

# THE MT PARAN MESSENGER



## Holiday or Holy Day?

By Ed Terry

As Christians we have some decisions to make about how are we going to celebrate Christmas this year! Will our focus be on the secular or the spiritual? Don't get me wrong there is nothing wrong with exchanging gifts, decorations, parties, family dinners, Christmas cards, and etc. However, we must never forget that all of these physical things are only symbols of the spiritual meaning of Christmas! Jesus is the only reason for the season! We give gifts to remind us of the wonderful gift that God gave us by sending His Son to be our Savior. The Christmas lights are only symbols to remind us that Jesus is the Light of The World. The family get together at Christmas were started to symbolize that as Christians we are brothers and sisters in Christ and in Christ we are the family of God. The evergreen Christmas tree is to remind us that Jesus offers us eternal life. We all need to ask ourselves are we going to celebrate the symbols of Christmas or are we going to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, who is the only reason for the season? If we are not careful we will be caught up in the commercialized Christmas. If we are not careful we will miss the true meaning of Christmas.

*Continued on page 2*



Volume 1 - Issue 9

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*"...whatever you do,  
do it all for the glory of God."  
1st Corinthians 10:31*

This newsletter is dedicated to the Glory of God by the people of Mt Paran Presbyterian Church Randallstown, MD USA. This newsletter is a ministry of: the Session, Elder Mitzi Ecker, Clerk & it's Fellowship Ministry, Elder Cathy Mobit, Chair

Several people have asked if we will have a worship service on Christmas Day since the 25<sup>th</sup> is on Monday and we are having two worship services on Sunday December 24<sup>th</sup>. (Christmas Eve worship at 7:00 pm and our regular Sunday worship at 11:00 am). **The answer is a definite yes!** After all Christmas is Jesus birthday. As Jesus' disciples we should want to come and worship Jesus on Jesus' special day.

*Jesus* is the  
**REASON**  
*for the*  
*Season*

As we make our Christmas list this year we need to remember to include our gifts to Jesus. After all, it is Jesus' birthday we are celebrating. Gifts to Jesus could be setting specific times to spend with Him in prayer and reading your Bible. Gifts to Jesus could be using your talents for Him. Gifts to Jesus could be a special offering to the church. Gifts to Jesus could be purchasing gifts for unknown children in needy families. Gifts to Jesus could be spending time with a shut-in. Gifts to Jesus could be having a birthday party for Jesus and inviting the children in your neighborhood. We need to think about what will be on our Christmas list for Jesus this Christmas?



See Page 9

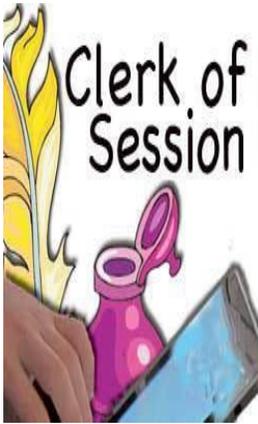
How will you celebrate Christmas this year? Will you make a conscious decision to make Christmas truly a Holy Day or will you succumb to the pressures of a secular world and allow Christmas to be just another Holiday this year? 🕊



"Pastor's Desk" is a feature article appearing monthly in The Mt Paran Messenger. It is written each month by Pastor Ed Terry. Are you blessed by what you read here? Please email [yourmtparan@gmail.com](mailto:yourmtparan@gmail.com) and let us know!

A word from the-Digital Editor:

If you are reading this month's newsletter on your computer, smart phone or tablet, you will notice that several articles feature web links. When clicking a link, you will be directed away from our website and *The Messenger*. MPPC is **not** responsible for the content of others.

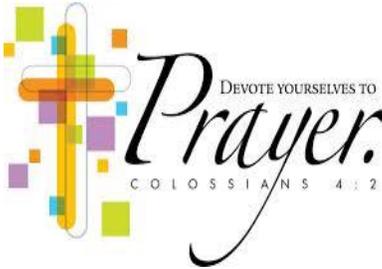


Mt Paran is blessed beyond measure to have at the helm of the Session, it's Clerk of Session, Elder Mitzi Ecker. The job of Clerk is a challenging and demanding call, but Mitzi does it with style, professionalism, and a total zeal and love for The Lord! *The Messenger* is pleased to have a page appearing monthly with her reminders, prayers and thoughts. Have questions about what a Clerk of Session does? Look for answers in a future edition of *The Messenger*.

**2018 Per Capita:** <http://www.baltimorepresbytery.org/percapita/article420435c8667964.htm>

The Per Capita apportionment is the annual dollar amount that each local Presbyterian Church pays to defray the administrative expenses of the Presbytery, of the Synod, and of the General Assembly. It is similar to what you may call dues to be a member. Each church member has the responsibility to pay \$34.38 for 2018. The church has to pay this even if you do not. Please put cash in an envelope and mark it "per capita" or mark your check "per capita". Thank you for honoring this obligation as a member of Mt. Paran.

**Congregation Meeting on November 10, 2017:** During the meeting the Nominating Committee presented their report. Mt. Paran unanimously approved Danielle Errie Owusu and Catherine Mobit as Elders to serve a three-year term. The Congregation also unanimously approved Pauline Tanwani and Stephen Abnaw as Deacons to serve a three-year term. The **installation will be January 14, 2018**. Please be in prayer for them as they serve the Lord and Mt. Paran.



**We Have Continuing Prayer Concerns For:**

Lorin & Violet; Elsa; Frank; Kimberly; David; Mary; Josh; Warren; Liah; Electra; Len; Betty; Holly; Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church; Nyen Presbyterian Church; Naikom Presbyterian Church; Ngwokwong Presbyterian Church; an end to human trafficking and violence; the Grady family; the Hodges family; Peggy; the Mobit family; the Amungwa family; Chris; the Bell family; Jack; Martha; the Miller family; and your pastors.

*Remember we start a new list of Continuing Prayer Concerns each month. Names do not carryover automatically. You must call Pastor Ed or Pastor Anita if you want to place a person's name on the list.*



JAUARY 2018

- Wednesday January 10: All Ministry reports are due
- Installation of Officers: Sunday January 14, 2018
- Annual Meeting: Sunday January 21, 2018
- January is a great time to pay Per Capita!

Getting to Know...



...MPPC's Worship Ministry

**Psalms 29:2** *"Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness."*

**Purpose:** Proclamation of The Word and the celebration of the sacraments.

**Chairman:** Elder Victor Amungwa  
Minister of Music & Liturgical Arts: Lady Terry

**Duties:**

- Provide for the corporate worship in accordance with the Book of Order
- Plan the worship calendar
- Plan special worship services (Christmas season, Easter season)
- Oversee the Nursery and procure Nursery workers
- Provide Bibles, hymn books, bulletins, flowers, etc. for worship services
- Procure and oversee the Lay Readers & Ushers
- Oversee the choirs and liturgical dancers
- Plan at least one Special worship activity each quarter

Excerpt from "Mt. Paran Church Ministries, Reorganization 2017"

Continued on page 5

*I want you  
to know  
what a blessing  
you are!  
happy  
birthday!*

December Birthdays

*Please wish these people a  
Happy Birthday by calling them  
or sending them a card*

SoLange Ndingwan – December 1  
Elizabeth Mba – December 3  
Keely Diehl – December 4  
Pam Carter - December 5  
Kerstine Atongwe (Anya) – December 5  
Allison Block – December 6  
Mary Robinson - December 6  
Raissa Etoni – December 6  
Theo Tayo – December 6  
Alexis Fontech – December 7  
Andy Secula – December 8  
Ophilia Sama – December 9  
Shanella Tadjia – December 9  
Olivia Kemende – December 10  
Joy Geh – December 11  
Theodore Nkemtaji – December 11  
Vivian Mba – December 13  
Danielle Errie- December 14  
Jack Balick – December 15  
Vivian Nwana - December 15  
Desi Hackley – December 18  
Imadi Ousman – December 18  
Amanda Tita – December 18  
*Jesus Christ* – December 25  
Christ Hope Geh \_ December 25  
Chris Nkeh – December 25  
Christiana Nuvaga – December 25  
Ada Ndem – December 26  
Yvonne Sama – December 26  
Donna Lea – December 27  
Jacob Tafie – December 28  
Yolande Garcia – December 28  
Eric Block – December 29  
Stella Ngang – December 30

## Getting to Know, continued from page 4

The scripture advises us of the importance of regularly gathering for corporate worship. Hebrews 10:25 admonishes us to not neglect “to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” Worshiping God is the life blood of the Christian and the heartbeat of the church. Worshipping God is the primary ministry that everyone, guest and member alike, participates in and experiences at Mt. Paran. Mt Paran is so blessed to have God-centered, Holy Spirit filled, faithful, vibrant and lively expressions of worship each week! As Elder Victor Amungwa, Chairperson of the Worship Ministry says, “Worship Ministry is the life wire of the church”.

Elder Victor had many more pearls of wisdom on the importance of Worship and volunteering, and we are pleased to share that conversation here.

*The Messenger:* Victor, the purpose of the Worship Ministry at Mt Paran PC is listed as the “Proclamation of The Word and the celebration of the sacraments”. Can you elaborate on that?

*Victor:* The Worship Ministry is the life wire of the church. A successful church service depends foremost on the presence of the Holy Spirit. The services should be carefully crafted, but open enough to allow the Spirit to move. We receive from the Pastor the selection of scriptures to read and hymns to sing. Knowing which liturgical cloths and colors to use and how the church needs to be set up all make for a good and spiritually successful service. I think the worship ministry is doing just that and the fruits are seen in the growth of membership in the Mt Paran church family.

When the worship ministry is in shape, the worship life of the church is fine-tuned. We are looking forward to working on the worship calendar for next year and planning well ahead of time our special worship services for the Christmas, Easter, Advent and Lenten seasons. We are also looking forward to expanding our sight and sound ministry with new volunteers as well as sometime in the future having a nursery during worship staffed with dedicated Nursery volunteers. *Continued on page 6*



Elder Victor Amungwa,  
Chair Worship Ministry



Minister of Music & Liturgical Arts,  
Lady Terry, at the Tanwani wedding



Want to offer your vocal or instrumental talents in praise to the Lord? Please see Elder Amungwa or Miss Lady.

*Getting to Know, continued from page 5*

*The Messenger:* You mentioned planning a worship calendar for next year and the possible start of a Nursery during worship. What else are you excited about for the upcoming year?

*Victor:* The upcoming year from the look of things promises to be a good one! Plans are underway to make the services even more lively and captivating. A lot of special events are being earmarked for 2018 including both indoor and outdoor activities. The church membership is growing and new people are coming in with diverse ideas and certainly they will be utilizing God’s gifts that will make Mt. Paran even stronger.

*The Messenger:* In what areas do you need volunteer help and who can be a volunteer?

*Victor:* The main areas where volunteer work is needed is with the musical instruments. We do not have enough trained players for both the piano and the jazz band. We wish that Christians should volunteer and get trained to assist in playing these instruments. We equally need volunteers in the technical department to control the audio-visual and sound equipment in the church. We could also use some volunteers to help create the PowerPoint projection used in worship.

*The Messenger:* How do you volunteer?

*Victor:* You just have to move up to any session member and declare your intentions. That is, say what you will like to volunteer in and the elders will direct you on where to go and how to go about it.

*The Messenger:* So our readers may know you better, what is your personal favorite Bible verse, or verse that inspires you in times of difficulty?

*Victor:* The Bible verse that inspires me the most is HEB 11:1, "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen". This verse has inspired me to work for God without expecting physical benefits. I can hope for a better tomorrow with today’s faith. 



"I will sing to the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live."  
Psalm 104:33



"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..." Matthew 28:19



## Music Plans for Christmas 2017

By Lady Terry,  
Minister of Music and Liturgical Arts

Mt Paran is blessed and highly favored to have the God given talent of Lady Terry. In addition to being the 1<sup>st</sup> Lady of the church, she has served the Lord in the ministry of music for most of her life. *The Messenger* is pleased to publish her article on Music Ministry plans for Christmas.



Pastor Ed & Minister of Music &  
Liturgical Arts Lady Terry

The music ministry comes under the Worship Ministry led by Elder Victor Amungwa and we try to participate in every worship service to praise and adore Christ our Savior.

We are hoping to add some adult singers to our singers during the months of Nov. and Dec. We began announcing the times to practice on Nov 12th. To encourage a greater number to participate we will meet with the youth choirs only through the Christmas season. Hopefully we will enjoy a successful time and will repeat this for Easter.

We will sing special Christmas and Advent music for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and prior to that we have been asked to participate with the United Methodist Millford Mill Church's Night of Peace Concert scheduled for **3pm Sunday Dec. 10, 2017**. We have enjoyed this relationship with the Millford Mill group for over ten years. The music will feature each of our choirs and a wide variety of selections. However, the group will be dependent the number of people who are willing to come out for practice. To date, there are no plays set for this year, but we will discuss this at the next meeting of the Worship Ministry. If the need for a Nativity program is identified, we can always add it. Our season goes through Epiphany.

During the year we support the Youth choirs that are now divided into two levels of expertise. We will continue to try to attract an adult choir, but time has been problematic. Our music reflects the liturgical seasons as well as general anthems and those that are linked to the SMORES group and to the Sermons. We also have designated Sundays for our groups. The first Sunday of each month, Communion Sunday features our youth groups as first Sundays have been dedicated to the youth for the last five years. The CMF has the second Sundays and the CWF has the third Sundays. The fourth Sundays were reserved for the adult choir but can be used for solos or other special music. We have been blessed with a praise team which is led by Deacon Pauline Tanwani, Elder Victor Amungwa and Sally Mbah. Also, we have many drummers who assist our music. Elder Danielle Owusu leads our hymn singing.

We invite all who are interested in providing solos to see Lady Terry, and we encourage all to join our choirs. Our youth choirs start with the same ages as Smores and after the music practice go immediately to the Smores groups on Fridays evenings. If you have questions, please contact me, Lady Terry, and I will be glad to speak with you. 



*Night of Peace Concert*

*A Multi-Church Christmas Concert  
Sunday December 10, 2017 at 3pm  
Milford Mill United Methodist Church  
915 Milford Mill Road  
Pikesville, MD 21208*

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*Benefiting the Night of Peace Shelter  
Featuring Community Choirs  
including Mt Paran Presbyterian Church Singers  
under the direction of  
Minister of Music & Liturgical Arts,  
Lady Terry*

**You're Invited to  
Join Mt Paran This Holiday Season**

Preparing Our Hearts to Receive Christ:

- Wednesdays November 29, December 6, 13, & 20 at 7pm  
with *special prayer stations* on December 20<sup>th</sup>
- Advent - Sundays December 3, 10, 17, & 24 at 11am

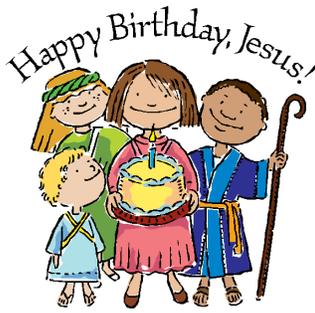
Christmas Eve - Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> 11am & 7pm

Christmas Day – Monday December 25<sup>th</sup> 11am

New Years Eve – Sunday December 31<sup>st</sup> 11am & 9pm

No New Year's Day worship service. No Wednesday Service Jan 3





You're Invited!

## Birthday Party For Jesus

When – Monday, December 25, 2017 after u

Where – Mt Paran Presbyterian Church

Our guest of honor has asked that we express our love by bring a non-perishable food item to go into Christmas Baskets for those who need a little extra help. Remember Jesus said **“if you have done it unto the least of these my brothers you have done it to me”**

We are all asked to give a special gift of time and/or our talent to Jesus. You are **not** asked to give money or clothes but to give yourself. There will be slips of paper and a gift box for you to write down the description of the gift you are giving to Jesus. To help get your creativeness started you might consider something like:

Jesus in 2018 I promise to:

- Devote 15 minutes a day with you reading my Bible
- Call at least one person who is not in church every week
- Be friendly to that unlikable person at my work
- Begin attending Sunday School on Sunday morning
- Begin attending the Friday night Bible study
- Pray for a friend who does not know Jesus each day
- Invite my friends and co-workers to come to worship with me

You do not need to sign your name unless you choose to give a gift like those listed below that need to be coordinated with other people such as:

**Jesus in 2018 I promise to** (please circle all that apply)

- Volunteer to help clean the church once a quarter
- Volunteer to help with The SMORES
- Volunteer to help with monthly Youth Events
- Volunteer to provide the special music for worship
- Volunteer to have my name added to the Greeter's roster
- Volunteer to have my name added to the Usher's roster
- Volunteer to have my name added to the Lay Reader's roster
- Volunteer to help with The Monthly Newsletter
- Volunteer to help with the worship Audio / Visuals
- Volunteer to help weed the flower beds
- Volunteer to help with the church photography
- Volunteer to help with the church website
- Volunteer to help with the FaceBook page
- Volunteer to help with church advertisements

TO: Jesus

From: Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Give something very special to Jesus at His birthday party:  
give a part of yourself!**



## A CONVERSATION WITH PAM

The following is a continuation of our conversation one Sunday after worship with Pam Carter, long-time blessing to Mt Paran, and Church Historian. Last month she shared with *The Messenger* the significance of the Liturgical Colors in the life of the Church. This month we focus on her research into the Revised Common Lectionary. For our readers on our web page, links for further research are highlighted.

## The Lectionary Explained by Pam Carter



A lectionary is a set of selected readings from the Bible, including scriptures from the Old Testament, a Psalm, a selection other than a Gospel from the New Testament, such as an Epistle (letter), and a selection from one of the four Gospels to be read during church services on specific days of the year. The Presbyterian Church considers the use of the Revised Common Lectionary optional.

The major principle behind the lectionary is that on a Sunday, members of congregations should be able to hear the voice of each gospel writer week by week, rather than readings being selected according to a theme. Thus, in any given year the writer of one of the first three gospels will be heard from beginning to end. Likewise, the rest of the New Testament is heard, in some cases, virtually in total, in others in large part. During Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent and Easter, appropriate lections relevant to the season are chosen. The rest of the year, called Ordinary Time, begins in February and runs until the Second Sunday before Lent. It then resumes after Pentecost until the Sunday before Advent which is kept as the Feast of Christ the King.

Like its predecessors, the Revised Common Lectionary runs in three-year cycles; the gospel readings in the first year (Year A) are taken from the Gospel of Matthew, those in the second year (or Year B) from the Gospel of Mark, and in the third year (or Year C) come from the Gospel of Luke. Portions of the Gospel of John are read throughout Easteride, and are also used for other liturgical seasons including Advent, Christmastide, and Lent where appropriate.

- Year A begins on the first Sunday of Advent in 2013, 2016, 2019, etc.
- Year B begins on the first Sunday of Advent in 2014, 2017, 2020, etc.
- Year C begins on the first Sunday of Advent in 2015, 2018, 2021, etc.

The Revised Common Lectionary is used in its original or an adapted form by churches around the world. The *Ordo Lectionum Missae*, on which it is based, is used in the Roman Catholic Church in local translations as the standard lectionary. Various other churches have also adopted (and sometimes adapted) the RCL. Some may consider its use optional. These include the Presbyterian Church USA. The Revised Common Lectionary was the product of a collaboration between the North American Consultation on Common Texts (CCT) and the International English Language Liturgical Consultation (ELLIC). After a nine-year trial period, it was publicly released in 1994. The CCT membership includes the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops as well as many traditional liturgically-based American and Canadian Episcopal and Protestant Churches such as Lutheran, North American Anglican (Episcopal), Presbyterian, and more loosely Methodist. The CCT thereby represents the majority of American and Canadian Christians and has been widely adopted in Great Britain and in some countries such as Australia. Various Churches, however, have made some changes to the form of the RCL that they use.

Below is an example of one specific Sunday's scriptural selections:

PCUSA Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) Readings for Sunday, June 25, 2017, the Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

[First Reading Genesis 21:8-21](#)    [Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17](#)    [Second Reading Romans 6:1b-11](#)    [Gospel Matthew 10:24-39](#)

The readings above would be used in all churches using the Revised Common Lectionary on that day. 

*Each year about this time, Christians begin thinking about a devotion or Bible reading plan to begin in January. One that follows the Revised Common Lectionary is featured on our denomination's website. Check out one of Pam's suggested electronic resources: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/revised-common-lectionary/>*

## CMF & CWF 2017 National Rally, by Stephen Abunaw, Secretary General, CMF

Since the inception of Christian Men Fellowship Presbyterian Church United States of America, this rally has been the third of its kind. The first took place in Houston, Texas, the second at Grace Presbyterian in Lanham, MD, and the third and most recent, at Silver Spring Presbyterian Church in Silver Spring, MD.

Christian Men Fellowship (CMF), Christian Women Fellowship (CWF), and Christian Youth Fellowship (CYF) held a nationwide Rally Sunday, October 29, 2017. The theme was Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me". The watchword was "The joy of the Lord is my strength" Psalm 28:7 and Nehemiah 8:10. Mt. Paran's CMF and CWF attended this National Rally for the first time. Their performance was splendid, especially as our CMF agreed to take part at the neck of time. CMF members of Mt. Paran took part at the rally competition and did a wonderful job! The impact was fantastic as evangelization was carried around the Silver Spring vicinity. Our CWF ladies sang with their angelic voices, thereby moving the crowd with thunderous applause. Additional pictures of the event, and a short video of CWF singing can be viewed on the MPPC webpage <https://www.mtparanchurch.net/cmfcwf>.

We thank everyone who made the rally a success in any way big or small. May God Almighty continue to bless us all. May the joy of the Lord continue to be our strength! "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me". 



Deacon Stephen Abunaw faithfully serves God in a variety of ways at Mt Paran. In addition to being called by God to serve as an ordained Deacon, he is also an officer and member of CMF. *The Messenger* is delighted & honored that he has chosen to share his reflections, photos, and videos from the recent 2017 Rally for both the newsletter and the webpage.

Would you like to keep the church informed about what God is doing in the life of your ministry? Contact Pastor Anita or Elder Cathy about publishing an article in a future edition of *The Messenger*.



Can you believe it's almost the close of 2017 and 2018 is just around the corner? *The Messenger* is already hard at work working on next month's edition.  
  
Look Forward to these and other amazing and exciting articles in the January issue of *THE MESSENGER*. In your email in-box and on the web at [www.mtparanchurch.net](http://www.mtparanchurch.net) January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018!!!



"Getting to Know" The Mission Ministry  
Elder Henry Tanwani, Chair



Presbyterian Historical Society  
The National Archives of the PC(USA)



**January Trivia Challenge!** What do the movie "Hidden Figures" and the PCUSA have in common? Think you know? The *first person* to approach Pastor Anita with the correct answer on any Sunday morning before church in December wins a prize! Winner will be announced and awarded their prize New Years Eve December 31<sup>st</sup> 2017 at the 9pm service. Find out the answer in the January edition of *The Messenger*.



Many of the items in our church have interesting and fascinating stories behind them. January features an article detailing the journey of one such object.



January has an article of inspiration and edification to start your New Year off right! Look for Pastor Ed's message in the "Pastor's Page" next month.



*Photos by Fabrice' Returns!*

Featuring pictures from recent Mt Paran events taken by our church photographer and new member Fabrice Taboh. *Please note, Session does not permit public display or distribution of photographs taken of Mt Paran's children where their full faces can be shown.* There are photos of our children engaged in ministry shown before the start of worship in the main sanctuary.

# New Year's Eve

“From the rising of the sun to its setting  
The name of the LORD is to be praised.”  
Psalm 113:3

*Thanking God for what was  
and praising Him for what is to come!!!*

Join the Mt Paran Presbyterian Church family  
**New Year's Eve – Sunday December 31, 2017 9pm-12am**

You're Invited for a fun evening of Praise & Worship featuring:  
soloists, singing groups, duets, instrumental praise, choirs,  
musical playbacks, biblical verse recitations, jokes and riddles,  
a New Year sketch, an encouraging sermonette,  
And lot's more!!!

Everyone is invited to participate and offer a praise to the Lord!

Have a special talent or gift to offer in praise?

Contact Elder Victor Amungwa for details.

For proper planning, those wishing to participate **MUST** fill out the  
form below and contact Elder Victor Amungwa by December 27<sup>th</sup>.

Mt Paran Presbyterian Church  
10308 Liberty Road \* Randallstown, MD 21133 \* 410-655-6220  
[yourmtparan@gmail.com](mailto:yourmtparan@gmail.com) \* [mtparanchurch.net](http://mtparanchurch.net)  
*Mt Paran...where God is always exalted, and where you are always welcome!*

Yes! I want to use my talents to praise the Lord on New Year's Eve!!

name: \_\_\_\_\_ contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Activity: \_\_\_\_\_  
Comments:

*The Messenger's Praise Corner –*

*Have a special praise or 'shout out'? Please email us at [yourmtparan@gmail.com](mailto:yourmtparan@gmail.com) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month to be included in the next month's publication.*



*For several years the Deacons have organized a food drive collecting non-perishable food to be given away to those who have expressed a need at Thanksgiving time. This year Mt Paran collected many cans and boxes and were able to be a blessing to several families. In addition, Mt Paran reached out to our neighbors at Randallstown Elementary School and gifted 5 families in need with Aldi Grocery gift cards. In addition to the gift cards, each recipient at Randallstown Elementary School received a copy of Our Daily Bread, an invitation to worship, information about Mt. Paran, and an encouraging letter from the Pastor and Deacons Ministry. Thank you one and all for giving so generously to the work of blessing others. May God richly bless you!*

*Thank you to everyone who Participated in the annual Thanksgiving Sunday/Friends and Family Day! A very special thanks to the CWF and others who consistently support the work of the Fellowship Ministry.*

*You are all a blessing and we pray that God will bless each of you as richly as you bless Mt Paran with your continued support.*



*"But when you give a reception, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind..." LUKE 14:13  
At Mt Paran, everyone is welcomed!!!*



# OUTREACH & EVANGELISM

beyond the four walls of the church

*You're invited to join us when we visit our neighbors at*  
**CHAPEL HILL NURSING AND REHABILITATION FACILITY**

Under the leadership of the Evangelism Ministry (pictured above) and the Session of Mt Paran Presbyterian Church, an evangelical visit will be paid to CHAPEL HILL NURSING and REHABILITATION home

**4511 Robosson Road Randallstown, MD 21133** on **Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017**. Volunteers will depart immediately after church service preferably not later than 1.10 PM. The visit should take a maximum of 30 minutes (1.30-2pm). Your participation in the visit will be an honor to us and a blessing to all involved.

For this visit, we will need the participation all Christians of Mount Paran PC. You may choose to participate as a direct evangelist by visiting with us or as an indirect evangelist, by making a donation of material support. Evangelism does not mean spiritual support alone. One cannot listen and digest the word of God on an empty stomach. Consequently, we will need to take along the following items as gifts:

- Non perishable food items
- Soft drinks ( non diabetic)
- Gospel musical CDs
- Crossword puzzles or other indoor game items
- Coloring pages
- Holy Bibles
- Old magazines
- Socks
- Hats
- Scarf
- Blankets (lap blankets or shawls)
- Snack
- Soda (Diet and regular)

*(note: This list is not exhaustive)*

It is worthy to note that direct evangelists are those take the word of God into the society while indirect evangelists are those who owing to their program of activities cannot be able to be at the fore front to take the word out there but will always support the direct evangelists who devote themselves to take the word of God into the society.

Please, your physical presence at the Nursing home or material donation will be highly appreciated and you will be blessed.

Please, bear in minds that those we are going to visit wrote applications to be where there are now. You and I can find ourselves in their situation tomorrow.

**Submitted by, Chairman Evangelism Ministry: Elder Bernard Mbah**



### The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper –December 3<sup>rd</sup> & January 7<sup>th</sup>

We will celebrate The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper as part of our morning worship on Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup> and January 7<sup>th</sup>. In this sacrament we remember Jesus' death on the cross, we celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the grave, and we look forward to Jesus' return to establish His eternal kingdom. In the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter of 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians the Apostle Paul tells us that we need to properly prepare ourselves **prior** to coming to The Lord's Table. We are to prepare for receiving communion by examining ourselves. We need to take a serious look at ourselves. We need to ask ourselves if our thoughts, our words, and our actions are pleasing to Jesus. We need to ask ourselves if we are living the victorious life that God planned for us and the victorious life that is available to us through Jesus Christ. We need to ask ourselves if we are being good stewards of our time by praying and meditating on God's Word to us, The Bible, each day. We all need to take a serious look at ourselves, and when we do if we are honest, we will admit that we can and should do a much better job of being *Ambassadors of Christ*. But the Good News of Jesus is that access to His table is not given to the worthy, but that Jesus invites all people to come to His Table who come in repentance, faith, and humility.

Also remember that The Session approved a special sacrificial offering to be received on the first Sunday of each month for us show our appreciation to The Lord for paying the penalty of our sins so that we will live in heaven throughout eternity. 🕊

## Those Who Serve: December 2017:

	Sunday December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sunday December 10 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday December 17 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday December 24 <sup>th</sup>	Monday December 25 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday December 31 <sup>st</sup>
<b>Lay Readers</b>	Alex Fonteh	Tonya Carter	Barbara Aluna	Kendall Cook	Nelly Enoni	Ophilia Sama
<b>Lay Readers</b>	Ambang Kuchambi	Barbara Aluna	Stallone Kemende	Wallace Johnson	Shadrack Moti	Becky Atong
<b>Lay Readers</b>	Eunice Koffi	ViViane Nkemchia	Grace Bih	Alice Forminyen	Jessica Fongyi	Ernest Mfobujong
<b>Greeters</b>	Lumbe Mfobujong	Mary Robinson	Bryanna Moti	Odilia Jator	Tyran Mack	Eric Nchumulah
<b>Greeters</b>	Jordan Gordon	Grace Bih	Wallace Johnson	Evelyn Moti	Mike Hodges	Taryn Cook
<b>Greeters</b>	Pauola Abunaw	Christy Aluna	Pauline Arrey	Cassandra Azue	Theresa Mbenga	Theresia Ndingwan
<b>Greeters</b>	Cynthia Anang	Anthony Mboh	Tanwani Akum	Emmanuel Akum	Brittney Moti	Evette Amungwa
<b>Greeters</b>	Thelma Abunaw	Tonya Carter	Vivian Mbah	Martin Aluna	Relindis Awuh	Tychelle Mack
<b>Ushers</b>	Ulrich Tita	Bryanna Moti	Brittney Moti	Tonya Carter	Chris Ndzo	Kendall Cook
<b>Ushers</b>	Ari Koffi	Anthony Mboh	Elijah Akum	Tyrin Pearson	Benita Moti	Evelyn Moti
<b>Ushers</b>	Ava Johnson	Christina Nuvaga	Vivian Mbah	Tychell Mack	Carlson Moti	Shelia Shaddow
<b>Ushers</b>	Fabrice Anang	Mike Hodges	Carlson Moti	Sally Mbah	Ernest Mfobujong	Chris Ndozo
<b>Children's Church</b>		Charles Tangwan/ Olivia Kemende	Henry Tanwani / Lyliane Mbah	Victor Amungwa Pauline Tanwani		Alison Cook / Stephen Abunaw
<b>Fellowship Host/ Hostess</b>	CWF	CWF	CWF	CWF		CWF
<b>Assisting Elders</b>	Charles Tangwan	Henry Tanwani	Victor Amungwa	Alison Cook	Bernard Mbah	Cathy Mobit
<b>Offering Dedication</b>	Olivia Kemende	Lyliane Mbah	Pauline Tanwani	Stephen Abunaw	Joseph Anang	Dwayne Cook
<b>Counter</b>	Emmanuel Akum	Cassandra Azue	Joseph Anang	Gladys Fai	Relindis Awuh	Susan Achenick
<b>Counter</b>	Gladys Fai	Pam Carter	Benard Ndifon	Pauline Tanwani	Sally Mbah	Cassandra Azue
<b>Counter</b>	Lyliane Mbah	Wilfred Ngwanue	Stallone Kemende	Stephen Abunaw	Olivia Kemende	Joseph Anang
<b>Counter</b>	Kendall Cook	Relindis Awuh	Eric Nchumulah	Kendall Cook	Marcua Ade	Dwayne Cook



"...it is the Lord Christ you are serving."

Colossians 3:24

*Thank you for your willingness to serve the Lord!*

**Mt Paran Presbyterian Church**

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**DECEMBER SERMON TITLES AND SCRIPTURES**

**December 3, 2017 "God's Gift of Hope"**

Titus 2:11-14; 1<sup>st</sup> John 3:1- 3; 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1: 3 – 15; **Romans 8: 18 -39; (Sermon)**

**December 10, 2017 "God's Gift of Peace"**

Isaiah 57:14 – 21; Colossians 1: 15 – 23; John 14: 15 – 27; **Luke 2: 8 – 20 (Sermon)**

**December 17, 2017 "God's Gift of Joy"**

Colossians 3: 1- 17; John 16: 16 – 24; John 15: 1 – 12; **Luke 2: 1 – 20 (Sermon)**

**December 24, 2017 11:00 am "God's Gift of Love"**

John 3: 16 – 21; John 15: 9 – 17; 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13; **1<sup>st</sup> John 4:7 – 21 (Sermon)**

**December 24, 2017 7:00 pm - Christmas Eve "God's Gift of Light"**

Isaiah 9: 2 – 7; 1<sup>st</sup> John 1: 5 – 10; John 1: 1 – 14; **John 8:12 (Sermon)**

**December 25, 2017 11:00 am - Christmas Day – "God's Gift of Jesus"**

**Birthday Party for Jesus** John 1:1-14; Colossians 1:15-29; Romans 8: 1-4, 28-39;  
**Matthew 1:18-1:25 (Sermon)**

**December 31, 2017 - 11am New Year's Eve Day "God's Gift Of His Word"**

John 1: 1 – 14; Hebrews 4: 1 – 13; 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3: 1 – 17; **Nehemiah 8:1 -10 (Sermon)**

**December 31, 2017 – 9pm New Year's Eve Evening "God's Gift of Endurance:  
Pressing On In Jesus Name"**

**Philippians 3:13-14 (Sermonette)**

Our Friends  
At

Mt Paran Presbyterian  
Church  
P. O. Box 415  
Randallstown, MD 21133

