



The Mount Nebo Messenger

“A Friendly Church Serving a Faith Christ”

A publication of Mount Nebo Missionary Baptist Church
Fall 2011

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Mount Nebo Sings Praises Unto the Lord

The sanctuary of Mount Nebo Missionary Baptist Church was filled to capacity as the Music Ministry celebrated its Annual Fall Musical on November 14, 2010. The theme for the event was “We Sing Praises Unto the Lord”. Our very own Sister Lorenda Cheeks served as the Mistress of Ceremonies. This spirit-filled, musical celebration featured the Mount Nebo Baptist Church Mass Choir, The Piney Woods School Cotton Blossom Singers, Pearl Street AME Church Women’s Choir, Greater Pearlie Grove Baptist Church Mass Choir, Priestly Chapel Baptist Church Choir and Sister Katrina Bryant. We were also blessed by a special musical presentation by Violinist John Eze Uzodinma.



Mount Nebo has been blessed to have a dynamic music ministry staff and choirs, who Sunday after Sunday, minister to our souls through song. For this reason, we send out a special vote of thanks and gratitude. A very special thanks go out to everyone who participated to make this event highly successful.



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Happy Birthday Jesus!

On the evening of December 17, 2010, the Mount Nebo Faithful descended upon the Robert’s Walthall Hotel to enjoy our annual Christmas Fellowship. The congregation, as well as, other guests dressed to impress in their Sunday Best, as we celebrated the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! All who attended enjoyed food, games, and of course *Musical Gumbo*.

Many congregants witnessed the debut of Mount Nebo’s Gospel Ensemble, which was affectionately referred to as *Gumbo*. Gumbo truly serenaded the audience melodically and harmoniously, while enjoying a menu that was fit for a king, centered on an entrée of Three-peppered Chicken. While chatting and chewing, we were piloted through the program by our Master of Ceremony—Brother Carlos D. Smith. There was even a special treat provided by the AWANA Cubbies and Puggles.

However, the highlight of the night was when the entire audience participated in a game simply titled *Happy Birthday Jesus!* It was a Spiritual spin on the traditional game of Bingo. From the head table to the end table, this game was filled with laughter, enthusiasm, and of course competitive intensity. Accordingly, the evening ended on high note with Pastor John A. Wicks Jr. reminding us to remember the true reason for the season, Jesus.

The audience gave the Christmas Fellowship Committee rave reviews, as they did an excellent job putting together a wonderful production, to pay tribute to our Magnificent Savoir, Jesus Christ!





Mount Nebo AWANA Club Rally

The AWANA Club began its new year, September 7, 2011 with the AWANA Rally. We had two dynamic speakers who encouraged the children to become familiar with scripture and to do well and stay in school.

Our speakers were Mrs. Cochanta Robinson who encouraged the children to commit Bible verses to memory to assist them with their spiritual life. She also encouraged them to pray often. Dr. Verna Riley Jones encouraged the children to SCRAM.

Stay in **S**chool
Stay in **C**hurch
Be **R**espectful
Practice **A**bstinence
Be **M**annerable

We also had games and prizes. The AWANA staff and teachers were introduced. They are:

Puggles: Lisa Grant and Treneasias Wright
Cubbies: Cochanta Robinson and Carmella Forsythe
Sparks: Lashonda Jones, Aisha Irons and Tiffany Cline
T&T: Larry Grant, Brenielle Williams and Rev. Brandon Pierce
Trek: Kenya Johnson and Gwen Causey
Journey Males: Earnest Perry and Michael Jones
Journey Females: Shirley Perry and Krystal Pierce
Game Time: Brittany Thomas, Derrick Kirkland and Rebecca Davis
Co-Commanders - SaBrina Johnson and Glenda Grant
Secretary - Genese Donald

Remarks were given by Pastor Wicks. School supplies were given to each child that was present. We are looking forward to having a fantastic year!

Mount Nebo Women’s Mission Department Shares the Real Reason for the Season

Two Mount Nebo Church Mission circles recently shared the love of God with residents at North Grove Nursing Home in Jackson, Mississippi. On Saturday, December 11, 2010, the Women of Wisdom and the Daughters of Destiny were thrilled to fellowship with the 28 residents of this compassionate home. During their visit, the women discussed God’s love, read a Kwanza story, sang Christmas carols and showered residents with Christmas gift bags filled with goodies, including biblical items, toiletries and fruit. Most of all, the women and residents prayed and praised together, thanking God for the real reason for the season...Jesus Christ.



A group photo near the Christmas tree.



Barbara Warner prays with and comforts North Grove resident



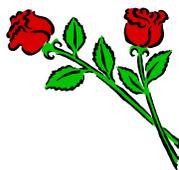
The Mount Nebo Mission enjoys fellowship with North Grove residents

Mount Nebo Pays Tribute to Pastor

Showers of Gratitude, Thanks, Appreciation, and Recognition rained down on Mount Nebo's First Family during the weekend of January 28-30, 2011. The congregation came together in celebratory fashion to honor Brother John Arthur Wicks, Jr.'s tenth Pastoral Anniversary.

The anniversary festivities began with an appreciation service to honor our most deserving First Lady, Sister Felice Dowd Wicks. First Lady Wicks was serenaded by three of Mount Nebo's finest soloists. Brother Antoine Gates melodically sang *Jesus, You're the Center of My Joy* to the march of the First Family's Processional; Sister Antoinette Triggs' rendition of *Lord I Thank You* was the perfect sentiment for the occasion, and Sister Demetria Lunderman's interpretation of *My Tribute* brought the audience to tears.

However, the climax of the evening was a very special segment entitled, “Felice Dowd Wicks... This is Your Life”. Sister Julia Crockett's eloquent narration of this segment featured a slide show chronologically depicting memories from Sister Wicks' infancy to her present day life as a wife, mother, career woman, and first lady. To culminate this part of the program, Sister Crockett challenged the First Lady to a friendly game of *Who Am I?* To Sister Wicks' surprise, she had to decipher the voices and clues of some of her closest relatives, friends, classmates, and colleagues, who had come from far and near to surprise her that night. Her guests were held in a remote location (the media room) until Sister Wicks could correctly identify them. Of course the First Lady came through like a champ, as she correctly identified all of her guests. Afterwards, each guest walked down the center aisle to greet Sister Wicks who was seated at the front of the church. The guests included two of her childhood cousins: Mrs. Tanya Dowd Taylor (Clarksdale, MS), and Mr. Paul Hobson, (Jackson, MS); elementary and junior high classmate, Ms. Sabrina Autman (Grand Prairie, TX); college roommate, Mrs. Olivia Carson (Jackson, MS); sorority line sister, Dr. Kashiela Harrion; and colleague, Attorney John Hall (Jackson, MS). There was even a surprise video from Sister Wicks' high school classmate, Mrs. Teresa Harris, who was unable to make it. Needless to say, Sister Wicks was indeed surprised, and absolutely honored that these guests had traveled near and far to show their love for her on her special night. As a befitting end, the First Lady was showered with gifts of love from various auxiliaries and was given a feast fit for a Queen catered by Ms. Audrey Wiley and the Westhaven Memorial Funeral Home.





For the Sunday afternoon celebration, Brother Jarod Gilmore welcomed the waiting congregation and Sister Trenecia Powell gave us our purpose of the evening. The church felt quite comfortable when our guest speaker, Rev. Marek Walker, the pastor of Cherry Grove Baptist Church came to the pulpit because Mount Nebo and Cherry Grove share a very rich history. Pastor Walker presented the appreciation message of “Thank God for my Pastor,” from Acts 20:28. He emphasized three points: 1) Who is the pastor? 2) What is his purpose? and 3) Why do we need one? Pastor Walker then challenged us to be supportive of our pastor and to show appreciation throughout the entire year.

The evening ended with a very special presentation from the Laymen President, Brother Earnest Perry, and words of gratitude from Pastor and First Lady Wicks. It was Mount Nebo's mission that Pastor Wicks and his entire family feel the joy of having a congregation that totally supports and loves them. Do you think the mission was accomplished?



Annual Sweetheart Banquet

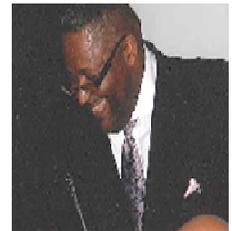
Mount Nebo Couple Ministry held its Annual Sweetheart Banquet on February 12, 2011. Bro. Jimmy and Sis. Tonia Buchanan successfully planned a memorable event which consisted of a breathtaking view of our capital city at the University Club. Couples and Friends of Mount Nebo enjoyed a night of elegance, fun, food, laughter and a spiritual word.

The fun began with over 15 of the most beautiful married and engaged ladies of Mount Nebo leaving the room while the men sat in suspense. The ladies, wearing a black spangled feather headband, walked in one by one and serenaded the men with the Motown classic “My Guy”. Nothing you can say could tear these ladies away from their guy.

The event continued with a delicious meal and dessert. After dinner, the attendees were taken down memory lane with a slide show presentation. The slide show consisted of wedding pictures of the Mount Nebo Couples. It was exciting and fun to see pictures of them on one of their happiest days of their lives.



A special message was given by Rev. Dennis & First Lady Mae Grant of Jerusalem Baptist Church, Brandon, MS. The message was based on the Banquet’s theme: Fill us with Your Love. Rev. Dennis kept our attention by delivering us the message as the “Bro. Mac”.



The night ended with a fun game that gave us more insight about some of our couples. Attendees had to match the couple to the story about the couple’s proposal. Some of the proposal stories were hilarious, romantic, and loving.

If you didn’t make the event this year, don’t forget to mark your calendars for next year. Not only do we have a banquet, the Couple Ministry meets monthly each Wednesday after the first Sunday at 7:00 p.m.



March Madness for Mississippi Relief

On Saturday, March 5, 2011, Mount Nebo Baptist Church sponsored a basketball tournament fund-raiser to benefit the American Red Cross of Mississippi. This endeavor was the brainchild of the Daughters of Destiny Mission Ministry with assistance from the Laymen’s Ministry. The profits from the event were to assist the disaster relief in the central Mississippi area, including the rebuilding efforts of tornado victims, most recently this New Year’s Eve in Byram and Pearl.

This one day, double-elimination tournament included teams from Metro-area churches and Jackson State University students. What began as an overcast day soon transformed into torrential rains, but that didn’t discourage the players or the fans from packing the T.B. Ellis Gymnasium on the campus of JSU. Electricity filled the atmosphere from the first tip-off at 9:00 a.m. to the last buzzer late in the afternoon. All teams gave their best efforts and did not disappoint their supporters. There were some future stars showcasing their talents, as well as some “stars of yesterday” looking for one last shot at glory.

After some hard fought games the Mount Nebo team came up short of the 1st place trophy, but that didn’t diminish the day’s primary goal of raising monies to provide aid. So, congratulations to Jerusalem Baptist Church and Reverend Dennis Grant for their 1st place victory. But more importantly, congratulations to all of the participants and sponsors for the time and effort to make this a special day with a \$2,000.00 donation to help those in need.



Couples Take To Gulf Shores!

The Mount Nebo Couples Ministry took their annual vacation on May 20-22, 2011. This year the spot was Gulf Shores, Alabama! Several couples took part in this exciting excursion. On day one, the couples checked into the host hotel, and off to the Tanger Outlets they went! After a mini shopping spree, they all met at Lambert’s Café where they yelled, “Throw Da Rolls!” The night concluded with a stroll along Gulf Shores’ white sandy beach. The calming sounds of the rolling tides made for a nice end to an adventurous day.

Day two began with a three-hour dolphin cruise in the Gulf of Mexico. The crew had fun trying to count the dolphins and take pictures at the same time. The couples also got an up, close, and personal feel for the Gulf’s choppy waters. After the cruise, it was time for a fresh seafood lunch at the Shrimp Basket Restaurant. Afterwards, the couples went on another shopping extravaganza! The night ended with dinner at the Oyster House.

The last day of the Gulf Shores trip began with a prayer breakfast led by ministry leaders, The Daniels & The Buckleys. Lastly, after checkout, the couples did one last thing before departing to Jackson...yes you guessed it! They proceeded once again to the Tanger Outlets to catch one more round of sales!



Mount Nebo’s Youth on the Move

June is not just any month at Mount Nebo. It is the month that we set aside to respect our children's personalities and celebrate their happiness. This year, WLBT's Maggie Wade was the guest speaker and she blessed us all with her encouraging words. Maggie Wade was introduced by the Youth Department and later informed us that she had never heard a more special introduction. The Youth Choir gave us a dynamic performance and they reminded us that we look so much better when we SMILE. If you missed Children's Day, please join us each 4th Sunday to hear the future of Mount Nebo as they praise God. Children are adorable and they are like precious gems. They signify nothing but pure and faithful love. They truly symbolize God!



Men's Day 2011 - God Has a Plan for Man

Sunday, July 17, 2011 was another special day for the men of Mount Nebo Baptist Church. From the start of the program, the church was energized by the Master of Ceremonies, Brother Kodi Hobbs and throughout the day the building was filled with some of the best singing this side of Heaven. The congregation was moved by songs performed by the 2011 Jackson Music Award-



winning Mount Nebo Male Choir and were truly blessed with the encouragement delivered by Deacon Louis Wright, Jr. of College Hill Baptist Church. Deacon Wright's word soared through the building and touched everyone, not just the men. This day served as a reminder of God's instructions for being a leader, a Christian man. These in-



structions are continuously being followed at Mount Nebo and are being shared with others daily.



Men's Day Breakfast

On July 17, 2011, the Mount Nebo Laymen Ministry provided a hearty breakfast to kick off a Spirit-filled day. The breakfast convened in lieu of the regular 8AM worship service. However, it was hard to notice the difference, given the capacity crowd that congregated in the fellowship hall.



The menu consisted of hot sausage patties, creamy hot grits, moist buttermilk biscuits, a fresh fruit medley, and cold concentrated fruit juice.

Brother Floyd Daniels was the featured speaker for the hour. His keynote message was entitled *This Is How We Do This!* The supporting text was cited from 2 Peter 1: 5-10. After Brother Daniels concluded his very inspirational message, the audience gave him a standing ovation. Accordingly, Christians departed with a better understanding of how to walk with Jesus!



“Christian Women Answering the 911 Call to Christian Service”

God is continuing to bless the Women’s Mission Ministry in a mighty way! The Women’s Mission Ministry observed it’s annual Women’s Day activities commencing on Saturday, August 20, 2011 and culminating on Sunday, September 11, 2011, at 11:00 am. The celebration started with a first time ever, Women’s Retreat on Saturday at the E & S Ranch in Terry, Mississippi. The day began with a wonderful breakfast, followed by four great sessions with dynamic presenters: “Mission Work: Whose Job Is It?”; Stress Management: Mind, Body and Spirit; Appropriate Church Attire and Beauty Consulting and Skin Care. We shared an awesome lunch and peaked the day with a skit “You Don’t Know My Story” and an exciting Fashion show. We enjoyed a wonderful fellowship and ended the day relaxed and refreshed having experienced rejuvenating facials and exhilarating chair massages by a professional masseur.

On Sunday, September 11, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. the celebration continued with the Annual Women’s Day Program. The renowned Women of Faith and Service Choir blessed us with their melodious voices of praise. Adding the tip to the iceberg was our guest soloist and recording artist, Sister Cynthia Goodloe Palmer. Her soul stirring song was inspiring and encouraging: *“Heaven Is Where I Want To Be”*. Featured as the Guest Speaker this year was the esteemed Evangelist Lucille E. Brown, a member of Black’s Chapel M. B. Church. She is the Secretary to the Jackson District Women’s Auxiliary and the President of the Jackson District Deaconesses, Mothers and Widows Unit. Her soul searching and captivating message was taken from our theme *“Christian Women Answering the 911 Call to Christian Service”*. We were truly blessed as we decreased and God increased! *“To God be the glory for all that He has done”*.



Mount Nebo’s Annual Fall Festival and Revival

The Fall season represents so many different things for people. For some, it is about fun and football. For many, it means a new school year. But for the Mount Nebo Church Family, the Fall season is a time of renewal. It is during this time that we have our annual fall festival entitled “Nebofest” and our fall revival.

This year’s Nebofest occurred on Saturday, October 15, 2011 and was kicked off with the 4-K walk-run beginning at 8 o’clock in the morning. Deacon Freddie Davis breezed across the finish line first, with Rev. Melvin Smith coming in shortly behind him in second place. Sis. Tiffany Steward finished third. Before we could catch our breath from the walk-run, we were summoned to a step aerobics workout led by Tyrone Hargro from JSU’s fitness bootcamp, “The Experiment.” Participants were then encouraged to take part in the health fair, which included flu shots, blood glucose screenings, body mass index measurements, and blood pressure checks.

For the first time, Nebofest took place across the street on the church’s lots on Tupelo Street. The open space on the neatly manicured lawns encouraged physical activities, such as sack racing and relays. We dined under a large tent, and played games such as Family Feud and the cake-walk. Nebofest also featured a hay-ride, space jumps, and face-painting for the little ones. There was also a birthday tribute to our beloved pastor, Rev. John A. Wicks, Jr., as his birthday fell on that day.



Our Nebofest was a great precursor for our fall revival, which occurred on Monday, October 17th through Wednesday, October 19th, beginning at 7 p.m. each night. The theme for the revival was



“Trying Times Call for Trying God,” and the theme scripture came from Psalm 118:8-9. Rev. Robert McCallum, the pastor of Priestley Chapel Baptist Church in Canton, Mississippi, was the guest evangelist.

Rev. McCallum, who just so happens to be a native of the Washington Addition Neighborhood in West Jackson, delivered inspiring and soul-stirring messages on each night. On Monday night, his sermon was entitled “Stormy Weather,” and his sermon text came from Mark 4:35-41. He admonished us to trust God in the midst of our storms, as our God cares, is concerned, and is committed to us. The songs of praise were led by Mount Nebo’s male chorus and also by Lynch Street C.M. E. and Mount Wade’s male choirs.

On Tuesday night, Rev. McCallum brought the following words of encouragement in his sermon entitled, “It Ain’t Over Yet,” coming from I Samuel 30:6-8, 18-20. We were told to follow David’s example of praying to God for direction before taking any action and encouraging himself in the Lord. Mount Nebo’s own mass choir started the praise service and was followed by Westhaven Memorial Funeral Home’s choir and Priestley Chapel’s male chorus.

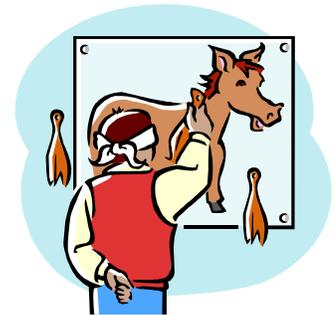
On Wednesday night, the final night of revival, Rev. McCallum walked us through Adam and Eve’s fall in his sermon entitled, “Paradise Lost.” The sermon text was Genesis 3:22-24. Rev. McCallum explained that we could regain everything that was lost in paradise—God’s presence, peace, power, provision, and protection—through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Mount Nebo’s combined children and youth choirs admonished us to “Smile.” Priestley Chapel’s gospel choir also led us in songs of praise.

This Fall season has gotten off to the same great start as all others for the Mount Nebo Church Family. We have been revived and renewed both physically and spiritually.



No Tricks, Just Treats

The Women’s and Layman’s Ministries of Mount Nebo hosted this year’s Annual Fun Night on Monday, October 31st. Although the calendar said it was Halloween, no ghouls, ghosts, or goblins were present, just candy-seeking, fun-loving children (and some candy-seeking adults too). There was a carnival atmosphere that rivaled the Mississippi State Fair. The featured games were exciting and required certain amount of skill and a few lucky bounces. There were even a few future golfers identified. The smiling faces painted with vibrant colors brightened the room and added to the festive character of the night. After the food was consumed and the games had ended, the pinnacle of the evening’s excitement featured eager participants and a stick...that’s right, a piñata. The young children lined up to take a whack at the paper donkey filled with candy. One by one they continued to swing away, as the adults held their breath, until the treats spilled to the floor. After a mad dash for the fallen candy and a few final laughs, the children all received their “treat bags” and went home to dream about taking one more swing at the donkey hanging from the ceiling.



The Pastor's Point

Bro. John A. Wicks, Jr., Pastor

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. During this season that we call Thanksgiving, the turkeys and the family dinners and the football games often overshadow the real reason for the holiday which is quite simply to give thanks! The Apostle Paul said in **I Thessalonians 5:18** “**In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.**”

I am reminded of the story of the ten lepers in **Luke 17**. The Bible says these ten lepers asked Jesus for mercy, or in other words, healing. Jesus told them to go present themselves to the priests who would declare them whole or clean. This took faith because at that point they were not clean. The Bible says they obeyed Jesus anyway and by the time they made it to the priests indeed they had been healed! Are you following God's leading one way even when circumstances suggest that you go another way? Again their condition suggested that they stay away from the priests but they followed Jesus' lead anyway which resulted in a miracle.

Perhaps the most interesting part of the story is that ten lepers were healed, but only one leper took the time to go back and tell Jesus thank you. Furthermore, the leper that said thank you was a member of the Samaritan race which was summarily despised by the Jews. In essence, the despised one was the grateful one! Also the Jews and this Samaritan could suffer as lepers together, but after being healed they could not prosper and praise God together. Does this sound familiar?

As I consider that powerful story, I wonder if only ten percent of us are thanking God like we should. If this is the case, let's increase that percentage. Let us not only thank Him for the “big stuff,” but remember to say thank you for the “daily stuff.” Daily provision, daily protection, daily shelter and daily health are all great reasons to tell God thank you!

In closing, kudos are in order once again to the Publicity ministry for another job well done. This newsletter gives a great summary of some of the wonderful programs, projects, and activities that have taken place at Mount Nebo this year. This newsletter is certainly an accurate reflection of the goodness of the Lord toward us. Happy Thanksgiving and, as always, remember to:

Keep the **faith** and keep the **focus**.

Keep **worshipping** and keep **working**.

Keep **praying** and keep **pressing on**.

Yours in Christ,

John A. Wicks, Jr.

Mount Nebo Welcomes New members

Baptism

Melody Allgood
Christian Anakor
Latrice Bennett
Taylor N. Bradley
Dontreyal Breakfield
Cast Brown
Anitra Bullock
Arruan Butler
Mercedes Butler
Jermichael Cooper
Nicole Gilmore
Alianna Jennings
Khristian Jimerson
Christopher McClendon
Ramya McCline
LaDeanna McFarlane
D'Ajah Miley
Kevin Myers
Grant Robinson
Camyn Smith
Mentia Trippeter
Latasha Walton
Corey Wiggins

Christian Experience

Quenton Allgood
Stacey Webb Bailey
Bobbie Brooks
Luberta Chess
DeSuan Dixon
Cynthnia Flowers
Mario Flowers
Melissa Grant
Latonya Hawkins
Janay Hobson
Brenda Levi

Markus March
Earnest McCray
Graftie D. McDaniels
Robert Morris
Maxine Orey
Kystal Pierce
Sherman Posley
Tina Ramsey
Tia Robinson
Leroy Prince
Leroy Prince, II
Marcia Prince
MiYata Holt-Prince
Karen Saddler
Brelynn Smith
Kaylynn Smith
Lauryn Smith
Stephanie Smith
Pastella Spratley
Christopher Trippeter
Nichelle Webb
John Williams
Calvin Wilson

Rededication

Timothy Spencer
Melvin McLaurin, Jr.
Keith Young

Mount Nebo's Mission is to:

Save the lost

Strengthen the Weak

Help the Poor

