They would sell their property and possessions, and distribute the money among all, according to what each one needed.” (Acts 2:45)

This verse exemplifies how the first church acted among themselves. The early church spent their time learning from the apostles, fellowshipping, eating and praying with one another. Because of their closeness many miracles and wonders were done through the apostles.

The first church continued together in close fellowship. They would share their belongings with one another. They even went as far as selling their property and possessions so that everyone in this church had what they needed. In addition, they met daily in the temple, had their meals together as well as praised God for all that God had done. Luke the writer of Acts says, “And every day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:47b)

—continued on page 2
The church of today still has a responsibility towards those who are in need. The church is commanded by God to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and to give shelter to the homeless. In addition, the church has an obligation to help persons inside the church and its community to keep their lights on, their water running, and whatever else the church can do to help. In order for the church to lead persons to Christ, the church first has to meet them where they are. For example, when a person is thirsty, it is better to quench their thirst first and then witness because witnessing is not effective until the person’s thirst or need is met.

Funds are needed to meet the needs of those inside as well as outside our church. I have said again and again, “Ministry is not for free! Ministry costs.” Yet, the church still has an obligation towards those who are in need.

The church is required to tithe just as its parishioners are required to tithe. What is meant by this is that the church is required by God to give a minimum of ten percent (10%) of its income towards helping those who are in need as well as spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

This past year our income was $791,266.49. This means that our church should be giving almost $80,000 towards missions. We are required by God to do much more. This year we need to make a conscientious effort to categorize our missions giving to see exactly how far off we are. What is meant by this is that much of our missions giving are not categorized under missions in our budget. It is categorized in other line items in our budget. For example, our health fair and Thanksgiving baskets are missions endeavors; however, the monies come out of the Christian Education and Dorcas Missionary Societies’ budgets, respectfully. This year we will want to place items like this under our missions budget line item to see exactly how far we need to go to meet this ten percent goal.

This is the reason why I have emphasized from the pulpit the last five Sundays the importance of each adult giving at least $5.00 per Sunday to the missions/benevolent offering and each youth to give at least $1.00 per Sunday to the same...
offering.

My prayer is that these monies will help us in the spreading of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is what missions does. God’s Mission is to reconcile lost persons to Him. Missions are how the church helps God to fulfill God’s Mission. Benevolence, the helping of those who are in need, is a type of Missions, but Mission is larger than benevolence.

My asking for this offering for missions/benevolence will not only go towards helping those who are in need. In a larger way, it will help to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

My prayer is that we will be able to reach as many lost persons as possible. These lost persons are found in our church, community, city, nation, and world. We witness through our lives, our words, and our work. Please join me in all three.

Let us continue to pray for our church! In your daily prayer time, please pray that God will:
1. Continue to release the Holy Spirit among us.
2. Give us Divine Wisdom.
3. Strengthen us so that our lives will display the fruit of the Spirit.
4. Empower us to use the gifts that the Spirit has given us.
5. Aid us in setting the right goals.
6. Help us to fulfill our mission and vision.

I love you and I thank God everyday for This opportunity to serve you!

Pastor Dalton
Il est ma raison! (He is my reason!)
—by Sis. Sheena Hailes—

Who ever dreamed I would change my life for a man?......but this isn't just any man. This is the only man I'll ever love so much I cry at the mere thought of him feeling any pain....a man who has been my all since I was conceived....a man that never doubted my potential to do anything and gave me what I needed to discover it on my own....a man that instilled an unforeseen faith in God in a child thrown into what would've been a bottomless pit of grief and despair....a man of inner strength and honor....a man of humble confidence....and strong family values. And I...in the light of this man's gradually setting sun....make alterations to my life to be who he raised me to be....

and with this change I beg you Lord to take him only when it's time my selfish days are over now, I know it's in your hands not mine I want him to be happy with the choices in life I will make even little things like what flavor I choose when I'm gonna bake a cake so I change my life from this day forth to be just like he is applying each day each lesson he taught me when I was a kid and every lesson taught through tales of struggles in his youth and vow for now and ever more to try and tell the truth I want him to be happy when in this life I make a stand and do just like he did back then and lend two helping hands He's done so much for everyone it mustn't go in vain I'll do my best to uphold his work, please don't let him pass in pain He has so many friends and family members that will mourn but reassure us all dear Lord he has been again reborn He'll do the same as he's been doing, just on the other side In knowing that we're being strong he'll do it in good stride You'll keep him strong I know you will, you've done it for oh so long 'Cause for all that time that he's been here he's kept us all that strong and when he departs our earthly presence we'll reach a point of weakness and with that strength he'll lighten our hearts though all the gloom and bleakness so once again I ask you Lord to do what you must do but make us strong and ready like him for when we come see you too

I love you granddaddy!

—Sheena Hailes
Hail to an Everlasting Influence  
—by Rev. Janelle J. Thompson—

In this month deemed Black History month, we often look outside of our immediate environs to identify famous influential African American leaders. I am happy to say that I don’t need to look outside my Mt. Moriah family to acknowledge someone who has been a great influence in my life’s journey. I have had many influences in my life’s journey but the one that will always mean more to me than anyone could know is that of Rev. Dr. Edward A. Hailes, Sr.

I have written and re-written this article in my mind many times. I felt compelled to let the world know just how influential Rev. Dr. Hailes was in my acceptance of my calling—my answering the call to teach and preach God’s word. For years, I had a tugging at my heart to preach God’s word. I thought I had overcome it by singing God’s word in the MMBC Senior Choir, various community choirs, special and impromptu groups, solos and the like. With all that, there still was a tugging at my heartstrings.

“With his finger pointed squarely at me, he said, ‘You’re gonna preach.’”

Finally, one day I decided to meet with Pastor Hailes and talk it over with him. I relayed to him my desire to attend seminary at that time with no consideration of preaching. I merely wanted a better understanding of God’s word. I even told him how I had to avoid looking at the HU Seminary campus whenever I would travel by the corner of South Dakota and Taylor Streets, N.E. so that I would not experience that gnawing feeling. I saw the energy of a response building in his eyes and I was nervous as to what I could expect. But on that day, I was blessed with support unlike any I could have ever expected or imagined. If you ask me to tell you all he said that day, I can only tell you those words that surprised me most and challenged me even more.

With his finger pointed squarely at me, he said,” You’re gonna preach.”

—continued on the next page
Hail to an Everlasting Influence

—continued from page 5—

Now all I wanted to do at that time was to discuss the fact that I wanted to go to seminary. I had not thought past that point of my journey. I assumed he had not really understood what I had said. My response to him was, “Pastor Hailes, I am just thinking about seminary right now.” Again, as only he could do, with his finger pointed straight at me, and with that directive tone he had in his voice, he repeated to me, “You’re gonna preach.”

Now anyone who knows Doc or has ever experienced Doc knows that at this point you usually say to yourself, “Why argue?” I resigned myself to the fact that I was going to go to seminary and just wasn’t going to think about that “preaching thing” until I had to. Rev. Hailes told me I was welcomed to use his library at anytime and that he was there for me.

You may say, “Oh that is such a nice story.” And yes, it is. But I say to you, as a woman in the clergy, it was a blessing to receive that verbal and active support from a locally, nationally, and internationally known older established male member of the clergy, the likes of Rev. Dr. Edward A. Hailes, Sr. For so many women who have answered their calling to preach and pastor, there have been roadblocks designed by those, male and female, family and friends, who believe that women have no place in the pulpit.

I thank Rev. Hailes for encouraging me and assuring me that the tug I felt was my calling to preach and teach God’s word and that I needed to answer it to the best of my ability. His words, “You’re gonna preach,” continue to ring in my heart, my mind and in my soul. I will always remember that finger pointed in my face. I will always treasure his smile, his laugh, his infectious determination and positive nature in serving God as he helped his fellow man, woman, and child. The key to his serving God was not his sometimes rough and tough presence but it was the love and twinkle you could catch in his eyes whenever he was helping those in need. He clearly understood love as the greatest commandment. He saw no limits because of gender. I can only hope that in my ministry, I serve with the same level of understanding, compassion and dedication.

I thank you, God, for placing Rev. Dr. Edward A. Hailes, Sr. in my life.

I thank you, Doc, for all you did for me and the unwavering support you gave to me and other women in the clergy.

Thank you Doc for being an everlasting influence on my life.

Love always,

Rev. Janelle J. Thompson
Bro. Stanley Bennett is a busy young man. He’s an 11th grade student at McKinley Technology High School in the District and he is active in a number of church ministries including Audio, Youth Choir, Junior Ushers, and making sandwiches for the homeless with the Evangelism Ministry.

In addition, he holds a part-time job with the DC Mayor’s office where he is learning business and life skills.

Given his hectic schedule, it’s no wonder he told the Clarion, “I like to help as much as I can.”

One of Stanley’s hobbies is drawing—ask to see his work as he’s very talented.

Bro. Bennett would like to major in Computer Science when he goes off to college.

The Clarion looks forward to following the progress of this hardworking, Christian young man.

Congrats to...Sis. Audrey Hailes for landing the lead role of Hecuba in “The Trojan Women,” a classic Greek tragedy written by Euripides. This will be the spring play for Bishop McNamara High School, March 3-4, 2006. Advanced tickets are 2 for $30, with additional tickets available for $10 each. For tickets, please contact Sis. Janet Hailes at: 202/291-1454. **Get your tickets early as performances sell out quickly.**
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel L. Holmes II announce that their daughter, Mrs. Sherri A. Holmes-Clark, has successfully defended her dissertation titled, “A Qualitative Inquiry Into The Use of Students’ Written Journals As An Exemplary Literacy Practice For Middle School Programs,” at Temple University in Literacy Education on Sept. 27, 2005.

Mrs. Holmes-Clark has worked in the field of education for 14 years, four of which was spent as an instructor of English Methods Education Courses at Temple University. She has taught language courses to children, adolescents and adults as well as trained and monitored teachers development in student-centered practices as a literacy consultant/school director with Teach for America, the national teacher corps. She’s committed to continual educational growth, research, supervision and curriculum associated with literacy education.

Sherri’s Christian education and spiritual journey began here at Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, where she was blessed and baptized by the late Rev. R.G. Williams. She was active in various ministries, i.e., a Sunday School student, a Youth and Choral ensemble member, Youth Forum member/president a participant in several activities/programs. Sherri has always carried her Mt. Moriah experiences with her during her endeavors away from home.

**SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE**—By Sis. Doris S. Rousey

I would like to take this time to thank the youth who are participating in the Oprah Winfrey High School Essay Contest. I ask that you pray for them as they submit their papers, and that God will anoint the expressions they have made about the book called “NIGHT” by Elie Wiesel, and the subject matter “How Is This Book Relevant Today.” An extremely informative piece of work, that tells about the life of a young man during the Holocaust (complete destruction, usually by fire). This young man was Eliezer (Elie) Wiesel, one who survived the Holocaust, and lived to tell his story. During the time of the Holocaust, Elie, along with others, questioned God and His reason for allowing the Jewish people to suffer.

Thanks to Deaconess Sylvia Liggins for providing our youth with variety scholarship applications, including the one from her sorority for Prince George’s County students. We encourage all of our members to bring in all information regarding scholarships.

Your attention is called to last month’s Clarion, which provided a listing of various scholarship websites. This listing is also posted on the Scholarship Bulletin Board outside the Nurses room in the educational building. Please take a look at this board. Do not let our work go in vain. We welcome any suggestions and/or materials for posting.

Since the origination of the Edward A. Hailes, Sr. Scholarship Fund, fifty-nine (59) of our youth have benefited from this and the MMBC Scholarship Fund. Again we say THANK YOU for all of your contributions, and remember to DIG DEEP, and “give not grudgingly, nor of necessity for God loveth a cheerful giver.”

The Clarion—Feb. 2006
The Clarion Interview:
Meet The Minister of Worship & Arts,
The Reverend Deandre Lyman
—by Sis. Janet Hailes—

God continues to bless Mt. Moriah and through His grace I am pleased to have the opportunity to introduce you to our new Minister of Worship and Arts, Rev. DeAndre M. Lyman. His call to the ministry came at 13 fulfilling a premonition by his grandmother to become a preacher. He was licensed in 1995 in the Houston Texas area. I had the pleasure to interview him and share that conversation with you now.

**On growing up...** Rev. Lyman born in Detroit, Michigan, was introduced to music as a child in the New World Community Church where his mother also sang in the choir. He first began his musical upbringing by learning to play the clarinet and while participating in band during middle school was exposed to piano. Rev. Lyman gave his life to Christ at 11 years of age and also about this time through the help of Deacon Thompson at St. John’s Missionary Baptist Church was afforded the opportunity to take formal piano and organ lessons. He was intrigued by these instruments and progressed in his studies to attend an Honors High School in Detroit studying Science and Music, two subjects that require creativity and manual dexterity. In high school he also participated in band, male chorus, choir and ensemble, while learning the techniques to master each—quite the renaissance man in his time.

**On the college years...** Rev. Lyman began his secondary education at Prairie View Agricultural and Mechanical University and then continued his matriculation and graduated from Dallas Baptist University with a Bachelor of Science in Math and Minor in Music and Biblical Studies. One of his beliefs is the importance of investing in youth and teaching and bringing along others, like Deacon Thompson did for him as a child.

While in college, Rev. Lyman played for different churches, including serving as a minister of music and allowing God to use him to lead, teach and pastor from a musical perspective. He also began his advanced training in piano and organ. Rev. Lyman did his graduate work at Southern Methodist University (SMU) in Dallas, Texas graduating with a Masters of Science degree in Mathematics and Statistics. While at SMU he continued to develop his passion for music working with a 40 – 50 member group of musicians. He has met and worked with well known musical artists such as Kirk Franklin, Yolanda Adams, Donnie McClurkin, Hezekiah Walker and Greg O’Quinn, who remains a personal friend of his who recorded “I Told the Storm.”

**On his favorite artists...** Rev. Lyman had the opportunity some years back while living in Texas to meet and work with Richard Smallwood whose style of musical training and expression he has admired for many years. Other gospel artists he enjoys listening to are Israel and New Breed, Hezekiah Walker, Joe Pace, Fred Hammond and D.C. local musician, Stephen Hurd and Corporate Worship. Classical artists such as Bach and Chopin also hold a special lock on Rev. Lyman’s musical favorites as well as contemporary artists.

**On coming to Mt. Moriah...** Rev. Lyman relocated to this area from Texas last summer to begin his career with the Strategic Development Group of Lockheed Martin Corporation in Bethesda, Maryland. God led him to seek an avenue to continue his ministry in music and he learned of the open position at Mt. Moriah. Rev. Lyman visited our church during a service where Rev. Christian was the speaker of the hour. He felt the warm spirit of fellowship during the service and continued to follow up to arrange an interview for the position, which through God’s guidance in the committee, found fit to select him as our new Minister of Worship and Arts.

**On goals for his work at Mt. Moriah...** Rev. Lyman believes one of the most important aspects of being in this position, is the relationship between pastor and the minister of music. Rev. Lyman understands that God has given Pastor Dalton a vision and as he delivers that vision through his messages he will be able to support the anointing through music and songs that are chosen. As well, he will build trusting relationships with the membership and particularly the choirs, drama ministry and liturgical dance ministry, the main ministries he is responsible for. He is grateful for the talented musicians that are here at Mt. Moriah and is looking forward to availing himself to God to develop musicians within the church, perhaps start a band, ultimately an orchestra and as an spiritual fellowship outlet, sponsoring a musician jam session from time to time.

Rev. Lyman knows that he is an instrument being used by God for his glory and he is excited about the opportunity that Mt. Moriah presents. We welcome him into our family!!
Visitors and new members, welcome to Mt. Moriah Baptist Church! You have the opportunity to share your talent with soldiers on God’s battlefield. The harvest is plenteous; your participation in the activities in the church will add to your spiritual growth.

**Don’t forget to attend new members classes:** Feb. 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th

---

In honor of Black History Month, Sis. Mary Jeter submitted some of her favorite quotes from Dr. King below. We’ve also included quotes from Mrs. Coretta Scott King who recently passed away in Jan. at the age of 78.

“When evil men plot, good men must plan. When evil men burn and bomb, good men must build and bind. When evil men shout ugly words of hatred, good men must commit themselves to the glories of love. Where evil men would seek to perpetuate an unjust status quo, good men must seek to bring into being a real order of justice.”

“Hatred and bitterness can never cure the disease of fear; only love can do that. Hatred paralyzes life, love releases it. Hatred confuses life. Love harmonizes it. Hatred darkens life; love illuminates it.”

—The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Hate is too great a burden to bear. It injures the hater more than it injures the hated.”

"I think the Lord gives you strength when you need it. God was using us and now he's using me, too."

—Mrs. Coretta Scott King

You can read more about Dr. and Mrs. King at the King Center Web site: http://www.thekingcenter.org/

---

**Mark Your Calendar!**

- **New members classes:** Feb. 5, 12, 19 & 26
- **Prayer Service:** every Tues., 12 & 6:30 pm
- **Bible Study:** every Tues. 1:00 pm & 7:30 pm,
- **Youth Bible Study:** every Fri., 7 pm
- **Feb. 25:** 6 p.m., “Black Heroes” play by the Drama Ministry
- **Feb. 26:** 1 p.m., “Taste of the Past” food tasting
- **Church Revival:** Mar. 28-30, 2006
- **Church-wide Retreat:** Nov. 10-11, 2006

The next Clarion deadline is Sun., Feb 26!
January Photo Memories

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Church School Program
Sunday, January 15, 2006
The Clarion

Wishes to thank all of the contributors to this issue:

Dr. Lucius M. Dalton, Senior Pastor
Rev. Janelle J. Thompson
Sis. Joyce Chapman
Sis. Golden Ferguson
Sis. Janet Hailes
Sis. Sheena Hailes
Bro. Daniel Holmes
Sis. Erma Holmes
Sis. Mary Jeter
Sis. Doris S. Rousey

The next Clarion deadline is Sunday, Feb. 26th

The Clarion Newsletter is Sponsored by
The Christian Education Ministry
Sis. Janet Hailes, Chairperson
Sis. Patricia Trouth, Co-Chairperson

Good News Form (use a separate sheet of paper if necessary)

Do you have a story for the Clarion? Of course you do!

God has blessed all of us and we need to tell others!

There are several ways you can contribute:

Your Name: __________________________ Your Birthday: _____________________

1. Tell us about a recent event involving a church ministry:
   Who: __________________________
   What: __________________________
   When: __________________________
   Where: __________________________
   Why: ____________________________
   How: ____________________________

2. Tithing and other testimonies (tell us how God has blessed you):

3. Youth News:

4. A favorite passage of Scripture (explain why):

Remember, The Clarion is your newsletter! You are also welcome to share: recipes, birthdays and other ideas, photos of recent church events (prints will be scanned and returned to you). Digital pictures and stories can be emailed to christianeducation@mountmoriahchurch.org

You may also type or write stories, in long hand, leave them in the Clarion mailbox or see Sis. Hailes, or Bro. Kendall. Articles are subject to editing for clarity and space constraints.

Mount Moriah Baptist Church
Dr. Lucius M. Dalton, Sr. Pastor
Church office: (202) 544-5588
Church Email: mtmoriah@mountmoriahchurch.org

The Church in Worship
Sunday, Early Morning..... 7:45 a.m.
Sunday, Church School...... 9:30 a.m.
Sunday, Prayer & Praise.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday, Morning Worship...11:00 a.m.

Prayer & Praise Service
Every Tuesday
12 noon and 6:30 p.m.

Bible Study
Every Tuesday
1:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Youth Bible Study
Every Friday at 6:30 p.m.

The Clarion—Feb. 2006