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***For Immediate Release:***

***2 pages***

**New Mount Zion Baptist Church on  
K&Q Holiday Historic Church Tour**

The King and Queen Community Development Corporation (KQCD) has organized a holiday church tour featuring some of the oldest and most historic churches in King and Queen County. KQCD is presenting its first King and Queen Holiday Historic Church Tour on Saturday, December 6 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. The tour focuses on churches in the Walkerton, St. Stephens Church and Bruington areas of the County including: Bethlehem Baptist (Bruington), Bruington Baptist (Bruington), Mizpah United Methodist (Walkerton), New Mount Zion Baptist (Walkerton) and Shepherds United Methodist (St. Stephens Church.) The King and Queen County Historical Society and the King and Queen County Women's Club are sponsors of the Tour. In future years KQCD would like to feature churches from other areas of the County.

Soon after the Civil War, many African American members of Bruington Baptist Church withdrew their membership and formed a separate church called New Mount Zion Baptist Church. The first church site was located on the land near Butler's Tavern at the intersection of routes 629 and 633. The second site was established in 1873 on a three acre plot of land on the public road leading from Butler's Tavern at St. Stephens Church, (presently 3110 Rose Mount Road).

During the past 138 years, New Mount Zion Baptist Church has been lead by eleven pastors. The first being Rev. Simon P. Byrd in 1873, and the present Pastor, Rev. Robert D. Brown since 1972. Amidst a growing membership, a new Church was built between 1927 and 1928. The installation of the stained glass windows in the Sanctuary was a major achievement for the Church along with the purchase of a Hammond Organ and the 1977 addition of the Education Wing. Traditionally, New Mount Zion has held worship service on the second and forth Sundays with Church School being held every Sunday. On July 15, 2007, the Church held the first third Sunday Worship Service in its 137 year history.

In 1937 the New Mount Zion Church Hill School building and lot were purchased from the Newtown Virginia School Trustees. In 1996 the building was converted and officially named the J. C. Graves Historic Museum after New Mount Zion's seventh pastor, Rev. J. C. Graves. He was a teacher in this one room public school for several years. The Museum, now open by appointment, has provided a number of educational opportunities for public school tours, community organizations and individuals from cities such as Richmond, Norfolk, Washington, Charlottesville and Philadelphia.

Tour tickets are \$10 per person and include admittance to all five churches on the tour. Children age six and under are free. Tickets are available for purchase mid to late October. Tickets may be purchased from the following locations: Bank of Essex – Prince Street Tappahannock Branch, KQCD office in Walkerton, KQ Treasurer's Office at the Courthouse, King William Pharmacy in Aylett, Reflections

Photography in West Point, and Union Bank and Trust in Manquin. Box lunches will be available at Bruington Baptist Church; however, the lunches must be pre-ordered through KQCD by November 28th. The cost of a boxed lunch is \$10 and includes chicken salad, pasta salad, fruit salad, bread, dessert and a drink. The church tour will benefit KQCD and the Marriott School Restoration Project which is the planned renovation of the Marriott School into a community/cultural arts center for residents of King and Queen County and the Middle Peninsula. Business sponsorships are available in support of the church tour.

If you would like more information or would like to participate in or volunteer with KQCD and the historic church tour, please contact the KQCD office at 804-769-9656 or email [info@kqcd.org](mailto:info@kqcd.org). For more information about KQCD and the Marriott School Restoration Project, please visit [www.kqcd.org](http://www.kqcd.org).

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