Happy Father’s Day:
Fatherhood is a Privilege!

Genesis 18:19 For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.

Abraham was known as the ‘father of many nations’ and we read of his struggles and challenges as a father. Yet he trusted God! A father is responsible for bringing his children up in the ways of the Lord, to discipline and to encourage, comfort, love and instruct them. God made you a father for a purpose and plan. It is a privilege that is not for the faint of heart. God’s Word instructs us in the lessons of fatherhood. We are encouraged to follow the examples of our heavenly Father and when we do not get it right, we seek God for forgiveness and a second chance.

On this Father’s Day, I pray that we will set good godly examples for our children, making it easy for them to honor and love us. Malachi 4:6 says…”And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers”…that is the privilege and the blessing making every day a Happy Father’s Day.

Living in God’s Assurance,
Pastor Luke E. Torian
Meet our Clergy

Reverend Dr. T. J. Owens

Reverend Tomomi J. Owens is a native of McGehee, Arkansas. He is the 12th of 14 children born to the Reverends Artis and Bonnie Owens. T.J. accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior, and was baptized at an early age. T.J. left home and joined the military after completing high school in 1988.

Reverend Owens received his Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Campbell University in 2003, Master of Divinity degree from Regent University in 2006, Masters in Management and Leadership from Webster University in 2009, Master of Public Health degree from George Mason University in 2019 and Doctor of Ministry from Regent University in 2017. In 2003, he acknowledged his call to preach and teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and was later licensed and ordained.

Reverend Owens retired from the military after 24 years of active service in the United States Marine Corps. He serves as an Associate Minister, also teaches 11th and 12th grade Sunday School, and instructs new members on the subjects of salvation and sanctification.

Reverend Owens is a devoted husband, proud father of six wonderful children, Danita, Karrington, Joey, Tomieka, Kamryn, and Daniette. He and his wife, Jizelle, live in Stafford, Virginia where she works as a teacher for Stafford County Public Schools where their two youngest children attend.

Study of the Word (the second of our 4-step strategy)

“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (II Timothy 2:15)

At First Mount Zion, we are committed to the diligent study and presentation of God’s Word. Throughout the Bible, God challenges and commands us to be diligent in our studies of His Word. In Greek, the word “study” as used in the verse above means to “exert oneself, to endeavor or give diligence to,” which suggests that the path to fruitful Bible study requires commitment and discipline on our part. We encourage you to develop your own personal Bible study time as a part of your daily devotion and meditation. We offer several opportunities and settings for the study of God’s Word by way of various ministry meetings and activities, Sunday School, Small Group meetings, weekly Bible Study and as a cohort with Princeton Theological Seminary. We hope you will be encouraged in knowing that, though people are at different levels in their spiritual growth, we are all striving to show ourselves approved unto God.

God’s Word is relevant for all our days.

David Jeremiah

Registration for Vacation Bible School continues through June 16th (or until all slots are filled). VBS will be held June 24-28, 2019, 8:00am-12:30pm. Children ages 4 through 12th grade are invited to register; children must be 4 years old by June 24th.

NEW in 2019, registration is online ONLY at vbspro.events/p/fmzbcvbs2019. Our program is Whoosh: Take Flight to Where God Leads You; where children will commit to Dream with God, Remember God’s miracles, Praise the Lord, Learn from Jesus, and always Begin with Faith! Volunteers are still needed; screening is mandatory; last day to attend is May 18. Please contact Carmia Salcedo (703-307-6296) or Kim Nelson (202-520-8016), or email them with any questions at: vbs@firstmountzionbc.org
Happy Father's Day! The father of a righteous child has great joy; a man who fathers a wise son rejoices in him.
– Proverbs 23:24 (NIV)

Happy Father's Day to all the fathers, grandfathers, uncles, brothers and men at First Mount Zion Baptist Church! We honor you for living righteously, walking in integrity and your watchful hand in stewarding the lives of the children you and your loved ones have borne into this world or adopted. It takes a special man to be a father to the fatherless and a defender of widows—and your sacrifices have not gone unseen. We take a moment to recognize a few fathers who have been or are currently serving in leadership roles whose children follow in their footsteps in blessing others through their servant-leadership. The pages of this Newsletter are not sufficient to shine the light on all FMZ fathers whose children actively serve in ministry. This page is a mere representation of the powerful collective fatherhood that has stewarded lives within our congregation for more than 150 years. You are loved. You are admired. May today bring you joy!

Trustee Murray Parker and son, Jeff, Motorcycle Ministry Chair
Deacon Jacob Ojumu and daughter, Kemi, Assistant Church Clerk
Deacon Emeritus Camillus Sessoms and daughter, Pam, Professional Women Small Group Leader
Deacon Kavin Johnson and daughter Staci, Youth Council
Veteran Usher Fred Fortune and daughter Maxine Dufore, Trustee
Associate Minister Rev. John Akanni and daughter, Folashade, CORE Ministry
The Deacons Ministry congratulates Zone L-1 Member, Attorney Keith Harrison, on being recognized by the Washington Business Journal as one of 28 Washington Metropolitan Area’s Minority Business Leaders for 2019! Honored at the newspaper’s recent 12th annual event at MGM National Harbor, he becomes one of 250 Washington Business Journal Alumni who have stood tall and built a successful business in their fields.

His career spans three decades. After graduating from the University of Virginia Law School, he went on to work in the New York District Attorney’s office for four years before moving back to his native D.C. area in 1988. A partner at Crowell & Moring LLP, Bro. Harrison oversees the international law firm’s pro bono legal cases, wherein he is currently supporting the NAACP in its lawsuit against the State of Alabama for having a voting system for appellate judges that disenfranchises Black voters. He is also a partner in the firm’s Health Care and Litigation practice groups.

Bro. Harrison possesses a humble spirit and strong willpower to succeed. He has shown relentless encouragement to youth considering a legal profession as a career. “It’s a great opportunity for folks who want to make an impact on their community and our changing and challenging society,” shared Bro. Harrison, who is also the Chairman of the nonprofit BEST Kids Inc.

First Mount Zion might remember him providing excellent member care to his late father, Colonel Oscar Harrison, who had a memorable military career serving as a combat veteran in World War II, Korea and Vietnam, and received the Bronze Star and Legion of Merit awards. Col. Harrison had previously enlisted in a segregated army during World War II and rose to the rank of full Colonel.

The Deacons Ministry congratulates Brother and Attorney Keith Harrison, and kudos go also to his wife Sara, daughters Nicole and Alisa, step-daughter, Lourdes and stepson, Arias. His brother Larry, who resides in California, witnessed the event and also joined First Mount Zion.

Truly, a job well done, thy member care servant!!!

Submitted by Deacon Quinton Lynch
Zone L-1

“My father didn’t tell me how to live. He lived, and let me watch him do it.”

A product of FMZ, Nathanael is the son of Deacon Michell Clark and Mrs. Sue Clark (Church Clerk).

This article was written by Peter McElhinney and published on April 21, 2019, in STYLE WEEKLY, The Next Generation.

“Nathanael (Nate) Clark grew up in Woodbridge, a Washington bedroom community known more for quiet, upscale neighborhoods than a dynamic music scene. After finding out that he was not a born trumpeter in middle school, he switched to reeds. “My older brother played clarinet,” Clark says, “so I went with alto saxophone.”

He majored in jazz studies at VCU and liked it from the beginning. “When I was a freshman, there were students there like Trey Sorrells and Logan Beaver, who could really play the saxophone,” he says. The experience was daunting, as when he was tasked with sight-reading unfamiliar music by the intimidatingly brilliant Doug Richards. "I left that class pretty beaten down. I knew I had to meet a whole new standard."

Now he’s a regular on the local scene. Like Frierson, he plays in Weekend Plans, and often shows up in the lineup of pop-up groups at Ellwood Thompson Local Market or Vagabond. "I enjoy working [my day job] at BK Music on South Side," Clark says. "But I would love to make all my income making music. My goal used to be to tour, but now I am not so sure. I'm happy when I am playing with people I like and admire. Such great friends, so much history, creates a wonderful chemistry."

Nathanael now lives and works with music in Richmond, Virginia.
The Discipline of Simplicity - Part II (cont’d)

Having discussed in previous articles the four Inward Disciplines which will improve your spiritual life, we will now focus on the four Outward Disciplines: Simplicity, Solitude, Submission and Service. These will reveal what you need to do to improve the world around you.

The first of the outward disciplines is Simplicity and it is dependent on inward focus. Without placing inner focus on those things God desires for a person, it becomes impossible to simplify life in the manner He desires.

The central point for the Discipline of Simplicity is to seek the kingdom of God and the righteousness of His kingdom first and then everything necessary will come in its proper order. It is impossible to overestimate the importance of Jesus’ insight at this point. Everything hinges upon maintaining the “first thing as first.” Nothing must come before the Kingdom of God, including the desire for a simple lifestyle.

Simplicity itself becomes idolatry when it takes precedence over seeking the kingdom. In a particularly penetrating comment on this passage of Scripture, Søren Kierkegaard considers what sort of effort could be made to pursue the Kingdom of God. Should a person get a suitable job in order to exert a virtuous influence? His answer: no, we must first seek God’s kingdom. Then should we give away all our money to feed the poor? Again, the answer: no, we must first seek God’s Kingdom. Well, then, perhaps we are to go out and preach this truth to the world that people are to seek first God’s Kingdom? Once again, the answer is a resounding: no, we are first to seek the Kingdom of God. Kierkegaard concludes, then, in a certain sense, it is nothing I shall do. Yes. JUST SEEK THE KINGDOM OF GOD FIRST (Matt. 6:33) Selah!!

The Discipline of Simplicity is spirit-empowering!!! Stay tuned for Part III in next month’s issue of the Newsletter.

Leadership Chaplains

“Anyone can be a father, but it takes someone special to be a dad, and that’s why I call you dad, because you are so special to me. You taught me the game and you taught me how to play it right.”
**Deaconess Ministry Highlight - Tina Coates**

On Saturday, May 11th, Deaconess Tina Coates served as the keynote guest speaker at St. James Baptist Church’s Women’s Ministry Annual Pre-Mother’s Day Tea in Bealeton, Va. She spoke on the topic: “Women Worthy of Honor and Praise” referencing Proverbs 31:10-31. She took the attendees through a historical journey of heroic women in the Bible - Rahab, Deborah, Naomi, Hannah, Abigail, Vashti and Lydia, highlighting their character, faith, divine purposes, leadership and influence.

“It’s important to be reminded of God’s call for all women to live out the characteristics outlined in Proverbs 31,” said Deaconess Coates, adding that her mother and grandmothers exemplified the virtues mentioned. She ended her presentation by asking the audience who did they know that exhibited the character described in Proverbs 31; and lovingly challenged everyone to leave a legacy living as women worthy of praise and honor who reverently fear our Mighty Lord God.

So what will be your legacy? Do others see you as a woman of God? Will you ask the Lord in prayer to show you? Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that fears the Lord, shall be praised.” Proverbs 31:30

Submitted by Deaconess Vietta Williams

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**SENIORS’ MINISTRY IS THRIVING**

The Seniors Ministry is on the move. We meet bi-monthly for fellowship, fun, the Word, and a delicious meal prepared by the Grain of Heaven. Each month is filled with activities in concert with the busy lives that Seniors lead. On April 17, 2019, we had our annual baby shower benefitting the FMZ Mary Elizabeth Ministry. Several gifts were donated, which included hundreds of diapers, wipes, clothes, shoes, baby products, and even baby food, all of which will be donated to the expectant teen mothers participating in Mary Elizabeth Ministry’s New Beginnings Program this spring. We enjoyed an awesome lunch and then played fun games where the winners received lots of prizes. This event was enjoyed by all. In our May gathering, we were blessed by a word from Dr. Tracey Dawkins Holley on the Body, Soul and Mind and this gave clarity to some of us who were not quite clear on some of the differences. We thank Dr. Holley for sharing with us. Join us for our end of the year Luau on June 19, 2019!

POC: Mary Melton/Shirley Hardy or seniorsministry@firstmountzionbc.org
As I thought about the youth’s presence in the Church, I was reminded of Jeremiah 1: 4-7. It reads: “Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying: ‘Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.’ Then said I: ‘Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth. ’ But the Lord said to me: ‘Do not say, ‘I am a youth,’ For you shall go to all whom I send you, And whatever I command you, you shall speak.’”

What an amazing reminder that God’s power, grace, and anointing have no age limit. Whatever God has called us to do, He will equip us with everything that we need. God tells Jeremiah not to worry, for He will be with him wherever he goes and He will give him the words to speak. God reassured Jeremiah and reminded him that his assignment would not be completed in his own strength but in the strength and power of God.

Our youth have some awesome, breathtaking, one-of-a-kind gifts to share with the world in ways that honor God. What’s even more amazing is that we know that God will cover and equip them with whatever they may lack as they continue to discover who they are in Christ.

Rev. Kara Franklin-Taylor
Sunday School Youth Division Director

The First Mount Zion Baptist Church Men’s Ministry has been busy gathering outside the walls of the Church to show that we enjoy fellowship and fun with other brothers throughout Maryland, DC, Virginia, and across the country. In just the first few months of this year, brothers have attended the Mighty Men of Valor Conference at First Baptist Church of Glenarden, MD; gone to the movies to see Dr. Tony Evans documentary, “Kingdom Men Rising: No More Excuses!”; had fun on bowling night; continued with our outreach at The Fisher House at Fort Belvoir, and recently had our Prayer Breakfast at Old Country Buffet. Our next event will be the Annual Men’s Cookout held here at the church on June 8th. We hope to see you there...and BRING A FRIEND! God Bless!

For more information on the Ministry and events, email: mensministry@firstmountzionbc.org
When I was asked to write a few words about myself in light of completing my Doctorate degree in Ministry (DMin), I was hesitant; hesitant because I consider myself to be fairly quiet relative to personal and public announcements. I am not one who lives my life out on social media or one who broadcasts all that is happening in my life. Now, for the record, that is not a criticism of those who do. It just hasn’t been my way! But, I am thankful to the Newsletter staff, my First Mount Zion Baptist Church family, and the Christian Education Department ministries for the ways in which you have loved, supported, and prayed for me over the years. I am thankful to Rev. Torian for telling me early on, “You’ll get it done.”

So, on Saturday, May 11, 2019, with the help of the Lord, “I got it done.” I walked across the stage at Virginia Union University (VUU) to receive my Doctorate degree from the Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology (STVU). It was an amazing day, not only because of graduation, but also because it was my mother’s 73rd birthday. What an awesome gift the Lord allowed me to give her.

As I stood by the VUU pillar on Friday, May 10 before the Baccalaureate service, my daughter took this picture. I didn’t know that I was standing in the sun. As a matter of fact, it was a cool afternoon. After the picture was taken, we noticed how the sun beamed through the pillar and appeared to rest upon me and even cover me. I was reminded that I was not only standing in the sun, but that I was standing in the “Son.” I was reminded of God’s goodness, grace, mercy, love and favor over the life of a little girl, born and raised in the inner city of Detroit, Michigan. I was reminded of why the Lord had saved me and spared my life many years ago and I began to praise the Lord for how the Lord has moved in the life of my family – covering, healing, and protecting us.

The verbal expressions of pride and weeping from my children took us to an emotional place that we’d never experienced before. My love for my husband made my heart dance! My thanksgiving for my mom’s presence was overwhelming and my appreciation for my dear friends who came to witness the occasion was heartwarming. Only God knows the journey I’ve endured, not only these past three years but throughout my life.

My motto is, “had it not been for the Lord on my side, where would I be.” The ministry scripture that keeps me grounded and reminds me that God is yet at work in and through me is Philippians 1:6, “being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in [me] will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.” The Lord is not through with me yet and I am excited to see the next chapter of my life and how my family will be further used to God’s glory. No matter what, it is my desire to always remain a humble servant who pleases the Lord; loves and cares for my family and friends; and who blesses God’s people here at First Mount Zion, throughout the community, and around the world.

TO GOD BE ALL THE GLORY!

AEM Awards 20 First Mount Zion Scholarships

Each year, First Mount Zion allocates funds to the Academic Education Ministry (AEM) for the purpose of awarding scholarships. The Scholarship Committee, which is a sub-committee of the AEM, oversees the Scholarship Award process and is responsible for evaluating scholarship applications from members who are graduating from high school and intend to further their education at institutions of higher learning. Institutions of higher learning include, but are not limited to, colleges, universities, community colleges, and technical schools.

In order to qualify for the First Mount Zion Baptist Church (FMZBC) Scholarship, the student must have been a member of FMZBC for one year and must have participated in a church ministry within the past six months prior to the April 15th application deadline.

This year the Scholarship Committee evaluated scholarship applications on April 20, 2019 and recommended approval on 20 applications. The scholarship applications are evaluated for conformity to the Scholarship Packet instructions and are rated on a point system. A student is deemed a “Scholar” or an “Achiever” based on the number of points received. A “Scholar” is normally awarded a higher monetary scholarship in recognition of their higher point total.

The Scholarship Committee is proud of all the students and is pleased to announce that this year’s evaluation revealed 11 Scholars and nine Achievers.

The 20 scholarship recipients attend 11 different high schools including schools in Prince William County, Stafford County, and Spotsylvania County (Fredericksburg). Members of the AEM coordinate with the high schools to attend each high school’s Senior Awards Program and present the First Mount Zion Scholarship to our students. The first scholarship was presented by Brother Kenneth and Sister Malinda Spencer at Riverbend High School in Fredericksburg on May 7th. The last awards program is scheduled for June 6th at Mountain View High School in Stafford.

Over the years, the AEM presenters have noticed that FMZBC is usually the only faith-based organization/church presenting scholarships at the various awards programs. This demonstrates FMZBC’s commitment to our youth and their educational endeavors. What a joy it is to share this evening with our students and to let them know that their Church family is proud of them.

“Brother Gerry Griffin, AEM Chair
The MESSENGER

Emmanuel Walker  Christian Daniels  Samantha Lynne Jackson  John William Ezzard  Kennedie Lyles  Cameron Markel Bernard Hughes

Jeremiah K. Jones  Makala Crawford  Kevin Lyles  Reagan D. Harris  Dennis Charles Daniels, Jr.  Tiana Rollins

Tyler Howard  Deijah Jones  Diego Cobb  Gabrielle Alexis Cornelius  Charles S. Tapp III  N'Dya Monique Kendall

Roseanne M.D. Billingsley  Christopher Noah Weaver  Joycelyn Carter  Matthew Mitchell  Kyra Ann McCall  Christopher Cook

Sydney Banks  Sydney Livingston  Rajaa Derrick  Joelleen Amonoo  Cory Diggs  Kayla Renae Moore

Class of 2019

VISION: Sharing the Light: From the Promise, to Pentecost, to Points Around the World
The MESSENGER

Mission: To connect people who have a desire to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ

June 2, 2019
Volume 15 • Issue 6

Class of 2019

Congratulations on your GRADUATION

Tony Ragin, AA
Alexis Green, B.A.
Arnita Best, B.A.
Reina Dufore, B.A.
Carmen Wilson, B.A.
Jourdan Boutte, B.A.

Jasmine Holliday, B.Sc.
Winston Jamal Burgess
Tamia Wallace, B.A. (2)
Kelsey C. Crimiel, B.A.
Gabrielle Renee Woolfolk, B.S.
Brielle Entzminger, B.A.

Janell Garland, M.S.
Joshua Simmons, B.A.
Imani Adams, B.A.
Jordan Banks, M.S.
Charles S. Tapp II, M.A.
Marianne D’Antonio-Hunt, MAcc

Rev. Tracey Dawkins Holley DMin
Dennis M. Crimiel, Sr. MACE
Rev. Tony J. Craddock, Sr. DMin
Dr. Mercy Ojumu DNP
Youth Worship Service Participants:

All youth (6th to 12th Grade) have the opportunity to participate in the Sunday Worship Services by leading the responsive reading, morning prayer or offertory prayer.

Note: 12th graders should reach out before departing for college, professional workforce or military.

If you are interested, please contact Rev. John McNeill at 703-670-0184.

Youth Bible Study on Wednesdays: We will explore the meaning of life and what it means to be a Christian. Come and ask the question(s) that you’ve always had about the Bible. Learn how to do the right things for the right reasons. Discover how to please God. “The Christian Life” is the general theme for our Wednesday night study. See you there! Bring a friend.

If you are interested in serving with the Children’s Ministry - Kids Kingdom, which runs from September -June, we encourage you to be part of our Ministry by sharing your giftedness.

Children’s Church Guidelines:

Nursery - 12 months - 3 years
Children’s Church - 3 years (potty trained) and up.

Please contact Michelle Wallace at: childrensMinistry@firstmountzionbc.org or 240-602-5929.

Kids Kingdom provides children (pre K-5th grade) a place where kids are taught about their royalty in Christ Jesus. This is a wonderful opportunity for children to worship in a safe, age-appropriate, and fun environment.

VBS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to join Team VBS 2019. Through Whoosh: Take Flight to Where God Leads You, Hebrews 11:8. Children will discover with NEW eyes, a GREAT and AWESOME God and be DELIGHTED to realize how VALUABLE they are in Jesus Christ!

Join us June 24-28, 2019 from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to make Vacation Bible School 2019 a success. Please contact Carmia Salcedo (703-307-6296) or Kim Nelson at (202-520-8016) or send email to: vbs@firstmountzionbc.org.

SINGLES’ MINISTRY SCHEDULE

The Singles’ Ministry meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month. Upcoming meeting date is: June 25th - Tues 7pm

SUBMISSIONS FOR NEWSLETTER:

All members are encouraged to submit articles, photos, and events for inclusion in the Newsletter. Please be sure to clear all submissions with your Ministry Leader before sending to the Communications and Publicity Ministry. Submissions should not exceed 300-350 words and must be received no later than 12 noon on the 15th of each month to be considered for the upcoming newsletter. Please note that we reserve the right to edit as necessary.

Submissions should be sent to: cpm1@firstmountzionbc.org

We look forward to your participation!! Thank you!

Communications and Publicity Ministry

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

16622 Dumfries Road
Dumfries, Virginia 22025-1920
Telephone: 703-670-0184
Email: fmzbc@firstmountzionbc.org
Website: www.fmzbc.com

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 Bible Study Schedule

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

Monthly Wednesday Worship Service Schedule (last Wednesday of each month)

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

Connect with us on Social Media:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/fmzbc Dumfries
Twitter: @fmzbc1
Instagram: @thecore_fmzbc
Vimeo: vimeo.com.25203195

If you need transportation to/from Church, please call the Administrative Office: (703) 670-0184

MONDAY - FRIDAY
8:30 A.M. - 5 P.M.
TO SCHEDULE A RIDE

Thank you!
We look forward to your participation!! Thank you!

Communications and Publicity Ministry