

First Mount Zion Baptist Church

2018 Theme: *Living in His Abundance*

2 Corinthians 9:8

September 1, 2018

Volume 14, Issue 1



The Messenger



Dr. Luke E. Torian

Message from the Pastor. . .

As we move into the final third of the year, I ask you to reconsider the Church's 2018 theme of "Living in His Abundance". Paul emphasized God's ability to bless us abundantly, so that in all things at all times, we will have all that we need to abound in every good work. We see evidence of God's abundance every day right here on Dumfries Road where, for over 150 years, God's abundance has provided our growing congregation the resources to serve. Our history is full of examples of hard-working, persevering people who gathered in brush arbors in the early days to worship God. The evidence of God's abundance is exemplified by the faith of our congregation who tithed and worked diligently to build our congregation, our community, and our commitment to serving God and His people.

God's abundance is not limited to our history, as we see new generations step up to the challenge of serving and extending our Ministry far beyond Dumfries. For example, our CORE Ministry is all about their present and future sense of service. On a daily basis, seen and unseen, the enthusiastic young adults of our congregation are serving, fellowshiping, and preparing to lead in Dumfries and beyond. Our Seniors' Ministry continues to have vibrant fellowships and outreach to help share their collective wisdom. Our Small Groups Ministry has so many areas of interest and service that we couldn't list all of them and their abundant service and fellowship across our community.

The demonstration of God's abundance goes far beyond this introduction, including to the dozens of thriving Ministries, small groups, outreach efforts, and individual acts of service and kindness displayed each day. Our Church's strategic Mission describes a dynamic Ministry that continually seeks to connect people who have a desire to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. In the context of a four-step strategy consisting of Service, Study, Stewardship, and Worship, we extend the vision of "Sharing the Light: From the Promise, to Pentecost, to Points Around the World. We are abundantly blessed in all times to have all that we need to abound in every good work.

In order to share and amplify God's abundance in our congregation and community, I am excited to relaunch our Newsletter. For many years this Newsletter provided our members with news, events, opportunities to serve, and evidence of God's abundance. As your Pastor for over 23 years, I have witnessed God's abundance grow and bless our community and equip us for service in places like Italy, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Haiti, New Orleans, and many other places that don't make headlines, but where our congregation, in God's great abundance, has shared its resources to help others. Our Newsletter helps tell that story and preserves the story of our people. In June, I asked the congregation to consider how we were doing with our 2018 theme and I'm asking you again to consider living abundantly and serving abundantly.

We look forward to sharing your stories of Service, Study, Stewardship and Worship as we continue to grow and honor God in Dumfries, Prince William County, Virginia, the United States, and across God's beautiful, abundant creation.

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Upcoming Events

- 9/3: Labor Day - Church Closed
- 9/6-7: Joint Leadership Retreat
- 9/7-8: Men's Ministry Retreat
- 9/15: Annual Deacons' Prayer Breakfast
- 9/17: FMZ's Annual Golf Tournament
- 9/30: Alzheimer's Stage Play - Forget Me Not (Noon - 3:00 PM)

New Ministers Light Up Our Night!

We held our Quarterly Midweek Service on July 25, 2018 and were blessed to receive the first sermons delivered by Sisters Kara Franklin-Taylor and Kathy Russell, both of whom initially served as Sunday School teachers. They have pursued their Call and have now graduated from the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University. Their initial sermonettes revealed the heart of their walk with the Lord.

Sis. Kathy Russell, who has been a faithful member of our Music Ministry and an active servant in the Women's Ministry, will also be taking the lead of the Freedom Groups Small Group launching this Fall. However, in the midst of all that, God has now called her to help His people be refreshed in Him through spending private time with Him, and to continue that refreshing through their fellowship with others in the Body of Christ. Using Jeremiah 29:5-13 as a reference, she reminded us that when we follow God's plan for our lives, He will give us a future that is filled with hope. Her fervent prayer is that people will discover the plan and purpose for their

encouraged us to know that although trusting God through our valley moments can be difficult, God is always in control! "I hope that people will apply the message to their daily lives, in difficult times, and also be able to share the message to help someone else," she humbly shared.

Now poised to be used in even greater service in their new roles as preachers of the Word, let us embrace these two new lights in Ministry that God has blessed to shine on FMZBC.

GOD CAN RESTORE WHAT IS BROKEN
AND CHANGE IT INTO SOMETHING
AMAZING. ALL YOU NEED IS FAITH

- JOEL 2:25



Alzheimer's Support Groups and Forget Me Not

September is World Alzheimer's Month, aimed to raise awareness and broaden education to challenge the myths and stigma that surround the disease. Over 50 million people worldwide are living with Alzheimer's and other dementias, with Alzheimer's being the leading form, which causes disability and dependency among the elderly. First Mount Zion Baptist Church offers three Alzheimer's Support Groups for caregivers as part of our Small Groups Ministry. You can learn more about these support groups during our Fall Small Group Fair after both Worship Services on Sunday, September 9, 2018. Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 29, 2018 to enjoy the award-winning play, *Forget Me Not* by GDavis Productions, hosted by the Small Groups Ministry in collaboration with USAgainstAlzheimer's, to support its vital awareness efforts.



Sis Kathy Russell

Sis. Kara Franklin-Taylor

lives, so that they can have a future that is full of hope and peace."

Called to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ in truth and with authenticity, Sis. Kara is a servant-leader in the C.O.R.E. Young Adult Ministry and Director of the Sunday School Ministry Youth Division. She says that she will continue to seek God's Will as she faithfully walks in the calling He has placed on her life. Preaching from Job 1:18-22, she



INSPIRATION

"One thing I have desired of the Lord, That will I seek:
That I may dwell in the house of the Lord All the days of my life,
To behold the [a] beauty of the Lord,
And to inquire in His temple."

Psalms 27:4 (NKJV)

Reflections: Fifteen Years and Counting . . . by Rev. Sandra K. James

"This is the day the Lord has made; I rejoice and I am glad in it". Fifteen years ago today I became the Assistant Pastor, aka "AP" of one of the greatest churches I know, First Mount Zion Baptist. I love serving God through service to the people of God! I am thankful for the Call of God on my life! I am thankful for every open door and opportunity God has blessed me to experience.

When my family and I moved here as a result of my military assignment to the Pentagon in July 1996, who would have thought 22 years later we would still be living in Virginia. But as the saying goes, "If you want to make God laugh, tell Him about your plans" (Woody Allen). Serving in Ministry has been a blessing. Thirty-four years ago I acknowledged my Call in the desert, yes, really in the desert of Serria Vista, Arizona! The Lord has been gracious to me and allowed me to serve and be mentored by great men and women of God throughout my life, who taught me valuable lessons about serving God's people. This Church has a special place in my heart. We have celebrated, worshipped, shared tears of joy and sorrow together, and my life will never be the same because of the journey we have shared. Wow! This also means I have been retired from the Army 15 years after serving 24 years on active duty... Looking unto Jesus, my Author and Finisher. Thankful for the journey! I've got a testimony and some... My heart's desire is to hear the Lord say, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" Until then . . . I am still rejoicing!



Blueprint for Our Future

By Carmia Salcedo and Ricky Galloway

For over 150 years, FMZBC has been a beacon to those seeking a relationship with God. As we continually strive to be "worthy of the Gospel of Christ," it is vital that we examine and prepare the Church for the future God has in store. Accordingly, Pastor Torian appointed a 16-member Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) to develop a five-year strategic plan. Throughout its year-long process, the SPC included members of, and worked in consultation with, leadership and the congregation. The FMZBC Strategic Plan 2018-2022 (SP 2022) was approved at the December 2017 Church meeting.

The Strategic Plan serves to strengthen our ability to achieve FMZBC's stated vision of *"Sharing the Light: From the Promise, to Pentecost, to Points Around the World"* and mission *"To connect people who have a desire to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ."* The SP 2022

- ◆ defines our direction (*where we want to go*)
- ◆ mandates that key ministries develop an Operations Plan (*how we will get there*)
- ◆ establishes guidelines for making decisions and allocating resources

The core of SP 2022 is to continue our campaign of *Ministry Beyond the Walls* while simultaneously reinforcing our internal operations. SP 2022 documents six strategic goals and highlights six focus areas. Several initiatives in these focus areas are already in progress, including our Mortgage Elimination Campaign, outreach support to the Bethesda Church in the Dominican Republic, and our pending audio-visual upgrade in the sanctuary.

In the fall, the SPC will continue its support to key ministries in the development of operations plans. The Operations Plan will identify specific tasks and activities ministries will complete to help achieve the goals of the SP 2022. All members are encouraged to contact their Zone leaders and/or Ministry leads to learn more about the process and offer assistance.

FMZBC - 6 Strategic Goals

1. Develop and implement programs that build and impact targeted local, state, regional, national, and international communities
2. Develop and equip members to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ
3. Enhance internal and external Church communication
4. Honor God through financial stewardship
5. Develop and maintain operational plans
6. Manage and upgrade Church facilities, infrastructure, equipment, and information technology

FMZBC - 6 Focus Areas 2018-2022

1. Increased means and capabilities for outreach
2. Upgraded facilities, equipment, and infrastructure
3. Enhanced member care
4. Maximized use of technology
5. Enhanced feedback between membership, ministries, and leadership
6. Increased training and equipping opportunities



Deacons' Ministry Reaching Community Beyond the Walls

by Deacon Michael Nelson

Every third month, the Deacons' Ministry at First Mount Zion Baptist Church supports the Community Outreach Dinner for the homeless provided by Streetlight Community Outreach Ministry. Since 2004, Streetlight has been working to feed the hungry and house the homeless in Prince William County and surrounding counties, with a staff of trained counselors and professionals. Its other programs aimed to alleviate suffering include a Supportive Housing Program, Food Pantry and Clothing Closet, and Homeless Campsite Outreach.

All ministries and congregation members are welcome to join us when we support this vital ministry. We serve dinner to all who come through their doors, and one of FMZ's associate ministers also accompanies us to share God's word in a short sermon of encouragement, hope and promise. In God, we all have an intrinsic value; and at FMZ, we demonstrate our commitment to helping each individual to rise above their present challenges to achieve independence and personal success by making ourselves available to serve others in need. You can make a difference!

Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, 'You have faith and I have works.' Show me your "faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works." – James 2:17-18

The Book of James reminds us that faith and works go hand in hand. As one writer puts it, "Faith alone saves but the faith that saves is never alone." At First Mount Zion, we are committed to a faith that naturally produces good works. Through our faithful service, we become the extended arms of God to humankind. We invite you to become an active part of the many ways that God is serving this community through the faithful servants of First Mount Zion Baptist Church.

The Deacons' Ministry began serving at Streetlight Ministries in 2012. The service is part of the outreach efforts of the Deacons and builds on the church theme from 2011, which was "Beyond the Walls". This outreach was part of a partnership with the Mary-Elizabeth Ministry's quarterly outreach, and involves 10 to 12 deacons and other servants to help serve food, participate in a sermonette, singing and worship. Street Light-Ministries is located at 1550 Prince William Parkway, Woodbridge, VA 22191.



Fall Ministry Retreats Set to Reflect, Fellowship and Refocus

Refreshed from the activity summer sabbatical for FMZ, Ministries are kicking off the Fall with retreats aimed to deepen fellowship and sharpen their focus on the year ahead.

The Women's Ministry will be the first to hit the road. Headed to Lancaster, Pa. for a lovely day outing on Saturday, Sept. 1, the second annual Girlfriend Day will include taking in the play, "Jesus" at Sight & Sound Theatre, shopping and lunch. Open to all women at FMZ, the relaxing getaway is an opportunity to bond as women. "We hope the women will enjoy the camaraderie while being blessed by the play. Hopefully,

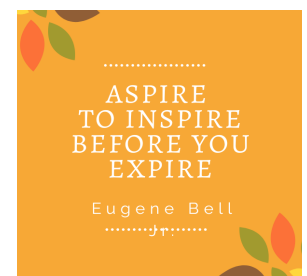
the trip will encourage women to continue to bond during our regular monthly fellowships when we get back," shared Director Linda Young.

The Men's Ministry will head to the majestic mountains in Gore, Va. for an overnight stay the following weekend, Sept. 7-8, at Pine Creek Retreat Center. Open to all men at FMZ, they will enjoy team-building activities, sharing testimonials by a bonfire, two dynamic speakers, and competitive fun in familiar board and card games. Their agenda is shaped under the theme, "Heirs to the Throne," based on Titus 3:3-7.

"It is a reminder to the men that they are not alone. No matter what they are facing in their lives, they remain solemnly entitled to the throne as a follower of Christ," Director Mark Jessup explained.

Supporting one another is also one of the goals of the Joint Leadership Retreat that same weekend, Sept. 6-8, under the theme, "Unity with Purpose." For the members of the Trustee, Deacons and Deaconesses Ministries that will be attending, their three-day stay at Turf Valley Resort in Ellicott City, Md. will be a time to connect while setting priorities and discussing how to assist one another in their shared mission in serving the congregation and providing Member Care.

May these Ministry retreats go forth covered by the Joint Leadership Retreat's Scripture focus: "Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be like minded, having the same love, [being] of one accord, of one mind (Philippians 2:2).



Welcome to the

Trustees' Corner. . .

We'd like to use this article to share some educational insight into the Trustee Ministry's areas of responsibility. The Trustees hold title to, and are responsible for, the physical property and the financial matters of the Church, but did you know that the requisites and qualifications of Deacons equally apply to Trustees (1 Timothy 3:8-11 & 1 Corinthians 4:2)? Additionally, each FMZBC Trustee must obtain Bonding Certification via the Judge of the Circuit Court, Prince William County, VA.

Our Mission is to ensure that the development, acquisition, maintenance and use of Church property, as well as the overall fiscal management of the Church is done in a manner that is above reproach and in such a way as to duly carry out the Church's mission. FMZBC's Constitution and By-Laws identifies some 25 official duties/responsibilities for the Trustee Ministry, as shared herein.

The Ministry accomplishes its work through a spirit of service to God through sound fiduciary practices that are above reproach and conducted on behalf of the First Mount Zion Baptist Church Congregation and in coordination with the Pastor, Church Staff and Ministries.

FINANCIAL

Receive and account for all monies belonging to the Church.

Keep separate accounts of all funds raised or contributed for particular purposes.

Receive, preserve, and pay out all money, keeping at all times an itemized account for all receipts and disbursements.

Pay bills promptly when a valid invoice accompanies said bill.

Disburse funds only for the purpose for which they were raised or contributed.

Disburse emergency funds in accordance with the Emergency Disbursement Policy.

Review and resolve issues related to unauthorized bills.

Disburse benevolence funds, as authorized by the Deacon Ministry.

Make written financial reports and recommendations to the Church body at Church business meetings and at such other times as may be directed by the Church body.

Upon receipt of the Treasurer's report, the books shall be submitted for an annual audit at the February meeting of the church.

Hold in trust all property belonging to the Church.

Recommend the bank wherein the funds of the Church shall be deposited.

Approve all bills authorized by the Church for buildings, grounds, and other property before payments are made.

Refer all financial matters not covered by the budget to a Church meeting for the expression of its will.

LEGAL

Perform such other legal duties as are imposed by the Church and State.

FAITH

Manifest full cooperation with the Church leadership and support Church-approved programs.

Be faithful in attendance of all Church services.

Be faithful in attending prayer service, Bible class, Sunday School, and Leadership training.

Be faithful in the giving of tithes and offerings.

Be steadfast in the work of personal evangelism.

PROPERTY and FACILITIES

Take necessary measures to protect, manage, and maintain the Church's property.

Provide advice on liability and appropriate use of church property, whenever non-FMZBC members request use of the Church building.

When Authorized by the Church, buy, mortgage, lease, and transfer Church property.

Provide advice on liability and appropriate use of church property, whenever non-FMZBC members request use of the Church building.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Secure the services of a custodian by contract after approval by the Church.

Secure the services of Church employees after approval by the Church.



FMZBC -
Exhibiting a Spirit of Excellence!



Mission Accomplished!

This summer, God commissioned 20 missionaries to participate in the building of His Kingdom! On July 14-20, The CORE (FMZ's Young Adult Ministry) traveled to Villa Hermosa, Dominican Republic to take part in God's work. During this week-long assignment, 15 young adults and five spiritual guides worked to complete three

projects: the distribution of water filters to 25 Haitian immigrant households previously without clean water; mixing and pouring a concrete floor for the Bethesda Church; and cutting metal for the installation of windows for the Church as well. Additionally, the missionaries attended Sunday Worship, led Praise & Worship on Tuesday night, and taught Bible Study. In reflecting on this life-changing journey, the common theme for all who shared in this experience was "GRATI-TUDE for the opportunity to spread the love of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!" Even though there was a language barrier, the missionaries were pleasantly surprised at how God's love was reflected back at them

through the smiles, warm embraces, laughter, and prayers shared by the people of Villa Hermosa. The CORE is eternally grateful for the opportunity to step outside of their comfort zones to serve and honor God in ways that they never imagined.

Center
Of a



Righteous
Empire



To connect with the
CORE, please email
Chair Roconia Price at
thecore@firstmountzionbc.org



**"Language
was not a
barrier. We
were all
speaking the
language of
love. The
Spirit of God
translated."**



"No matter where you go, God is still God."



"I laid a new foundation of my faith."



**"God will always lead us in the right path to make
us lesser and Him greater."**



**"Be prepared for things to go God's Way
and not your own."**



Let the REVIVAL begin in YOU!!!



Rev. Etoria Goggins



Dr. Jerome H. Ross



Dr. John Kinney

Revival 2018 consisted of six days of inspiring wisdom and encouraging exhortation from three powerful guest preachers who kicked off our Revival. The consistent theme throughout was one of encouragement to us to trust in God's provision and stand firm on His promises; respect all and care more; be ready, willing and humble servants committed to an authentic covenant with God, who are seeking to fulfill the desires of God so that our presence brings greater life to people and circumstances around us.

Rev. Etoria Goggins opened the floodgates at our Sunday 8:00 a.m. Service with "Who Cares", reminding us that the distinctive mark of a Christian community is love, but love is not an automatic byproduct of a church; we create it by our choice to do things God's Way – a Love that makes a difference in someone's life, a Love that transforms lives. Christ called us to change the world, not just our Church. Real love is identified by action. God calls us to care; even in inconvenient times, we have to care more. She followed up at the 11:00 a.m. Service with "Stand Strong", emboldening us that even though answers to our prayers might get blocked and progress in our lives impeded, nothing can abort the anointing of God in our lives. God is seeking Believers who want something different; who want a fire put in their souls; who are willing to be broken, melted and molded into something new. When we are exhausted in mind, body and spirit, we must humble ourselves to receive understanding because God will send a message to touch, restore and refresh us. Put on the whole armor of God and just stand until God's blessings are revealed in our lives.

Then came Dr. Jerome Ross, who lit up the audience with his message entitled "The Lord Is My Shepherd", impressing

upon us that there is nothing we can imagine that the Lord does not supply. We should never want; we should not want - the providence of the Lord negates need and prohibits

probate. We must have an all-exclusive trust and voluntarily share His Grace everywhere, sowing bountifully. Show up, serve and sacrifice. Sow to the Spirit and you will reap eternal life. Then he dug even

deeper with his message on Tuesday night entitled "Helped By A Harlot". He reminded us that anybody can help us if given a chance. There is good in the worst of us and bad in the best of us. All people are the Lord's by means of His Grace and Mercy, especially those who help others, and we should practice being kind to all. He closed out his assignment on Wednesday evening with a stirring message entitled "With An Ox-Goad". He cautioned us to be careful of exercising our authority in God's operation and conflating His Will with human agendas. Little is much in the hands of the Lord. He uses the least likely and lesser known. He just needs trusting and willing servants. We must ready ourselves for the service of the Lord.

Dr. John Kinney was our final speaker. He compelled us to "Feel The Fire", reminding us that our faith will not always lead to favor, but that it will bring fire because we dare to commit ourselves to God. We must make a commitment to an authentic covenant with God, and not our comfort; we must be willing to go through hell while others are bowing down. Neither circumstances nor conditions determine our relationship with God because He can alter the intended outcome of any consequence. Then, he brought the Revival to a bold conclusion with the message titled: "Working My Way Back To You". He reminded us that this is not the world that God created or ordained. We must get beyond the things that divide us. We have God's immutable imprint and we need to honor God's work instead of competing and hurting one another. Our presence should bring greater life. Our identity is in our creation, not our location, situation or interpretation. No one can place a limitation on our elevation or destination.

We were truly blessed by these three Vessels whom God used to revive us and to strengthen us to move forward knowing that the joy of the Lord is our strength.

Revival Videos are available on our Website at www.fmzbc.com.

Dr. Luke E. Torian, Pastor
 Sylvia Moore, Executive Assistant
 Rev. Sandra K. James, Assistant Pastor
 Karen Davis, Chair, Trustee Ministry
 Brodrick Wilcox, Chair, Deacon Ministry
 Claudia Woolfolk, Chair,
 Deaconess Ministry
 Renee Woolfolk, Church Business
 Administrator

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Sunday Worship Service Schedule

Sunday School – 7:00 AM (Adults Only)
 First Service – 8:00 AM
 Sunday School – 9:45 AM (All Ages)
 Second Service – 11:00 AM
 Children's Church – 11:00 AM

Wednesday Worship Service Schedule

Praise and Worship – 7:30 PM
 Bible Study – 8:00 PM

Quarterly Wednesday Worship Service Schedule

Praise and Worship – 7:30 PM
 Worship Service with Associate
 Ministers – 8:00 PM

Fifth Sunday Unity Worship Service Schedule

Sunday School – 8:30 AM
 Worship Service – 10:00 AM

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FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/fmzbcDumfries>
 INSTAGRAM: <https://www.instagram.com/explore/locations/253352672/first-mount-zion-baptist-church/>
 TWITTER: <https://twitter.com/fmzbc1>
 VIMEO: <https://vimeo.com/25203195>

REMINDER: All articles for submission must be received no later than the 15th of every month for inclusion in the upcoming Newsletter. Please email articles to: cpm@firstmountzionbc.org or click http://bit.ly/FMZBC_Articles

IF YOU NEED
 TRANSPORTATION
 TO/FROM CHURCH,
 PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE AT
 (703) 670-0184
 MONDAY - FRIDAY,
 8 A.M. - 5 P.M. TO
 SCHEDULE A RIDE!!