



Mt. Paran Presbyterian Church
10308 Liberty Road / P. O. Box 415
Randallstown, MD 21133
410-655-6220 mtparanchurch.net

October 11, 2020

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today I am informing you of my decision to retire from my position as your Senior Pastor on November 13th, 2020. I did not arrive at this decision lightly. In November of this year I will be 80 years old and I no longer have the energy and / or the stamina needed to effectively lead the congregation.

First and foremost, I want to thank each one of you for your love, your friendship, your support, and your confidence in me. I have really enjoyed worshipping with you, learning with you, and serving with you as we walked with The Lord.

It has been my pleasure to share your joys, to pray with and for you, as well as to cry with you in times of trials. Being your spiritual leader has been an awesome responsibility as well as a wonderful adventure. Thank you for giving me the opportunity of serving you as your pastor.

I can honestly say that these past 21 years have been some of the happiest and most fulfilling times in my life. The Lord has richly blessed me as I experienced the miracle of Mt Paran's transformation from a small older all white congregation into a vibrant younger multi-cultural family of

believers. I have been richly blessed by experiencing the miracles God providing for all of our church's needs. I have been richly blessed by being a part of the most loving and caring congregation I have ever been a part of. The Lord has richly blessed me by allowing me to see our congregation grow spiritually. Thank you for letting me being a part of your family's life, your parties, your celebrations, and seeing your children grow up. Lady and I have truly been richly blessed by knowing you.

I will still be a member of Mt Paran and I will available to advise and help whoever you call to be your next Pastor. But you need to understand that it would not be fair to your new pastor and it would divide the congregation if I still performed pastoral duties. Lady & I will be here infrequently to make the transition easier for the new pastor. As a member of our church family you have a responsibility to embrace, to support, and to pray for your next pastor. I know I can count on each of you to do those very important duties.

I did not know what The Lord had planned for me when Lady and I moved to Randallstown and I do not know the plans The Lord has for Lady & me now. But I am looking forward to the new adventure The Lord has planned for us.

I had hoped to inform you of my decision to retire in person. However CoVert -19 has prevented this. If you would like to personally express your feelings please call us at (410) 496-0661. This would also give us a chance to express our love and our gratitude to you.

Mt Paran has a wonderful past and Mt Paran will have an even greater future as long as the church preaches God's

word, walks in His ways, depends solely on Him, and embraces His plans for His church.

I will never forget my wonderful Mt Paran family.

Your Brother in Christ;

Pastor Ed

Next, a letter from Miss Lady with the second announcement:



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"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today I need that verse so very much as today I have to begin saying goodbye because I will also retire like Pastor Ed.

I want to thank each of you for your support and love for the last 21 years that I've served as your minister of music and liturgical dance. It has been my honor and my privilege to do so. As Pastor Ed and I leave here to travel a new path with the Lord I know that our next adventure will be filled with surprises and blessings. However, let me recall some of the blessings from Mt Paran that I'll take with me. I've watched this congregation sing anthems in glorious praise, in humble thanksgiving, in trials, in sadness, and in pure joy. I've watched dancers grow in grace and style from children to adults. I've watched actors learn to bring God's words to us in stories and plays. What a wonderful time we've had!

Next, I want to thank all of you for your voices raised in songs for the Lord. However, I want to mention a few who have shared more. First, the CWF and CMF for their leadership in sharing music. Thank you to Sally Mbah, Akwa Angwafo,

Danielle Owusu, and Nellie Enone. A special thank you to Tina Langha for being my go-to person as we began broadcasting the service. She helped me in so many ways with her singing and musical leadership. To Pauline Tanwani who organized and chaired the praise song team leaders. Always beautiful and always there to count on. * Lastly to my two angels for the last 21 years. Mitzi Ecker and Pam Carter. God sent them to me to lean on, cry with, rejoice with in everything from voice, to sewing, to chaperoning, to being my strength. My grateful thanks.

To my daughter, Louise Block, a debt of love and thanksgiving. She directed our children's choir for the past five years in such a loving, caring way. She also taught our S'mores.

We will worship here infrequently but will always keep you in our hearts. I leave you with one musical direction: Do not ever change the joy you put in your singing. Always praise God with your excitement and celebration. You are the evidence of Psalm 150. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

I leave you my heart...

Your Sister in Christ,
Lady Terry

And now the 3rd announcement letter from Pastor Ed:



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My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

When I advised the Session of my decision to retire; your Elders unanimously voted to ask Pastor Anita if she would consider being our next pastor and assuming all of my duties as your pastor.

The Session also unanimously voted to ask Pastor Donna if she would continue in her position as your Associate Pastor. Pastor Donna said she would continue in her position as Associate Pastor.

Pastor Anita said she would be honored to assume the duties and responsibilities of being your Senior Pastor on November 14th pending Presbytery's approval. Presbytery, Pastor Anita, and your Session must agree on terms of call.

The Lord has been preparing me, preparing the congregation, and preparing Pastor Anita for this moment.

Pastor Anita will do things differently than I did. But that is not a bad thing – that is a good thing because I certainly was not perfect. Pastor Anita brings new skills to the table, she is qualified, and she has proven that she will work hard for you.

The next step in the process is meeting with Presbytery. I will keep you informed of Presbytery's action and I will continue to be your pastor through November 13th, 2020.

As a member of the Mt Paran family each one of you have a responsibility to embrace, to support, and to pray for Pastor Anita. Pray for Presbytery's approval and pray for a smooth transition. I know I can count on each of you to do these very important duties.

Please join me in giving Pastor Anita a round of applause.

Your Brother in Christ;
Pastor Ed