

WHAT IS YOUR "NEW THING?"

Is. 43:18-19: "Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old.¹⁹ Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness And rivers in the desert.

Reflecting on the words of the Prophet Isaiah, and this past year, it is reassuring to know that God is still in control and has not forgotten us.

The former or old things are in the past. We continue to weather the old things of a global pandemic and life as we once knew it, yet, as we move forward, we grow stronger. Things have changed. Ministry, as we knew it, changed; family and social gatherings, as we knew them, changed; travel and work changed; but the only constant has been our Sovereign God, whose mercies are new every morning with great faithfulness.

Hence the question...What is your "new thing?" Do you recognize it? Will you know it? Maybe it is a new relationship? A new job/career? A new car or home? Maybe it is a new normal? Or maybe it is a new perspective on life and what is really important. Maybe it is a new or renewed relationship with Christ. Whatever your new thing is, prayerfully it will bless you, bless others and bring glory to God.

It is God who is doing the new thing and I pray we do not miss it as a community of faith. We have been tremendously blessed, and God has been extremely good to us...making roads in our wilderness and rivers in our deserts. The next "new thing" will be the return of Christ and the final judgment of all things.

> We Are STRONGER Together, Pastor Luke E. Torian

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VIRGINIA TALENTED TEEN CAPTURES CROWN (ZONE M2)

Alexandria Hunter, Virginia Talented Teen, takes home the national crown. The James Madison University Freshman is pursuing a Bachelor of Music in vocal performance. Alex performed "L'ho Perduta" from Mozart's opera Le Nozze di Figaro for the talent portion of the competition.

Congratulations!

More at Miss Black USA Talented Teen







Message to Our Youth GREETINGS YOUNG DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST

Title: God Faithfully Cares for His People

Scripture: Joshua 2:1-24

After reading Joshua 2:1-24, keep this in mind:

- 1. God provides for and protects His people, so depend on Him.
- 2. God keeps His word and His purpose is accomplished, so follow and seek His directions.

To summarize the story, Joshua sent two men to see and to search the land that God had promised and provided for the children of Israel, the people of God. God kept them safe in spite of the danger that existed in the land. God kept the two scouts safe on Rahab's roof and in the mountains. God also kept Rahab safe with the signal of the "scarlet cord."

Saturday night, I opened a pack of Lincoln Logs to build a farm with my son, John III. Our goal was to build a farm for the farmer and his animals without the instructions. We ended up with a disassembled mess. The house was half built with a lot of unused pieces. So, we tried it again and followed the instructions word-for-word. We reflected on the difference. The first attempt left us with unused pieces. The second one was well put together. All of the pieces were used to accomplish our purpose of providing a new home for the farmer and the animals. God, too, provides the instructions for His people to accomplish His purpose.

It is important for you to know that God cares for you and will provide helpful directions through life.

Reverend John C. McNeill, Jr. Youth Minister



The Mighty Men of Valor met via Zoom on March 13, 2021 for their monthly fellowship. The pandemic has not deterred the camaraderie, discussions, and sharing of the Word. In addition to lots of kidding and catching up, the men received a rousing message from Associate Minister, Rev. Gillis Taylor, based on the Book of James 4:11 (NKJV)

There were 67 Brothers on the Zoom, including brothers from Colorado and points across the country and DMV. Our next session will be **April 10**, **2021 at 9:00 AM** via Zoom. We are also planning more opportunities to fellowship and will share that information with you as soon as it is available. If you have any questions, please reach us via email at:

mensministry@firstmountzionbc.org

Bro. Edward Jones Director





HUNGRY FOR THE WORD ZONES K AND N CANSTRUCTION PROJECT

Hungry for The Word Small Group and **Zones K and N** participated in a Canstruction food drive to refill the Fredericksburg Regional Food Bank. The group was eager and excited to do this project as it reflects our values and our commitment to Christ to feed the poor and the hungry in our community. The project was a competition designed to restock the food bank while challenging each participating team to show their cre-ativity by building a structure with the cans.



Our collection kicked off March 1 and concluded on March 19th. In order to ob-tain our goal of 500 cans, we reached out to our sister zones for help. Before we knew it, zones K1, K3, K5 and N and several neighbors came through and we were off to a great start surpassing our goal with over 1200 cans collected. On March 20, 2021, Hungry for The Word hauled our can foods and met at the home of one of our Small Group/K4 mem-bers to fellowship and to build our can structure, always maintaining social distancing. This is where the fun begins; for our entry we spelled our church theme 'We Are Stronger Together' with the shape of a cross in the middle all using the cans. As you can imagine, with so many different opinions there was much laughter and fun. After much shifting and shaping of cans, our structure was finally completed. On Sunday the 21st of March we delivered the donated food to the Fredericksburg Food Bank. We are proud to say our Small Group/K4 Zone, with the wonderful support of our sister Zones, provided 1,495 lbs. of food for those in need. While the CANSTRUCTION project is a competition, for us it was living out the principal behind our Four Step Strategy of Service and in keeping with the FMZBC Theme of "We Are Stronger Together" Ecclesiastes 4:9. So, even through a pandemic, we must continue to be a light for others.

The Fredericksburg Food Bank CANSTRUCTION structures will be on the Fredericksburg Regional Food Bank Facebook page from April1-4 for the public to vote for People's Choice. All winners will be announced on Monday April 5. You can view the various structures all teams completed and, of course, please support the FMZBC Zone K4 Hungry for the Word team.



Fran & HL Barner, Avril & Dave Jarvis, Cheryl & Jeff Manning , Annie & Andre Robinson, Kishema & Charles Tapp Joe Dunbar



In Celebration of the 26th Anniversary of Our Pastor, Reverend Dr. Luke E. Torian, the First Mount Zion Family will host the following events:



May 21st – 7pm * Family & Friends Night with Comedienne Tanya Lewis

> May 23rd -11am Worship Service

May 23rd – 3PM–4PM Drive-Thru

(CONT'D ON PAGE 3)



*Those of you who would like to send congratulations to the Pastor, please record a 30-second (or less) message to be shown during the Family & Friends Night, no later than April 15, 2021, and upload your video to <u>https://tinyurl.com/pastortorian26th</u> - Turn phone/tablet sideways before recording!

OPENING OF THE Dr. Luke E. Torian Pastoral Library

Following the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service on Sunday, March 28, 2021, a handful of members, along with the Facilities Department and the Pastor's Aide Ministry, were a part of the official ceremony and presentation of plaque to Pastor Torian signifying the opening of the Dr. Luke E. Torian Pastoral Library. Bro. Walter Holmes gave the initial remarks, followed by Sis. Oonagh Bell, Chair of the Pastor's Aide Ministry, who presented the plaque to Dr. Torian, along with a few words of recognition of his accomplishments.

The Pastor then did the official cutting of the ribbon signifying the Grand Opening of the Library and made some remarks. This was a momentous occasion in the Ministry here at First Mount Zion and we are all proud of our Pastor. May God continue to bless him as he leads this Ministry!





"MY ALMA MATER WAS BOOKS, A GOOD LIBRARY.... I COULD SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE READING, JUST SATISFYING MY CURIOSITY." - MALCOLM X









BETTER TOGETHER

As we close our recognition of deaf history month, we should look at how God instructed us to treat the deaf in Lev. 19:14. "You shall not curse the **deaf**, nor put a stumbling block before the blind, but shall fear your God: I am the Lord."

As a hearing person you might inadvertently not follow this edict simply due to lack of knowledge of the deaf culture. The hearing population is often aware of the practices of other cultures such as the African American culture. For example, Europeans acknowledged the "Call and response" as a common element of the African American oral tradition. It is often seen in worship in what is commonly referred to as the "amen corner".

Let us look at some things that are important in deaf culture that may increase our understanding and therefore our unity.

- In deaf culture, deafness is not considered a disability. Because of this the term "hearing impaired" is considered rude since it implies that there is something wrong with the person. Instead, the terms deaf or hard-of-hearing should be used.
- Body language is crucial within deaf culture and often important in the hearing community but in different ways. Just as it is considered rude to turn your back on someone who is talking to you, it is likewise considered rude to look away from someone who is signing to you (even if you don't understand all of it). It is also considered rude to grab a deaf person's hands while they are signing.
- The use of direct language is often considered rude in the hearing community but not in the deaf community. Describing someone as the "woman with the big nose" may sound rude to a hearing person but a perfectly concise and accurate description in the deaf community.

You don't have to be deaf to feel comfortable in deaf culture. Examples include: a hearing child born to deaf parents and generally interpreters who also socialize with deaf clients feel extremely comfortable. Join with the deaf ministry as we pray for continued unity with all of God's people both hearing and deaf.

> Submitted by Sister Deborah Holley

AFRICAN AMERICAN FIRSTS

CORNER

POSITIVES FROM THE

HISTORY

(info from wikipedia.org)

First African-American sportscaster: Sherman "Jocko" Maxwell

First African-American Model on the cover of Elle Magazine: Beverly Johnson

> First African-American to win the Heisman Trophy: Ernie Davis

First African-American to reach number I on the Billboard Hot IOO: Tommy Edwards

First African-American to win individual Olympic Gold Medal: William De Hart Hubbard in the Running Long Jump (1924) Summer Olympics, Paris

First African-American to star in an International motion picture: Josephine Baker in " La Sirene des Tropiques"

First African-American to earn a doctorate degree from an American university: Edward Alexander Bouchet Yale College - Ph.D., physics; also first African American to graduate from Yale (1874)





<u>Worship Song</u>: We are Soldiers in the Army - <u>https://</u> youtu.be/bnudHcR_34M

Continue to pray for our families, churches, nation and world. **More than ever, we need to be united and fervent in prayer.** Feel free to share your praise reports and prayer requests.

Noon Prayer Team Deaconess Pamela Ford Sister Carol-Ann Benjamin

Scripture:

Ephesians 6:11-18 NKJV

ever you can get a break to pray.

[11] Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

I pray that this finds everyone doing well and staying safe. Con-

tinue to pray wherever you are during the noon hour, or when-

[12] For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

[13] Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

[14] Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

[15] and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

[16] above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

[17] And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

[18] praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints-

Prayer:

"As the spiritual warfare continues to become more intense, now more than ever, we need to put on the WHOLE armor of God daily in order to be the salt and light that You have called us to be. May we be faithful to put on each piece of the armor as we face each day. In order for the armor to be effective, we need to learn the proper use of each piece of the armor. Help us to be diligent in developing those skills so that we can be effective soldiers in Your army. No weapons formed against us shall prosper and we are more than conquerors through Jesus because Your Holy Spirit in us is greater than he who is in the world. And the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds."

FITNESS - IN - PLACE Exercise and Wearing a Mask

As fitness centers begin to open back up, you may be wondering whether you should wear a mask while exercising.

Research suggests that it is safe for healthy individuals to wear a mask while exercising. However, it is recommended that individuals start exercising at a lower intensity to get used to wearing a face covering before returning to regular levels of intensity. If a mask or face covering gets wet with respiration droplets or sweat, it's a good idea to have a dry replacement.

In one study, healthy subjects perceived to have less airflow while wearing a mask during exercise, but the data showed no difference in blood, tissue or muscle oxygenation levels. This may be caused by psychological factors such as feeling claustrophobic or thinking there would be a decreased airflow.

Individuals with **chronic diseases** should exercise in their own homes without a mask and with supervision, if necessary.

When to wear a mask while exercising:

- Always when inside unless you're by yourself or in your home
- Outside if others will be within 6-10 feet of you

Health/safety concerns when wearing a mask during exercise:

- Possible increased heart rate and or breathing rate
- Possible headache or dizziness/lightheadedness

Health/safety concerns when NOT wearing a mask:

- Contracting COVID-19
- Spreading the virus (with or without being symptomatic)

Staying active is important but staying safe is paramount. Please continue to follow the CDC guidelines.

Sister Lori Valkenburg Fitness Director AreSTRONGTK







ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED BY FMZBC

We continue to feature some of the organizations supported by FMZBC because we believe it is important for our members to know how their contributions to the Ministry are used and how they impact our community-at-large. We are grateful to God for the ability He has given us to be able to make a difference in the lives of so many others, and in so many different areas, and we look forward to sharing more of this pertinent information with you!!!

Organizations

UNCF Stafford NAACP Prince William NAACP Virginia Union University Howard University Cornerstone College of Virginia Fellowship of Christian Athletes Baptist General Convention Good News Prison Ministry House of Refuge Hilda Barg Homeless Center So Others Might Eat Thurman Brisben Center (formerly Stafford City Homeless) Boys and Girls Club St. Francis House Young Life Ministry Brown Family Health Center Texas Capital Youth Empowerment Program Lifelines Ministries National Baptist Association Wycliff Bible Translator SERVE (Manassas) (SÉRVE) (Stafford)

Stafford Emergency Relief through Volunteer Efforts Feed The Children Central Union Mission **Outreach Cultural Arts Center** American Red Cross Northern Virginia Urban League Children's Home Lot Carey Missionary ACTS

Submitted by the Deacon Ministry

HILDA M. BARG HOMELESS PREVENTION CENTER



14945 Jefferson Davis Highway Woodbridge, VA 22191 (571) 492-7359

NVFS Northern Virginia Family Service

Class of Housing: Family Emergency Shelter open 24 hours a day, year round

The Hilda Barg Homeless Prevention Center is a 30-bed operation, providing up to 51 days of emergency shelter for single adults and families with children. The Center operated by Northern Virginia Family Service (NVFS), endeavors to empower people to live independently with dignity. Volunteer work opportunities are available by contacting the Center. Services and programs provided to clients include:

- Employment services
- Case Management
- Housing Location Services
- Emergency Food Assistance
- Children's services
- Budget training
- Adult education
- Mental health evaluation and counseling
- Drug and alcohol abuse prevention services



Hilda Barg, the namesake of the Hilda Barg Homeless Prevention Center, resides in Prince William County and remains an advocate for the homeless. Her family roots in Woodbridge go back over 200 years. Ms. Barg was a small business owner prior to serving two decades as the Woodbridge District Supervisor. Since retiring from the Board of County Supervisors, Ms. Barg continues to service her community on nonprofit

boards and committees [archive.storycorps.org]

The Center's Website: http://www.nvfs.org







Our comprehen-

sive programs





FIGHTING POVERTY & HOMELESSNESS DURING COVID-19

SOME has been on the front lines of fighting homelessness, hunger, and poverty for 50 years. As our city battles the coronavirus, SOME remains dedicated to ensuring that DC's most vulnerable residents receive the care and services they need. SOME has been able to rely on an incredible community to support the organization and the people we serve in our mission.

RESTORING HOPE

SERVICES: Basic Needs | Healthcare | Social Services | Job Training Housing

SOME offers a comprehensive set of crucial services to over 10,000 people per year. Services are designed to meet the immediate and long-term needs of a wide range of individuals, including families, senior citizens, and those affected by physical or mental illness experiencing homelessness and poverty.

Thousands of lives have been transformed through SOME's affordable long-term and transitional housing, access to medical and dental clinics, employment training, and long-term comprehensive addiction treatment programs.

The support of companies and organizations help SOME to ensure that no one who comes to them for help is ever turned away. To learn about the experiences of those who have been helped and the organization's ongoing needs, visit SOME's Website at www.some.org

ENCOURAGEMENT AND ASSURANCE FOR THE SOUL

GOD HAS A PLAN FOR YOU!

Question...where does God want to use you right now? What is God's will for your life? You may feel that God is not speaking loud enough and is not answering your prayers fast enough for you to find out.

Keep yourself from "quick fixes" or "obvious answers" to your own prayers if you are not certain they are in God's perfect plan. Persevere daily in listening to and learning from God.

This is what the Lord says: "**11** For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. **12** Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you," declares the Lord. (Jeremiah 29:11-14a)

Prayer: Lord, help me (us) to do great things as though they were little, since I (we) do them with Your power, and little things as though they were great, since I (we) do them in Your name. Amen (Blaise Pascal)

Never forget...God has a plan for you!

Rev. Dr. Sandra K. James Assistant Pastor

A Time for Reflection:

What is God's will for my life?_____

Where does God want to use me right now?

How can I become more involved in "my" (suggesting ownership) church?







LEADERSHIP

THER CETAVERAVINYS

Prayer: The Model Prayer Matthew 6-5-13 (NKJV)

⁵ And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. ⁶ But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place (Ps 91); and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. ⁷And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. 9In this manner, therefore, pray:

- Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. ¹⁰ Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.
- ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread.
- ¹² And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.

¹³ And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Supporting Scripture: Psalm 91

Meditational Song: The Lord's Prayer (Wintley Phipps) https://youtu.be/ACP0JyYJDDM





SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Applications are now being accepted for High School Seniors attending post-secondary schools. The application can be found on the website at www.FMZBC.org

The student must meet the following qualifications to apply:

- 1. Must have been a member of First Mount Zion Baptist Church for one year.
- 2. Must have been active in a ministry for six months.
- 3. Must have a GPA of 2.5 or better.

The deadline for applications is April 15, 2021.

April		
DATE	PRAYER FOCUS	SCRIPTURE
Apr. 4	Prayer of Celebration	Psalms 118:25-26
Apr. 11	Prayer of Faith	1 Peter 1:3-4
Apr. 18	Prayer of Praise & Thanksgiving	Psalms 118:1-9
Apr. 25	Prayer for Rest	Matthew 11:28-30

Every first Friday of the month, your FMZ Trustee, Deaconess and Deacon Leadership Team, pray and fast over a chosen topic. Sharing nuggets from March 5, 2021 Devotional below:

Prayer and Fasting Topic: Leaning into Prayer & Fasting (The Sauce) Sub-topic: Prayer 101

Lesson/Discussion:



 \Diamond What is Prayer!

 \Diamond

- Talking with God; a way of relating and connecting with God
 - Alone OR in a Group



- Silently OR Aloud
- Use a Written Prayer or a Spontaneous One (II Tim 4:2)

Scripture portrays a life of continual prayer, meaning a kind of openness toward God. A way of life. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (Unceasing)/Luke 18:1 (Always)

> "When the Prayer Time goes up!! "The Sin time goes down!!" (Even sinful thoughts)

- Why Prayer? \Diamond
 - Prayer Is Important!! \Diamond

God's Word instructs believers to make prayer a high priority. God wants to hear from His children. Colossians 4:2/1 Timothy 2:1, 8

Prayer Draws Us Closer To God!!

In prayer, we worship, confess our sins, bring our requests to God, and wait and listen for Him to speak. Prayer is the way we enter deeply and directly into a relationship with God. Romans 12:2/2 Corinthians 3:18/Psalm 139/James 4:8

Prayer is Powerful!!

God not only hears our prayers, but He is acting on them. Our prayer requests bring about real change in the world, in the lives of the people we pray for and ourselves. Matthew 7:7-8 (ASK)/ Matthew 21:22/Mark 11:24/John 15:7, 16.



STRONGER Tool







TOPIC:

SIGNALS OF HOPE

DATE: MAY 7, 2021

Time: 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

JOIN ZOOM MEETING

<u>https://us02web.zoom.us/</u> <u>j/82113961148?</u> <u>pwd=N2VweVVIcIVBS3pMbzVXT</u> <u>zgxd2JGUT09</u>

Meeting ID: 821 1396 1148 Passcode: Youth

For more details, please contact:

Reverend John C. McNeill, Jr. Youth Minister 703-670-0184 jmcneill@firstmountzionbc.org



SHARE FOOD DISTRIBUTION IS PRESENTLY SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 24, 2021. PLEASE CALL BRO. THOMAS BATES AT 703-330-6371 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION!!



EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL BE MEETING VIA ZOOM!

> MEETING ID: 989 3972 4235

> > PASSWORD: 740307

DIAL-IN: 301-715-8592

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 <u>should</u> <u>not exceed 300-350 words</u> and must be received no later than <u>12 noon on the</u> <u>15th of each month</u> 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

or through our web form at:

http://bit.ly/FMZBC_Articles

We look forward to your participation!! Thank you!

Communications and Publicity Ministry

Dr. Joseph Boutte, Chair Sister Oonagh Bell, Messenger Brother Benson Blake, Photography/Video Sister Beverly Grant - Staff Liaison Deacon James Hawkins - Deacon Ministry Sister Sylvia Moore - Pastor's Executive Assistant Reverend Kathy Russell - Associate Minister Deaconess Claudia Woolfolk - Deaconess Ministry



Rev. Dr. Luke E. Torian, Pastor Rev. Dr. Sandra K. James, Assistant Pastor Sylvia Moore, Executive Assistant Renee Woolfolk, Church Business Administrator James Simpson, Chair, Trustee Ministry Keith W. Holmes, Chair, Deacon Ministry Cynthia Brown, Chair, Deaconess Ministry

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ADJUSTED SERVICE SCHEDULE DURING PANDEMIC

Sunday School - 9:45 AM (VIA ZOOM & CALL-IN)

Worship Service – 11:00 AM ONLY (VIA FB/YOUTUBE, LIVE STREAMING)

Wednesday Night Bible Study - 7:30 PM (VIA FB/YOU TUBE, LIVE STREAMING & CONFERENCE CALL-IN)

SOCIAL MEDIA CONNECTIONS

Connect with us on:

Facebook: <u>www.facebook.com/</u> <u>fmzbcdumfries</u> Instagram: <u>@thecore_fmzbc</u> Linked In: <u>https://www.linkedin.com/</u> <u>groups/1890924/</u> Twitter: <u>@fmzbc1</u> Vimeo: <u>vimeo.com.25203195</u> YouTube: <u>https://bit.lv/FMZBC-YouTube</u>



THE TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY HAS BEEN TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED DUE TO COVID-19 AND WILL RESUME WHEN FULL ACTIVITIES AT THE CHURCH HAVE BEEN RESTORED!