

# Mount Oni Connection



MOUNT ONI BAPTIST CHURCH

## Quarterly Newsletter by Mt. Oni Baptist Church

August 2016

### The "G" Corner

Mount Oni Church Family and Friends,

Greetings in the mighty name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I am so excited to be celebrating my first Homecoming as Pastor of this great church. It is exciting to welcome home sons and daughters of Mount Oni in this new season of ministry. Our theme for this year has been "Centered in Christ, Unified in Love, Serving in Excellence" from Philippians 2:1-4. We have made some awesome strides over the past year by the grace of God. This newsletter is a highlight of the quality and quantity growth we have experienced. I am thankful to God for partnering my family and me with such an open and loving church family.



Our new vision statement states that we are "a loving, Christ-centered church dedicated to creating a family atmosphere that bridges cultural gaps and cultivates holistic growth within its congregation and community at-large." As we work toward this vision, it is my prayer that as we come together to celebrate we will commit ourselves to being the disciples that we are called to be in this season in our church, community, nation and world. These are challenging times that call for a courageous church. I believe wholeheartedly that Mount Oni is being shaped to answer the call. Brothers and sisters in Christ, I invite you to partner with Mount Oni as we seek to do the Lord's will. Join us on this journey and watch the amazing things God is preparing to do.

My wife, sons, and I are grateful to be in the Mount Oni family and look forward to growing with you.

Grace and Peace

Marvin L. Gilliam, Jr.  
Pastor

### PRAISES GO UP! BLESSINGS COME DOWN!

*Submitted by Shellia Smith*

We prayed and God Blessed Us! The blessing of God has fallen on Mount Oni as we installed our Eighth pastor — the Rev. Marvin L. Gilliam, Jr. As the church prepared for the installation services we were mindful to give all the praise and honor to God for blessing the partnership of the congregants of Mount Oni and Pastor Gilliam.

To prepare our minds and feed our spirit, Rev. David Chapman charged us with the word of God during the Pre-Installation Service. Rev. Chapman reminded and informed us, as members what our roles are, and the role of the shepherd. What a mid-week service! Rev. Raleigh Harris and the Jericho Baptist Church family worshipped the Holy Spirit in high praise!

The tone was set for installation morning service from the Rev. Dr. Marvin L. Gilliam, Sr. What an inspiring word! It was clear the word our God wanted us to hear was related to the roles of the members and the role of the pastor. Well, he preached, he shouted and he sung of the goodness of God. The renowned Rev. Tyrone Nelson and the Sixth **Mount** Zion church family was our guest for evening service. Our host for the evening was Rev. Marvin Fields and the Second **Mount** Zion Baptist family. These three churches with **MOUNT** in their names were coming together on this day to elevate this man of God to another level in his ministry. Mount can be defined as to rise, to elevate. That's exactly what happened; the word of God was elevated, the Sixth Mount Zion Choir lifted their voices on high in song and the Praise Dancers expressed his glory in Dance. Brother Solomon Hill's movements were anointed by the Holy Spirit. Sister Sydnee Turner blessed our souls with her rendition of *Total Praise*. Oh what an evening of High Praise!

We welcome the Gilliam family — Pastor Marvin Gilliam, Jr. (Pastor G), Mrs. Jennifer Gilliam, Marvin Gilliam III (Baby G), and Jameson Gilliam to our church and into our hearts. With all things new, there is a honeymoon period and adjustments to be made, but there is one thing that is evident and that is that with our **faith** and the feeling of **family** which is constantly growing among us, we will press **forward** to grow God's kingdom here at Mt. Oni and in the County of Caroline and beyond.



faith. family. forward.



The Installation Service of Pastor Marvin Gilliam, Jr.

**BEYOND THE WALLS**

*Submitted by Sylvia Montgomery and Roberta Terrell*

Mount Oni has been actively involved in community outreach extending the heart of Christ beyond the walls of the church. Members donated more than 66 cases of water to assist the county school system in providing much needed drinking water to the residents of Flint, Michigan. They also collected a special offering that totaled more than \$800 for the victims of the tornado that touched down in Tappahannock and Waverly earlier this year. Efforts of outreach come from the heart, and members extended a special heartfelt invitation to the Belmont community for Vacation Bible School. Mount Oni also participated heavily during the National Day of Prayer, as public service officials of the community, pastors, and many others took time to acknowledge God for who He is, and for all that He has done and will continue to do throughout the community. With our own Pastor Gilliam serving as the moderator for the event, it was definitely heartfelt. Mount Oni is surely on the move and is always looking for members to assist with outreach efforts. If there is a community need you'd like for the church to give some attention to, or if you'd like to be more involved yourself, send an email to [mountonibaptistchurch@gmail.com](mailto:mountonibaptistchurch@gmail.com).

**PROGRAMS OF DISTINCTION**

*Submitted by Joyce McGuire, Monica Anderson, and Tiera McGuire*



Mount Oni is proud of its rich history of delivering spirit-filled programs to the community for the upliftment of God's people. In January, the **MLK**

**Program**, sponsored by the Capital Campaign Committee included the Ingramettes, featuring Rev. Almeta Ingram-Miller, Cheryl Beaver and Valerie Stewart. Their high spirit and powerful traditional sound brought the crowd to their feet with their contagious hand clapping and foot stomping beats. Let's not forget about Gospel 440 featuring Elder Jean Cunningham, Rev. Almeta Ingram-Miller, Dr. Janet Copeland, and Ann Cunningham who poured out their souls blessing everyone with their high energy vocals; belting out song after song with dynamic and compelling-words of praise again bringing the church to a stance.



In March, there was a great **Women's Day** Celebration! The women of Mt. Oni showed off their colorful "flame attire" as they stood as "Women of Promise...In God's Presence" for God said in

Zechariah 2:5 that *he will be a wall of fire all around, and will be the glory in their midst*. Special recognition was extended to the seasoned women of Mount Oni, including Sister Virginia Brown, Sister Rosetta Minor, Sister Helen Nelson, and Sister Ruth Bryant for their many years of service to the Lord. A special thank you to Pastor Dr. Deborah Martin for delivering a powerful message.



Pastor Gilliam moderating the National Day of Prayer

Mount Oni is thankful for the love and support of its family units—from the baby dedications to the young ones enjoying an evening at Maymount Park during Resurrection weekend, we have been truly blessed.

Submitted by Sade Floyd

**The dedications of Baby Ryla, Baby Carmella, and Baby Jordan**



*“Let the little children come to me.  
For the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”  
Matthew 19:14*

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Submitted by Sylvia Montgomery

Mount Oni has had the opportunity to participate in various educational outlets this year beginning with the Annual Church Leadership Conference in March at Virginia Union University, then the Baptist General Convention of Virginia Annual Session in June in Chesapeake, Virginia, and the Mattaponi Annual Session in Milford, Virginia at St. John Baptist Church. Even the youth had the opportunity to go to the Baptist General Convention youth retreat on the campus of Virginia State University in July. Christian Education is the cornerstone of the church, and Mount Oni wants to make sure they are adequately equipped to do all that God has called the church to do.



Pastor and youth at BGC youth retreat

Summer sessions never looked so hot. At the beginning of the summer, Mount Oni members were encouraged to participate in group study sessions through new resources for Sunday School and small group sessions. The sessions are still going strong, and members are on fire for the word of God. If you participated in the study sessions, let Pastor Gilliam know what you thought about it. Send him your thoughts at [moutonibaptistchurch@gmail.com](mailto:moutonibaptistchurch@gmail.com)

Vacation Bible School was a blast with youth and adults coming out to enjoy “Joy in Jesus Everywhere! All the time!” Lessons focused on celebration, gratitude, teaching, and faith.



VBS 2016

**COMMUNITY CONVERSATION**

Submitted by Nicole Minor

A special “thank you” is extended to the Caroline County Sheriff’s department, the commonwealth attorney, community leaders, and local residents that came to Mount Oni to engage in open dialogue about the nasty plague of hate crimes that have engulfed our communities. As in the words of Pastor Gilliam, “this was a beautiful beginning.” We pray this will not be the last time we can come together to find ways to bridge the gap between our community and the nation.



Youth Outing at Maymount Park

### A Spotlight on Our Newest Members

Submitted by Eugenia Marks and Doris Ferguson

Mount Oni welcomes its newest members!



Wanda Veney



Randus Ayres



Armenthia "Mint" Massey

### PROGRAMS OF DISTINCTION, Cont'd.



In May, **Men's Day** was a great success. The men came together and truly represented God for all He has done. Deacon Willie Freeman was recognized as the Man of the Year and was held in high esteem. A very big thank you is extended to the Rev. Dr. Alfred Jones, Jr. for delivering a

great message, and to the Mount Zion Baptist Church family for worshipping with us.

Every year we have the distinctive pleasure of celebrating our **mothers** and **fathers** everywhere! Mount Oni did not take this opportunity lightly as we gave special recognition to our seniors who have made an extraordinary difference in the lives of those who follow them. It is a blessing to honor those who are truly making a difference in the lives of others!



Mount Oni's Oldest Father  
William Sawyer



Mother of the Church  
Virginia Brown

### LOOKING OUT FOR YOUR BROTHER...OR SISTER

Submitted by Diana Floyd

The question "Am I my brother's keeper?" can be answered in a simple "yes". And if you were a member of Mount Oni's Certified CPR course on July 30, that term meant even more. An opportunity to look out for your brothers ...and sisters that may be in need of help is what you walked away with. Participants had the chance to get certified or recertified in CPR techniques that could save the life of the person on the pew next to them or a stranger on the beach. Participants did compressions on dummies and learned how to use automated external defibrillators (AED) to provide electrical shock to the heart so that the heart resumes back to normal. The class was very interesting and was enjoyed by all in attendance. A special "thank you" is extended to Kira Tolver, member of Second Mount Zion Baptist Church, for sharing her expertise on the subject.

### .....A Time to Laugh.....



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"Basically, we're looking for an innovative pastor with a fresh vision who will inspire our church to remain exactly the same."

Don't forget Homecoming Services this week  
Monday through Wednesday  
Service starts at 7:30 Nightly

**MOUNT ONI BAPTIST CHURCH**  
14135 DRY BRIDGE ROAD • RUTHER GLEN, VA 22546  
REV. MARVIN L. GILLIAM, JR. - PASTOR

**WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US!!**

**Learning and Worship Times**

- Sunday School – 9:45 AM
- Sunday Morning Worship – 11:00 AM
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays  
10:30 AM Worship Only
- Wednesday Bible Study – 7:00 PM

[www.mountainbaptistchurch.org](http://www.mountainbaptistchurch.org)

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