

November 2017 | Mt Paran Presbyterian Church | 410-655-6220



Volume 1 - Issue 8

THE MT PARAN MESSENGER



Chosen to Serve

By Pastor Ed Terry

At the Congregational Meeting on October 15th we will begin the process of electing Elders and Deacons at Mt Paran. On **November 12th** we will hold another Congregational Meeting to receive the report from the Nominating Committee and to elect two Elders and two Deacons.

In the Presbyterian Church one of the duties of the members is to elect Elders and Deacons to oversee the ministry of the local church. The Office of Elder and Deacon are both ordained offices in the Presbyterian Church. The word ordained means to be set apart. Ordained individuals are individuals who have been “**set apart**” for a special ministry in the church of Jesus Christ. (Mark 3:14; John 15:16; Acts 6: 1-6; Acts 13:2; Galatians 1:1; 1st Timothy 4:14; Titus 1:5) The individuals elected to serve as Elders and Deacons must be willing and able to serve the people of our church family with enthusiasm, energy, intelligence, imagination and love.

To be eligible to serve as an Elder or Deacon at Mt Paran an individual must be an official member of Mt Paran. If you are currently an official member of Mt Paran I urge you to begin praying daily to discern the individuals God is calling to serve His people as Elders and Deacons at Mt Paran. *Continued on page 2*

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If you are a member of the Mt Paran family but are not currently an official member of Mt Paran I urge you to begin praying daily to discern if God is calling you to make a commitment to Jesus Christ and to the other members of the Mt Paran family by officially joining Mt Paran Church.



As Christians we know that God does not make mistakes. We know that we are put in places at particular times to fulfill a particular job for our Lord. If we are going to be faithful to our Lord's calling we need to pray each morning for our assignments. It is never a question of being qualified because none of us are ever qualified. It is a question of God calling us and us responding to His call to serve. We know that God equips us for each and every job that He calls us to do. Christian responsibility is defined as our response to Christ's ability. In Philippians 4:13 we read ***"I can do everything through Christ who gives me strength"***

I urge each of you to be praying daily to discern if God is calling you to make a commitment to serve Him and the people in our Mt Paran family. 🕊



"Pastor's Desk" is a feature article appearing monthly in The Mt Paran Messenger. It is written each month by Pastor Ed Terry. Are you blessed by what you read here? Please email yourmtparan@gmail.com and let us know!

From the Desk of Clerk of Session Mitzi Ecker

2017 Per Capita:

<http://www.baltimorepresbytery.org/percapita/article420435c8667964.htm>

The Per Capita apportionment is the annual dollar amount that each local Presbyterian Church pays to defray the administrative expenses of the Presbytery, of the Synod, and of the General Assembly. Paying your per capita is a responsibility of every member of Mt Paran. Every local Presbyterian Church is required to pay

\$34.15 for each active member in 2017 even if an individual member does not meet their responsibility. When a member does not pay their per capita it really hurts Mt Paran. Make your check payable to the Mt. Paran Church and ear-mark it **"per capita"** or if your pay cash, please put it in an envelope marked **"per capita"**.

Thank you for honoring your obligation as a member. In 2018 the amount rises 23cent to \$34.38.



Thanks to those that have already paid. 🕊

Mitzi

We Have Continuing Prayer Concerns For:

Lorin & Violet; Elsa; Frank; Kimberly; David; Mary; Josh; Warren; Liah; Electra; Len; Betty; Holly; Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church; Nyen Presbyterian Church; Naikom Presbyterian Church; Ngwokwong Presbyterian Church; an end to human trafficking and violence; the Grady family; the Hodges family; Peggy; the Mobit family; the Amungwa family; Chris; the Bell family; Jack; Martha; and your pastors.

Remember we will started a new list of Continuing Prayer Concerns on October 15, 2017. Names do not carryover automatically. You must call Pastors Ed or Anita if you want to place a person's name on the list 🕊



Getting to Know...



Love. Grow. Serve.

...The Nurture Ministry

1 Thessalonians 5:11 “Therefore encourage one another and build each other up...”

NURTURE MINISTRY - PURPOSE : Sharing the joy of the Word through assimilating new and existing members into the life and ministry of the Church.

DUTIES : Meet, inform and encourage members to be actively involved in the life and ministries of the Church...Identify & promote service opportunities for the young people to plan and promote programs and activities for young adults... Provide assistance to the elderly/ shut -in. Oversee prayer chain...Encourage members to be actively involved in all ministries *

**Excerpt from “Mt. Paran Church Ministries, Reorganization 2017”*

Mount Paran has a wonderful ministry devoted just to Nurturing members into active life in the Body of Christ. Recently, the Messenger posed questions to Elder Alison Cook, the Chair of the Nurture Ministry about this exciting area. Her answers are as upbeat and encouraging as she is!

The Messenger: Alison, the purpose of the Nurture Ministry is listed as “Sharing the joy of the Word through assimilating new and existing members into the life and ministry of the Church”. What does that definition mean to you?

Alison: In essence, the purpose of the nurture ministry is to ensure everyone who attends our church feels welcomed. In addition, the purpose of the ministry is to get people ----- *Continued on page 4*



November Birthdays

Please wish these people a Happy Birthday by calling them or sending them a card

Edison Niba – November 2
David Boston – November 3
Rita Nji – November 3
Isaac Momha – November 5
Victorine Pinanzu November 5
Patrick Teghen – November 5
Alexis Buswell – November 6
Lyliane A. Mbah – November 6
Winston Nche – November 9
Abraham Mbangowah – November 10
Grace Block – November 10
Kishelle Arnold –November 11
Ellen Di Filippo – November 11
Praise Njoku – November 11
James Hutchins – November 12
Julian Secula – November 13
Ed Terry - November 14
Martha Kembumbala – November 17
David Hutchins November 19
Nina Doh - November 20
Hallmark Pinanzu November 20
Lydia Ayukarrey – November 20
Prince Akum – November 21
Audrey Mvemba – November 21
Jeanelle Tanwani - November 21
Louis Arrey – November 21
Wilfred Ngwanue – November 22
Tyrell Wanjohi – November 23
Zuri Rogers – November 23
Ethan Tabe – November 24
Jasmine Lewis – November 24
Waylon Ekema – November 25
Benita Moti – November 27 Daisy Tanwani – November 28 Ada Agwa – November 30 Loveline Nche – November 30 Richard Sheffler - November 30 Alice Fominyen – November 30

“Nurture Ministry” continued from page 3

INVOLVED....whether it be children into the youth group. adults into a specific ministry, or helping to fill a need within the church. Through involvement, people grow. Growth is important.



The Messenger: What are you excited about for the upcoming year?

Alison: I am excited that we are moving toward separating our children's church into two separate age groups. I feel the addition of a second class presents opportunities for our members and attendees to stretch outside their comfort zones and become involved.

The Messenger: Do you need volunteers, and who can volunteer?

Alison: Anyone can be a volunteer! Volunteers are needed everywhere. For the Nurture Ministry, people who wish to help other people are key.

The Messenger: How do you volunteer?

Alison: It sounds corny, but the best and easiest way to volunteer is to just raise your hand or just take a step forward. Think about Isaiah 6:8: "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

The Messenger: That's a perfect answer! As we close, what is your favorite Bible verse or verse that gives you the most inspiration?

Allison: I have several, but three that have special meaning to me are:

John 3:16: *“ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*

Matthew 6:33: *“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” and*

Proverbs 3:5-6. *“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”*
These three verses pretty much sum it up for me. 🙏

A CONVERSATION WITH PAM

Mt Paran is blessed with so many fascinating and talented individuals! One of them is our Church Historian and long-time member,



Pam Carter. Recently, during a conversation after worship, Pam shared with *The Messenger* the significance of the Liturgical Colors in the life of the Church. Pam shared that “while Mt Paran does not



adhere to a strict observance and use of vestments for the church seasons, we will notice certain colors being used at certain times. One of those time is during Advent. Specifically, the use of purple during the

Advent season.” According to her research, purple is the color that is used during the church seasons of preparation: Advent and Lent. During both seasons (the four Sundays before Christmas and the 40 Days before Easter, respectively), we are to dedicate ourselves for the preparation of our hearts and minds for welcoming Christ. Purple is also the traditional color of royalty, and so some give nod to this as a reason why we use purple during these seasons. In some traditions, the color Blue is used interchangeably with purple during the season of Advent.

“As an interesting side point”, our historian shared, “our congregation uses only battery advent candles to avoid the increased fire risk associated with a live flame”. Want more information about liturgical colors? Check out one of Pam’s suggested electronic resources: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/2016-liturgical-colors-presbyterian-planning-calender/>.

FEATURED IN THE DECEMBER ISSUE OF THE MESSENGER



All the wonderful ways to celebrate Jesus this Christmas season at Mt Paran Presbyterian Church!



“Getting to Know” The Worship Ministry



Advent: Preparation and Celebration



'Photos by Fabrice'

Featuring pictures from recent Mt Paran events taken by our church photographer and new member Fabrice Taboh. *Please note, Session does not permit public display or distribution of photographs taken of Mt Paran's children where their full faces can be shown.* There are photos of our children engaged in ministry shown before the start of worship in the main sanctuary.



Installation of Associate Pastors Donna & Anita
Sunday August 20th



Fellowship Time!



Ministry Sunday, October 8th





THE FELLOWSHIP PAGE....

Asking the Question:

“How Did Your Journey Lead You Here?”



The Fellowship Page is a brand-new addition to *The Messenger*. Occasionally, *The Messenger* will ask our members about their life's journey, how they were led to a deeper relationship with God, and how they came to be a part of Mt Paran.

This month we are featuring our chat with member Mike Hodges.

The Messenger: Mike, tell us about how you arrived at Mt Paran.

Mike: Well, Pastor Ed and Lady are neighbors of mine. I knew them as neighbors for many years. When Ed first started at Mt Paran, he extended an invitation to his neighbors. I ignored the invitation for many years and then finally accepted.” Mike says, “I used to go to church as a kid. My mom would take me to a Baptist church when I was young, although I stopped going to church when I was a teen. So it was a long time between then and when I finally went to Mt Paran.”

In 2010 I became ill with cirrhosis of the liver and later that summer I was fatigued and still not feeling well and it turned out to be lime disease. I'm now a big believer in prayer. My parents prayed for me, my neighbors prayed for me and once I started getting better I thought 'well maybe it's time to pay the Lord back'.

Mike freely shares about the fellowship and kindness of his neighbors during his illness and his sincere belief that prayer works. “Prayer works and it helped me and so I just thought I should start praising the Lord.”

I had been so sick at one point my mom, who was praying for me, began planning for my funeral and burial in Florida, where I'm originally from. She realized that I wasn't baptized as a child and so I spoke with Pastor Ed, who said 'we can do something about that'.” After I became accustomed to the church life, Ed baptized me then.” Mike laughs and adds “It's too bad it took me almost dying to get me there”.

When asked what his favorite Bible verse or his favorite inspirational advice to share with someone else who maybe sick, he sincerely says, “Prayer works. Not just for me, but for others I have known.”

---Continued on page 9---

He then thoughtfully shares, “I didn’t necessarily believe that before, but it worked on me and my sister’s grandchild (who is 2). She was born with heart defects, like a missing valve, and was operated on just a few weeks after she was born and has had other operations and procedures since. We all prayed for her and she’s come through and is a real fun loving little kid. Now she’s off of oxygen (which she had been on for most of her life) everybody prayed for her and Pastor Ed and the church have been praying. I believe in prayer. My piece of advice is *“prayer works”*.”

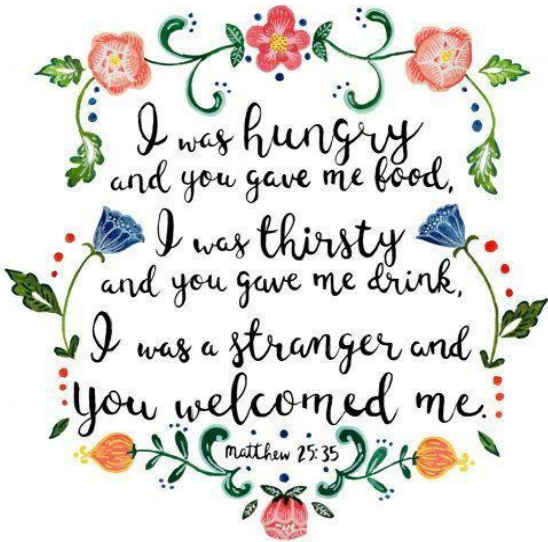
Mike professes, while he’s not a Biblical scholar, he agrees on the wisdom of Matthew 21:22 “And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.”

Finally, for those of you who are curious, *The Messenger* inquired about his height. He says he’s a little shy of 6’6”. Tall as a child, he towered over everyone since the age of 13. He played football, but not basketball, and was really good at shotput. So now you know a little more about all around nice, friendly guy, Mike!

Oh, and just in case you were hesitant on inviting someone to Friends and Family Day on **November 19th**, remember Mike came to Mt Paran at the **invitation of a neighbor**. Feeling a little discouraged because someone you invited hasn’t accepted? Mike has received several invitations before he said ‘yes’. What blessings will your invitations yield? 🙏

Would you like to share about steps from your journey for a future article? Please see Pastor Anita after worship on Sunday.





Please give generously to the Deacon's Thanksgiving Food Drive. Each year the Deacons Board of Mt Paran provide an opportunity for you to help those in need in our community by collecting non-perishables for donation. The collection area is in the front of the church near the "prayer requests and joys table". Food will be distributed during Thanksgiving week. If you or someone you know may benefit from this, please contact one of the Deacons. Thank you for your generous giving! May God richly bless you!

FRIENDS AND FAMILY DAY THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 19TH 2017 11AM

**ALL MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO BRING A
DISH TO SHARE FOR THE RECEPTION**

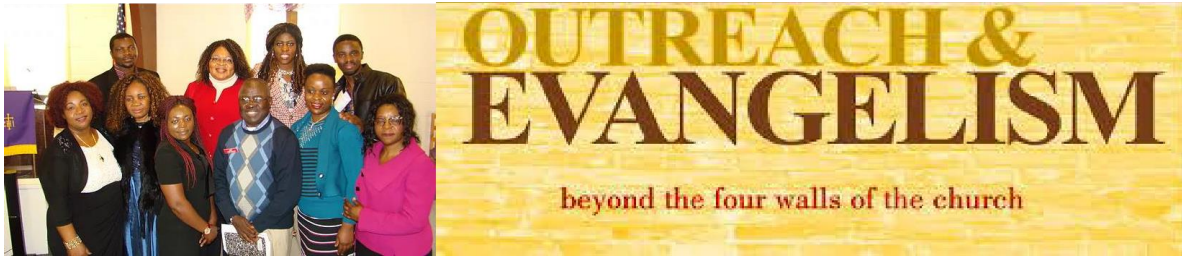
IMMEDIATELY AFTER WORSHIP. ALL ARE WELCOME!



"But when you give a reception, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind..."

LUKE 14:13

At Mt Paran, everyone is welcomed!!!



You're invited to join us when we visit our neighbors at
CHAPEL HILL NURSING AND REHABILITATION FACILITY

Under the leadership of the Evangelism Ministry (pictured above) and the Session of Mount Paran Presbyterian Church, an evangelical visit will be paid to CHAPEL HILL NURSING and REHABILITATION home

4511 Robosson Road Randallstown, MD 21133 on **Sunday December 3rd, 2017**, immediately after church service at 1.30 PM. The visit should take a maximum of one hour (1.45pm - 2.45pm). Your participation in the visit will be an honor to us and a blessing to all involved.

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For this visit, we will need the participation all Christians of Mount Paran PC. You may choose to participate as a direct evangelist by visiting with us or as an indirect evangelist, by making a donation of material support. Evangelism does not mean spiritual support alone. One cannot listen and digest the word of God on an empty stomach. Consequently, we will need to take along the following items as gifts:

- Nonperishable food items
- Soft drinks (non-diabetic)
- Gospel musical CDs
- Crossword puzzles or other indoor game items
- Coloring pages
- Holy Bibles
- Old magazines

(note: This list is not exhaustive)

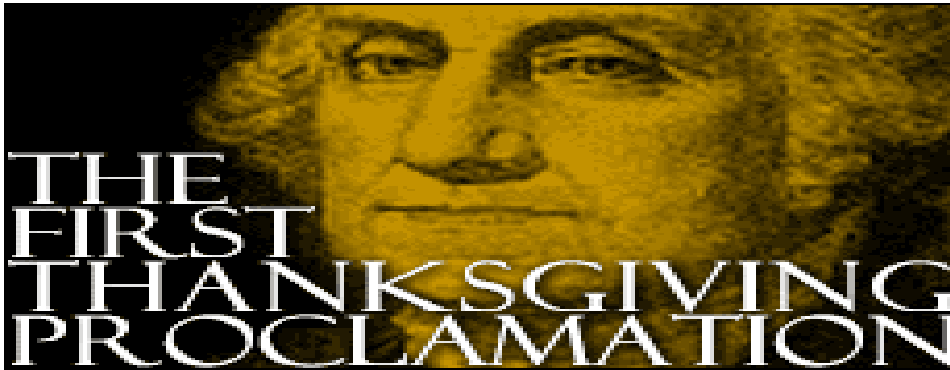
It is worthy to note that direct evangelists are those take the word of God into the society while indirect evangelists are those who owing to their program of activities cannot be able to be at the fore front to take the word out there but will always support the direct evangelists who devote themselves to take the word of God into the society.

Please, your physical presence at the Nursing home or material donation will be highly appreciated and you will be blessed.

Please, bear in minds that those we are going to visit wrote applications to be where there are now. You and I can find ourselves in their situation tomorrow.

Submitted by, Chairman Evangelism Ministry: Elder Bernard Mbah

Why We Have a Special Day of Thanksgiving in the United States



President George Washington's 1789 Thanksgiving Proclamation:

Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor; and whereas both Houses of Congress have, by their joint committee, requested me to *"recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness:"*

Now, therefore, I do recommend and assign Thursday, the 26th day of November next, to be devoted by the people of these States to the service of that Great and Glorious Being who is the beneficent author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be; that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country previous to their becoming a nation; for the signal and manifold mercies and the favorable interpositions of His providence in the course and conclusion of the late war; for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty which we have since enjoyed; for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been able to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national one now lately instituted for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed, and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and, in general, for all the great and various favors which He has been pleased to confer upon us. And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions; to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually; to render our National Government a blessing to all the people by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed; to protect and guide all sovereigns and nations (especially such as have shown kindness to us), and to bless them with good governments, peace, and concord; to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and us; and, generally to grant unto all mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as He alone knows to be best.

Given under my hand, at the city of New York, the 3d day of October, A.D. 1789. .





The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper –November 5th & December 3rd

We will celebrate The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper as part of our morning worship on Sunday November 5th and Sunday December 3rd. In this sacrament we remember Jesus' death on the cross, we celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the grave, and we look forward to Jesus' return to establish His eternal kingdom. In the 11th chapter of 1st Corinthians the Apostle Paul tells us that we need to properly prepare ourselves prior to coming to The Lord's Table. We are to prepare for receiving communion by examining ourselves. We need to take a serious look at ourselves. We need to ask ourselves if our thoughts, our words, and our actions are pleasing to Jesus. We need to ask ourselves if we are living the victorious life that God planned for us and the victorious life that is available to us through Jesus Christ. We need to ask ourselves if we are being good stewards of our time by praying and meditating on God's Word to us, The Bible, each day. We all need to take a serious look at ourselves, and when we do if we are honest, we will admit that we can and should do a much better job of being *Ambassadors of Christ*. But the Good News of Jesus is that access to His table is not given to the worthy, but that Jesus invites all people to come to His Table who come in repentance, faith, and humility.

Also remember that The Session approved a special sacrificial offering to be received on the first Sunday of each month for us show our appreciation to The Lord for paying the penalty of our sins so that we will live in heaven throughout eternity. 🕊️

Those Who Serve: November 2017

	Sunday November 5th	Sunday November 12th	Sunday November 19th	Sunday November 26th
Lay Readers	Alex Fonteh	Bessem Agbor	Ophilia Samba	Stallone Kemende
Lay Readers	Ambang Kuchambi	Pam Carter	Christina Nuvaga	Valdis Tabe
Lay Readers	Peace Geh	Yvonne Sama	Linda Agbor	Eric Nchumuluh
Greeters	Marc Frank Anang	Solange Nju	Mary Robinson	Odilia Jator
Greeters	Janelle Tanwani	Jessica Akum	Benard Ndifon	Evette Amungwa
Greeters	Mah Fofou	Christy Aluna	Evelyn Moti	Gladys Fai
Greeters	Caleb Nchumuluh	Chris Tantoh	Wilfred Ngwanue	Solange Nju
Greeters	Mah Akum	Wallace Johnson	Carlson Moti	Benita Moti
Ushers	Pride Akum	Jules Philippe-Auguse	Pauline Arrey	Elijah Akum
Ushers	Lumbe Mfobujong	Che Fru	Theresia Mbenga	Vivian Mbah
Ushers	Audrey Akum	Anthony Mboh	Alice Tekwe	Alice Fominyen
Ushers	Jenna Tanwani	Isaac Momha	Tina Abange	ViViane Nkemchia
Children's Church		Alison Cook / Stephen Abunaw	Danielle Owusu / Joseph Anang	Bernard Mbah / Dwayne Cook
Fellowship Host/ Hostess	CWF	CWF	CWF	CWF
Assisting Elders	Alison Cook	Danielle Owusu	Bernard Mbah	Cathy Mobit
Offering Dedication	Stephen Abunaw	Joseph Anang	Dwayne Cook	Olivia Kemende
Counter	Dwayne Cook	Emmanuel Akum	Cassandra Azue	Gladys Fai
Counter	Benard Ndifon	Pam Carter	Wilfred Ngwanue	Joseph Anang
Counter	Lyliane Mbah	Stallone Kemende	Stephen Abunaw	Denis Chawchang
Counter	Kendall Cook	Relindis Awuh	Marcus Ade	Sally Mbah



Mt Paran Presbyterian Church

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*Proclaiming & Demonstrating
the Love of God for 300+ years*

Find us on the Web:
www.mtparanchurch.net



Pastor Ed's November 2017 Sermon Titles & Scriptures

November 5, 2017 – All Saints Day / Communion

“Precious In The Sight Of The Lord”

1st Peter 1:13 – 25; 2nd Corinthians 5: 1 - 10; John 14: 1 - 6;

Psalm 116: 1 – 19 (Sermon)

November 12, 2017 “Handling Adversity”

1st Corinthians 10:1 – 13; Romans 8 18 – 39; James 1: 2 – 18;

Psalm 37 (Sermon)

November 19, 2017 – Thanksgiving Sunday

“A Proper Attitude About Thanksgiving”

Psalm 100; Luke 17: 11 – 17; 2nd Corinthians 9: 6 – 15,

1st Thessalonians 5: 16 - 18 (Sermon)

November 26, 2017 – Christ The King Sunday

“Jesus Is The King” Ezekiel 34: 11 – 34; James 2: 14 – 26;

Revelation 19: 11 – 21 **Matthew 25: 31 – 46 (Sermon)** 

Our Friends At:

Randallstown, MD 21133

Mt Paran Presbyterian Church

US Postage

P. O. Box 415