



THE VOICE

Mount Ephraim Baptist church
610 Largo road upper Marlboro, md 20774

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www.mountephrain.org

About Our New Family Life Ministry *Family and Friends Day*

The family life ministry has been designed to provide stability, hope, and encouragement to today's families. These are serious times in which we live. The most important battle being

God, make Christ known and be used by Him in the Family Life Ministry. We firmly believe that bringing God's timeless principles into marriage and family relationships is essential to the ministry of Mount Ephraim.

This ministry has four areas of concentration:

1. *Preparation for marriage*
2. *Enrichment of marriages and families*
3. *Intervention and crisis*
4. *Outreach to families*

Family Life Ministry members are: Co-Pastor Gilmore, Jr., Deborah Gilmore, Tresa Robinson, Whitney Robinson, Minister Todd Gilmore, Jimmy Jennings, Denise Jennings, Andrew Harris, Linda Harris, Jacqueline Moki and Samuel Moki.

This ministry is open to any-

(see Family Life on page 2)

"Heats Up" Church

By Erica Kennedy

Family and Friends Day 2006 at Mount Ephraim Baptist Church was celebrated in fine style on Sunday, February 26. You might say it was so successful that it took the chill off of winter. "When I arrived this morning it was cold, but it sure has warmed up now," Pastor Joseph A. Gilmore Sr. proclaimed to the more than 400 Mount Ephraim members, family, friends, and guests who gathered for the annual occasion.

Before the 10:45 a.m. service was officially underway, the Mount Ephraim Men's Choir and Music Ministry leaders stirred up the Spirit with such soul-stirring selections as, "If It Had Not Been for the Lord On My Side" and "I Want Jesus to Walk With Me," bringing the congregation to its feet. It was a place the congregation would find itself often throughout the service, as the New Psalmist Baptist Church choir from Philadelphia kept the Spirit moving with their renditions of "God Gave" and "He's Been Good."

After kind words of welcome were extended to visitors by the McKennie Family, Pastor Gilmore paused to recognize those members who had brought guests

(Continued on page 8)



Rev. Joseph A. Gilmore, Jr.

fought today in our society is for the souls of men, women and children.

Our purpose is to glorify

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Women's Sunday School	2
Sweetheart Fellowship	3
Church Web Updating	3
Black History Figures	4
Youth Page	5
Avoid Identity Theft	6
Caregivers Tips	7

"First Sweethearts"

Valentine's Day was a very special day for Pastor and Mrs. Gilmore and Mount Ephraim family and friends. The church celebrated this special Holiday of Love with a night of fellowship and Christian fun. *Turn to page 3 to learn more.*



Sunday School Focus: Get on the Move with the Women's Class

By Pamela Daye

One of the most challenging ways for Mount Ephraim women to broaden their knowledge of the Word is through Sunday School participation. The Woman's Sunday School Class offers a wealth of learning opportunities that speak the language of women, particularly African American women of the church.

In the Women's Bible Class, there are women who attend that are at different levels in their Christian walk, according to Brenda James. This Women's class stresses a diverse and unique class experience. "We try hard to include everyone in the discussions during this time of sharing. We take this opportunity to address questions or concerns that may



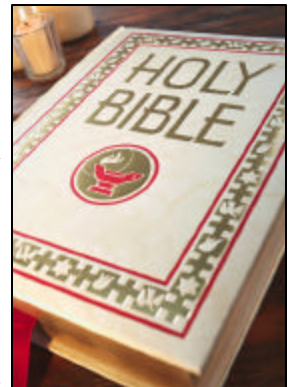
arise. Although one person may not be able to answer questions that arise, the discussion is opened to any one in the class who may have knowledge or experience in the topic area." Ms. James told *The Voice*

"We all work together as a team. It is our belief that people return weekly for the "feeling" of being a part of the teaching and learning process that takes place. In all of our teaching, we are Bible based according to the lesson for the week and we relate that to our daily lives."

The women have a class motto and it is: "Our Lives may be the only Bible some people will ever read." We, there-

fore, stress "live your life in such a way that others will want to emulate you." In these complex times, African American women face so many daunting issues. Only God's Word can provide many of the answers to the tough questions women have and comfort during the tough times they often face in our society.

There are four exciting, interesting and knowledgeable teachers for the Women's Sunday School class. They are Yvonne Matthews, Brenda James, Dorothy Dorsey and Marie Austin. If you are a Mount Ephraim woman and you have not had the opportunity to visit the Women's Sunday School class, don't let this opportunity pass you by any longer. Join them next Sunday.



Family Life from page 1



(Continued from page 1)

one who has a desire to help us effectively develop Godly families. Join us for our next meeting. To learn more, call the church office at 301-808-1584.



Our Pastor
Rev. Dr. Joseph A. Gilmore, Sr.

JOIN US FOR SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL

EVERY SUNDAY ...
9:15 a.m.



There is a class for everyone



James Alexander, Jr., *The Voice* Editor * First Lady Ethel Gilmore, Adviser * Pamela Day * Erica Kennedy * Patricia Shelton * Linda Smith * Erika Thompson * Denise Washington.

Photographers: Robert Eubanks, Arthur Scott

Full House Turns Out for Sweetheart Fellowship

It has been said that the church that plays and prays together stays together. And that goes for families, too. Mount Ephraim successfully combined both those elements into one on Valentine's Day, February 14, when it sponsored a first-ever, family-style Sweetheart Fellowship.



The fellowship was held in the church multi-purpose room which buzzed with the activity reminiscent of the monthly Family Fun nights the church has held on Fridays in recent years. Except this time, the crowd was populated mostly by well-dressed adults strolling arm-in-arm and surrounded by love-themed décor.

The event drew more than 200 people – ranging from singles to couples to entire families. There was plenty of

food, good music and even dancing as couples rekindled their romances and reminded each other why they connected in the first place. Pastor Gilmore, Sr. and Mrs. Gilmore set the pace with a surprise ceremonial dance and a romantic photo taken underneath the festive balloons. They also took time to greet members who came out.

The fellowship was held in the church multi-purpose room and was organized by the Mount Ephraim Youth Ministry.

One of the purposes of the Valentine's fellowship was to help keep and bring families together, a major ongoing focus of Pastor Joseph A. Gilmore, Sr. The social fellowship was all in good Christian fun and allowed members to enjoy each other's company in a relaxed



social setting. It also gave members an opportunity to get to know each other better.

During the fellowship program, which ran from 7-9:30 p.m., couples and families were able to take keepsake photos under an arrangement of red and white Valentine's balloons, eat and socialize at café tables and win several gift certificates and other prizes for answering trivia questions correctly. Among the prizes distributed at the Valentine's fellowship was limousine service for an evening.

The 2006 Valentine's Sweetheart Fellowship will go down in Mount Ephraim history as one of the most unique and fun family bonding events ever held by the church.

Church's Web Site to Get a Makeover With New Design

Contributed by **Willie Roberson**

UNDER CONSTRUCTION... Thank you for taking the time to visit us. We are currently making some changes to our site. Please be sure to check back later...

If you've checked the Mt Ephraim website lately, you've noticed the "UNDER CONSTRUCTION" sign. Our website is currently being redesigned by the InterGraph Corporation and should be back online soon.

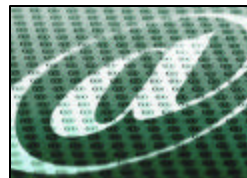
One of the issues with the previous website was keeping it current. This new website design will take advantage of current technology and will have Web Applications so that we can make instant changes to the site simply by entering

new information into a form.

As part of the updated look and feel, the website will incorporate images of the church building as well as pictures of members involved in various activities.

Here are some of the features of the Website: General Information; Church Announcements *{new}*; Weekly/Monthly Events; Order of Services; Marketing Links *{new}*; Guest Book *{new}*.

Through **Church Announcements**, information on the happenings of our church will be disseminated on



an almost daily basis.

The **Guest Book** will provide a forum for visitor interaction and information sharing as well as a method for encouraging visitors to come back for repeat visits. Additionally, the website will include links to the:

- **Early Learning Center**
- **Adult Day Care Center**

As you can see, we're excited about the church's new website and we know it will make a difference when it comes to keeping our members informed. Please stay-tuned!

The redesign is being headed by Trustee Charles Keemer.

Celebrating Our Religious Black History Figures

By Erica Kennedy

Harriet Tubman. Sojourner Truth. Frederick Douglass. Martin Luther King Jr. These are the great historical figures that usually come to mind—and are most often celebrated—during Black History Month. However, there are many notable figures in black history that many do not know about, including those notable *religious* black history figures that have helped to shape our race's spiritual foundation. In February, we paused to celebrate four of those figures: Richard Allen, Fred Shuttlesworth, George Washington Williams, and Peter Williams Jr.

Richard Allen

Born: 1760; Died: 1831

Richard Allen was an American clergyman and the founder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Born a slave in Philadelphia, Allen later obtained his freedom and became pastor of a black group that had seceded from the Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia. When the African Methodist Episcopal Church was organized nationally in 1816, Allen was consecrated its first bishop. Allen's decision to found a black congregation was partly a response to white racism. Although most white Methodists in the 1790s favored emancipation, they did not treat free blacks as equals, and refused to allow African-Americans to be buried in the congregation's cemetery. Allen's action also reflected a desire among African-Americans to control their religious

lives. By 1795, the congregation of Allen's Bethel Church numbered 121; a decade later it had grown to 457; and by 1813 it had reached 1,272.

Fred Shuttlesworth

Born: 1922 -

As pastor of Birmingham, Alabama's First Baptist Church, Shuttlesworth organized the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights in 1956. He served as president of the group until 1969 and spearheaded the movement to integrate Birmingham's schools, offices, and public facilities. Shuttlesworth worked closely with Martin Luther King Jr., establishing the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) in 1958, and organizing the protests and actions in Birmingham during the spring of 1963. He was secretary of the SCLC from 1958 to 1970. He continues his campaign for racial and social justice as a minister in Cincinnati.

George Washington Williams

Born: 1849; Died: 1891

Enlisting at 14, Williams fought for the North in the Civil War. In 1874, he became the first black to graduate from the Newton Theological Seminary in Cambridge, Mass. A Baptist minister in Boston and Cincinnati, he later became a lawyer and was the first African American elected to the Ohio legislature. In 1882, Williams published *History of the Negro Race in America, 1619-1880*, making him the first major historian of African-American ancestry. At the end of his administration, President Chester A.



Fred Shuttlesworth

Arthur appointed Williams minister to Haiti. But the new president, Grover Cleveland, cancelled the assignment. Williams attended an anti-slavery conference in Brussels in 1885, prompting the Belgian government to send him to the Congo, where he criticized Belgian atrocities.

Peter Williams, Jr.

Born: 1780; Died: 1840

Williams grew up to become active in the Methodist Church. In 1818, with the blessings of prominent white Methodist minister Thomas Lyell, Williams organized a black congregation in Harlem, St. Philip's African Church. In 1826, he became the first black Episcopalian priest. In 1827, Williams helped establish a black-owned abolitionist newspaper, *Freedom's Journal*. He also managed the American Anti-Slavery Society for two years. While his public reputation was damaged by allegations that he had performed an interracial wedding ceremony, he remained active with his church until his death.

NOTE: We recently celebrated Black History Month. This look at religious figures is in honor of our ancestors.

Mount Ephraim Welcomes New Music Minister

Phillip Carter, a renowned gospel musician based in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, kicked off 2006 as Mount Ephraim's new Minister of Music. Some longtime Mount Ephraim members will remember Carter's earlier association with the music ministry.

Carter, who earned his B.S. in Music Education from Bowie State, plays keyboards and has recorded professionally. He also writes and arranges music. Carter gained acclaim as the leader of a local gospel ensemble he founded, the Sounds of Victory, which features several gifted musicians and vocalists from area churches. They have toured nationally and recorded several inspirational, soul-stirring songs.

According to SOV Ministries, Carter has performed with Karen Clark-Sheard, Albertina Walker, Edwin and Walter Hawkins, Jennifer Holliday and Tramaine Hawkins.





THE YOUTH PAGE



God Wants You to Have Money For College

This is the time of year that college-bound students (and even current college students) should be looking for scholarships and other financial aid opportunities. Actually, the earlier you start the better, but there is still time to apply to the literally thousands of opportunities available.

The following is a *very short* list of where you can start your search for money:

- **Free Application for Federal Student Aid** (www.fafsa.ed.gov)

Completing this application is a **MUST**. This one application can help you get federal (and state) scholarships, grants, work-study money, and/or loans. The amount of money you receive and in which form is based on income tax information. However, to see if you qualify for any amount of money, you must apply early. The deadlines are in the summer of each year, but getting an application in before April can mean getting a scholarship and not a loan.

- **Scholarships.com** (www.scholarships.com)

This is a **FREE** service that lets you look for scholarships based on the information you provide. You can even have scholarship updates sent to you via email. Remember, this site is **FREE**, so no need to pay anybody ever to do a scholarship search for you.

- **United Negro College Fund** (<http://www.uncf.org/scholarships/index.asp>)

The UNCF provides the largest amount of financial aid to minority students, especially those who attend one of UNCF's private, historically Black member schools. Even if you do not

attend one of those schools, UNCF still provides a wealth of scholarship information on their website.

YOUNG IDEAS By ERIKA THOMPSON

- **Gates Millennium Scholarships** (www.gmsp.org)

This scholarship program, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, makes about 1,000 awards each year to minority students. Keep in mind that this scholarship is very difficult to get, but not impossible. The work you have to do to get this award is well worth it because if you do get it, you can get your undergraduate degree (in ANY major) for **FREE** (including books and living expenses). In addition, you may be eligible for a **FREE** graduate education depending on the major.

- **Places of Worship**

If you are a member of Mt. Ephraim, then of course you may be eligible for a Mt. Ephraim scholarship. But, did you know you should check out other places of worship as well? Other places of worship may offer scholarships to non-members, such as students from a particular high school, or in a particular community. It never hurts to check around your neighborhood or even ask your guidance counselor about these opportunities. This worked for me when I was in high school. I received two scholarships from the Presbyterian church in my neighborhood.

- **Civic/Service Organizations** Many of these organizations, such as fraternities/sororities, NAACP, Kiwanis Clubs, Jaycees, etc., offer scholarships through their local chapters. Your parents, teachers, and fellow Mt. Ephraim members may be members of these types of organi-

zations. It never hurts to ask the adults in your life about these groups to see if scholarships are available.

Your search can be time-consuming, but that doesn't mean it has to be difficult. Never be too shy to ask your parents, teachers, guidance counselors, or any other knowledgeable adult for help. Also, remember to keep your grades up and keep active in your school and community.

BIBLE TEASER



Which of these statements is correct? Circle True or False for each of these and check the Answers Box at the end to see how well you did.

Joshua fought the Battle of the Bulge.

True _____ False _____

God gave Moses the Ten Commandments.

True _____ False _____

Jesus' earthly parents were Joseph and Marla.

True _____ False _____

Job was a character in the Bible who exhibited a lot of patience.

True _____ False _____

The Bible is made up of a total of 125 Books.

True _____ False _____

ANSWERS: False—True—False—True—

Protecting Your Identity: *Keeping Identity Theft at Bay*

Contributed by **Andrew Harris**

With a handful of the right numbers and dates and a little personal information that is easy to find, anyone anywhere can present himself as you.

Armed with your birth date, social security number and your mother's maiden name, the wrong person could drain your bank accounts, take your credit cards on a buying binge and run up telephone, cable and public utility charges. He may even buy a car or take out loans, including a mortgage. When he defaults, as most do, relentless calls from collection agencies find their way to you, and that is just the beginning. In short, he is a thief who not only has hijacked your identity, but also has ruined it; and the worst of it is, by the time you find out about it, it is too late.

While not totally preventable, identity theft can be discouraged by using the following suggestions:

- Guard your social security number and other personal information. Do not give it out over the telephone or Internet unless you know the person.
- Keep close track of your bills. If they do not arrive, call your creditors.
- Place protective passwords on your accounts and be creative. Avoid using easy-to-obtain information, such as your mother's maiden name or your birth date.
- Shred receipts, insurance forms, old checks, bank statements and credit card applications, especially those that are "pre-approved," before you throw them away.
- Take outgoing mail to the post office or collection boxes instead of placing it in the office mail or in your own box where it could be stolen before the mail carrier picks it up.
- Do not carry your social security card. Keep it and other personal and financial information in a safe, secure place, especially if you have roommates or are having work done in your home.

Harris, a Deacon, is a U.S. Secret Service Special Agent

If your identity has been swiped, take the following steps:

- Contact the fraud departments of major reporting agencies and place a "fraud alert" in your file, as well as, a "victim's statement" that asks creditors to call you before opening new accounts or changing existing ones.
- Request a copy of your credit report, which must be given to you free if your report is inaccurate because of fraud. Check the section that lists "inquiries," and ask that any inquiries from companies that opened fraudulent accounts be removed from your report.
- Contact the creditors of fraudulent accounts immediately. Speak to someone in the fraud department and follow up with a letter.
- Immediately close accounts that have been tampered with and open new ones with new passwords.
- Stop payment on any stolen or misused bank checks, and ask check verification companies to notify retailers not to accept those checks.
- File a police report and get a copy in case creditors need proof that a crime has occurred.

For information about identity theft, see the Federal Trade Commission's Web site at www.consumer.gov/idtheft. To file an identity theft complaint with the FTC, call 877-438-4339. The Federal Trade Commission has no enforcement power, but has begun to collect statistics and can supply other contacts.

To report that someone is using your Social Security Number, call the Social Security Administration at 800-772-1213.

The three main credit reporting bureaus are:

Equifax (800) 525-6282 800) 525-6285

Experian (888) 397-3742 (888) 397-3742

Trans Union (800) 680-7289

www.equifax.com

www.experian.com

www.tuc.com



A Look at Men Who Are Serving As Caregivers

Contributed by **Denise Washington**

Many men - husbands, sons, son-in-laws, brothers, nephews, significant others – are finding themselves actively involved in caring for family members or loved one's with Alzheimer's. Nationally, more than one third of family caregivers are men, a proportion that is likely to grow.

Men face unique challenges in caregiving, and may be faced to take on new, uncomfortable roles that they have never had before, those traditionally held by women. They may be called upon to perform more household duties, such as shopping, meal planning and preparation, or laundry.

Male caregivers may also be called upon to attend to personal care responsibilities, such as feeding, dressing and undressing, and bathing or toileting. Feeling like a one-man band is not uncommon.

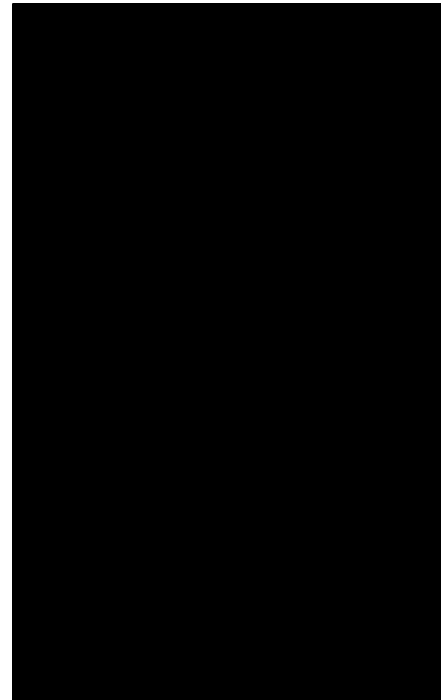
These changes are difficult. Men may find that their support system is not as well developed as a women's might

be. Women are more likely to talk to each other about their feelings, their problems and concerns. Men generally tend to limit the intimate details of their life with a spouse or partner.

*Reprinted with permission from Alzheimer Association, Fairfax, Virginia
Reprinted from Alzheimer's Family Day Care Center, Caregiving at a Glance*



Some Ideas ...



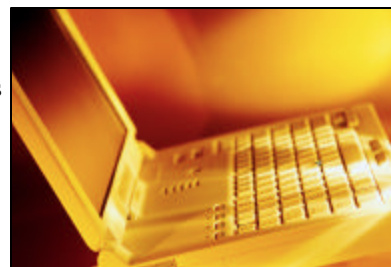
Bible Surfin' on the Internet: The Word Lives Online

You're traveling on business or you're on family vacation and you want to take time out for a quick devotional and Scripture reading. You don't have your Bible with you. All is not lost, thanks to the Internet. There are several places where you can read your Bible electronically. The entire King James version of the Bible is available on the Internet through a variety of sources.

Go to www.cforc.com/kjv/index.html and get every chapter, every verse of the King James version. Just like a Bible that fits in your hand, this Web-based Bible separates chapters according to Old Testament and New Testament. On one side, you can click on the chapter title and then the specific chapter number and the verses for that chapter all pop up on the opposite column. This site also allows you to download to your personal computer the entire King James version with active hyperlinks.

One really sophisticated and interesting site to access the entire Bible on the Web is <http://asv.biblebrowser.com/>. Here, you can call up chapters and verses and match the language across different versions. For example, the very first words in the Bible, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1) reads as such in the America Standard Version. Those same words in the King James Version read: "In the beginning God created the heaven and the Earth." The Bible in Basic English version of those words read: "At the first God made the heaven and the earth." Yet another version, Young's Literal Translation, goes "In the beginning of God's preparing the heaven and the earth." You can even access Hebrew texts.

Finally, an excellent Bible search engine can be found at a site called The Blue-Letter Bible. That site is accessed at <http://www.blueletterbible.org/>. You can enter book, chapter or verse information as well as common search terms and you will be taken directly to that section of the Bible. Happy Christian surfing!



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*“Making the Connection
 Under HIS Direction”*



Family and Friends *from page 1*

along with them to celebrate the day. Although several members easily crossed double-digits with the number of guests they had in tow, it was the Moki Family and their 18 visiting family and friends that received the most praise.

Rendering the message of the hour was Rev. D.J. Lawrence, pastor of New Psalmist and a long-time “friend”



Rev. Lawrence (right) after the service

of Mount Ephraim.
 “We always look forward to coming this way. Dr. Joseph Gilmore is like a mentor to me and I am his protégé. He is indeed a jewel in the body

of Christ,” Rev. Lawrence said before directing the congregation to John 10:9 to recite the background scripture for his message titled, “The Doors of the Church Are Open.”

Rev. Lawrence drove home the point of his message by speaking metaphorically of the many kinds of doors people walk through in life, but stressed the importance of finding that one true “door” that is the “passage to [greener] pastures.”

“There are all kinds of doors...wood doors, steel doors, aluminum doors, but I want to talk about the Jesus door,” explained Rev. Lawrence. “He is a good Shepard, the Light of the World, the Almighty, the I Am, the King of Kings, and He is that door. You need to know who the door is.”

Before closing his message, Rev. Lawrence brought the congregation to its feet once more with a powerful recounting of when he personally found that “door,” and reminded all to do the same by seeking Jesus first.

“Some people will join the church and not join Jesus,” he stated. “But the atmosphere of the church should

make you *want* to join Jesus. He is the only door.”

After the Invitation to Discipleship was offered, Reverend Kevin O’Bryant closed service with a special altar call, and blessed the food—prepared by the Culinary Ministry—that was awaiting Mount Ephraim and its guests.

As members and friends embraced one another, and fellowshiped together during and after service, it was evident that the chilly temperatures outside simply could not compete with the warmth that was generated inside by the love, worship, and praise another blessed Family & Friends Day brought to Mount Ephraim.



Enjoying a hearty meal afterwards