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THANK'S

Mt. Moriah Expresses Gratitude

By HARRIET O. GRIER
Special To The Post

As we enter into this season of Thanksgiving, the pastor and members of Mt. Moriah Baptist Church would like to take time out to say "thank you" to the citizens of the Belmont community for the many kindnesses extended to our church during the year.

Mt. Moriah completed the rebuilding of their new sanctuary at the end of August and on September 3, 1989, dedication services were held. We now have a beautiful edifice that is a source of pride and offers aesthetic beauty to the surrounding community.

The church is tastefully decorated in the primary soft tones of mauve, burgundy and white. Recessed lighting has been inserted across the front of the church. Other lighting includes direct overhead lighting along with wall lighting. All lighting is self-controlled and can be dimmed or lightened with the touch of the switch. The brick interior was left in its natural state. The church also features piped-in Christian music, a men's and women's rest room and lounge area all tastefully decorated and color coordinated. Floral arrangements for the church were exquisitely designed and created for the church. In the colors of the church, by Barbara Grier's Florist of South Point in Belmont.

The exterior of the church is as beautiful as the interior. At dawn, the church's steeple, cross and outdoor marquee all light up, creating a dramatic sight in the community.

Mt. Moriah has adopted the theme "Look Where He Brought Us From" that was used in their dedication service and will be used the remainder of the year. Dedication services were held at 3 p.m. the first Sunday in September with the Rev. Clifton Jones, pastor of Friendship Baptist Church in Charlotte, delivering the dedicatory sermon. Homecoming services were held the third Sunday in September, which was the same weekend Hurricane Hugo decided to show his mighty force! The church was without power but that did not deter the dedicated members from improvising and going forward. The ladies of the church, who had gas stoves, took all of the food home, prepared it and returned it to the church that afternoon for the annual homecoming dinner. A negative situation was turned into positive action. Homecoming tables were beautifully decorated with members and friends enjoying a gorgeous candlelight dinner in lovely surroundings.

Rev. Preston Pendergrass of the Antioch Baptist Church in Charlotte, conducted the afternoon service. Rev. Pendergrass was accompanied by his choir and congregation.

Something new was added to the homecoming service this year: the crowning of a King and Queen out of the Rainbow Division. Marcus McCullough and

his sister Charmella McCullough were crowned King and Queen, respectively, with first runners-up being Jonathan Kee and Naydra Fleming.

During the week of October 9-13, Mt. Moriah entered its annual revival services with the Rev. L. D. Parker of St. Luke's Baptist Church in Charlotte, conducting services. The fourth Sunday in November will find the women of the church celebrating an abbreviated Woman's Day Service with a speaker yet to be announced.

All of Mt. Moriah's annual days had to be moved back due to the construction of their new facility. In no way did this hinder the members from pressing on towards the goals they set for themselves.

Prior to moving into the new sanctuary, the members of Mt. Moriah held afternoon services at the Queen of the Apostles Catholic Church with weddings and funeral services being held at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church.

Throughout the seven months that it took to complete the new sanctuary, the Belmont community pulled together, offered us the use of their facilities, their help, time, love and prayers.

Mayor Billy Joye gave us his encouragement along with other members of the Belmont City Council.

Our pastor, Rev. Kenneth E. Alexander and his wife, have been a guiding force in our lives. Through their faith in God and love of the church and community, their prayers and beliefs have brought us together in Christian love. It is through their positive actions that Mt. Moriah went from "We think we can" to "We know we can" and it is that driving force and determination that each member today feels that there is no moun-

tain high enough that we cannot climb.

To you, the citizens of the Belmont community -- you have been by our side and provided us with whatever was needed. We could not let this coming holiday season go by without some sort of public appreciation to our many friends and Christian supporters, as "That's What Friends Are For."

We want you to know that we appreciate your caring, your love and your concern.

A special thank-you goes out to all of the many committee

members who are too numerous to mention, name by name, but who have worked "behind the scenes" in tying all of our events together. Thank you, all boards, committees and choir members and to all who gave "special donations" to the church.

From the Mt. Moriah Church Family to our beloved community, we say thank you and may God continue to bless each of you individually and collectively. To our church family we simply say, "Just Look Where He Brought Us From."

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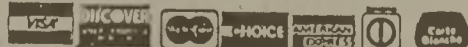
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