



# MOUNT NEBO

M E S S E N G E R



## PASTOR & FIRST LADY'S APPRECIATION CELEBRATION

The fourth Sunday in January marks a special milestone for our pastor and first lady. In keeping with tradition, the Mount Nebo family offered tributes to our first family Sunday, January 26, 2014. The festivities began with a breakfast honoring our beautiful first lady for her gentle kind spirit, her hard work, and dedication to our church.

With the fellowship hall transformed into a banquet room, the celebration began in honor of First Lady Felice Dowd Wicks. Sister Kimberly Myers guided the program. The first highlight of the morning came when Sister Wicks was serenaded by a crooning trio (Ray, Goodman, and Brown): Larry Grant, Floyd Daniels, and Darrell Gates, with a unique rendition of "Special Lady'." Our First Lady is indeed a very, very special lady. The serenade was followed by a presentation that included letters to the First Lady, a futuristic reflection of our leading lady in the year 2064. Though not rehearsed, the skit received 5-star reviews from the audience with our more mature First Lady, Mrs. Lestine Culberson (grandmother of Sis. Wicks), taking the Oscar for Best Actress in a leading role. The elegance, sophistication, and grandeur of the celebration were befitting our First Lady.

The afternoon celebration began at 3:00 with the Mount Nebo Youth Department leading the processional singing "BIG", a welcoming tribute. Escorting the Pastor and First Lady were Brother Archie and Sister Elizabeth Myers, followed by the Guest Minister and his wife, Reverend Chauncy L. Jordan, Sr. and First Lady Lashanda Jordan of Hill of Zion Baptist Church, Bolton, MS.

*(Pastor & First Lady Appreciation Celebration continued on page 2 & 3)*

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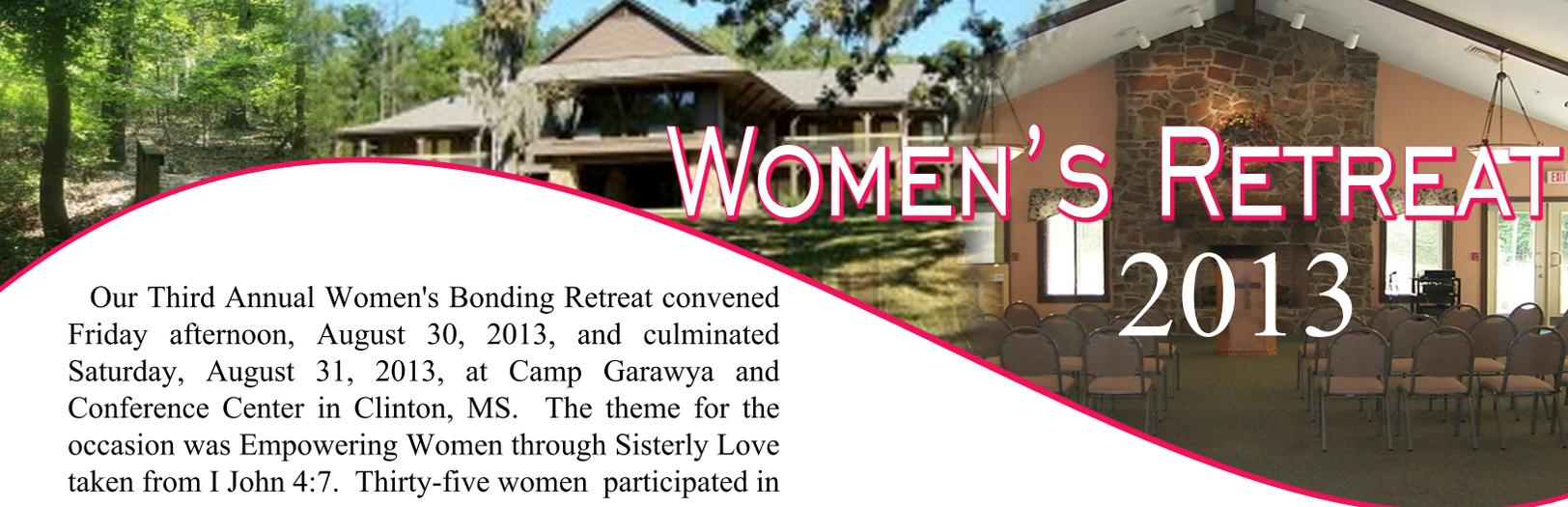


Brother Floyd Daniels guided the audience through a spirit-filled celebration of worship with prayer, praises, tributes, and songs. In addition to the Mount Nebo Mass Choir, the Hill of Zion Choir joined in the celebration to help lift up the name of Jesus as we honored Pastor Wicks' thirteen years of meritorious service to this church and the community. The theme "Ready to Praise His Name, Willing to Preach His Gospel" epitomizes the leader whom God blessed us with.

After a charming introduction by Sister Jordan, Rev. Jordan expressed his gratitude for the invitation to partake in the celebration of the stewardship of his friend and God's shepherd. His message from I Peter 5:1-4, "The Evidence of a Good Shepherd" reaffirmed our day of celebration. A good shepherd feeds God's flock with a ready mind and is an example to his flock.

The day culminated with closing remarks from our honorees Pastor and First Lady Wicks.





# WOMEN'S RETREAT 2013

Our Third Annual Women's Bonding Retreat convened Friday afternoon, August 30, 2013, and culminated Saturday, August 31, 2013, at Camp Garawya and Conference Center in Clinton, MS. The theme for the occasion was Empowering Women through Sisterly Love taken from I John 4:7. Thirty-five women participated in the retreat--each exploring a prepared agenda through which an enhanced bond of sisterly love could be realized. Motivational speaker, Sister Sharon Slater, Ph.D. headlined the Friday evening session as she expounded on St. John 4:7. The segment ended with a Q & A session. The evening culminated with a delicious dinner followed by a game entitled, Late Night Bingo. Winners not only received a prize, but also got to give their sisters a special message by yelling "I LOVE MY SISTER" instead of yelling B-I-N-G-O.

The Saturday morning session opened with some of the prayer warriors having Conversations with Our Father. A series of powerful scriptures and prayers petitioned the throne, acknowledging God's awesomeness and thanking Him for His unmerited favor upon every heart present, as well as their church family, the city, state, and nation. The retreat theme, "Empowering Women through Sisterly Love," was never more evident than at that time. A feeling of God's pleasure permeated the room as the praises went up. Their Conversations with the Father were followed by a delicious breakfast.

The group reassembled with a "Get Fit" session which included a number of exercises that anyone could do from a seated position.

Next, Sister MeShonya Wren-Coleman expounded on subject, "There is a BBS That's Distracting Me" taken from Luke 10:38-42. She explained that the BBS acronym stood for Bonds Between Sisters. She reminded us that as bonded sisters in Christ Jesus, we should participate only in those efforts that are pleasing in His sight and be bold carriers of the Good News. Living a life where others can see God in us, showing love and generating peace among our brothers and sisters were additional points Sister Wren-Coleman shared with the group. She also encouraged the ladies to always remember whose they were, and as such, they could always ask of their heavenly Father anything they so desired.

Identifying Your Personality comprised the next segment. A series of questions divided the ladies into four groups known as North, South, East and West. Another series of questions based on preferences, likes/dislikes, character, etc. determined whether you would be designated as North, South, East and West. Each designation had a set of characteristics that were unique only to that particular group. The majority of the ladies affirmed that designations they ended up in really did identify their personalities. It was enlightening and beneficial. Recognizing individual character traits will go far toward placing the right individual in the right position as we strive toward advancing God's programs.

A Fashion Affair featuring the Lauren Taylor Models and narrated by WJTV's own Ms. Lauren Taylor was the final activity of the day. A parade of adult fashions for all ages was exhibited as well as a segment that demonstrated how to rearrange wardrobe pieces to make new outfits.

The Third Annual Women's Bonding Retreat concluded with remarks by President Lula Curry, prayer by Sister Julia Crockett, and "I Need You, You Need Me" by the group.

The Mount Nebo women extend sincere gratitude to Sister Jessica Davis-Hobbs who served as presiding officer, the Retreat Planning Committee (consisting of Sisters Evelyn Sanders, Lorenda Cheeks, Talesha Jones, Felicia R. Smith and Jannifer Knight-Frank, chairperson) and all who played a part in the success of the retreat, for a job well done. THANK YOU LADIES, we look forward to next year's retreat.

# YOUTH FUN NIGHT 2013

Isn't it wonderful that God gives us an alternative to celebrating ghost, witches, warlocks and the like by changing Halloween to Family Fun Night where families of Mount Nebo can come together and have wholesome and safe fun with each other?

Our Family Fun Night started with a hotdog bag snack at the church, and then we proceeded to Shepard's Park gym for a night of fun and games. This was a great opportunity for parents to interact with their children playing basketball, bean bag toss, curtain ring toss, cake walk and other exciting games. The parents seemed to enjoy the evening as much as the children.

All of our AWANA teachers and staff, as well as some of the parents assisted with the food, games, and security. We really had a wonderful, fun filled night.

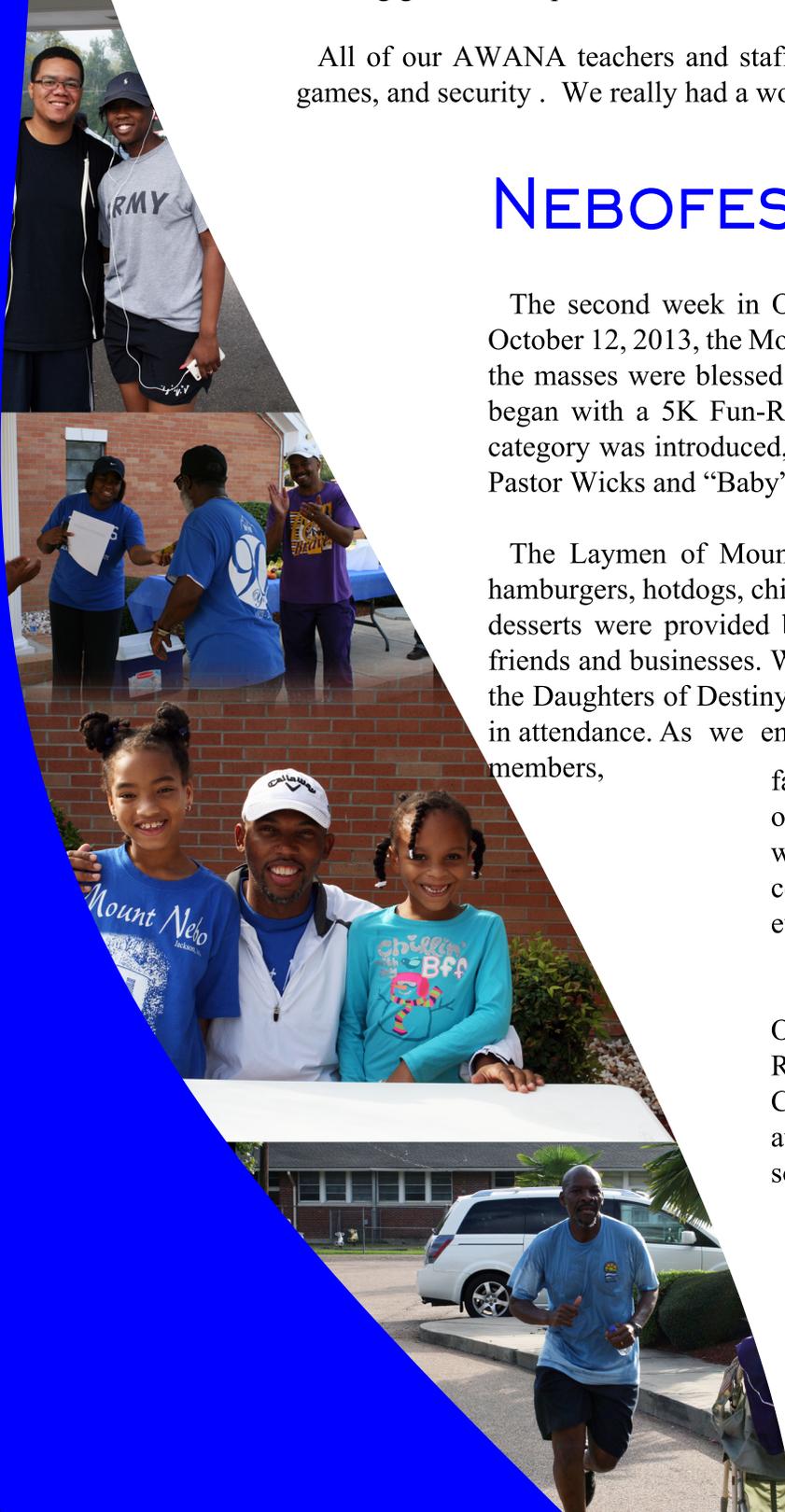
## NEBOFEST & FALL REVIVAL 2013

The second week in October marks the start of our annual Fall Revival. On October 12, 2013, the Mount Nebo Baptist Church held its annual Fall Nebofest and the masses were blessed with a wonderful day of fun, games and food. The day began with a 5K Fun-Run and Walk up the JSU parkway and this year a new category was introduced, the Baby Stroller division. Of course, the winners were Pastor Wicks and "Baby" Grace Wicks.

The Laymen of Mount Nebo prepared the meal that consisted of fried fish, hamburgers, hotdogs, chicken nuggets, french fries and more. All of the wonderful desserts were provided by the women of the church as well as donations from friends and businesses. We were so pleased to once again have the meal served by the Daughters of Destiny Mission, who did an excellent job with feeding so many in attendance. As we enjoyed a beautiful day of games and fellowship with members,

family, and friends, the Jackson Fire Department brought out its newly purchased ladder truck and offered tours. It was an awesome sight to see. All the volunteers and committee members did a wonderful job in ensuring everyone had a good time in the name of the Lord.

Our week culminated with our annual Fall Revival on October 14-16, 2013. Our guest speaker was Revered Reginald Buckley, Executive Pastor of Cade Chapel M. B. Church in Jackson, MS. Reverend Buckley gave us an awesome Word to help uplift our spirits and revive our souls!



The background of the page is a collage of musical-themed images. On the left, there is a photograph of a choir of African American men in suits singing. Below the choir, there are glowing, golden musical notes and treble clefs. At the bottom, a close-up of piano keys is visible. The right side of the page features a large, light-colored circular graphic containing the title and a paragraph of text, with faint musical notes and a treble clef in the background.

# FALL MUSICAL 2013

On the afternoon of Sunday, November 11, 2013, the Mount Nebo Missionary Baptist Church held it's Annual Fall Musical. The 2013 Annual Fall Musical was special as Mount Nebo was in the midst of celebrating it's 90th Year Anniversary. The Fall Musical was a culmination of several events to celebrate 90 years between Tunica and Tupelo Streets. As such, the special guest for this year's musical was recording artist, Lillian Lilly. Mount Nebo's Mass Choir did the honor of singing back-up for Ms. Lilly. Other invited guests included "God's Blessings" of McComb, MS, Saint Luther Baptist Church Choir, Progressive Baptist Church Choir, Sister Katrina Bryant, and many others. Mount Nebo members, visitors, and friends packed the sanctuary for this spirit-filled occasion. We are anxiously awaiting and praying for Annual Fall Musical 2014!

# CHRISTMAS

MOUNT NEBO'S

## SUNDAY SCHOOL DEPARTMENT CELEBRATES "BABY JESUS"

The Sunday School Dept. celebrated the birth of Jesus as it presented its annual Christmas program Sunday Morning Dec. 22, 2013. The children looked especially cute adorned in their holiday apparel. Thunderous applause fueled the excitement as they recited their lines from memory. Moreover, a soul-stirring rendition of the Christmas classic "Mary, Did You Know?" was performed by Bro. Adrian Grant, which resulted in a standing ovation. In a skit entitled "Casting Call: A Christmas Skit," the teenaged participants (Sisters Alexis Gates, Tishina Kirkland, Brelynn Smith, MiKedra Ragsdale, and Briyon Smith and Brothers Mike Ragsdale and Auston Frank) portrayed actors who were vying for the roles of Mary and Joseph. After meeting the no-nonsense director portrayed by Sis. Brenda Levi, the teenagers realized that even if they were not chosen for the roles, they could still act like Mary and Joseph in their daily lives.

Near the close of the program, participants ranging from two years old and above were headliners in a skit entitled "Take Me to the King." This skit perfectly illustrated the tremendous impact that the new born king had on everyone who came in contact with Him. Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth, the shepherds, Anna, Simeon, and the Three Wise Men's lives were all changed for the better after their special encounters with baby Jesus. As a perfect ending to the skit, Sis. Treanisia Wright sang "Take Me to the King."

By the program's end, everyone in attendance was in a celebratory mood because Jesus was born to save the world and to give our lives purpose. Thank God for Jesus!!

## CHRISTMAS FELLOWSHIP 2014

It has become a tradition for our church family to come together during the Christmas holidays to celebrate the birth of Jesus through singing, laughing, speaking, and games. This year, we gathered at the Hilton Garden Inn, formerly known as the King Edward Hotel in downtown Jackson. Greeted by a two-story Christmas tree and the aroma of apple cider, the hotel was the perfect location for our record number of attendees. We knew we were in for a treat when Deacon Freddie Davis and his daughter, Jessica Davis-Hobbs, our Master and Mistress of ceremony, began the night with jokes. Adults and children alike listened and laughed.

The fellowship was graced with entertainment by Brothers Antoine Gates, Jeffery Taylor, Jr., and Jonathan Walker. These young men released their gift of singing and blessed us all. Saxophonist Brother Bobby Connor, Sr. serenaded us with soft music during dinner. The evening climaxed with games and gifts. Pastor Wicks reminding us that Christmas is meant to celebrate peace and joy. Amidst the busyness of shopping, parties, presents, and fun, remember that the Prince of Peace came to spread peace and joy to all who believe in Him.



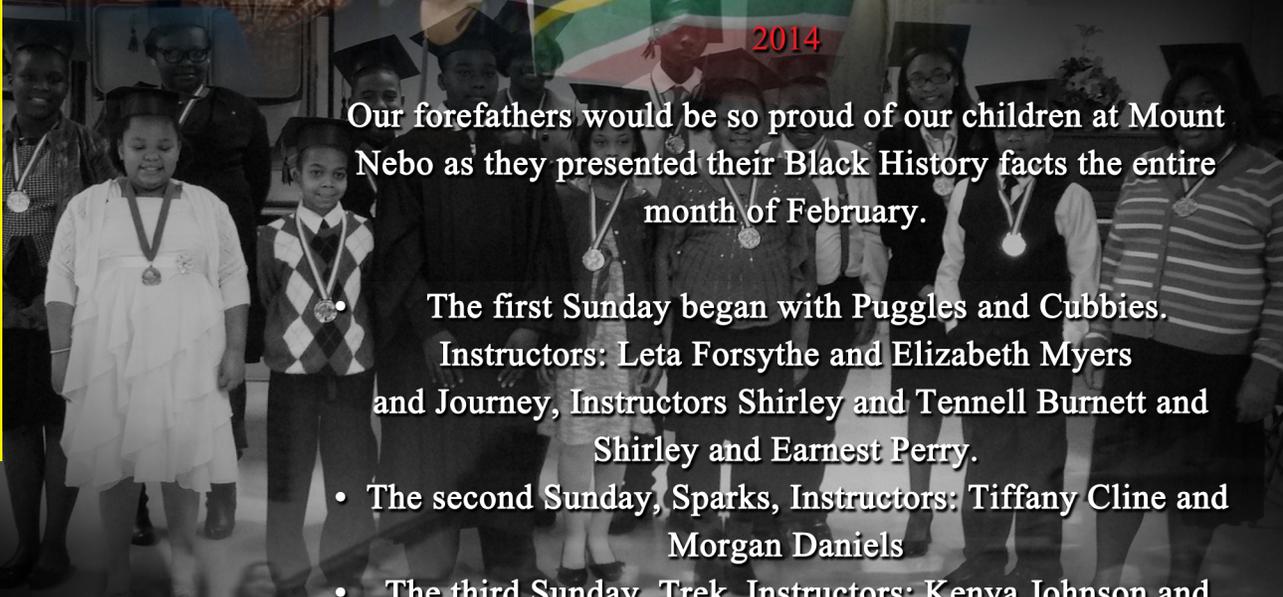
# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

2014

Our forefathers would be so proud of our children at Mount Nebo as they presented their Black History facts the entire month of February.

- The first Sunday began with Puggles and Cubbies. Instructors: Leta Forsythe and Elizabeth Myers and Journey, Instructors Shirley and Tennell Burnett and Shirley and Earnest Perry.
- The second Sunday, Sparks, Instructors: Tiffany Cline and Morgan Daniels
- The third Sunday, Trek, Instructors: Kenya Johnson and Jannifer Frank.
- The fourth Sunday was a combination of all classes.

We are so proud of our young people! From the youngest to the oldest, each child did an outstanding job learning and presenting their facts. Our future is looking really bright at Mount Nebo!



## SINGLES' FELLOWSHIP

2014

The Singles Valentine Fellowship was a great success. We had more than twenty persons to attend. The event was full of great games, good fellowship, and wonderful food. Group Minute to Win It games, along with ice breakers, help the entire group to get to know each other. The Daughters of Destiny did a wonderful job hosting this annual event and everyone is looking forward to next year.



## COUPLES' SWEETHEART GALA 2014

The 2014 Mount Nebo Sweetheart Gala was reflective of the Bible Study “Secrets to a Lasting Love” of the couples’ ministry. The theme was “An Endless Love Affair - ‘Til Death Do Us Part.” The theme was derived from Romans 7:2, “For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband.” The event occurred on Saturday, February 15, 2014, 6:00 in the eve, at the Westhaven Reception Center. Audrey Wiley and her staff beautifully transformed this venue with lavish red and white décor. Upon entering, you could magically feel the love in the air!

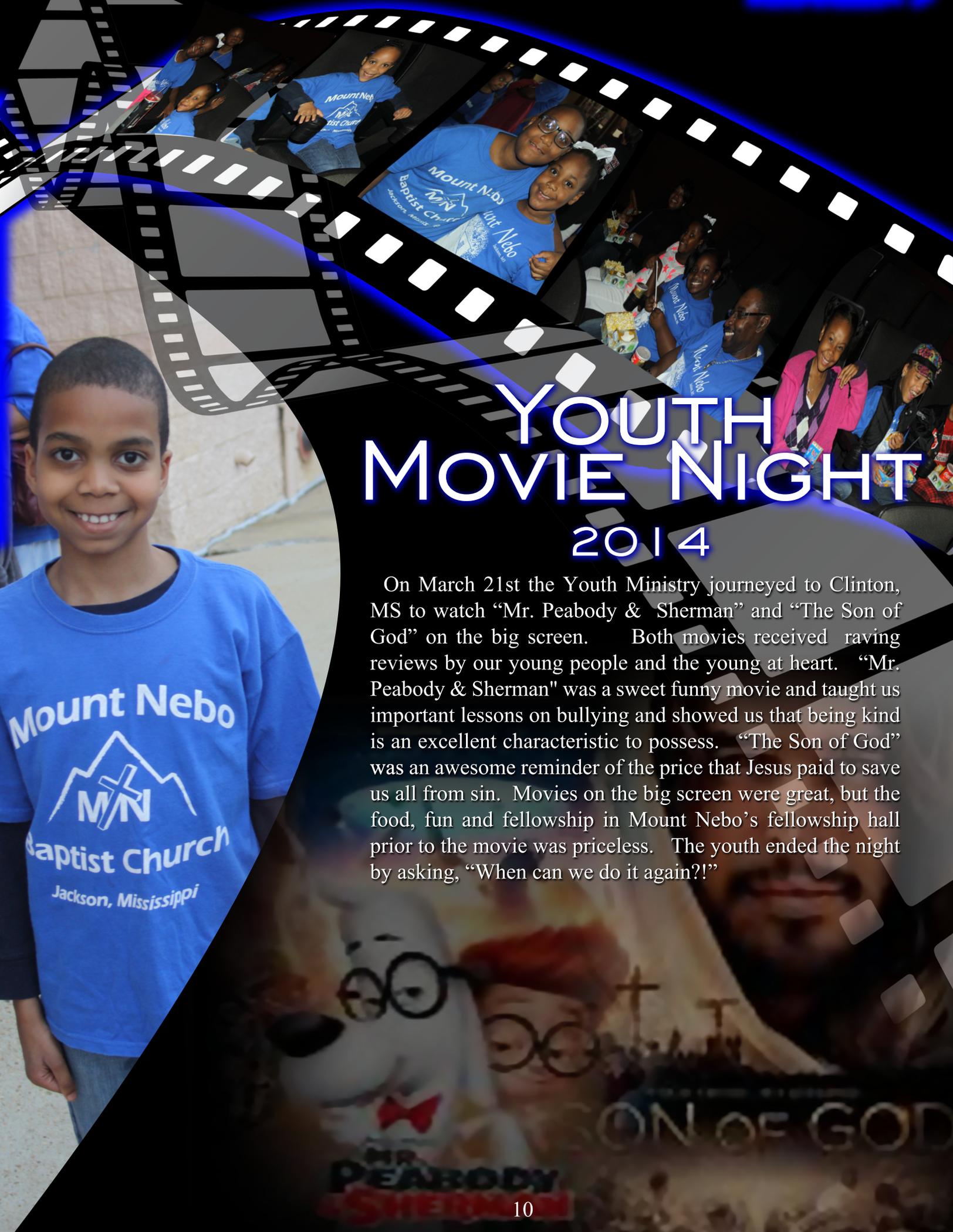
Brother and Sister Corey Wiggins served as the program guides for the event. Throughout the fellowship, they shared their inspiring love story. Brother and Sister Bobbie Brent began the fellowship with scripture and prayer. Brother and Sister Jonathan Forsythe welcomed participants and informed them of the evening's occasion. Brother Forsythe passionately communicated the Love Languages. Brother and Sister Wiggins shared their love languages and how understanding one another's love language helped in their marriage.

The program continued with a description of an activity over dinner and blessing of the food by Brother and Sister Tennell Burnett. A heart was placed on the table for each participant, with a love quote written on the back of each heart. Each person had to creatively include the quote into their discussion over dinner, without anyone identifying the quote. While the activity was harder than planned, conversations of love and laughter filled the atmosphere. Participants were also able to view a slideshow presentation of past activities of the Couples’ Ministry, created by Brother and Sister Levi. The Westhaven Staff gracefully served dinner, which consisted of Salad, Cornish Hens, Yellow Rice, Veggie Medley, Sweet Tea, and Red Velvet Cake with creamed icing and strawberries.

After dinner, the audience was serenaded by creative love expressions. First, Brother and Sister Jones recited a heartfelt creative poetic expression. "Ahs", filled the air! Second, Brother and Sister Jason Rudd put us in the mood for love with their creative musical expression. The final love expression was an oratorical expression by our guests, Brother and Sister Nicholas Artis. The role of men was the focus of this expression. Minister Artis shared that man must have a job, instructions from God, love for God, himself and his wife. He ended with asking all to stand; then he instructed the husbands to kiss their wives, and finally he thanked everyone for giving him a standing ovation.

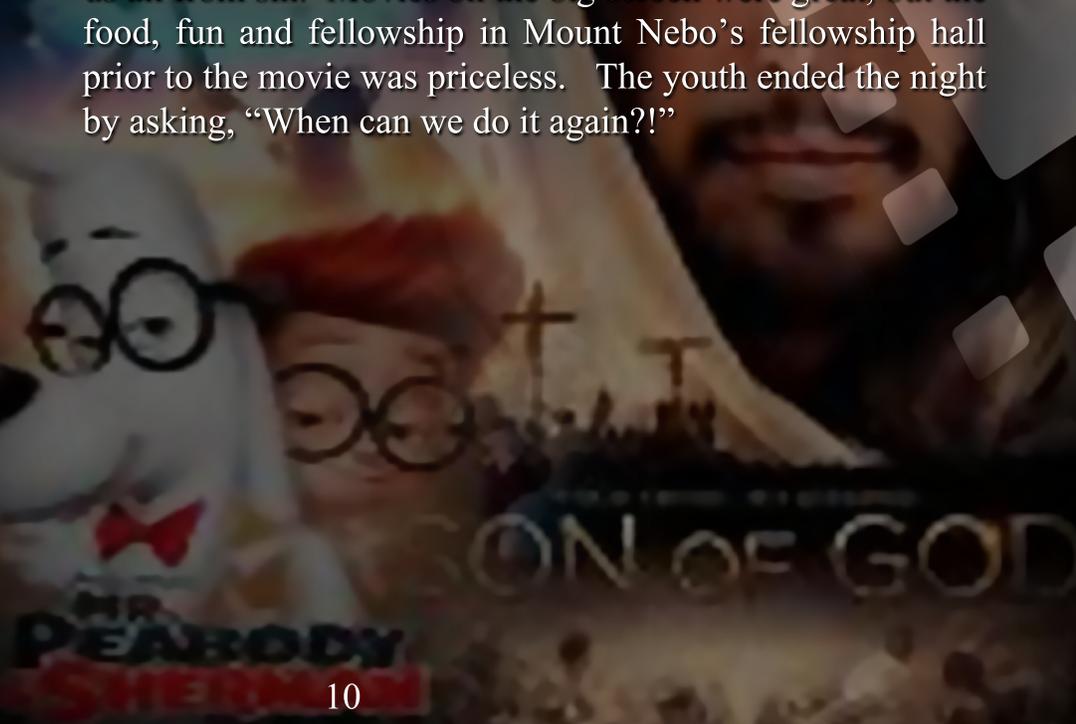
The final activity was “Haiku with a Twist.” Each table had to create a Haiku, communicating an endless love affair. Then the group had to perform it in a particular music genre, as assigned. Each person at each table put on their creative hats and came up with some very interesting and entertaining Haikus. Some of the most creative ones included R & B, Blues, Country, and Gospel. It was so funny! We laughed until our stomachs ached and tears filled our eyes! Additionally, persons who could name the spouse of biblical characters received door prizes. Members of the Couples’ Ministry donated enough prizes that the majority of couples in attendance took home a gift.

The evening concluded with words of thanks from Brother and Sister Tennell Burnett, Brother and Sister Floyd Daniels, and Pastor and Sister John Wicks, Jr. Pastor Wicks ended the celebration with remarks and benediction.



# YOUTH MOVIE NIGHT 2014

On March 21st the Youth Ministry journeyed to Clinton, MS to watch “Mr. Peabody & Sherman” and “The Son of God” on the big screen. Both movies received raving reviews by our young people and the young at heart. “Mr. Peabody & Sherman” was a sweet funny movie and taught us important lessons on bullying and showed us that being kind is an excellent characteristic to possess. “The Son of God” was an awesome reminder of the price that Jesus paid to save us all from sin. Movies on the big screen were great, but the food, fun and fellowship in Mount Nebo’s fellowship hall prior to the movie was priceless. The youth ended the night by asking, “When can we do it again?!”





## NAACP MOTHER OF THE YEAR

In 1959, under the leadership of and from the brilliant mind of former NAACP Field Director Medgar Evers, the Mississippi State Conference NAACP approved a state-wide fundraising project, “Mother of the year.” This event serves as a fundraising vehicle for both local branches and the state conference, This event was designed to: (1) promote interest in NAACP branch activities; (2) stimulate competition on the local Branch level and the State level; (3) reward two branches for exceptional fundraising abilities; and (4) to serve as a reminder of the 1954 school desegregation decision by the United States Supreme Court. (NAACP Jackson Branch)

Mount Nebo Baptist Church was honored to host the annual “Mother of the Year” contest on April 12, 2014. There were three participants and escorts. Sister Wylma King represented Mount Nebo with ultimate class, and she placed second. The winners and escorts are listed below.

1st place

Sis. Annie Sexton: Escorted by Bro. John H. Garner.  
Cade Chapel M B Church

2nd place

Sis. Wylma R King: Escorted by Bro. Roosevelt Wilson  
Mount Nebo Baptist Church

3rd place

Sis. Classie Griffin: Escorted by Bro. Ben Vaughn  
Greater Blair Street AME Zion Church

The first place winner will advance to compete at the state level. Best Wishes to Cade Chapel M.B. Church and Sis. Annie Sexton.



# Prayer Works

## “MOUNT NEBO PACKS THE PEWS WITH PRAISE, PRAYER, AND PREACHING ON WATCH NIGHT”

Those in attendance at Mount Nebo on Tuesday, December 31st at 10 o'clock p.m. for the annual Watch Night service definitely brought the New Year in the right way. The evening was filled with praise, as songs of Zion were sung by the ensemble and joined in by just about everyone else in the sanctuary. The evening was also filled with prayer, as several members of Mount Nebo petitioned the Lord on behalf of the sick and needy; the youth; the Family Life Center building project; and the church. Prayers of thanksgiving and repentance were also given. Furthermore, the evening was climaxed by preaching from our very own Pastor John A. Wicks, Jr. who instructed everyone to treat God like a king in 2014. The Pastor warned against going to the Lord as a last resort, but encouraged all in attendance to spend time with the Lord daily through prayer and Bible reading.

As the clock struck 12 midnight, everyone was full of the Spirit of God and excited about what the New Year had in store. With God as the King and Head of our lives, there is simply no limit on the wonderful things that can happen this year!

# WOMEN OF FAITH

## *Women of Faith Serving the Community and Quilting for Christ*

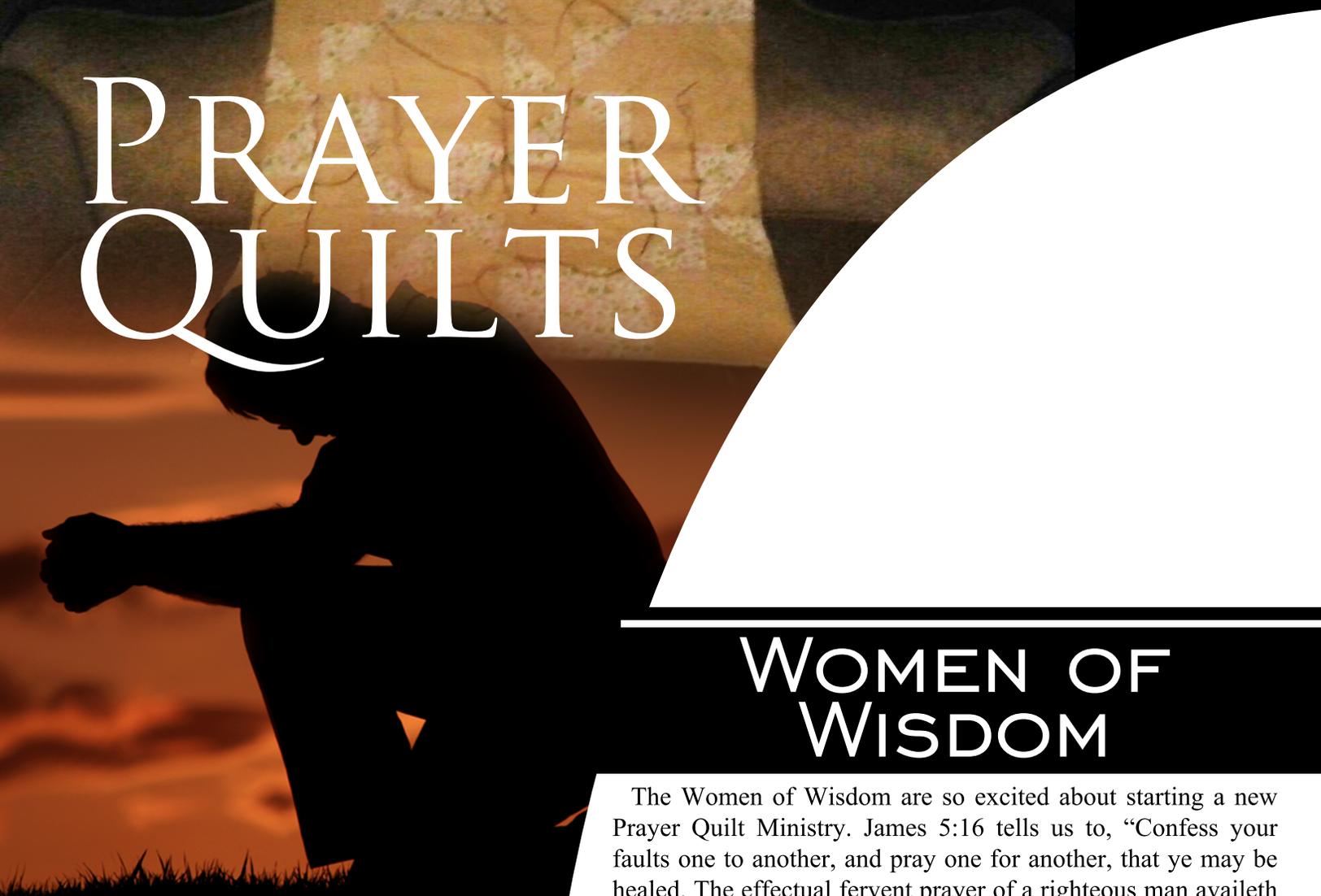
*Oh that Thou wouldst bless me in deed and enlarge my territory.  
I Chronicles 4:10*

The Women of Faith mission group, led by Sister Maxine Dowd, meets each week to study God's Word, fellowship with each other, and spread the Good News through mission work. They fulfill their mission to help the needy by volunteering at Gateway Rescue Mission each month. The ladies also help the sick by visiting all members on the Sick and Shut-In list and praying with them. They ended their recent visit by giving each sick and shut-in member an Easter basket filled with goodies from their Mount Nebo family.

Not only does the Mount Nebo Women of Faith mission group have a common bond through Christ, they also have another common thread....sewing thread. The women have combined their passion to serve with their sewing skills by quilting for Christ. Each member sews individual pattern blocks that will be put together to make a beautiful quilt. The quilts feature meaningful patterns including the cross, loving angels, and history-filled patterns dating back to the 1800's. For example, the "Flying Geese" pattern was used during the Underground Railroad. The two arrows in different fabrics or colors told slaves which way to travel towards freedom and identified "safe" houses. The quilts include amazing stitch work, along with rich and vibrant colors. The Women of Faith pray the quilting will allow them to spend quality time together and help them continue spreading God's message of faith, hope, love, and grace.



# PRAYER QUILTS



## WOMEN OF WISDOM

The Women of Wisdom are so excited about starting a new Prayer Quilt Ministry. James 5:16 tells us to, "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much".

The Prayer Quilt Ministry combines the gift of prayer with the gift of a hand-tied quilt. Our prayer quilt ministry has made four quilts and donated them to our sick and shut-members. It is our custom to have Pastor Wicks pray over each quilt and to tie the first knot; after which each member present will tie a knot uniting us all in prayer. Thus recipients of the quilts are "Covered in Prayer". The PQM is proud to serve our Lord with our hands and hearts.

The Women of Wisdom adopted Community Nursing Home and Silas Brown Personnel Care Home for Christmas. Christmas is the time of the year for giving, according to Deuteronomy 16:17, "Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which He has given you." We provided each resident of the Community Nursing Home with a new pair of pajamas and snack bags. We also delivered each resident of Silas Brown Personal Care Home gift bags containing toiletry items.

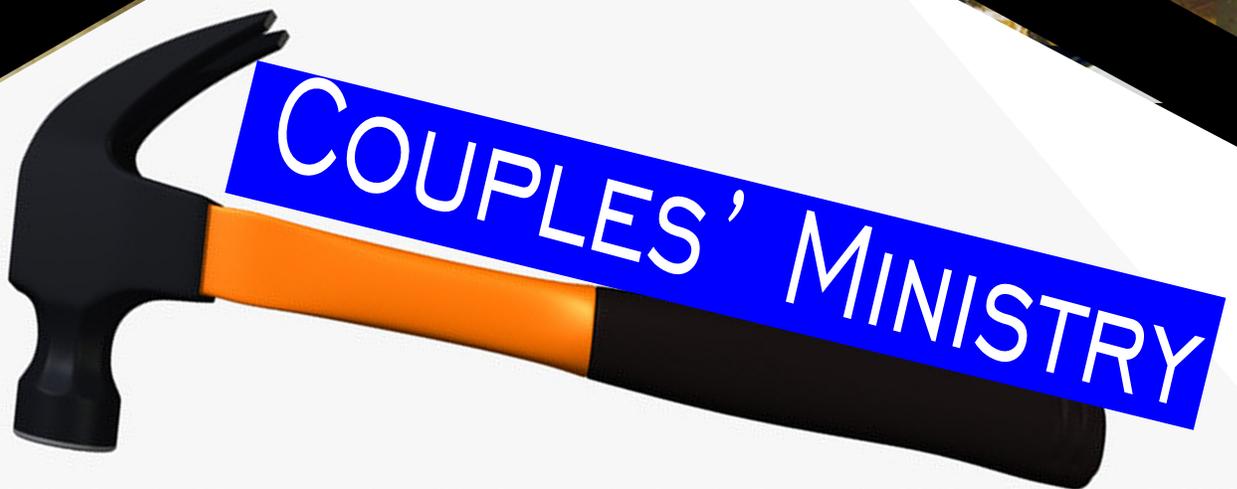
"I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver." -Maya Angelou



The Mount Nebo Laymen visited Brother Jack Perry and presented him with a monetary donation for his birthday. Brother Perry was very grateful for the visit as well as donation. The Laymen also donated caps, socks, gloves and soap to "Butterflies by Grace Defined by Faith" a domestic violence organization that was founded following the death of Latasha Norman (JSU student killed by boyfriend). On March 15, 2014 Deacon Charles Carter, Sr. was recognized as Laymen of the Year from Mount Nebo for outstanding service at the Jackson District Laymen Banquet. Deacon Carter was presented with a plaque by Mount Nebo's Laymen President, Brother Earnest Perry.

The Mount Nebo Laymen's most delightful moment was April 12, 2014 when they went to Sister Martha Brown's home to remove limbs and shrubbery that was left over after a large oak tree had fallen on her house while she was sitting on the couch. Sister Brown explained to the Laymen how blessed she was to not have been injured. Sister Brown was very grateful to have the men from her church come and help her. She sent a letter of thanks to them. As always, the Laymen assist whenever needed with the youth and mission ministries. To God Be The Glory for all the wonderful things He has done!





## COUPLES' MINISTRY

The Mount Nebo Couples Ministry conducted its Community Service Project for 2013 on December 7, 2013. The Mount Nebo Couples Ministry partnered with Habitat for Humanity-Jackson and assisted with the rehabilitation of a home located at 231 Peach Orchard Drive in Jackson.

Mount Nebo Couples were ready for the tasks that had been set before them. Although the day started with freezing temperatures, it did not stop the warmth exhibited from each couple as they conducted each task with love, diligence, and the willingness to help make a home beautiful for a deserving family. It was a day filled with priming, painting and laughter along with fellowship with other Habitat volunteers and local citizens in the community. Many lives were touched and inspired to see Mount Nebo there sharing in this worthy cause. There was plenty work to go around; therefore the Mount Nebo Couples took on many roles as roller, cutter, scraper, quality control and even paintman!

Toy Gathings, Volunteer Coordinator at Habitat for Humanity, expressed a heartfelt gratitude to the Mount Nebo Couples Ministry for participating in this monumental, yet rewarding, task. With the Mount Nebo Couples Ministry's participation and assistance, Habitat achieved their established mission ... "bringing people together to build homes, communities, and hope."

Habitat for Humanity is an international organization. Since 1976, Habitat for Humanity has built over 350,000 homes and housed more than 1.75 million people in over 90 countries worldwide. In 2010, they served over 7,000 families. Habitat for Humanity is "Seeking to put God's love into action." Their goal is to eliminate substandard housing, locally and throughout the world. For every house built, a tithe of \$2,000 is sent to Habitat for Humanity International for a home to be built abroad. For the last few years, Habitat for Humanity-Jackson affiliate's tithe has gone to Honduras. (Source: [www.habitatjackson.org](http://www.habitatjackson.org))





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