

Messenger



FALL 2024

“Revealing God’s Glory!”

VOL. 38, NO. 3

Theme: “Freedom”

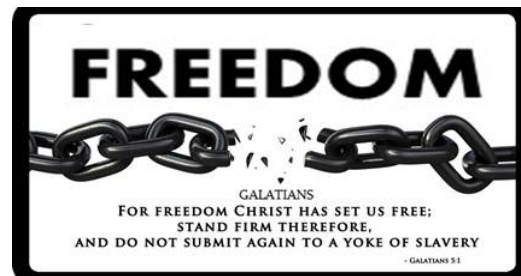
“For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.”

(Galatians 5:1) (ESV)

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FROM THE EDITOR’S DESK . . .



(Galatians 5:1)

Greetings Mount Pleasant Family,

On the Apostle Paul’s first missionary journey, he along with Barnabas established several churches in Roman provinces of Galatia. The truth of the Gospel of Christ had been told to the Gentiles by Paul. It wasn’t too long after his missionary journey, in an attempt to discredit his apostleship and to change the doctrine he had taught, that some Jewish Christian teachers began spreading fake news (changes to the doctrine) to the Gentile Christians (converts). The Jewish Christian teachers were trying to bamboozle and hoodwink the Gentile Christians into believing that in order to be accepted as “true Christians” they needed to keep the Law of Moses and be circumcised as well. So, the Apostle Paul wrote this letter to the Galatians in fear that this fake news now being taught would jeopardize the salvation of those who would accept it.

In Galatians 5:1, Paul made it clear that there is freedom in Christ and the importance of living in that freedom; to stand firm in that truth and to not go back into slavery. The Gentile Christians were once enslaved to sin and now they were on the path to being enslaved by the law (the legalistic demands that salvation is earned through obedience to the law or by doing good works). Paul reminded them and reminds us today that salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone and in Christ alone.

DON’T GO BACK! CONTINUE THE PATH FORWARD GOD HAS PLANNED FOR YOU THROUGH CHRIST!

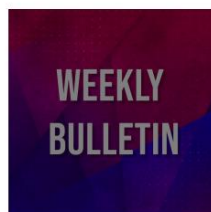
Be encouraged and have a happy fall!

MPBC Connect

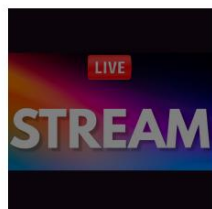
Visit our website at www.mtpleasantbc.org to stay connected.



Give Online



Bulletin



Live Stream



The Heart's Cry Podcast



The Fall Season

by Catherine Pulsifer

As fall descends with each passing day,
The beauty it brings takes my breath away.
Leaves turn orange, yellow, and red,
A stunning sight that I cannot dread.

Crisper nights come with amazing sunsets,
A view so surreal, leaving no regrets.
Nature's wonder in full display,
The fall season I wish it would stay.

Autumn's Touch

by Catherine Pulsifer

Autumn's touch, a tapestry unfold,
September's arrival, warmth turns to gold.
Leaves gently dance, in the September breeze,
As nature prepares for a vibrant tease.

October paints with fiery delight,
A palette of red, orange, and yellow so bright.
Falling leaves whisper secrets untold,
A crispness in the air, a story to behold.

But November, ah, my heart's delight,
When autumn reaches its majestic height.
Cozy sweaters, fireside bliss,
November's embrace, I never miss.



Theme: “Ministry on the Move” (Philippians 3:14) →

Dear Ministry Member and Fellow Christian,

Greetings to all!

We pray that all is well. Please know we are here for you. We ask for your continued prayers and thank you for your continued support. We need you! If your address and/or other pertinent information has changed, please send Sister Anita Johnson, MPBC Church Clerk, an email to clerk@mtpleasantbc.org.

Thanks to all who attended the Prayer and Praise Walk at the park on September 14 and the Movie Fellowship to see “The Forge” on October 14.



The following are still planned events for 2024. As always, if you have any suggestions, please let us know.

- Zoom Game Night
- Community Outreach Projects

We want to extend a welcome to our new ministry members and greetings to ministry members who have celebrated and/or are celebrating a birthday, wedding anniversary, retirement or any other celebratory event in September, October and November.

God bless you, continue to keep safe.

Deacon Karl Henderson, Deaconess Karin Henderson, Deacon James Cook and Deaconess Marlene Fields; Ministerial Team: Minister Myra Cook. Minister Angela Sheppard and Minister Kimberly Veney
(Prince William/Stafford/Spotsylvania/Caroline Counties and Lorton (PWSSC&L) CCM)

—Thought for the fall—

“Every weakness you have is an opportunity for God to show His strength in your life.”

Word Search

FALL WORD SEARCH

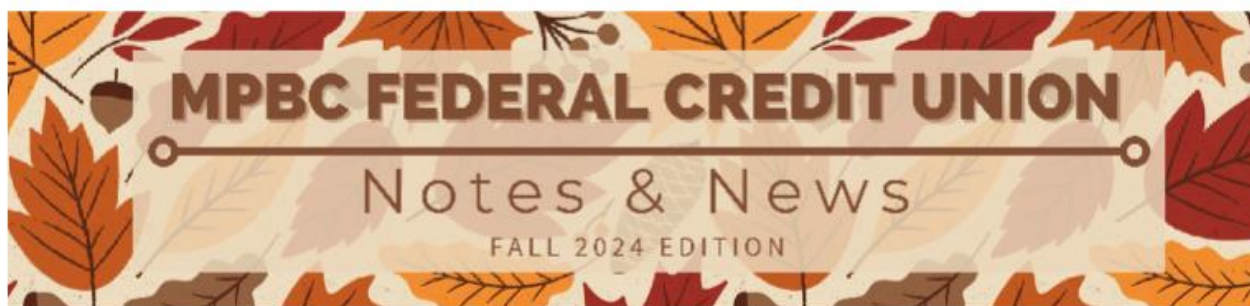
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ACORN
APPLE
BONFIRE
BRISK
CHILLY
CIDER

CRISP
EQUINOX
FESTIVAL
FOLIAGE
FOOTBALL
FROST

HARVEST
HAYSTACK
HEATER
LEAVES
ORANGE
PINE CONE

PUMPKIN
RAKE
SCHOOL
SEASON
SQUASH
SWEATER



"FALL" INTO FINANCIAL SECURITY WITH THESE SMART MONEY MOVES

- **Prepare for Holiday Expenses:** Begin setting aside money now for holiday shopping and travel to avoid last-minute financial stress. (Tip: MPBC FCU offers a Christmas Club savings account in which you can save these funds - contact the Credit Union for more details.)
- **Review and Adjust Your Budget:** As the season changes, reassess your budget to account for increased heating bills, seasonal purchases like clothing, or family gatherings. Small adjustments now can prevent overspending later.
- **Take Advantage of End-of-Year Sales:** Fall is a great time to look for deals on big-ticket items like appliances, outdoor furniture, or even cars. Plan purchases strategically to save money.
- **Evaluate Your Insurance Needs:** With winter approaching, it's a good time to review your home or auto insurance to ensure you're covered for any seasonal risks, like snow or ice damage.

COULD YOU USE \$10,000?



The credit Union has up to \$10,000 to loan to YOU!

As a member, we encourage you to consider the Credit Union first to take care of your borrowing needs by applying for an MPBC FCU signature loan. Qualified borrowers may borrow up to \$10,000 at competitive rates dependent upon credit score.

Why choose us? You're guaranteed to get some of the lowest rates.

Our interest rates are highly competitive and likely the lowest you'll find based on a comparison of top banks and credit unions in the area.

Visit www.mtpleasantbc.org/mpbcfcu for more information.

We are YOUR Credit Union.

BECOME A CREDIT UNION MEMBER

If you are a member or employee of the Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, you are eligible to join the Credit Union. Your immediate family or household members are also included in the field of membership. Join today!

OPERATION STATUS

The Credit Union is open for business on Sunday mornings! Operating hours are from 8:45 AM - 10:00 AM. Appointments during the week can be made by request if needed.

CONTACT US:

MPBC Federal Credit Union

P.O. Box 11146
Alexandria, VA 22312



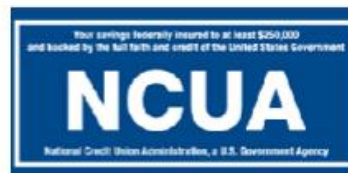
mpbcfcu@mtpleasantbc.org



(703) 256-4802



www.mtpleasantbc.org/credit-union



Thanks for your business.



Election Day – Tuesday, November 5

Important: Check to make sure your registration is up-to-date, and you know where to vote.

Virginia Voters: <https://elections.virginia.gov>



Deadline to Register to Vote is **October 15, 2024**

Deadline to apply for a ballot to be mailed to you: **October 25, 2024**. Your request must be received by your [local voter registration office](#) by 5:00 p.m.

First day of in-person early voting at local registrar's office: **Friday, September 20, 2024**.

The last day of in-person early voting: **Saturday, November 2, 2024** at 5:00 p.m.

Election day polling places are open in Virginia from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Maryland Voters: <https://elections.maryland.gov>



You may register to vote during early voting. Bring proof of address.

Deadline to [request a mail-in ballot](#) using online system is **November 1, 2024**.

Mail-in ballots must be postmarked or placed in a [designated ballot drop box](#) by 8 pm on **November 5, 2024**.

Early voting: **Thursday, October 24, 2024 through Thursday, October 31, 2024** from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. You can vote early at [any early voting center in the county you live in](#).

Election day polling places will be open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m.

DC Voters: <https://dcboe.org>



DC Board Of Elections will mail each active registered DC voter a mail ballot ahead of the November 5, 2024 General Election. DCBOE begins sending mail ballots to all registered voters: September 30, 2024.

EVERY VOTE COUNTS!
YOUR VOTE, YOUR VOICE!



Inspirations



Great is Thy Faithfulness

By Sister Deloris Harris (MPBC)

Sometimes the Lord tests our faith
And puts obstacles in our way,
From insults to hard knocks,
Now, the devil really wants to play.
The devil knows our weaknesses and
He tempts us with his plans,
But our Lord and Savior Jesus
Lets him know, that HE is the ruling hand.

(Great is Thy Faithfulness)

Let us look at Abraham and how faithful he
was:
When Abraham, whose promised son
Was to become a living sacrifice
I cannot imagine what went through his head.
What Abraham did not know that a ram had
been placed in the bush,
And it was to be sacrificed instead.

(Great is Thy Faithfulness)

Remember when Moses was told,
“Hold your staff over the water and it will part
the sea?
The Egyptians will drown, and the Israelites will
go free.”

(Great is Thy Faithfulness)

Great was the faith of the Hebrew brothers,
Who would not bow down or worship the statue
of gold.
Their faith in their God was on full display,
Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.
So the king had them thrown in the furnace
alive,

He looked into the furnace and saw they had
survived.

The king had a question, as he looked into the
door;

“Didn’t I throw three in the fire, how come now
I see four?”

(Great is Thy Faithfulness)

Job was a very devout and very rich man,
Who lost his family, possessions, and health.
His wife and friends said, “Curse your God,”
Because He has taken all of your wealth.
Job being faithful to our God,
Knew that he had not done evil or sinned.
He knew this was all a part of Satan’s plot,
So he did not listen to his wife or his friends.
His health was restored and God made him
twice as rich

As he had been before,
So never give up on God, our Lord and Savior
For He will open doors.

(Great is Thy Faithfulness)

So when the trials and tribulations come,
And you will experience them some day.
Always remember and never, ever forget,
That He is just a prayer away.
Trust in the Lord and keep the faith
And remember His promise to us.
“I will never leave you, nor forsake you,”
If you only have faith and trust.

(Great is Thy Faithfulness)



"Give Us, Us Free"

So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law.² Listen! I, Paul, tell you this: If you are counting on circumcision to make you right with God, then Christ will be of no benefit to you. ³ I'll say it again. If you are trying to find favor with God by being circumcised, you must obey every regulation in the whole law of Moses. ⁴ For if you are trying to make yourselves right with God by keeping the law, you have been cut off from Christ! You have fallen away from God's grace.⁵ But we who live by the Spirit eagerly wait to receive by faith the righteousness God has promised to us. ⁶ For when we place our faith in Christ Jesus, there is no benefit in being circumcised or being uncircumcised. What is important is faith expressing itself in love!" – Galatians 5: 1-6 NLT

"Give us, us free" are the famed words from the 1997 movie titled *Amistad*. These words come at a pivotal moment in the film as the leader of the slave revolt provides testimony about being illegally shipped from Africa. This movie, while loosely based on the true story of the Cuban cargo ship *La Amistad* in 1839, provides a soft insight in how slaves were acquired and transported during the transatlantic slave trade. Even after the slave trade was abolished in 1808, there were many countries, pirates, etc., who continued operations for another 100 years. Bondage is a very lucrative business for those who are bonding.

What if we aligned sin and the law to the slave trade? What if we aligned how we view freedom to how we view slavery in America? Would sin and bondage look so good then?

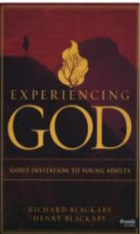
Imagine, you have this freedom in Christ and are living in a place called Peace, Love, and Joy (PLJ for short). Then a corporation has decided that you can no longer live in PLJ unless you speak Spanish. Even though there is no requirement to speak Spanish as you can speak whatever language you want in PLJ, you are arrested and carried away to a place called Bondage and Oppression (BAO for short). While in BAO, you find yourself doing everything you can to get back to PLJ. You learn to speak Spanish. You begin to adopt Spanish ways. You now only align your freedom to being Spanish; becoming a full resident of BAO and forgetting that you were simply trying to get back to PLJ – which doesn't require it.

This story is a common theme in all our lives. We are all trying to get to PLJ. However, we have been living in BAO so long that we wouldn't be able to identify PLJ on a map. This is the story of the Israelites in the Old Testament. This is the story of the Galatians. This is the story of you and me today. We are searching for freedom within the boundaries of our bondage. And it leads us to sin. It leads us to trust in constraints created by man.

When Christ died on the cross, He tore the veil between us and God. That's how we can get to these wonderful places of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Our freedom affords us a plethora of these things, no longer living in bondage because "Us is Free!"

MPBC News and Events

An Invitation to Young Adults
EXPERIENCING GOD



JOIN US SUNDAYS @ 8:55AM

This interactive Bible study invites young adults to join God in His work. It focuses on the application of the Kingdom Principles, as set forth in Experiencing God, and how these principles apply to collegiate and young adult life issues. **BRING YOUR BIBLES!**

MOUNT PLEASANT BAPTIST CHURCH
6477 LINCOLNIA ROAD, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22312
(703) 256-1268 | WWW.MTPLEASANTBC.ORG

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS SCHEDULE
Unless noted classes are in-person & virtual via zoom. Visit www.mtpleasantbc.org for meeting ID & passcodes.

- 8:55AM - Deaf and Hard of Hearing Class
- 8:55AM - Adult Class
- 8:55AM - High School Class
- 8:55AM - Preteen Class
- 8:55AM - Middlers Class
- 8:55AM - Early Elementary Class
- 8:55AM - Prek-Kindergarten Class (Nursery)
- 8:55AM - Young Adult Class (Virtual)

Join **MOUNT PLEASANT BAPTIST CHURCH & FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MERRIFIELD**
In partnership with Know The Truth International Ministries, Inc.

South Africa

February 27 – March 8, 2025
MISSION & CULTURAL TOUR

Rev. Dr. Carl Johnson, Pastor, MPBC, Alexandria, VA | Rev. Dr. Paul Sheppard, Pastor, FBC, Falls Church, VA

MISSION Activities:

- Visit local orphanage to share the love of Christ and distribute school supplies
- Street witnessing
- Visit local schools and universities
- Safari Drive
- Cultural and Historic Tour of Soweto Township
- Visit Robben Island, Apartheid Museum, Table Mountain and other points of interest

\$4,195*

*Cost per person (double room occupancy). Single room supplement - \$900.

COST Includes:

- Flights to Johannesburg and Cape Town (from Washington, DC area)
- Hotel accommodations
- All meals and drinking water
- In-country ground transportation
- Basic travel insurance



Seasons
Navigating New Seasons of Change

Beginning **October 1st @ 7PM**
Weekly Tuesday Virtual Sessions. Meeting ID & Passcode to be provided.

Calling all Young Adults!

We invite you to embark on a month-long Bible study series to help you explore how to navigate life's changes with faith and wisdom.

Whether you're in a season of growth, transition, or rest, God's Word has guides for you!

We'll Explore

- Embracing change
- Growing through transitions
- Trusting God's timing
- Finding rest in God

MOUNT PLEASANT BAPTIST CHURCH
YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY
6477 Lincoln Rd.
Alexandria, VA 22312
(703) 256-1268
Rev. Dr. Carl M. Johnson, Pastor

To end the Series, we invite everyone to go apple picking with us on **Nov 2nd**
Details to be provided.



IN-PERSON Time 8:55AM **SUNDAY SCHOOL DIRECTOR: YVONNE BUSH**

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

Adult Classes held in the Pinkett/Sheppard Chapel
Classes for Grades 1-12 are held in the Fellowship Hall

MOUNT PLEASANT BAPTIST CHURCH
6477 LINCOLNIA ROAD
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22312
PHONE: 703.256.1268
Rev. Dr. Carl M. Johnson, Pastor

Virtual Classes via Zoom for:

- Young Adults
- Deaf and Hearing Impaired

Visit www.mtpleasantbc.org for Zoom links.

Beginning 7/14/2024
In-Person Classes for ages 2-5 are held in the Nursery (Lower Level).



Check Out Our Church App!
Access sermons, prayer requests, worship and more.

Mount Pleasant Baptist Church

DOWNLOAD OUR NEW CHURCH APP

Now faster, with an easier to use interface. Enjoy your experience!

For more info;
(703) 256-1268
www.mtpleasantbc.org





ATTENTION
MOUNT PLEASANT MEMBERS & FRIENDS
Safety Alert!

When crossing the street to the church, please use the crosswalk. These areas have been marked for your protection. Vehicles are required to stop and allow safe crossing. Persons have been observed crossing in areas outside of the crosswalk.

OCTOBER IS PASTOR/CLERGY APPRECIATION MONTH
MPBC Family recognizes Pastor Johnson & Ministerial Staff!

Special thanks for your time, support, service, mission efforts, and prayers for the members, community, and people world-wide!

UPCOMING EVENTS
Sunday, October 27 Following 10:00 a.m. Service. (Fellowship Hall). Inviting all youth for refreshments and treats. Volunteers are welcome to bring candy and other sweet treats. For more information, please contact: Deaconess LaTonia White at LaTonia.White@mtpleasantbc.org.

Public Safety Alert

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

The screenshot shows the DEA website with the 'One Pill Can Kill' campaign banner. The banner features the text 'ONE PILL CAN KILL' in large, bold, white letters on a dark background, with a red diagonal line striking through the word 'PILL'. Below the banner, there are statistics on DEA Fentanyl Seizures in 2023:

DEA Fentanyl Seizures in 2023	75,600,000+	11,503+ lbs.
In 2022, DEA seized more than 59.6 million fentanyl-laced fake pills and more than 13,300 pounds of fentanyl powder. The 2022 seizures are equivalent to more than 397 million lethal doses of fentanyl.	Millions of Fentanyl Pills Seized	Pounds of Fentanyl Powder Seized

Below the statistics, there is a 'Public Safety Alert' section with a red warning triangle icon. The text reads: 'Laboratory testing indicates 7 out of every 10 pills seized by DEA contain a lethal dose of fentanyl. DEA has seized a record 74.5 million fentanyl pills to date in 2023, which already exceeds last year's totals of 58 million pills.' To the right of the alert is a graphic showing 10 pills, with 7 marked as 'DEADLY' and 3 marked as 'SAFE'.



Brightly-Colored Fentanyl Used to Target Young Americans.

Ministry Opportunities

*“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand ...”*

Ephesians 2:10

Audio/Visual — Assistants — contact Church Office

Church School — Teachers — contact Sister Yvonne Bush

Grief Share Ministry — Members — contact Sister Denise Mackie-Smith

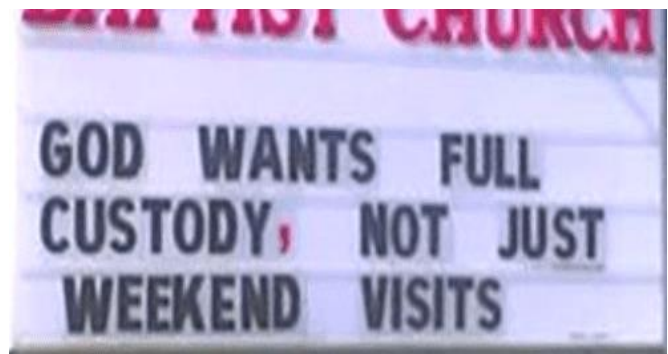
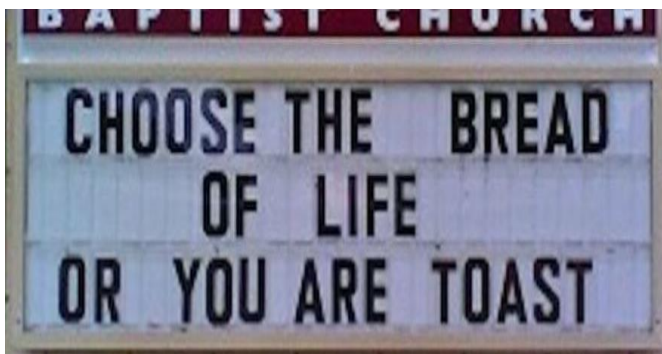
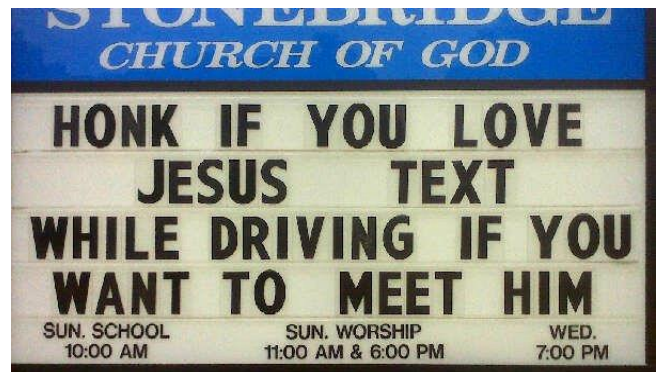
Health and Wellness Ministry — Nurses — contact Sister Phyllis Jordan

Nursery Ministry — Helpers — contact Deaconess Allie Hollister

Youth Ministry — Teachers — Youth Bible Study — contact Reverend E. Chris White, III

To inquire about other opportunities to serve, contact the Church Office.

From the Lighter Side



Mount Pleasant Baptist Church
6477 Lincolnia Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22312
(703) 256-1268
Rev. Dr. Carl M. Johnson, Pastor



*email: secretary@mtpleasantbc.org
web site: www.mtpleasantbc.org*

MPBC Messenger Staff

Karin Henderson	Editor-in-Chief/ Designer
Eloise Clarke	Editor
Anita Johnson	Editor
Debbie Coles	Church News Reporter
Linda Hayes	Staff Writer/Contributor



VIRTUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE — OCTOBER 26, 2024 @ 5:00 PM

Vision Statement

A Church “Growing by Grace.” (2 Peter 3:18)

Mission Statement

“To grow a congregation of believers committed to the ministry of Worship, Evangelism, Missions, Discipleship, Service, and Fellowship with a heart for Prayer, Bible Study, and the Great Commission.” (Matthew 28:19–20)

Theme

“Revealing God’s Glory!” (Isaiah 40:3-5)

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