

Messenger



FALL 2025

"Changing Lives One Soul at a Time"

VOL. 39 NO. 3

Theme: "Built To Last"

"24 Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. 25 Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock."

(Matthew 7:24-25) (NLT)

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK...



(Matthew 7:24-25) (NLT)

Greetings Mount Pleasant Family,

General Motors Corporation once launched a marketing campaign for one of its trucks, featuring the slogan, "Built To Last." The purpose of this campaign was to highlight the truck's dependability, sustainability, and durability. Through this message, General Motors conveyed that their truck was engineered to outlast its competitors, able to withstand all types of terrain and excel even in the harshest weather conditions. The underlying promise was clear: this truck was built to endure.

The slogan "Built To Last" reminds me of the theme scripture, Matthew 7:24-25, "Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock."

The reminder in this metaphor is relevant during the turbulent times we face today. As believers, it is essential to follow Jesus by trusting and obeying Him. Doing so ensures that we remain firmly grounded in Him—our solid rock and sure foundation. Just as a house built on bedrock withstands storms, our spiritual lives will not collapse under the winds and rains of despair, the trials and tribulations of life, or the uncertainties of the future.

Because of the foundation that Jesus Christ provides, we can face difficulties with resilience and overcome any fears through faith. We are able to stand firm on Him, endure the pressures of this life, and remain confident that we have indeed been built to last.

Be encouraged, be blessed and continue to stay prayed up.

MPBC Connect

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









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Live Stream



Bulletin



The Hearts Cry Podcast



A Solid Foundation

(Author Unknown)

Beneath the sky so vast and wide, Lies a strength we hold inside. A sturdy base, a steadfast ground, Where dreams take root, where hope is found.

Through storms that rage and winds that howl, Through darkest nights and tempests foul, The solid foundation will not break, It holds us firm for each step we take.

Brick by brick, with care we lay,
The lessons learned along the way.
Each trial faced, each tear we shed,
Becomes the mortar where courage is bred.

So build with love, with faith, with grace, Let kindness fill each empty space. For when the world shakes, as it sometimes will, A solid foundation keeps us still.

Stand tall, stand true, and never fear, Your strength within will persevere. For life's a journey, a wondrous creation, And it all begins with a strong foundation.

Submitted by Deaconess Karin Henderson (MPBC)



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.

A calendar of events for our CCM has been emailed to you for the remainder of 2025. The following are events for the remainder of the year: [See page 4 for photos of previous events.]

- Zoom Game Night (TBD)
- Community Outreach Projects (October 24, December 20)
- Zoom Bible Study (December 19)
- Christmas Fellowship (December 13) [Canceled due to Senior Adult Ministry event on the same date.]

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,
Minister Kimberly Veney and Minister Jennifer Madison
(Prince William/Stafford/Spotsylvania/Caroline Counties and Lorton (PWSSC&L) CCM)

—Thought for the fall—

"Judge each day not by the harvest you reap but by the seeds you plant." – Robert Louis Stevenson



Picnic Fellowship (August 9)

The Picnic Fellowship was held at the home of Trustee Bridie Timbers. It was a tremendous success. All attended had fun fellowshipping and playing games, i.e., corn hole, spades, etc. The food was delicious, and everyone took home packed to-go containers.

Community Outreach Project (August 23)





Praise, Prayer and Worship in the Park (Neabsco Regional Park, Woodbridge) (September 20) Minister Penni Ford provided the Word.







Zoom Bible Study (July 25, September 26)

Minister Myra Cook was the teacher/facilitator on July 25 and Deaconess Marlene Fields was the teacher/facilitator on September 26. There were 24 to 35 participants.



FALL

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

BIRDS BRISK CHANGING **CLOUDS** COAT COLD COLORS CORN CROPS FOOTBALL **FROST GOURD HARVEST HEATER** JACKET **LEAVES** MIGRATE NOVEMBER **OCTOBER PUMPKINS** RAKE SCARECROW SEASON **SWEATER** TREES

WIND

SN E IKPMUPTVL E S S E L RAN В V A \mathbf{E} S H L P RKDH C R 0 L N N ULH R D В C L Ν OASGE M T 0 0 E D C Ν I L O V O DK N В D M R I C GG T U E S W H R V 0 0 M Y N IRRBAMO IC T C T N N 0 D ARA T В 0 В A S G S W S V T E LHE R R В 0 Y E E AKE E \mathbf{L} E W R W 0 R I S E E Α S CAG В P F E C K T Ν Α R Т S R Ρ K M K S Ρ AN J D E T 0 Y J В R I S K RLHRSWEATERUC Н

The words appear UP, DOWN, BACKWARDS, and DIAGONALLY.
Find and circle each word.



MPBC FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Notes & News

FALL 2025 EDITION

YOUR FALL FINANCIAL CHECK-IN

It's the perfect time to review your budget, set new goals, and take advantage of seasonal opportunities to boost your financial wellness.

At MPBC FCU, we are here to help you make the most of this season, whether that means locking in great loan rates or learning more about smart money management. Before the year ends, check in on your money!

Fall financial wellness checklist:

- Review your budget & trim extra
- ✓ Start your holiday savings plan
- Check your credit report & score
- ✓ Use or lose FSA & insurance
- benefits

expenses

- ✓ Pay down high-interest debt
- Max out retirement
- contributions
- Build or boost your savings/
- emergency fund
- Schedule a year-end financial

check-up





In 2025, World Council of Credit Unions (WOCCU) and Worldwide Foundation for Credit Unions (WFCU) invite you to celebrate the 77th anniversary of International Credit Union Day® on Thursday, October 16, under the theme: Cooperation for a Prosperous World. This special day is celebrated every year on the third Thursday of October to honor the global credit union movement. It's a day to reflect on credit union history, celebrate achievements, recognize the hard work of staff, and share member stories.

Visit www.woccu.org/meetings_and_events/icuday for more information.

We are YOUR Credit Union.

COULD YOU USE \$10,000?

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

Consider the Credit Union first to take care of your borrowing needs by applying for an MPBC FCU signature loan.

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

Contact the credit union for more info!

OPERATION STATUS

The Credit Union is open for business on Sunday mornings 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.



"Faith That Endures: Foundations That Last"

by Reverend Dwight A. Cokely (MPBC)

(Matthew 7:24-25) (NLT)

Saints of God, many of us are familiar with the saying, "they don't make things like they used to." Whether it's a brand-new BMW, whereas soon as you hit the road, the low tire symbol appears, or the latest iPhone 17 that, despite the commercials, doesn't seem to handle calls as expected, even at fifteen hundred dollars, that's concerning. We're told each new model is better than the last, but today it feels like everything is designed with a built-in expiration date or a predetermined time to upgrade.

In contrast, Jesus assures us that, when it comes to our lives, He offers a blueprint for something truly *built to last*.

Jesus says, "Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock." Notice, Jesus doesn't just emphasize listening. Listening alone won't keep your roof from leaking when life's storms arrive. We all know the difference between merely hearing and truly understanding noise. The distinction between hearing sounds and understanding them is that noise without comprehension remains simply noise.

Often, that's how we treat instructions from our spouses, parents, and even God's Word. Jesus calls us to *listen and follow*.

It's like actually reading and following the instruction manual (especially for my brothers) not just skimming it! Though, even then, following directions can be tricky. Anyone who's put together IKEA furniture knows that sometimes the bottom of the bookshelf ends up in the middle. There's a lesson there, too: we must always pay attention to who wrote the instructions and who is telling the story.

Life will bring storms—there's no warranty against that. Jesus doesn't say, "If the rains come," but rather, "Though the rain comes." The winds will blow, the waters will rise, and sometimes it may feel like you're living through a spiritual hurricane. Yet, Jesus reminds us in John 16:33b, "In the world you will have tribulation: but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." Despite the chaos—whether in the White House, Congress, or the Supreme Court—God, the Creator, has not abandoned those who trust in Him. If God built it, it will last, and there is no expiration date on His grace!

So, if your foundation is Christ, you may face setbacks, and sometimes it may seem that all hope is lost, but God's promises remain—every one of them is "yea and AMEN!" Our faith isn't meant to be a weekend DIY project; instead, it's an ongoing construction site where God is the master builder, and His Word is the blueprint. With Jesus as our foundation, we are not just temporary housing—we are a spiritual fortress with lasting appeal, built for eternity.

Today, take a moment to check your foundation. Is it built on the Rock, or are you just hoping duct tape and good vibes will hold it together? With Jesus, we are built to last, and no storm can change that.

Prayer: Lord, thank You for being our firm foundation. Help us not only to hear Your Word but also live it out, so that no storms in our lives can shake us from You. Amen.

MPBC News and Events







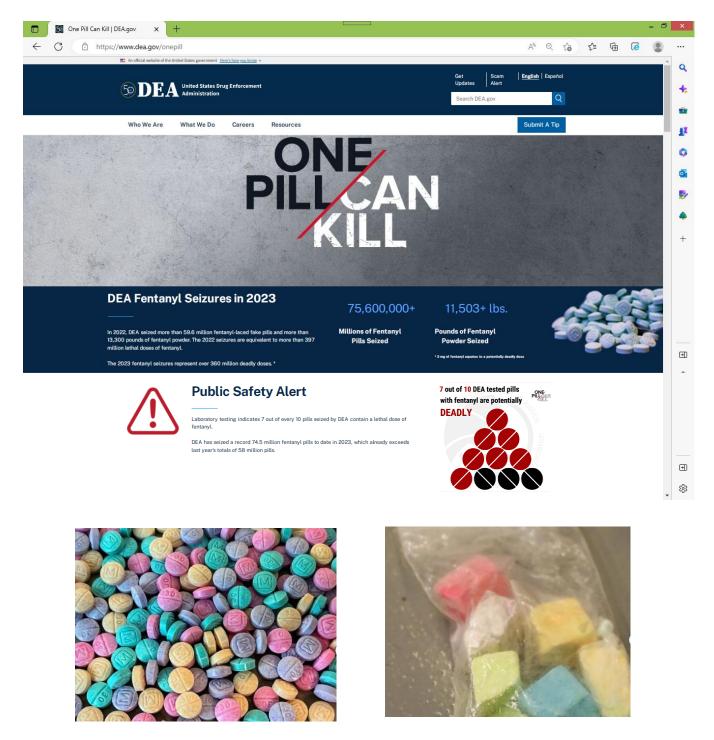


Virginia Election 2025: Go to <u>Virginia Dept. of Elections</u>: <u>Upcoming Elections</u> for upcoming and special elections information. There are no regular statewide elections in the District of Columbia or Maryland this year.



Public Safety Alert

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



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

Mount Pleasant Church Ministry Leaders Email Info 2025

ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Marion Allen (2025 Chair)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY

Rev. Margaret Barr

CHURCH SCHOOL MINISTRY

Yvonne Bush

DEACON MINISTRY*

Deacon David Evans

DEACONESS MINISTRY*

Deaconess Averil Tomlinson

DEAF SHALL HEAR THE WORD MINISTRY

Minister Jennifer Madison

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MINISTRY

Min. Myra Cook

EVANGELISM MINISTRY

Deacon James Watson

EZEKIEL MSSIONARY MINISTRY

Yvette Collier

FLORAL MINISTRY

Trustee Constance Robinson

GIFTED TO SERVE MINISTRY

Tefera Baker-Warrick

GRIEF MINISTRY

Denise Mackie-Smith

HEALTH/WELLNESS UNIT

Phyllis Jordan

HOMELESS MINISTRY

Brenda Stroble

LITURGICAL DANCE MINISTRY

(vacant)

INTERPRETER MINISTRY

Min. Kim Veney

MEN'S MINISTRY (MMOV)

Michael Tyree

MPBC Messenger

Deaconess Karin Henderson

MUSIC MINISTRY COORDINATOR

Trevon Cook

NEW MEMBERS MINISTRY

Min. Derrik Allen

Deaconess Rita Jackson

NURSERY MINISTRY

Deaconess Allie Hollister

PINKETT/SHEPPARD MEMORIAL CLUB

Julie Washington

PRAYER MINISTRY

Deaconess Marilyn McPherson

PRISON MINISTRY

Min. Percell Spinner

RISE MINISTRY

Min. Stephanie Gillus

SCHOLARSHIP MINISTRY

Trustee Billy Gregory

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

Merle Summers

TRUSTEE MINISTRY*

Trustee Tyrone Bradley

USHERS MINISTRY

Sandra C. Johnson

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

Middie Brooks

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY COORDINATORS

Co-Coordinator: Breanna Jones Co-Coordinator: Khadeejah Honesty

YOUTH MINISTRY

Rev. E. Chris White

*Members cannot join voluntarily.

NOTE: To contact the ministry leader, call the Church Office at 703-256-1268.

John White (MD) Jerry and Rosie Brown	Pastor Carl Johnson: De Karl and Karin Henderson James Cook Marlene Fields	acons, Deaconesses and Famili Jerald and Faye Stark Maurice Evans	y, Out of Town Members Carlton Brown	David Evans
Jerry and Rosie Brown	James Cook	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Carlton Brown	David Evans
•		Maurico Evans		24 E TUITO
	Marlene Fields	iviaulice Evalis	Amanda Brown	Michael and Sylvia Hardy
Annette Colclough		Gloria Giron	Karen White	Mattie Charles
Marcia Gilbert-Gregory	Min. Myra Cook	Min. Myron Euille	Dalton Martin	Tawanna Tillman
Rev. Vonda Batts	Min. Angela Sheppard	Min. Stephanie Gillus	Min. Bonita Easter	Min Penni Ford
Rev. Dwight Cokely	Min. Kim Veney	Min. Leticia Watson	Min. Linda Hayes	Min. Henrietta Nelson
	Min. Jennifer Madison	Min. Eldred Williams	Min. Percell Spinner	
DC and Maryland	Prince Williams County	Centreville, Chantilly	Alexandria:	Ft. Belvoir:
All Zip Codes	(excluding Manassas and its	Manassas, Sterling	22312	22060
	independent cities)	Nokesville, Herndon		Alexandria:
	Lorton:	Reston, Fauquier, Warren		22301, 22302, 22303,
	22079, 22199	and Loudoun Counties		22305, 22306, 22307
	Stafford, Spotsylvania, and	Fairfax:		22308, 22309, 22310,
	Caroline Counties	22030, 22031, 22032,		22313, 22314, 22315
		22033, 22037		
		Vienna: 22180		
Barry Newsome	John (VA) and Barbara	Kenneth and Rita Jackson	James and Jean Watson	Ronald Hampton
Glenn Blackwell	White	Robert Brooks	Michael Wilson	Robert Smith
Tasha Brown	Bryant and Jacqueline Black	Sherri Morgan	Sherry Allen	Josephine Byrd
La' Tonia White	Edward Robinson	Averil Tomlinson	Susie Taylor	Allie Hollister
Rev. Margaret Barr	Rev. Cornella Carter-Taylor	Rev. Brian Morgan	Rev. Jessie Reynolds	Marilyn McPherson
Rev. Chris White		Min. Mark Miller	Min. Derrik Allen	Min. Carl Hollister
		Min. Jackie Wrice		Min. Aleia Taylor Ellington
Alexandria:	Arlington:	Burke: 22015	Annandale:	Falls Church and Bailey's
22304, 22311	All Zip Codes	Fairfax: 22039	22003	Crossroads:
	22201, 22202, 22203	Springfield:	Mclean	22041, 22042, 22043
	22204, 22205, 22206	22150, 22151, 22152	Merrifield	22044, 22046
	22207, 22209, 22211, 22212	22153		

Rev. May 2025

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

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VIRTUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE — OCTOBER 25, 2025 @ 5:00 PM

Vision Statement

"Building a vibrant, engaged faith community serving, growing, and transforming Lives." (1 Peter 4:10–11)

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

"Changing Lives One Soul at a Time" (2 Corinthians 5:17)

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