
Rev. Dr. Carl M. Johnson, Pastor



*email: secretary@mtpleasantbc.org
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MPBC Messenger Staff

Karin Henderson	Editor-in-Chief/ Designer
Eloise Clarke	Editor
Anita Johnson	Editor
Debbie Coles	Church News Reporter
Linda Hayes	Staff Writer/Contributor



VIRTUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE — JULY 26, 2025 @ 5:00 PM

Vision Statement

“Building a vibrant, engaged faith community serving, growing, and transforming Lives.”
(1 Peter 4:10–11)

Mission Statement

“To grow a congregation of believers committed to the ministry of Worship, Evangelism, Missions, Discipleship, Service, and Fellowship with a heart for Prayer, Bible Study, and the Great Commission.” (Matthew 28:19–20)

Theme

“Changing Lives One Soul at a Time” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Submission of articles to the **Messenger** — Please send articles via email attachment to:
mpbcnewsletter@mtpleasantbc.org.