

Messenger



SUMMER 2026

“Stepping Forward in Faith”

VOL. 40 NO. 2

Theme: “We’ve Come This Far By Faith”

⁷ “For we walk by faith, not by sight.”

(2 Corinthians 5:7) (NKJV)

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FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK . . . *Prepared in collaboration with Loucious Hires (MPBC) and Trustee Walter Batts (MPBC)*

I am excited to introduce Mount Pleasant Baptist Church to an important initiative that reflects both who we are and who God is calling us to become.

As we continue growing as a church family, we want to strengthen not only what we do in ministry, but also how we care for one another. To help us do that, our leaders have been trained in the CARE Model—Concern, Appreciation, Respect, and Empathy—a framework developed by Loucious Hires of Higher Solutions Onward, LLC.

In the coming months, a seminar will be held to train the entire Mount Pleasant congregation on the CARE Model, what it means to our church culture, and how we can practice it in our daily interactions. CARE is more than a program or initiative—it is a practical expression of Christian discipleship and a reflection of Christ's love in action.

The Bible reminds us in Philippians 2:4, “Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.” That is the heart of CARE. Scripture calls us to put aside selfish ambition, value others above ourselves, and look to the needs of those around us. We are also reminded in 1 Thessalonians 5:11 to “encourage one another and build one another up,” and in 1 Peter 2:17 to “show proper respect to everyone.”

CARE is not just for leaders—it is for all of us. Every member has a role to play in creating a church where people feel acknowledged, valued, respected, and encouraged. When visitors enter our doors, when new members join our fellowship, and when longtime members face life’s joys and challenges, CARE should be evident in every interaction. It is one of the ways we demonstrate the love of Christ to our church family and our community.

The principles of CARE are simple, biblical, and transformative:

CONCERN FOR OTHERS

Listen, support, and help carry the burdens of others. Galatians 6:2 reminds us, “Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” Let others know they are not alone and that they can depend on their church family for encouragement, support, and prayer.

APPRECIATION

Express gratitude and acknowledge the contributions of others. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 reminds us, "In everything give thanks." Whether someone serves in worship, hospitality, administration, outreach, the choir, or behind the scenes, a sincere word of thanks can encourage and strengthen their commitment. Never underestimate the power of appreciation.

RESPECT

Treat every person with dignity, kindness, and honor. 1 Peter 2:17 instructs us to "Honor all people." Regardless of age, background, position, or circumstance, every individual deserves respect because each person is created in the image of God. Respect should characterize every conversation, every interaction, and every ministry effort.

EMPATHY

Seek to understand the experiences and feelings of others. Romans 12:15 calls us to "Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep." Empathy allows us to connect with people in meaningful and Christ-centered ways. It demonstrates that we genuinely care about what others are experiencing and are willing to walk alongside them through life's seasons.

As you go throughout your days and weeks, I encourage you to intentionally live out CARE. Show concern for others. Express appreciation. Treat people with respect. Demonstrate empathy.

To help keep these principles before us, handouts will be available in the vestibule, and reminders will be included in our Sunday bulletins. If you would like additional information, please speak with one of our officers or ministry leaders.

As we embrace these principles, may Mount Pleasant be known as a church where people experience the love of Christ through genuine Concern, Appreciation, Respect, and Empathy. Together, let us make CARE more than a concept—let it become our culture.

As 1 Corinthians 16:14 reminds us, "Let all that you do be done in love."

Let's be a church that doesn't just gather—but truly CARES.

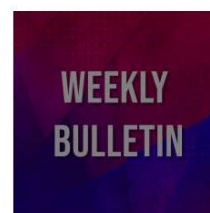
God bless you.

MPBC Connect

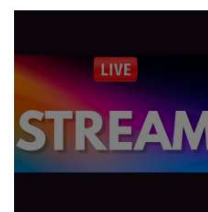
Visit our website at www.mtpleasantbc.org to stay connected.



Give Online



Bulletin



Live Stream



The Heart's Cry Podcast



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 virtual meeting will be scheduled to discuss the calendar of events for our CCM for the rest of 2026. Suggestions for activities are welcomed. Our CCM has adopted the Hilda M. Barg Homeless. Our CCM has adopted the Hilda M. Barg Homeless Prevention Center in Woodbridge. Members have continued to be a blessing to the center by purchasing requested items. Don't forget our joint activity, a cookout with the Senior Adult Ministry ("Golden Gems") on July 26.

Also, a MPBC Pictorial Directory will be published in 2026. Look for future church announcements to schedule your photo session. If you **do not** want your picture, name, address, or phone number printed in the directory, please let us know.

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.

The 2026 Mid-term election will be November 3, 2026. If you have not registered, please do so. We all need to vote in this pivotal election! Let us continue to pray for this election and trust God during this election process. Truly, we've come this far by faith trusting in Him!

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, and Minister Jennifer Madison
(Prince William/Stafford/Spotsylvania/Caroline Counties and Lorton (PWSSC&L) CCM)

—Thought for the summer—

"When the sun is shining, I can do anything; no mountain is too high, no trouble is too difficult to overcome." — Wilma Rudolph



Word Search

AUGUST
BARBECUE
BASEBALL
BEACH
BIKE
BOAT
CAMP
FAMILY
FISHING
FLIGHT
FLIP FLOPS
FLOWERS
FRIENDS
GARDEN
HEAT
HOLIDAYS
HOT
HUMID
ICED TEA
INSIDE
JULY
JUNE
LEMONADE
OUTSIDE
PARK
PICNIC
PLAY
POOL
RELAX
SANDALS
SHORTS
SKATEBOARD
SOCCER
SUNSCREEN
SUNSET
SWIMMING
TAN
TANK TOPS
TENT
THEME PARK
TOUR
TRAVEL
TRIP
VACATION
WATERPARK

SUMMER

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE



F	R	I	E	N	D	S	O	C	C	E	R	U	I	F	F	L	S	L	T
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I	V	C	L	E	N	E	J	V	S	L	A	D	N	A	S	A	T	P	O

The words appear UP, DOWN, BACKWARDS, and DIAGONALLY. Find and circle each word.



MPBC FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Notes & News

SUMMER 2026 EDITION



HELLO

SUMMER!

Summer greetings from your MPBC FCU!

Summer is the perfect time to give your finances a quick check-up. Take a few minutes to review your savings goals, spending habits, and upcoming expenses so you can make the most of the season without financial stress. Small steps today like adding a little extra to your savings or creating a budget for summer activities can help keep your finances on track. Reminder, keep your credit union account active! A small deposit (\$5.00) or some other transaction at least every 24 months will keep your account active and avoid a monthly inactive account fee.

Stay safe and enjoy your summer!

LOW-INTEREST LOANS AVAILABLE

In need of a low-interest loan? Look no further because MPBC FCU is an excellent choice for your small loan needs where you can **apply for an MPBC FCU Signature loan up to \$10,000**. Contact the Credit Union for more details.

52-WEEK SAVINGS CHALLENGE MID-YEAR CHECK-IN

At the beginning of the year, the Credit Union launched a 52-week savings challenge to members and we want to take a moment to check-in to know how you are doing with your savings. It's not too late to join this challenge if you are interested.

Please visit <https://mtpleasantbc.org/credit-union> to learn how you can participate and download the free, savings tracker charts there to help you keep track of your savings deposits.



OPERATION STATUS



We are open for business on Sunday mornings! Operating hours are from 8:45 AM - 10:00 AM. Weekday appointments are available by request.

CONTACT US:

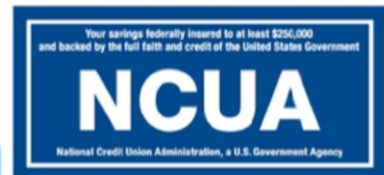
MPBC Federal Credit Union

P.O. Box 11146
Alexandria, VA 22312

(703) 256-4802

mpbcfcu@mtpleasantbc.org

www.mtpleasantbc.org/credit-union



We are YOUR Credit Union.
Thanks for your business.



“Walking in the Newness of Life”

by Min. Myra Cook (MPBC)

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”
(2 Corinthians 5:17) (NKJV)

Everyone loves new things. We love new cars, new homes, new clothes and shoes, and even crisp new money. Newness has a fresh fragrance, like a new home where no one else has lived, or a new pair of shoes because no one else has worn them, and new money because it's crisp, free of the touch of many hands.

But what happens when you become a follower of Christ? A transformation takes place within you. You are not the same anymore; you have become brand new. You develop a new way of walking, talking, and even thinking. You look new, all because you, by faith, accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord. So it was on April 3, 1989, that I, by faith, confessed with my mouth the Lord Jesus, believed in my heart that God raised Him from the dead, and was saved. (cf. Romans 10:9) There were no fireworks or lightning in the sky that day, just excitement and peace in my heart because I had been rescued from the eternal consequences of sin, reconciled to God through my faith in Jesus Christ, and made brand new.

For a new Christian, walking in the newness of life is a walk of faith. It means understanding that when you accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you become a new creation—brand new in Him. For a better understanding, the Apostle Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV): *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”* To be in Christ means that we have accepted the selfless sacrifice Jesus made as payment for our own sins (cf. Colossians 3:3). To be in Christ reminds me of a criminal with a rap sheet detailing every crime he has committed, but his rap sheet follows him everywhere he goes. We also had a rap sheet that detailed every sinful thought, attitude, and action we had ever committed, but our rap sheets do not follow us. Why? because we have become “a new creation” through Christ Jesus and our faith in Him as Lord and Savior.

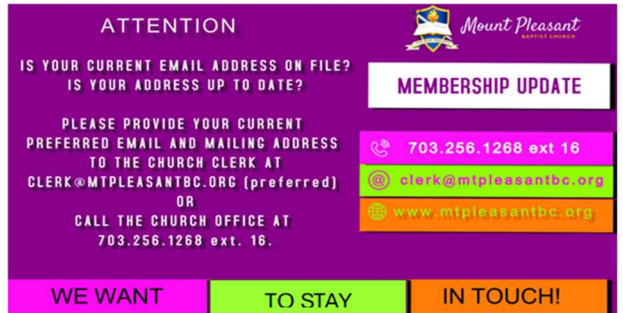
When this change takes place, the old things about us pass away, die, and no longer have life, and behold, all things become new. A transformation takes place, and a new person emerges with a desire to live a holy life in Christ. (cf. Ephesians 4:24) We must also understand that this new transformed life is made possible by God's grace, which pardons us from the penalty of sin and has the transformative power to break sin's hold on our lives, but does not give us the right to sin willfully. (cf. Romans 6:14-15).

Now that we are walking in the “newness of life,” our relationship with the Lord becomes more intimate, one of closeness, instead of one of separation and distance, one that causes us to draw near to the Lord, so that He can draw near to us. (cf. James 4:8a) Our walking in the “newness of life” keeps us in constant communication with the Lord through prayer so that we can know His will for our lives. (cf. Matthew 6:33). Because we are now walking in the “newness of life,” we move from serving the bondage of sin to living in God's grace, knowing that our past is forgiven and our old selves no longer define us. (cf. Romans 8:1).

As I write this column, the words of a familiar gospel song by Tremaine Hawkins comes to mind: “A wonderful change has come over me.” Those words beautifully capture the transformation that takes place when we surrender our lives to Christ.

Thank God we are walking in the newness of life!

MPBC News and Events



Enjoy the warmth and fellowship of the summer season! We invite everyone to dress comfortably in casual attire throughout July and August as we continue worshipping together in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. Regular worship attire will resume in September. Thank you for helping us celebrate these final weeks of summer with comfort, joy, and reverence. We look forward to worshipping with you!

An Amazing and Historical Blessing

Brother Evans White IV, son of Rev. Evans Chris III and Deaconess La'Tonia White, graduated from the University of Virginia, Charlottesville on May 17, 2026. He has many reasons to celebrate. Special attention should be noted that this celebration is truly historical, extraordinary, and absolutely amazing!!!

Both sets of grandparents on his paternal and maternal side were present at his graduation ceremony.

Both father and paternal grandfather are ministers and along with their wives, have immersed Evans in scripture, faith, and the church community from a young age. They have shown unconditional love and support throughout Evans life.

His graduation celebration is quite historical, noteworthy, and extremely rare in African-American families. I found no research with a breakdown with the exact percentage for African-American families with grandparents on the paternal and maternal sides living and present to see their grandchild graduate from a university.

This celebration is truly incredibly rare and outside of many normal families' educational occurrences. Therefore, this graduation is significant and exceptional.

Brother Marshall and Sister Gerry Gunther are his maternal grandparents and members of our church.

Submitted by: Sister Ruby Osia (MPBC)

Public Safety Alert

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

The screenshot shows the DEA website with a prominent banner that reads "ONE PILL CAN KILL" in large, bold, white letters on a dark background. Below the banner, there is a section titled "DEA Fentanyl Seizures in 2023" which includes statistics: "75,600,000+ Millions of Fentanyl Pills Seized" and "11,503+ lbs. Pounds of Fentanyl Powder Seized". To the right of these statistics is a pile of blue and white pills. Below the statistics, there is a "Public Safety Alert" section with a red warning triangle icon. The alert text states: "Laboratory testing indicates 7 out of every 10 pills seized by DEA contain a lethal dose of fentanyl." and "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 text is a graphic showing a pyramid of 10 pills, with 7 red pills and 3 black pills, and the text "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



Mount Pleasant Baptist Church Senior Adult “Golden Gems” Ministry

The Mount Pleasant Baptist Church (MPBC) Senior Adult Ministry (Golden Gems) is one of fun and fellowship, witnessing and worship. It was established to assist MPBC seniors spiritually, physically and emotionally.

The “Golden Gems” Bible study is conducted weekly on Wednesday at noon. The group learns the principles and doctrines of the Word as the basis for maintaining a right relationship with God.

Annual events include a Senior Day worship service, a two-day Senior Revival service, a summer cookout, a Christmas fellowship dinner and other special outings.

Their knowledge and wisdom is shared with the Pastor and leadership as well as adults and children in the congregation.

The “Golden Gems” are seeking to expand its membership and participation to include every interested senior MPBC member.

If you enjoy fellowshiping with other “Golden Gems” in group activities, fine dining, etc., or would like to share your expertise in planning and contract negotiation for such activities (bus trips, cruises, musical and dinner theater outings, special events, etc.), please contact one of the “Golden Gems” Committee members.

Sister Merle Summers, President – Merleys4219@gmail.com

Deacon Edward Robinson, Vice-President – edrob00@verizon.net

Sister Katie Smith, Recording Secretary – smithkef49@verizon.net

Sister Estella Evans, Corresponding Secretary – WhitsonEvans@verizon.net

Deaconess Marlene Fields, Treasurer – mrf1020@yahoo.com

Sister Beatrice Jones, Event Coordinator – btjtaylor@aol.com

Sister Ruby Osia, Devotionals/Event Coordinator – rubyandjuan@verizon.net

Reverend Jessie Reynolds, Spiritual Advisor – maxo400@aol.com

Submitted by the MPBC Senior Adult Ministry (Golden Gems)

Mount Pleasant Church Ministry Leaders Email Info | 2026

ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

(vacant)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY

Rev. Margaret Barr

CHURCH SCHOOL MINISTRY

Yvonne Bush

DEACON MINISTRY*

Deacon David Evans

DEACONESS MINISTRY*

Deaconess Sherri Morgan

DEAF SHALL HEAR THE WORD MINISTRY

Minister Jennifer Madison

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MINISTRY

Min. Myra Cook

EVANGELISM MINISTRY

Deacon James Watson

EZEKIEL MISSIONARY MINISTRY

Yvette Collier

FLORAL MINISTRY

Trustee Constance Robinson

GIFTED TO SERVE MINISTRY

Tefera Baker-Warrick

Anita Johnson

Min. Stephanie Gillus

GRIEF MINISTRY

Denise Mackie-Smith

HEALTH/WELLNESS UNIT

Phyllis Jordan

HOMELESS MINISTRY

Brenda Stroble

LITURGICAL DANCE MINISTRY

Leslie Green

INTERPRETER MINISTRY

Trustee Renee Sheppard

MEN'S MINISTRY (MMOV)

Michael Tyree

MPBC MESSENGER

Deaconess Karin Henderson

MUSIC MINISTRY COORDINATOR

Trevon Cook

NEW MEMBERS MINISTRY

Min. Derrik Allen

NURSERY MINISTRY

Deaconess Allie Hollister

PINKETT/SHEPPARD MEMORIAL CLUB

Julie Washington

PRAYER MINISTRY

Deaconess Marilyn McPherson

PRISON MINISTRY

Min. Percell Spinner

RISE MINISTRY

Min. Stephanie Gillus

SCHOLARSHIP MINISTRY

Deaconess Tawanna Tillman

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

Merle Summers

TRUSTEE MINISTRY*

Trustee Tyrone Bradley

USHERS MINISTRY

Sandra C. Johnson

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

Middie Brooks

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY COORDINATORS

Co-Coordinator: Breanna Jones

Co-Coordinator: Min. Khadeejah Honesty

YOUTH/CHILDREN MINISTRY

(vacant)

***Members cannot join voluntarily.**

NOTE: To contact the ministry leader, call the Church Office at 703-256-1268.

Deaconess Ministry

The Deaconess Ministry remains actively engaged with the members of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, both in person and virtually. They continue to serve faithfully in their ministry responsibilities and to support the spiritual well-being of the congregation. Below are a few but not all Ministry Activities, Responsibilities and Ministry Highlights:

- Fulfilled all Baptismal and Communion responsibilities.
- Maintained active engagement with members through in-person fellowship, phone calls, emails, texts, and greeting cards.
- Remained committed to our church family by attending Worship Services, Church School, Bible Study, and Prayer Meetings.
- Provided ongoing comfort and support to our sick, shut-in, and bereaved members.
- Continued outreach to our Deaconess Emeritus members.
- Supported our youth who attended the Eagle Eyrie retreat.
- Participated in the virtual monthly Women's Ministry fellowship.
- Attended Diaconate Training (Part 1) by *The Church Business Administration Network*, facilitated by Dr. William Whitaker.
- Participated in The Glory Train Play at Oak Grove Baptist Church, Sterling.
- Donated items and assisted with Easter basket preparation and distribution.
- Packed and mailed care boxes to MPBC college students.
- Packed and mailed a care package to include snacks, toothbrushes, toothpaste, hygiene and hair products, other personal items, and words of encouragement to Marines (1STLT Beatriz Bautista (Deaconess Gloria Giron's daughter) and her command) who were headed to Iran on a ship.
- Hosted a mentoring event with our young girls.

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 Kenneth and Rita Jackson Jerry and Rosie Brown* Annette Colclough Marcia Gilbert-Gregory Rev. Dr. Vonda Batts Rev. Dwight Cokely	Karl and Karin Henderson James Cook Marlene Fields Min. Myra Cook Min. Angela Sheppard Min. Jennifer Madison	Jerald and Faye Stark Maurice Evans Gloria Giron Min. Stephanie Gillus Min. Leticia Watson Min. Eldred Williams Rev. Joyce Howard	Carlton Brown Amanda Brown Allie Hollister Dalton Martin* Min. Bonita Easter Min. Linda Hayes Min. Percell Spinner	David Evans Michael and Sylvia Hardy Mattie Charles* Tawanna Tillman Rev. Penni Ford Min. Henrietta Nelson Min. Antonio Rafael
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	Edward Robinson Bryant and Jacqueline Black Barbara White Rev. Cornelia Carter-Taylor Min. Khadeejah Honesty	Robert Brooks Sherri Morgan Averil Tomlinson Rev. Brian Morgan Min. Mark Miller Min. Jackie Wrice Rev. Dr. Gerald Robinson	James and Jean Watson Michael Wilson Sherry Allen Rev. Jessie Reynolds Min. Derrik Allen	Ronald Hampton Robert Smith Josephine Byrd* Marilyn McPherson Karen White 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

*Emeritus

Revised: July 2026

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website: www.mtpleasantbc.org*

MPBC Messenger Staff

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Linda Hayes	Staff Writer/Contributor



VIRTUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE — JULY 25, 2026 @ 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

“Stepping Forward in Faith” (Joshua 1:9)

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