



THE VOICE

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

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Dealing With Grief and Loss

When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, those who witnessed the act saw it as a one-time event, not indicative of a future reality. Not even when Jesus himself was raised from the dead was the doctrine of the

bereaved can have hope. It is connected to the return of Christ. Paul wrote that those who die in Christ would be raised from the dead when Jesus returns to call His church to himself and would be alive forevermore.

While you are grieving, there is hope for you, for He said He would comfort you.

None of us likes to lose our loved ones. Isn't it comforting to know that those who die in Christ will live again when He returns?

Grief is painful, but for the Christian, the grave is only a rest stop for the body on the highway to Heaven.

With Apostle Paul's teaching, we find specific reasons why the bereaved can have hope. It is connected to the return of Christ.



Homecoming Sunday Celebrated By All at Mount Ephraim

It has been said that you can't go home again. At Mount Ephraim, you can. And many people did just that on Sunday, September 25 when the church hosted its annual Homecoming celebration.

Two standing room only services were highlighted

by two powerful preachers – the Rev. Cynthia Bennett of Day Spring Community Church in Lanham,

Md. and the Rev. Edwon Brown of Refuge Baptists Church in Silver Spring, Md. Music for Homecoming was provided by the Men's Chorus and the Angels of Joy. Both groups sent the spirit soaring in the sanctuary, stirring souls and spurring handclaps and foot pats with strains of gospel. The men electrified God's house with favorites like "All the Way" and "Who's On the



Rev. Dr. Joseph A. Gilmore, Sr.

general resurrection of believers understood.

With Apostle Paul's teaching, we find specific reasons why the

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Saying Thank You

Co-Pastor Joseph A. Gilmore, Jr. (right) tells the church family how special they have been to him and his family during his co-ministry at Mount Ephraim with his father. Turn to the top of page 2 to find out what special occasion the church celebrated in his honor recently.



Rev. Gilmore, Jr. Thanks Church Family on Anniversary

Rev. Joseph A. Gilmore, Jr. stood before the Mount Ephraim church family and talked about how quickly time had passed. It did not seem real that his young daughter, Alia, was now 9 years old. Some members remember when he was but a teenager, but here he was celebrating yet another year as the church's Co-Pastor.

"I do want to express my thanks to all of you at Mount Ephraim for your kindness and generosity," Rev. Gilmore, Jr. said to applause during special services Sunday, October 16, in observance of his anniversary. "I am cognizant of the fact that nobody has to do anything for you ... I know that God has called me to preach."

During a brief address to the church family prior to the sermon, Rev. Gilmore, Jr. paid special tribute to his parents; his wife, Deborah; and his younger brother and partner in the ministry, Todd, who heads Mount Ephraim's youth ministries.



Rev. Herman Lawson preaches Anniversary Sunday sermon for Co-pastor Gilmore, Jr.

He thanked all of them for their support through the years.

Rev. Gilmore, Jr.'s anniversary program this year was led by the Rev. Herman Lawson, an old friend from his days at Morehouse College and currently the Associate Minister at Salem Baptist Church in Atlanta. Rev. Lawson served as the speaker for both services, bringing a special message about how God is always trying to

locate his lost sheep – even just one – symbolic of God's forgiveness and correction when Christians have lost their way and gone astray from the flock like sheep.

"The sheep is dependent on the shepherd to lead him, feed him and guide him," said Rev. Lawson. He explained that the Bible uses the sheep to symbolize God's flock because the sheep is an animal that is totally dependent, "dumb" and weak, just as are all Christians. Rev. Lawson's message was taken from Luke Chapter 15.

Rev. Gilmore, Jr. preached his trial sermon in January 1994 and was ordained on November 18, 1995. He oversees Mount Ephraim's adult day care and child day care programs and was instrumental in leading church renovation and building projects, as well as a recent refinancing.

The church family appreciates his dedicated behind-the-scenes service to Mount Ephraim.

Homecoming from page 1

Lord's Side?"

During the summer vacation season, many Mount Ephraim members have been away on vacation. Homecoming is viewed as a time for renewal and a return to worship and God's Word.

Rev. Bennett, who has preached at Mount Ephraim before, started Homecoming off right with a stirring sermon about the God of second, third and multiple chances. A former speechwriter for the U.S. Surgeon General, Rev. Bennett talked about God's undying love for all of us and asked the congregation to remember their first love and the excitement they felt, as an illustration of the power of love.

"There is another kind of love and it isn't that romantic kind of

love called Eros. It's the kind of love you give that person when they can't give you anything in return," Rev. Bennett said.

Using the parable of Peter and how he denied Jesus several times, Rev. Bennett pointed out how the God of a second chance, when he faced Peter after Peter's many failures, only asked Peter, "Do you love me more than thee?" Jesus did not criticize the failures, denials, or the betrayals, but only wanted to know if Peter

loved him "more than thee." Rev. Bennett's overriding message for Homecoming was that even though we



Rev. Bennett and Rev. Brown

"mess up," God still has a need for us because he is a loving God. He allows us a "do over."

The message for the second service, brought by the Rev. Brown, of Silver Spring, was "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?" Rev. Brown used

that title from a classic movie to remind Christians that as Children of God, we are all awaiting the day when we can participate in "the banquet" at the Lord's table in Heaven. "There is another place, another kingdom we are to populate, another place," said Rev. Brown.

"Eyes have not seen. Ears have not heard what God has planned for his

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Church's Women "Lock" Themselves In for Renewal

By Pamela Day

At 7 p.m. on Friday October 21, the women of Mount Ephraim locked themselves up. But they didn't throw away the key. Instead, they used the occasion to huddle up for a little spiritual "girl talk" to share the Word as part of the Women's Ministry Lock-In.

More than 90 women participated in the evening of fun, fellowship and spiritual renewal. The event ended with a continental breakfast the next morning.

Each woman was asked to bring a swatch of material and those who did not were provided with material. Why? The women worked to stitch the squares together symbolizing mending of the fabrics of life. The end result was a beautiful quilt which will be displayed in an upcoming Women's Ministry meeting.

The session began with two songs, "In The Name of Jesus" and "Victory Is Mine," followed by Scripture reading by Linda Sitney (Philippians 3:13), Prayer by Sadie Mitchell and a spiritual and heartfelt welcome and purpose from Rev. Glenda Green, of Mount Ephraim's min-

isterial staff.

Mount Ephraim's new Praise in Motion dancers and Legayle Gerald performed liturgical dances. In addition, "Let it Go" Entertainment Tonight Presented the "Sis Can't Elopes" debut comedy act (actually Rev. Green in disguise), along with soloists Lydia Bradley and Larvita Woodland. Bryanna Green led the women in a Fitness Stretch Break and Pinkie Kier blessed the food.

The Speakers for the evening were: Rev. Joann Kyler, Assistant Pastor for the Women's Ministry, St Paul Baptist Church; Elder Pamela Thomas, of the In His Presence Worship Center and inspirational speaker and author Stanice Anderson.

One of the themes was how women of God must "let go" of the past, including resentment, fear, secrets, approval-seeking, control, fear of abandonment, low self-esteem and isolation.

Words of Wisdom from the Lock-In: "For this one thing I will do press on, forgetting those things, which are behind, Let Go and Let God! Adopt a way of expressing our thoughts and feelings,



willfully forget and dismiss from the mind that which is behind. Let Go, give Up, Abandon, and Release ... Let Go, be unrestricted and unrestrained ... Follow God's Directives.

Sunday School Year Starts Anew With Breakfast Fellowship

By Shirley Branch

The Sunday Church School Ministry recently held its annual "Back to Sunday School" on September 18, 2005. This event is held every year after the start of the school year, to welcome returning students and new students to the Mount Ephraim Baptist Church Sunday Church School.

It is always exciting to see those who may not have been able to attend Sunday school during the summer vacation season. There is a myth that Sunday Church School is just for children and youth, but it is for everyone, and the Ministry makes every effort to include the young as well as the young at heart. This year's return-to-Sunday School fellowship was an "old-fashioned sit down breakfast." The Culinary Ministry pre-

pared the cuisine and all who attended enjoyed great food and a good time as well as information about the "nourishment" that Sunday Church School provides for those hungering to know more about the Word. Members of the church school staff provided information on upcoming events to be hosted by the Sunday Church School, and teachers gave brief presentations about their classes and expectations for the 2005-2006 school year.

The Sunday school is still seeking additional teachers for the Beginner, Primary and Junior classes. Parents were asked to become more involved by making a commitment to attend their child's class one Sunday each quarter. Anyone wishing to volunteer as a substitute teacher, or who is interested in becoming a teacher in the

Sunday Church School is asked to please contact the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent or the Christian Education Chairperson.

This year's school theme is "Refined Silver," taken from Malachi 3:3 - "He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver." The message of that Scripture is that every one of us is a piece of silver in God's eyes. He sees His image in us.



Brother of Church Member Leads Spirited Fall Revival 2005

For three nights in late September, members of Mount Ephraim, along with family and friends, packed the pews to take in some old-fashioned, country style

preaching to mark Fall Revival 2005. The revival followed a very successful series of Homecoming services and featured as guest minister the Rev. Charles Roberson, of Savannah, Ga., who happens to be a brother to Trustee Willie Roberson.

Rev. Roberson, who pastors the Kingdom Life Christian Fellowship in Savannah, attracted a large crowd each night of the revival services, which were held Wednesday through Friday, September 28-30.

On Wednesday night, Pastor



The Word: Rev. Roberson

Roberson talked about change; on Thursday he preached personal transformation and on Friday his topic was "the Jarius Daughter Generation". The scripture was taken from

Mark 5:22-24, 35-43. The first two nights' messages were about trying to get people saved, but Friday night was youth night and he preached about having a personal relationship with God to save those who come behind us.

Rev. Roberson told the congregation God is charging us to reach back and grab the next generation and make sure they understand the God that we serve. He reminded worshippers that our mission is not complete until we pass the torch to the next generation.

"I'm very proud of my brother, but more importantly I'm proud of what God is doing in his life," Trus-

Brother to Brother. Rev. Roberson (left) and Willie Roberson chat after recent revival service.



tee Willie Roberson reflected about his younger brother after the revival services. "He has an outstanding ministry and I enjoy hearing him speak. I'm glad that my Mount Ephraim family got a chance to hear him as well."

Over the years, Mount Ephraim has sponsored a string of very inspiring and spirit-filled Revival services that have drawn worshippers from the larger Prince George's County and neighboring communities. The Fall 2005 revival ranks up there among the most exciting and spirit-filled in recent years.

Men's Day Celebration Challenges Men to "Follow God"

Mount Ephraim's men looked good and sounded good on Sunday, October, 23, when the church held its annual Men's Day observance.

There is a myth that men do not go to church, that they often stay behind on Sunday mornings while their wives and children trek to various houses of worship. But Mount Ephraim men shattered that image long ago with a contingent of active, engaged and committed men serving the church in various capacities.

The men of Mount Ephraim were present in full force to put an exclamation point on it. From the Male Chorus to the worship leaders to the ushers, the men of Mount Ephraim reminded themselves and other worshippers that God has a special role for men in Kingdom



Rev. Lyde (left) and Pastor Gilmore

building and that men are relied on heavily to spread the Word.

For Men's Day 2005, the Rev. Rodney Lyde, of Mount Sinai Tabernacle Baptist Church in Philadelphia, brought a powerful message of challenge to Mount Ephraim's men titled, "The Difference One Man Can Make."

"In this life, you have two

choices. You can choose to follow God, or be against Him," Rev. Lyde said during the sermon. "Sometimes when you try to stand with God, people will try to knock you down."

Rev. Lyde's message to men as to follow God no matter what others say and be prepared to take up your own cross just as Jesus did. "Everybody's got a cross to bear. Don't think that you're the only one. Although we've all got crosses to bear, don't you ever give up on serving God."

Rev. Lyde also implored men of Mount Ephraim to be in position to be used for the Lord. If you are not in position for God to use you, you cannot make a difference.

The Men's Ministry also presented several awards, to Alvin Mayo, Michael Rice, Charles Keemer, Rev. Paul Lucas and music director Carlos Younger for their support.

A Classical Voice: *Martha Banks*

The next Leontyne Price may come from the Mount Ephraim Baptist Church family. You probably have never met or even heard of her. The name is Martha Labell Banks, and she is the daughter of Dr. Willie Banks of the ministerial staff and Dr. Barbara Banks.

Martha Banks, 26, is on track to become a world-class opera singer, thanks to her God-given talent, her hard work and her outstanding training. She has been singing since fifth grade in Prince George's County, when she was first selected to the all-county chorus and sang at the Kennedy Center. Today, she is one of the precious few students at tending the prestigious Boston Conservatory of Music where she is studying for a Master's Degree in Performance.

"It's a great experience for her," said Dr. Willie Banks. Every year, she has to audition to stay there. You have to be extremely good."

Martha Banks is in the second year of a four-year program at the Boston Conservatory and has been a Dean's List student all semesters. In 2001, she graduated from Hood College in Frederick, Md. where she sang with the college choir and the

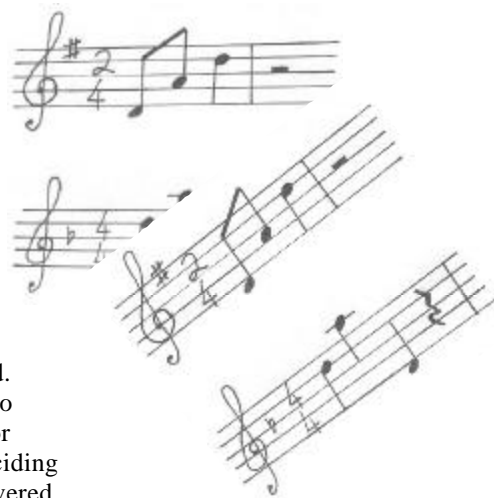
smaller chamber choir, which has just a handful of members. She joined the Hood College chamber choir on a trip to New York during her junior year.

After graduating from Hood, Martha taught French in Prince George's County for two years, having studied the language in Strasbourg, France for a semester while at Hood. She then turned her attention back toward vocal music and auditioned for various schools of music before deciding on the Boston school. She has delivered vocal renditions at Mount Ephraim on occasion.

In addition to her studies, Martha Banks is the lead soprano soloist as a paid staff member for First Congregational Church in the Boston area.

Martha's long-term goal is to join a major opera company and perform in either Europe or the Metropolitan in New York. It may seem like a long road to reach such eights, but for Martha Banks, it is a dream that is progressively coming true.

-- Contributed by Patricia Shelton



Meet Our Newest Christian Dance Team ... "Praise In Motion"



Traon Boykin, LaMonica Younger and Tina Fryar

Can you lift your hands, can you move from side to side, front to back up and down? Well, if not there are three young ladies doing it in a major way. They can be found at 610 Largo Road every Third Sunday ministering at the 7:30 and 10:45 services. This awesome, new Liturgical Dance ensemble call themselves "Praise in Motion", and that is a most appropriate name because they are praising God with every motion expressed.

This anointed group of young ladies are: Traon Boykins, Tina Fryar and LaMonica Younger. They debuted in September where they presented their self-taught choreography to the tune of Kirk Franklin's "More Than I Can Bear." They were well received by the church.

Since their debut they have ministered on their assigned Sunday (3rd Sunday in October and the Women's Ministry Lock-In. This group of ladies desire to offer a means by which young ladies ages 18 and up and even young men, can come together in unify their talent, and enhance the worship experience on Sunday as they praise God in the form of Christian dance.

Rehearsals are held each Monday at 7:30 pm, with the exception of the Monday following the Third Sunday.

— Contributed by Carlos Younger

Brain Teaser: *Can You Identify "Me?"*

By Ronald W. Parker

If I provide some hints for you, will you be able to identify me? Let's see! Below are some hints:

- I've just turned 3 years of age ...
- I have been identified as one of the best kept secrets in Prince George's County ...
- I strive to be popular, positive and productive ...
- I am the brainchild of Pastor Joseph A. Gilmore, Sr. ...
- I exist in the glorious shadows of the Mt. Ephraim Baptist Church ...
- I open my doors and heart Monday-Friday, 7:00 A.M-6:30 P.M. to persons who are in need of my love, my care, and my services ...
- I have the best staff of nursing care professionals that you will find in the area
- I can provide excellent care, safety, love, and activities for your family member and respite for you ...
- I experienced some growing pains in the past, but I'm doing much better now!

Well, if you haven't guessed, I'll tell you who I am. I am **THE JOSEPH A. GILMORE, SR. ADULT DAY CARE CENTER**. Please call me on (301) 808-9808, so that I can share with you the many services that I have for you and your family.



The Joseph A. Gilmore, Sr. Center

Homecoming from page 2



Pastor and First Lady Gilmore

(Continued from page 2)

children ... The meal hasn't been set. The menu hasn't been set yet."

The focal point of Rev. Brown's sermon was that God has something special in store for those who follow Him and believe. He equated the journey through life to get ready to meet the Lord in Heaven with making preparations for a great meal. He asked worshippers to ask themselves if they are worthy of an invitation to that fine meal.

Homecoming Sunday 2005 ended with a joyous fellowship meal in the church gymnasium provided by the church's Culinary Ministry.

Overall, Homecoming was everything it was supposed to be and more. As a result, Mount Ephraim has set the stage for a spiritually powerful fall and winter worship season.

Church Family Helps Katrina Victims

Strong winds and flood waters that rose to rooftops took lives and crushed dreams in the Gulf region in the early days of September when Despite the devastation, many people were able to peer through the tragedy and still see the goodness and mercy of God, thanks to support and prayers from churches around the country.

Mount Ephraim was one of those churches, raising funds to provide financial assistance to three families in the hurricane region, including the family of Roderick Bradford, a former member of Mount Ephraim in the early days of the church's founding.

"We are blessed on this end. We better not take it for granted that the

same thing cannot happen here," Bradford told church members during an emotional testimony on September 11. He described the relief at hearing his elderly parents had survived the storm, though they suffered property loss and possibly the loss of his father's church.

Mount Ephraim also provided assistance to the family of the Rev. Dwight Webster, of Christian Stronghold Baptist Church in New Orleans and another family. Special offerings were taken up during Sunday services in September and Pastor Gilmore challenged members from the pulpit to give as if the victims were their own family.

Domestic Violence: Know It and Know What to Do About It

By Erica Kennedy

Mount Ephraim's Deaconess Ministry participated in a Walk Against Domestic Violence on October 8, raising more than \$6,000 for the Family Crisis Center in Brentwood, MD. The article below examines Domestic Violence close up.

Pushing, Kicking, Shoving, Forced Intimacy, Threats, and Control are not just random acts of violence from strangers you would guard yourself from on the street. For about one in every four women in America, these acts occur in their homes by someone they know best—their partners. However, understanding what domestic violence is and how to free oneself from it is the first step to combating this nationwide crisis.

What is it Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence (sometimes called

“intimate partner violence”) occurs when one person causes physical or psychological harm to a current or former intimate partner, and includes all acts of violence within the context of family or intimate relationships. Besides being the leading cause of injury to women in the United States, it is an issue of increasing concern because of its negative effect on all family members, especially children.

Domestic violence is not confined to any one socioeconomic, ethnic, religious, racial or age group and knows no geographic or educational boundaries. In fact, it occurs within teenage relationships and among same-sex partnerships as well.

How Do I Know if I Am or Have Been Victimized?

Physical signs are indeed easier to identify. However, many women are not sure if they are victims of domestic abuse because they have not been seriously

injured or because their partner has not hit them at all. Therefore, it is important to know domestic abuse is about more than physical violence. In fact, when a partner does things to make the other afraid and isolates them from friends or family members, it may be considered abuse **How to Stop the Abuse and End the Cycle**

The first step in stopping the abuse is to *acknowledge* the abuse is occurring, realize you are not at fault, forgive yourself and reach out for help, which is often just a phone call away. Because of the shame associated with being abused, many victims will not tell family and friends. However, there are professional counselors available; they are waiting to help. Support from domestic violence programs, the legal system, and social and medical services can also help you find ways to be safer.

To learn about the services in your area, check the community services section of the phone book, contact the Department of Social Services, or call the statewide domestic violence hotline number (see below). Shelters and/or safe homes will offer places for you to stay and share what's on your mind, while advocacy and other support groups can help you obtain medical care, legal assistance, housing, and employment.

Lastly, remember abuse is indeed a crime, and that means you have a right to contact police. For more information about domestic violence, log on to: www.endabuse.org. For assistance, you may contact:

- **The National Domestic Violence Hotline – 1-800-799-SAFE**
- **The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence – 1-800-MD-HELPS**
- **Prince Georges County Family Crisis Center – (301) 864-9101**
- **House of Ruth (Washington D.C. Women's Shelter) - (301) 699-7790**

HALLELUJAH! Movie Review

By Erica Kennedy

Review of movie, “The Gospel”

Kicking off this fall's movie blockbusters is Screen Gems latest release, “The Gospel,” starring Boris Kodjoe (Soul Food), Idris Elba (HBO's The Wire), Clifton Powell (Ray), Nona Gaye (Ali), Tamyra Gray (American Idol) and Donnie McClurkin, in a non-singing role.

Playing out like a modern-day prodigal son, “The Gospel” follows David Taylor (Kodjoe), an R&B singing sensation, who has left his gospel singing days behind for a piece of the secular limelight. When his father, Pastor Fred Taylor (Powell) falls ill, David returns home to be by his side and assist the New Revelations church in its move forward. But not everyone is taking too kindly to his return home. In particular, Rev. Charles Frank (Elba), David's best childhood friend, who is now vying to be the church's next new leader despite what it may cost him. Tension between the pas-

toral staff mounts; trouble in everyone's personal lives begin to brew; and a not-so-welcomed new vision for the church is taking root, while David is caught in the middle of it all. Now both the secular and spiritual world are tugging at him, and he must decide where he belongs and who really needs him more: God or his fans.

“The Gospel” strives to be a lot of things at once: part romance, such as when David takes an interest in the choir sweetheart (Gray), part drama, part gospel concert-but never really succeeds at one.

The movie drags at times, getting lost in its own plot, and settles for a predictable, happily-ever-after ending that may leave some moviegoers feeling unfulfilled. However, it is during the movie's weak spots when good, soul-stirring, hand-clapping gospel music-led by the likes of Yolanda Adams, Fred Hammond, Martha Munizzi and Hezekiah Walker is dropped in to revive a not so fresh script. And even if that's the best “The Gospel” has to offer, it's still worthy of an “Amen.”

Rating: 3 out of 5 "hallelujahs"

Mount Ephraim Baptist Church
610 Largo Road
Upper Marlboro, MD 20774
Phone: 301-808-1584
Fax: 301-808-3243
Prayer Line 301-808-3189

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Under HIS Direction”*

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Holiday Travel Tips for Getting to Grandma and Grandpa’s House

By Erica Kennedy

When it comes to traveling, it is often said, “getting there is half the fun.” However, that may be hard to believe during the holidays. According to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, the Thanksgiving and Christmas/New Year’s holiday periods are among the busiest long-distance travel periods of the year. During the Thanksgiving travel period, the number of long-distance trips (to and from a destination 50 miles or more away) increases by 54 percent, and during the Christmas/New Year’s holiday period the number rises by 23 percent, compared to the average number for the remainder of the year.

Is staying put during the holiday season the answer? Not at all. Preparation is! Keep your plans to gather with family and friends around turkey, stuffing, sweet potato pie and gifts galore. But whether you’re flying or driving, follow these nifty travel tips to

keep the “bah humbug” out of your “glad tidings.”

1. **Fly early in the day.** Flight delays and problems mount during the day. The first flight out is almost always the most likely to go out on time.
2. **Leave your car at home.** Airport parking lots always fill up early. Take a taxi or airport shuttle instead, and enjoy curbside service.
3. **Get to the airport early.** It’s always a good idea to do so, but especially when the airports are crowded with holiday travelers.
4. **If you’re running late, go right to the gate.** Your reservations and seat assignments are subject to cancellation if you don’t check in on time. Even if you have luggage to check, you’re better off taking it right to the gate and letting the attendant check it. Skycaps and check-in kiosks are also great time-savers.
5. **Bring something to eat and something to read with you.** Delays are inevitable, and you’ll feel like the smartest person on the plane when you pull out your favorite snack and maga-

zine instead of begging for peanuts.

If you’re driving:

6. **Plan your route before you leave.** Congested areas, construction delays or inclement weather are avoidable if you do your research and plan ahead of time. Log on to: www.fhwa.dot.gov/trafficinfo for weather and road condition information.
7. **Maintenance your vehicle.** Nothing ruins a holiday vacation like—not getting there! Check tire pressure, oil, belts and hoses, and pack blankets, flashlights and snacks in case a breakdown occurs and you must wait for assistance.
8. **Plan your rest.** Stop every hour or so to walk around and stretch. Rest areas are great for this.
9. **Share the road.** Get someone to share the driving with you. That way you can switch off as needed and everyone feels better when they arrive.
10. **Be patient.** Set backs and delays are almost inevitable. You may not get there on time, but you’ll get there.

Regardless of how you travel this season, remain calm and make the best of it.



THE YOUTH PAGE



Church Is Where You Can Come to 'Get Your Homework On'

The 2005-2006 school year marks the 13th year that the Homework Help Ministry has been in existence. Over the years, several volunteers have helped dozens of students with assignments or skill practice. In addition, whenever there were instances in which we couldn't help, we always offered referral assistance.

Unfortunately, Homework Help has seen a steady decline in participants over the last few years and volunteers are at a loss as to what else to do. When we first noticed the decline, we changed the time—three times. When that didn't work, we moved from Wednesdays to Tuesdays so that students could get homework help and go to Bible study (with their parents). We handed out calendars, put notices in the bulletin, and wrote articles for *The Voice* (this is my

fifth over the years). We even developed a survey asking for your assistance, but only three members returned them.

Even though Homework Help has always been open to members and non-members alike, this year we are going to make a concerted effort to get the word out to students in the

YOUNG IDEAS

By **ERIKA THOMPSON**

Largo/Kettering area so that they can take advantage of this FREE service. If that doesn't work, then this school year will most likely be the last for Homework Help.

We are not hoping for that outcome, so despite the lack of interest, Homework Help still gained three new volunteers. Homework Help now has

a total of six volunteers who are eager to offer time and talent each week. Some are present and former educators, others are not. But, we all share the same passion for helping others. Homework Help is blessed to have these faithful volunteers:

- Sis. Veronica Lewis (elementary level subjects, original member of Homework Help)
- Sis. Erika Thompson (English, with Homework Help for nine years)
- Deacon William Thompson (math, with Homework Help for six years)
- Deaconess Brenda James (elementary level subjects, first year with Homework Help)
- Sis. Shana Murray (math, new to Mt. Ephraim and Homework Help)
- Sis. Joan Patterson (elementary level subjects, new to Mt. Ephraim and Home-

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Teen Perspective: Mount Ephraim Youth Imparts Advice to Peers

By **Davon Best**

On the 2nd Sunday in October, I shared my perspective on High School life and declared how good GOD is in my life. By the grace of God I entered my junior year at Bowie High school along with my friend Ashley McAllister.

As a freshman high school life is new, you want to fit-in, become a member of the "In Crowd", and become well known and liked. I wanted to be popular and in the in crowd. I tried to go to parties, hang out at the Mad Chef & Culture Club, but my Aunt and Grandmother weren't accepting this because they knew that these decisions could affect my life. As I entered my sophomore year I realized I was too young for that type of life.

My Aunt Kate was always telling me that everyone is not your friend, so I made a decision to leave those friends alone, and succeed in life. I need to develop good communication skills and make good grades.

Now that I am a junior I thank God for sparing my life and letting me live. Some teens that I know have

been shoot, killed or in jail because of the wrong decisions, that they made in their lives.

I thank God for my grandmother and aunt who have been godly influences in my life, and for getting me involved in church. I learned my first scripture at age 5, Psalms 23. I became a member of the Angels of Joy, and was baptized at the age of seven, and now I serve as a junior deacon. Some of you know that they have raised me jointly since the day I left the hospital. Not everyone has what I have; a parent or mentor in their lives to encourage them to make the right decisions and support their decisions. Most kids my age are already experiencing adult life with Baby Mama & Baby Daddy drama.

I thank GOD for a blessed and safe home, food to eat, nice clothes to wear, good grades and involvement in Church and School activities.

I am involved with Chocolate City records and have my own band called "Domestic Disturbance".

(continued on next page)



Bible Multiple Choice

One way to learn the Bible is to learn the characters as well as their stories and what lessons they taught. Take the quiz below and see how many Bible characters you can identify based on the clues about who they were and what they did. Please circle one.

- He was the King of Babylon
- The walls of this city came tumbling down
- These 12 men were Jesus' Inner Circle
- This Biblical character had a whole lot of patience
- This man was Moses' father-in-law
- This gentleman rebuked Jesus
- Jesus raised Jairus' daughter and this person from the dead
- In the Bible, he was stoned by an angry mob of people
- This religious sect did not believe in resurrection of the dead
- Jesus gave this man the Ten Commandments

- Riley Nebuchadnezzar Tut
- Jericho Atlanta Brisbane
- Jesus' Boys Disciples Choir Boys
- Job Bob Jeremiah
- Henry Moses, Sr. Jethro
- Peter Paul St. Jude
- Larry Mustafa Lazarus
- Matthew Stephen Mark
- Atheists Agnostics Sadducees
- Judas Silas Moses

answers below

Answers: Nebuchadnezzar, Jericho, Disciples, Job, Jethro, Peter, Lazarus, Sadducees, Moses

Homework from previous page

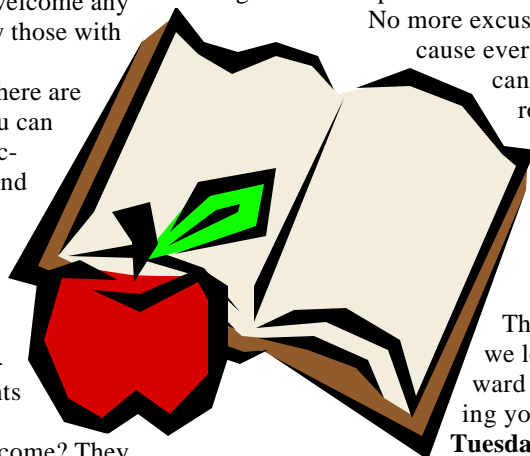
work Help)

We aren't limited to the subjects in parenthesis, those are the areas of expertise. However, we welcome any new volunteers, especially those with a background in science.

Now that you know there are people willing to help, you can make Homework Help successful this year and beyond by participating. We understand that it can be difficult to get every student to come out every week. But really, there is no reason why we shouldn't have at least 10 students every week. What should students bring when they come? They should come with their assignments, books, pencils/pens, paper, and any other materials they may need. Even if a student doesn't need help with a particular assignment, we can still help with their handwriting, multiplication

tables, etc. So, what if a student doesn't need help in anything? Well, if they are 13 or over, they can volunteer and the hours will count toward community service credit needed for graduation and college/scholarship letters.

No more excuses because everybody can have a role to play.



Therefore, we look forward to seeing you on Tuesdays at

7pm in the library. Next year, I hope to write my sixth article about Homework Help. By that time, I want to discuss how well the ministry is thriving.

Teen Perspective from previous page

Ephraim family for their help in raising me and I love each one of you. I thank God for my Mom coming back to church; soon she'll be graduating from college.

My message to the teens is "You have not seen it all, watch what you do, how you act, and who you hang out with because it can lead to a life of happiness turned to sorrow."

"Train up a child in the way he shall go and when he is old he shall not depart." Proverbs 22:6

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