

**WELCOME to the  
JANUARY  
edition of the  
Mt Vernon Baptist Church  
Newsletter.**

**We want everyone to know how  
God is working in our midst.  
We pray daily for God's  
blessings on all we do and say.**

**Every Sunday**

9:00 am Prayer Time  
9:45 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Worship  
12:00 pm Fellowship Time

**Every Wednesday**

7:00 pm Prayer and Praise

**JANUARY Activities**

3~ Communion Sunday  
10~ Deacons Meeting at  
12:30 PM in the Library  
25~ Church Board Meeting  
at 7:00 PM in the Library

**JANUARY Birthdays**

Dorothy Machen: 13<sup>th</sup>  
Ron Tavares: 18<sup>th</sup>  
Melissa Guinn: 20<sup>th</sup>  
Morris Ramsey: 27<sup>th</sup>  
Endale Savine: 29<sup>th</sup>

**For Ministerial Care:**

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**Mt Vernon Baptist  
JANUARY 2010  
CHURCH  
NEWSLETTER**

Family:

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and Happy Holidays!

December was a very challenging month for many of us, but Praise be to God, we overcame the mixed emotions we experienced. I tell you the truth, as much as I love celebrating the birth of our Savior, thinking of my departed loved ones during this season always leaves a sad spot in my heart.

The Advent Season Celebration strengthened me as we talked about the hope, peace, joy, and love the birth of Jesus brings to us. It is because we celebrate His birth that we can celebrate His death and resurrection. His resurrection gives us assurance of Eternal Life. We know that we too shall see our Father in Heaven as we join our departed loved ones when our time comes.

It has been a great year for all of us, despite the many challenges that has come our way, and by the Grace of God, we are still here. I thank God for the Saints that He has equipped our church with, who are carrying out His ministry. I look forward to another great year working side-by-side with our church family to enhance God's Kingdom.

Pastoring a church is not an easy task; it takes a group of godly minded people to make this happen, thus the reason why Jesus had to select His disciples. I realize it has been a sacrifice for many of you, but know that there is a crown in heaven waiting for you. I want to thank Serge and Marje for leading us in worship every Sunday; Manuel and Pastor Dan T. for sharing the Gospel of our Resurrected Savior; Bob and Mrs. Judy O'Roark for collecting our Tithes and Offerings; Victor and Ron for up-keeping the building; Melissa and Chris Loesch for taking care of the administrative and financial issues; Diane, Violet, Pauline, and Kathy for providing the Pastoral Care to our sick and shut-in; and Lya, Alma, and the Beavers family (Mom and Pops, as I dearly called them) for their weekly sugar blessing (pastries).

I especially want to thank our brethren who continue to encourage all of us with their faithful attendance. You are the salt of the earth and I am blessed to share this part of my life with you. To the sick and shut-in listed on this letter, may God continue to bring you comfort, strength, and healing every day of your life. Your faithfulness continues to inspire us.

To my wife, Tina, and my children JC, Isaiah, Xavier, and Isryel, I thank you for blessing me from day-to-day with your love, your humor, and your laughter. You all complete my existence and I love you.

May the God of love and peace be with you through the upcoming year and may His blessings be upon each and every one of you now and forever!

In Him,

Rev. Dan Cruz  
Acting Pastor

## **PRAYER LIST - UPDATE**

- Alice Kaus
- Arbutus Hollifield
- Christine Morgan
- Clive Hemphill
- Davis Family
- Debbie Langston
- Diane Webster
- Gene Prince
- Iris Garland
- Janice Rector
- Jesse Parker
- Jim and Karen Masse
- Kestie Hammond
- Martha Phillips
- Monica Mensah
- Nancy Nelson
- O'Roark Family
- Stowe Shockey
- Stella Phillips
- Timothy Marsh
- Victor Sarkodie and his children
- Virginia Kunz
- Wayne Mudd
- Wayne Webster
- Wesley Moreno

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." - Proverbs 3:5-6*

The beginning of a new year comes with a mixture of emotions, expectations, and a fresh sense of hope. We make New Year's resolutions - promises we make to ourselves that we have all intentions of keeping. The problem is that once we settle back into our old routine after the holiday rush, we lose the motivation to make good on our promises.

What is so amazing about God is that He keeps all His promises. In fact, He inspired great men to record these promises along with instructions on how to handle life's most pressing matters. He even answered all our questions to every problem life throws our way, even before we experience them. This record of such important information is what we call the Bible.

If we can read and study His Word, we can move a lot easier through life and all the trials and tribulations that come with it. By coming to church, listening to the message God brings forth through various speakers, taking notes (whether mental or written) during Bible study and Sunday School, and practicing a healthy prayer life, we can allow God to move in our lives in such a way we could not possibly imagine. Why is it that we are so stuck on old habits and routines that we cannot dedicate more time to the One that created us and all the beauty we encounter each day?

This New Year, I challenge you all, my dear brothers and sisters, to get closer to God. Our purpose here on earth is not being fulfilled until we realize that life is about continuously growing closer to God. Ask God to reveal the area, or areas, in your life that you need help strengthening. Is your prayer life *really* as strong as you think it is? Could you be praying just a little bit longer or more often? Do you make time to study your Bible; not just when you are in church? What have you done lately for someone other than yourself without expecting anything in return? Have you truly shown the love of Christ to each person you have encountered?

Take a good look at your life. Recognize the blessings God has entrusted to you. Thank God for even the small things that most of us take for granted. No matter what you have or don't have, please know that one thing no one can take away is the love God has for each and every one of us.

May God bless you all!

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