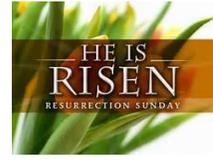




THE VOICE



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For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. John 3:16

Be encouraged! Jesus loves you. Remember the Scripture quoted above, and recognize that God loves you so much he sacrificed his son for you.

Recently, I heard someone say, “Cold weather is coming, you better prepare.” How often do we, Christians tell the world, “Jesus is coming, you better prepare!” This mini-lesson is to assure you that Jesus is coming back and He loves you.

The Season of Lent this year begins March 1st and ends April 15th. Lent is the 40 days from **Ash Wednesday** until **Easter**. It is a time many Christians prepare for Easter. Many fast, some give up things they consider a sacrifice, others schedule and pray more often, and a different group may study Jesus’ walk on earth from the Stable to the Cross. All of those things are good. However, it is better to follow the copied Scripture, Romans: 10:9-13. *If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”*



Angel Choir 2nd Sunday in February



Our Angel Choir members are wearing their Kente Cloth in honor of Black History Month. The Choir is growing. They are excited and they show enthusiasm as they sing. Congratulations to the “little angels,” their parents and their directors as they are *the Church of Today!*

Interim Chief Kelly throws his hat in the ring



After much prayer and careful consideration, Interim Chief Kelly decided to apply for the position of chief. He is a long-time city of Fayetteville police officer, who has moved up through the ranks.

Interim Chief Kelly is the son of the late Deacon Charles Kelly and Deaconess Betty M Kelly. He has attended Mount Pisgah Church all of his life. His wife, mother and children are members as well.



We are proud of Chief Kelly and we, individually and collectively, include him and his family in our prayers. Blessings!

CONGRESS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REGIONAL SITE

*Committed to Christ, Commissioned for
Mission through Christian Education*

The General Baptist Congress of Christian Education held its first Regional Congress of Christ Education on February 4, 2017 at E.E. Smith, Fayetteville, North Carolina. Normally, this is a state-wide gathering of associations all across the state convening at one location. However, the annual session has grown so much that it was impossible to adequately accommodate the numerous attendees. In its wisdom, the Executive Board for Congress decided to split the State into two regions by continuing the meeting in Charlotte and by adding the Fayetteville location. The Fayetteville site met first, and the other site met on the second Saturday in February,

Lois Allen, Mary Owens, Callie Graham,



Deborah Baker, Michael Dawson

the traditional meeting date. President Jennifer Campbell and Dean Jamael Johnson were not sure if people would come to this new site; therefore, they prepared for 300 participants and were amazed at the attendance. They completely ran out of registration kits and it was estimated that 500 or more persons were in attendance!

Mount Pisgah Christian Education teachers, Deacons, Deaconesses, and one Trustee showed up bright and early for the event for about 12 attending. By 9:30, the area was so crowded that it reminded you of the overcrowded experienced

in Charlotte. One theme that was heard repeatedly is that churches must seek new ways to reach and teach their congregations, that what may have been hot and appealing 3 years ago may not work today. They stressed that we don't compromise the Gospel, but we must recognize that this is a different generation, particularly with our youth and young adults, who are products of a technology impacted era. In comparing classes attended, most felt that the first Regional Session was worthwhile and presented relevant information.

Ligeia Robinson receives Pay Increase

Ligeia, an employee with Biogen, a biotechnology company specializing in treatment for rare diseases such as Multiple Sclerosis and Hemophilia, was recently rewarded with a pay increase. She said, **"I am thankful and blessed for this! I will continue to help patients as a Patient Services Coordinator."**



An active member of our Church, Ligeia is the director of the Angel Choir, sings with the Young Adult Choir, and is a member of the Praise Team.

It is encouraging to see young adults step forward and be a positive influence in the church. Congratulations on your successes that earned you a pay increase.

HE LIVES



A Few Reasons to Personally Attend Church

Often, we hear individuals say, “*I don’t have to go to church. I can watch a service on TV or listen to the radio, and I also have the Bible on CD or DVD.*” All of that is true, but you are missing other important reasons to attend church. **Hebrews 10:25** - *Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some [is]; but exhorting [one another]: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*

The Bible teaches we are to assemble with other believers. Many benefits come from being a part of a congregation. Some include, to sing with others, to perform some of God’s work in his Household of Faith, to encourage others, especially unbelievers, and to share the joy of worshipping together.



I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD. Psalms 122:1

Added benefits for students and young adults include, (not limited to) being able to participate in leading of worship services. Many studies have shown that students who attend Sunday School, Bible Study and regular church services, usually perform better on tests, work well with others, and learn to communicate with others. Of course, that is not true in each situation; however, it is most of the time. It is better for the children and young adults to be in Church than in some other non-productive activity. Not many opportunities exist in rural areas for supervised after school events in our region. Churches that offer scouting, 4-H, praise dancing, choirs, Bible Study and other

events fill that void. An added advantage, and most important, it is a time to learn about Jesus.

Churches with strong teaching programs draw others to Christ. The more you learn about the greatest teacher who ever lived, the more you will be able to follow Him. ***Jesus provided the best example of living, reaching, healing and teaching. Come, learn, and follow Him!***

Two Church Members in the Band Placing First

Congratulations to Katrice Epps and Aki Morehead! Both are trumpeters in the West Hoke



Middle School Pep Band. West Hoke Middle received first place in Hoke County’s 4th Annual Battle of the Middle School Pep Bands.

Katrice is the daughter of Randel and Antrice Epps. Aki is the son of Sophia Morehead. Both youth are vibrant and active members of Mount Pisgah. ***Congratulations and keep up the good work!***



Congratulations to Aki Morehead! He received a silver medal in the Wrestling Conference Championship. He is an 8th grader at West Hoke Middle School and first year wrestler.

Well done students. Keep up the good work. We are proud of you.

Praise Ye the Lord!





Toys may serve a dual-role

Toys may do more than one thing. They may be educational to help you learn math, science or reading. They may teach you to play a game, compete, and to prepare for a future in such arenas as golf, baseball, basketball or football. They may even help to teach you the love of cooking as did the Easy Bake Oven.



In the late 1960s, my oldest two daughters received together a wagon (see copy above of the type, make and model). That Radio Flyer



was used to pull the girls in the yard and to the store. It was also used to haul water from the pump to the washing machine (wringer type). That old-fashioned washing machine was better than a wash board. I used both,

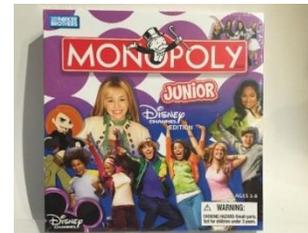


so I'm an expert in their use. And, it was used to haul wood first from out of the woods, in long poles, and when cut up into small pieces to fit the heater, it carried the wood to the porch for taking into the house. It was used for chores more than for playing, and the children never knew the difference. They enjoyed helping by pulling the wagon when it was not too heavy.

Our three daughters are good cooks, and I would like to think it is from first owning an Easy Bake Oven and then learning how to work the stove.. They learned to do all of the tasks in a house, little by little. Some of the time they were taught more as a game than as work. As soon as they wanted to wash dishes, I let them.

When they wanted to cook, I encouraged and taught them safety, as they used knives, other utensils and the stove. Almost anything in the house can be put into a game. The clothes hamper can be a great goal post. After we rolled clothes we would back down the hallway and toss them into the hamper making a point.

Families can make their own games. I am reminded that soon after watching the Tuskegee Airmen in the 1990s; my young grandsons used a small fan in front of a box to make their own plane. They would spend hours in the box flying as a Tuskegee Airman. The oldest grandson was always Lieutenant Lee. He knew Lt. Lee was the pilot and he was in the front.



What toys and games are your children, grand- children and their friends using?

What memories will be made and passed on as family stories? Now is the time to make those memories so they will be great ones. You make sure they use their imaginations in play and their games be a way of learning positive information for their future.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Pictures are a great way to look at the past. When looking in our family and church pictures, I am amazed at the number of former and current church member pictures are in our album and in desk drawers. Church family is and always has been important to us.





**COUPLES
RETREAT
MINISTRY
MYRTLE
BEACH,
SC**

On Friday, February 10, 2017, eighteen couples headed to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, for the First Marriage Ministry Retreat. The event was held at the Marriott Hotel & Spa Resort, a Five Star establishment. For weeks, couples, mainly the ladies, shared excitement about the upcoming week end at the beach. People left at different times, traveling at their own leisure with the knowledge that the Meet & Greet would begin at 3:00 that afternoon. Most couples arrived about



midday. Some grabbed an early lunch, went shopping or checked out the beach scene although it was somewhat cool and windy. The Meet & Greet was an hour of fun and fellowship, with



mingling, getting to know one another better, and playing a Marriage Bingo game. Upon leaving, each couple received a bottle of Sparkling Martinelli's Apple Cider, non-alcoholic, and two wine goblets. Then at 6:00, everyone returned dressed up for the Marriage Banquet. Brother Ervin Sawyer and Sister Gloria Sawyer presided with other couples participating on the program.

Brother Sawyer serenaded us with *Love Is All Around Me*.

We enjoyed a delicious meal; then, afterwards, Reverend Matthews kept us laughing as he gave



words of wisdom and encouragement about marriage. For the final part of the program, Reverend Riddick led the couples through a vowel renewal, an affirmation of love and commitment. It was a very uplifting and inspirational occasion which caused us to reflect upon the goodness of the Lord and how He has blessed us and our marriages down through the year

Rev. Mary Owens, CED

**FAYETTEVILLE CUMBERLAND
COUNTY MINISTERIAL COUNCIL'S
24th Annual MLK Breakfast & Worship Service**



For the 24th year, Fayetteville Cumberland County Ministerial Council, held its Annual MLK Prayer Breakfast & Worship Service. This also marks the 60th Anniversary of FCCMC as a faith-based and community service organization.

DARRY SHAW, JR.

Darryl had another impressive performance, at Clemson, in the triple jump on February 11th. Shaw jumped 51' 2 3/4" (15.61m) to place second behind Jeffrey Prothro of Texas A&M. Darryl's mark is the third best in the ACC this season.

"I'm so excited and thankful for my PR. Last year I hit a wall at 50' and I am very glad to have passed it," said Shaw. Headed into the ACC Championships in a few weeks, Shaw said, "I'm really eager because it'll be a great competition, but at the same time I want to stay focused and not take any steps backwards."



FORWARD MOUNT PISGAH

Last year Dr. Fuller shared with us two themes. One was A

New Day Calls for a New Way, and the other was *Forward Mount Pisgah*. Since Dr. Fuller's assuming leadership as our Pastor, many things have been done in a new way while *Forward Mount Pisgah* has been evolving in a more subtle way. All one has to do is look around to see that Mount Pisgah has been steadily moving forward from growth in membership and attendance to exercising faith in accepting the challenge of doubling the church's monthly mortgage to ensure getting out of debt in record time, not 30, not 15, but 5 years and 8 months! Additionally we see evidence of *Forward Mount Pisgah* in re-vitalizing and restructuring the Mission Ministry, Youth Empowerment, Deacon and Trustees' Ministry, Choirs and others. Then we see addition of new ministries such as Girls Praise Dance Ministry, Marriage Ministry, New Members Coordinator, and implementation of Right Now Media online resource library. As we look at changes, it's not just within ministry works, but also improvements being made to the physical building, itself.

All the windows in the Fellowship Hall were replaced. A 15 passenger van was purchased,

paid in full. Ladies bathroom in the Fellowship Hall had a recent update, and internet is church-



wide so that teachers can use technology in their classes.



The last project completed in moving forward was the installation of mechanical /electrical doors with panic bars. This enhances security, ensuring that no one can enter without being given access. It also has handicap push pad to assist those who need this accommodation. Next project in process is repairing, replacing, and rearranging the pews in the sanctuary. The journey has been more than a dream, more than a hope; it has been a God favored reality.

Rev. Mary Owens, CED

MLK EVENTS (Continued from Page 5)

FCCMC continues the tradition of honoring the life, legacy and contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The celebrations began with the Annual Worship Service, at Lewis Chapel MBC in Fayetteville, NC. Dr. Cureton Johnson, Pastor at First Missionary Baptist Moore Street bought the message. The celebration continued the next morning at 8:00 with the Prayer Breakfast where Dr. Otis McMillan held the audience riveted by his introductory song followed by his dynamic message. The crowd of about 1200, alternated between unrestrained laughter and shouts of "Amen!" FCCMC once again ensured youth participation by including them on the platform, being greeters and also by providing an Education Fair with Sandhills Community College, Fayetteville Technical Community College, Campbell University, Methodist University, and the Alpha Academy, along with special ed programs. FCCMC thanks everyone involved, attendees, and supporters for making

the 24th MLK two-day celebration a memorable tribute to the Dr. King.



E.E.O.G. MISTERIES—EQUAL EMPLOYEMENT OPPORTUNITY GOD

Are we looking for a JOB, or an ASSIGNMENT? Jobs are given by man and assignments are from God. MIRACLES OR BLESSINGS? Miracles are given in time of crises; blessings are received as daily bread. Make your request known unto God through Prayer, Fasting and Faith, better known as: SEED, TIME, and HARVEST.

2017 is our year of jumble. We have had our time of crisis brought on by selfishness, disobedient and neglect. We failed to watch as well as to pray. But God, true to his word, will and way, He looked past our faults and saw our needs. If there were ever a crisis we were in it. If there was ever a need of a miracle, we needed it, and God sent it.

After our awakening, we began to fast and to pray, turning back to our first love (GOD) He sent to us Nehemiah, a man after Gods own heart, in the flesh, known as Dr. John D Fuller, to God be the glory! He brought restoration to our facilities (buildings). It is up to the discipleship (US) to rebuild the church. We are so blessed, God sent HIS best. Let us follow our pastor leadership. It ain't over til it's over!

We are the church, "LET US" come together as one body, on one accord, one mind of Christ, and take back what the devil stole from us. So I ask the same question that the pastor asks so many times, ***"IS ANYBODY PRAYING"***.

Seed, Time, and Harvest is a time that we must first, prepare the soil, FASTING to cleanse (our heart, mind and soul), tear out some old roots of stagnation, procrastination, and anything that will hinder us from elevation to where God has made preparation. In God's Word, all provision has been made. He is waiting on us. Hebrew 12:1 tells us to "lay aside every weight, and sin which doeth so easily beset us, (PRAYING) -and run with patience the race that is set before us. 12:2 look unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith and (PLANT)

ourselves at his feet. Through obedience there will be a harvest.



Will you join together on the 12th day of each month, let us fast and pray, 12 hours (6am-6pm)-,lay aside a weight and leave it there, then plant a \$12.00 seed, for preparation to receive the harvest that has already been prepared just for us. In due season, WE SHALL REEP. GET READY MOUNT PISGAH, WE ARE LIVING IN THE BLESSING, JUST STAY FOCUSED AS WE PREPARE TO RECEIVE. "SEED TIME AND HARVEST IS NOT ABOUT WHAT WE ARE EATING, IT'S ABOUT WHAT IS EATING US. JUST ASK YOUR SELF, WHATS STEALING MY JOY? THEN LET IT GO. "BE THOU HEALED IN JESUS NAME AMEN.

The Preachers Corner

Rev. Arlane McKoy

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS ORIENTATION MEET AND GREET"

We give honor to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ that His Holy Spirit drew you to visit Mount Pisgah house of worship, and you found a sweet spirit that drew you back again, and again. Having been led by the Holy Spirit and a desire to be a part of a family here where Christians worship and study the word of God, we welcome you and now we are one.

The Pastor, new members' coordinator, Christian Education, have set a time to help us to get to know each other better and to answer any questions you may have that will make you feel even more as part of the family. On the second Sunday of each month at 9:00am, we extend this invitation to all new or not so new members, to join us in the Media Resource Room, you will receive a packet that will help you know more about Mount Pisgah church, your new church family, and the culture unique to this church.

WELCOME-Should you have need of us, please don't hesitate to call the church, 910-875-5744.

New Members Coordinator, *Rev. Arlane McKoy*

"One Lord, one faith, one baptism" Ephesians 4:5

**FAYETTEVILLE/CUMBERLAND COUNTY
CHAPTER, SHAW UNIVERSITY ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION REACHES \$100,000
ENDOWMENT**

Dreams do come true! Goals sometimes are reached, and that is exactly what happened when the Fayetteville/ Cumberland County Chapter of the Shaw University Alumni Association raised a total of \$100,000 for a scholarship endowment with Shaw



(L-R top photo) Laura Hardy, Judy Musgrave, James McKay, Barbara Jones, Jimmy Ragland, Mary Young, Dr. Tashni-Ann Dubroy, President of Shaw University and Dr. Wilson Lacy, Chapter President).

University. The Chapter met the challenge issued by Dr. Dorothy C. Yancy, Interim President, by raising \$100,000 in five years. In the *“Bear Spirit,”* the Chapter reported \$8,500 in 2012, \$10,500 in 2013, \$12,500, in 2014, \$13,000 in 2015, and finally in 2016 the biggest donation of \$17,000 carried the goal to its achievement amount of \$100,000.00.

During the 2016 Homecoming Banquet, The Fayetteville/Cumberland County Chapter members in attendance echoed three rousing “Thank You” praises as the \$100,000 amount was announced. Excitement filled the banquet hall. Dr. Lacy informed the audience that *“We could not have done it without the support and prayers of all who wanted us to succeed. Succeed we did! Success came from the good of the Lord and His grace.”* Additionally, he said sacrifices were made by the Chapter officers and members, Shaw University staff and students, benefactors from across the region, other alumni and many businesses who wanted to see the goal reached.

(Continued on page 6)

Lacy, (chapter president), often reminds members, we are successful because of our experiences at Shaw. We must continue to work to recruit students, and to help them along the way just as others helped us. He continues to challenge members to continue the work and to do it as unto the Lord.

THE PSALMS



The *Book of Psalms* in Hebrew means “Book of Praises.” Seventy-three Psalms are credited to David; 12 to Asaph; 2 to Solomon; 1 to Moses; 1 to Ethan; and 12 to the sons of Korah, a family of Levitical singers. Psalms are poetic writings of praise to the Almighty God for his blessings in all that He has done, is doing, and will do for His people and creation. Psalms are also affirmations of great commitment and dedication unto God no matter what the challenge may be. They are words of reconciliation during the times and error of transgression of God’s Law. The *Book of Psalms* is the greatest compilation of writing ever composed, filled with great words of inspiration, praise, and faith unto God. Its authors were people who loved God, His Law, and His mighty words with all of their heart, soul, and might.

Some of the participants in the annual Christmas Ministry are shown in a group picture. All ages were included. This represented each ministry in the church.



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