

Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church Quarterly Newsletter

Rev. Brantley L. McCollough, Sr., Pastor

Volume I, Issue XXIX

April 1, 2020

Special points of interest:

- Prayer Meeting and Bible Study - Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday School—Sundays at 9:00 a.m.
- Worship Services—Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
- 5th weekends—Eastern Division Union (TBA)
- 5th Sunday Service—8:00 a.m.
- The church calendar can be viewed online at members.localnet.com/~mtpisgah

Memory Verse

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. 2 Chronicles 7:14

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From the Desk of the Pastor...



Greeting to the Mount Pisgah Baptist Church Family and Friends.

God has indeed smiled on us and brought us to the end of the first quarter of the year, 2020.

He has allowed us to celebrate another Spring prayer breakfast, Spring revival, and a part of our 34th Church anniversary, He revived us in the Holy Spirit, allowing us to draw closer to Him and each other. He let us do these things during a time when the coronavirus pandemic was spreading in our nation and the world. He sent messengers who preached to us, telling us not to be anxious, but to keep doing God’s work, and to stand on His Word.

We thank God for His blessings within our church family, for the past, for what He is doing right now, and for what He will do in the future.

I am also grateful for the time God has given Sis. McCollough and me here. On the 1st Sunday in March (the 4th), we celebrated our tenth year (A decade!); we hope He is pleased with our efforts.

Because our national and state officials have asked, our church will not have services for two weeks. Let’s stay healthy and keep each other lifted in prayer. It is our prayer that the bans will be lifted and we can resume on the second Sunday in April.

As I close, I want to remind the church of this very thing: *He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.* He has brought us too far to leave us! Keep P-U-S-H-ing!

Yours in Christ,
Brantley, L. McCollough, Sr., Pastor

Mt. Pisgah Celebrates 34 Years of Kingdom Service



Mt. Pisgah celebrated thirty-four years in Valdosta with a prayer breakfast, three-night revival, and a morning worship service. The scheduled activities began on Sat., March 14 and ended on March 22. The theme for this year’s anniversary was “Waiting For An Answer in An Anxious World,” one that proved to be useful as our nation had entered a coronavirus crisis since the theme was chosen.

Support scripture for our anniversary was Philippians 4:6—Be anxious for nothing, but in prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.

Bro. Michael and Sis. Sonja Goins served as chairpersons for this year’s services.

Watch Night Service 2019



The Inner-city Fellowship of Churches (New Hope, Thessalonians, and Mt. Pisgah) met at Thessalonian Baptist Church on River Street at 10:00 p.m. on December 31st to remember 2019 and to praise God for what He had done in the last 365 days. The service was led by Pastor Aaron Hopkins of New Hope and Pastor Erlis McCollough brought the message. Pastor Brantley McCollough of Mt. Pisgah was not able to serve because of illness.

Bro. Eddie Moseley and choir members from Mt. Pisgah sang from the depths of their souls and Bro. Michael Goins ushered. Dea. Henry Everson led a spirit-filled devotion and Rev. Hopkins steered the testimonial portion of the praise service. All who spoke told how good the Lord had been to them, sprinkling their testimonies with remembrances of loved ones lost during the past year, sicknesses they had overcome with the Lord's help, and existing infirmities that they are depending on Him to see them through.

Pastor E. McCollough reflected on the beginnings of Watch Night and told how slaves and free people would gather in churches to sing and pray while waiting on God even before that night when they were waiting on Abe Lincoln to sign the Emancipation Proclamation. He remembered the late Deacon Eugene Wilson who kept the proclamation a part of our local history until his death, often insisting that

it be read at programs in our community. He also announced the Emancipation Proclamation to be held at New Hope at 11:00 a.m. the next few hours (Jan. 1, 2020) and encouraged our participation.

Then the pastor brought a message "Who Do You Believe?" with scriptural support from 1 John 5:10-13. He talked about how we don't depend on God's Word like we used to: we look to man for answers and run to every other source before we look to God's Word. He told us that no matter the situation—an unruly child, dispute about marriage, whatever the case,—you can look in the Bible and find a response. The messenger made it clear that we would all be so much more informed and do better if we filled our bible study classes and prayer meetings like we did other events. And that we can achieve the ultimate goal which is eternal life!

After the blessing of a Word from God, the time came to conduct the final part of the service: We gathered at the altar and Pastor Hopkins petitioned the Lord on our behalf.

Having Friends and Being A Friend!



Sis. Martha Vaughn consistently brings family and friends to Mt. Pisgah. Soon, they become our friends and we love them like family, too. The bible has a lot to say about friends. Two verses related to Friendship came to mind: Proverbs 18:24 - A man [that hath] friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend [that] sticketh closer than a brother. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 - Two [are] better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. When asked about her friend Barbara Goldston, Martha said:

Barbara (on the left) and I met through her sister when I was stationed at Offutt AFB, Omaha, NE the summer of 2000. I attended her sister's retirement in 2008, that's when I met Barbara. She told me that she lived in Atlanta; we exchanged numbers and vowed to keep in touch, which we have always done.

When she started experiencing problems with sciatica pain, then had a car accident which elevated the pain; she told me that she was going to have to have surgery. She was very worried that she would have to recoup alone because all of her family lived far away and /or had personal issues and couldn't get away. So, I went to stay with her for a couple of weeks.

While she has lots of friends in Atlanta, they all work, but they did what friends do! They helped, too, by sending Grubhud meals twice a day while we were there and on Sundays when we got here until I asked them to stop sending meals. In addition, they send money by Cash App and checks.

I assured her that she wouldn't have to worry because I would be there for her as long as she needed me and would take her to the hospital when the surgery was scheduled. The date for the surgery changed so I couldn't take her, but I was there to pick her up from the hospital.

When it was time for me to leave my replacement got sick, so I told Barbara that I could not and would not leave her alone and that she had NO choice but to come home with me. She did and is in physical therapy here twice weekly and doing very well. Needless to say, I enjoy my CSAs—Christian Service Assignments.

I solicit prayers for my friend Barbara, that she continues to recover and be renewed. And for my cousin, Curtistine Anderson (on right) from Columbus, OH who also visited in March while Barbara was in Valdosta.

The First Visitor of the New Year - A Man!



A remembered superstition came to my mind on the 1st Sunday in 2020. If the first person who enters the door is a man, you will have good luck the rest of the year. If not, the opposite would take place.

The reason that it did is because a man in a truck drove up quickly while we were in the parking lot waiting for time for Sunday School. It was a visitor, one who had not been to Mt. Pisgah before. At least that's what I thought. How wrong I was! Although the man was visiting that day, his visit marked the return to a time past instead of a first visit.

Our visitor was Collis W. Player, a resident of Lowndes County. He introduced himself as the son of a sharecropper, he had been raised in the area and lived here all his life and a servant for the Lord. When he was a child, his mother, Edna Player, brought him to church at Pyle Baptist (the edifice Mt. Pisgah purchased from Westside Baptist Church in 1986). He attended Sunday school in the Marshall Education Building, the building we dedicated to the late Deacon Carter Marshall and Sis. Artie Marshall in

recent times. He asked if he could stay for Sunday School and church services and said he had passed our church many times and thought about coming, but had not until that day.

Inside, he pointed to the baptismal pool and told us how he had come to a revival, heard the preaching of the Gospels, accepted the Lord as his Savior, and been baptized when he was 12 years old. That, he said, was fifty-one years ago.

When asked what he is doing now, he told me he is not a member of a church home and is not looking for one. He has been evangelizing in the streets for nine years and is compelled to do that all the time, every day. Brother Player (I couldn't make myself call our visitor Mr.; his testimony clarified his purpose is like that of mine and many others, which is to reach out to those that are lost.) told us "There are so many people out there who need to hear the Word of God!" He pulled his coat off to show his purple shirt with writing on the back telling who he is and said he wears one like it everyday. Unfortunately, I did not take a picture of the back of it, but did get this shot of him with Pastor McCollough, Deacons Everson and Register, and Bro. Smith.

A carpenter, Mt. Pisgah's first visitor of the New Year—a man—currently resides in Dasher and said he might come by again. "Anyway," his visit to his first church ended with, "If you see me in the street sometimes, just say "hey!"

I think Bro. Player enjoyed his visit to the church where he got his foundation. He talked to everyone and everyone enjoyed reminiscing with our visitor. A visitor, who happened to be a man! What an awesome way to start another year!

Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. Hebrews 13:2

Mt. Pisgah Shows Appreciation



Mt. Pisgah is blessed to have Pastor Brantley Lee McCollough, Sr. as our pastor and to have Sis. Jacquelin McCollough supporting him so graciously and beautifully. They have been completing their Christian Service Assignments (CSAs) at our church for 10 years (a decade) as he recalled on the 3rd Sunday in March.

Bro. Michael and Sis. Sonja Goins paid tribute to them and made a presentation on behalf of the church to our Pastor and First Lady the day after we had our Spring Prayer Breakfast. Both accepted with humility demonstrated by those who serve as the Lord tells them to do. We pray continued blessings on Pastor and Sis. McCollough.

And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which feed you with knowledge and understanding.—Jeremiah 3:15

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"Welcome to "The Mount"

**Where individuals are elevated to
a view of the promise.**

Announcements!!!

- ◆ Submission deadline for the next issue is **June 30, 2020**

Condolences

...to all members of the Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church family who have lost loved ones during this time. We pray the Eversons, the McColloughs, the Haigler Family, and the Carters are encouraged by our thoughtful deeds and prayers during this difficult season.

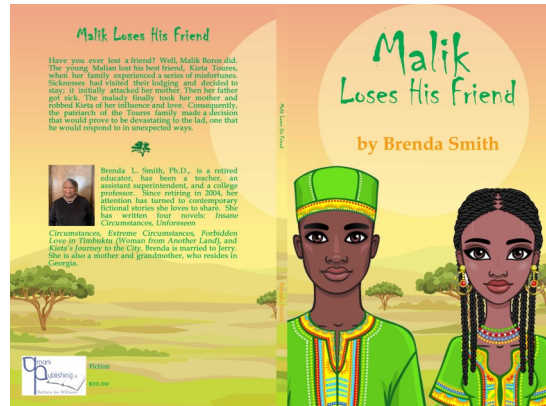
...to Brother Earnest Carter whose mother passed in March. Her funeral was on March 14, 2020.

...to all affected by the coronavirus which came to our shores in February. We pray understanding and God's peace on survivors and our nation.

"Earth has no sorrow that heaven can not heal!" - Thomas Moore

Accomplishments

Congratulations to Sis. Brenda Smith whose 6th book was published in January. *Malik Loses His Friend*, a book for preteens and young children who love to read is available at Amazon. She also maintains a few for sharing and autographing. Secure yours soon! Books make great gifts for birthdays, Christmas, or to give "just because!"



Insane Circumstances, Unforeseen Circumstances, Extreme Circumstances, Forbidden Love in Timbuktu (Woman From Another Land), and Kieta's Journey to the City may be secured at amazon.com or from Sis. Smith blsmith2@localnet.com

A Milestone



Deacon Henry Everson celebrated a milestone in 2019. He celebrated **50** years as a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. is a collegiate Greek-letter fraternity with a predominantly African-American membership. It was founded on January 5, 1911 at Indiana University Bloomington. The fraternity has over 160,000 members with 721 undergraduate and alumni chapters in every state of the United States, and international chapters in the United Kingdom, Germany, South Korea, Japan, United States Virgin Islands, Nigeria, South Africa, and The Bahamas.

The fraternity has a rich history rooted in service and members like Deacon Everson have contributed to its perpetuity by rendering many acts in their community. As you can see, he has been a member almost half the time the illustrious organization has existed.

A retired engineer, he teaches college classes and works tirelessly to get more young people to consider degrees and opportunities in that field. He continues his community involvement through his church, and many other organizations, and serves as a mentor for young men. He enjoys the support of his wife, Sis. Dorothy Everson while supporting his fraternity.