

April 2024

Z Mt. Zion Voice

Official Newsletter of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church

GREETINGS

April 2024

I am more than excited that the Mt. Zion Voice has finally re-emerged. This has been a prayer of mine for quite a while because it is vitally important that our congregation stays informed.

Mt. Zion continues to impact lives in a major way and is a tremendous source of hope, help, and healing for our community. We want to ensure that each of you *are* kept abreast of all the marvelous things that God is doing through this ministry.

I am aware that even though we are in a digital age, it is important that we do not lose the ability to communicate in traditional ways as well. I believe that we must excel in both arenas.

Join me in thanking the tremendous group of volunteers who have come together to make this first of many issues special. Please read, view, and appreciate the importance of actually "Executing The Word of God."



Pastor Addis Moore
Senior Pastor



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“When Jesus Stops By”

Rev. Terry Cropper
Matthew 9:18-26

“The Church I Dream About”

Rev. Kenneth Robinson
Matthew 16:13-18



Rev. Terry Cropper

CELEBRATING 103 YEARS

by Sis. Diane Jones

On March 10th, 2024, Mt. Zion Baptist Church celebrated our 103rd Year Anniversary. It was in 1921 when six people had a vision from God, and Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Kalamazoo, Michigan was birthed. We have been a fast-growing church with an emphasis on God and our community. Our vision is “A Vibrant Community Living By Faith.” Our Mission is “Empowering People to Transform Themselves and the Community.” Dr. Addis Moore has been our Pastor since 1995, and we have grown in so many wonderful ways. In celebration of this momentous day, we were blessed with two dynamic preachers who preached the mighty Word of God. Rev. Terry Cropper of Bethel Baptist in Three Rivers, MI was our guest preacher for the 8:00 AM service. The guest preacher for the 11:00 AM service was Rev. Kenneth Robinson of Second Baptist Church in Benton Harbor, MI.

We praise God for His Goodness as He has blessed us throughout these 103 Years, and we want to say, “Thank You, Lord, for what You have done and for what You are going to do through us—your church!” Amen!



Rev. Kenneth Robinson



SECURING TOMORROW: THE POWER OF MT. ZION'S ENDOWMENT FUND

by Sis. Patsy Moore

The term “Endowment Fund;” has likely crossed your ears if you’ve been around Mt. Zion over the years, especially in the lead-up to our 103rd Anniversary. We rallied together to contribute to this fund with a target of \$100,000 target. The fund currently exceeds \$500,000 with a goal to reach \$1 million over the next few years. But what exactly is an Endowment Fund, and why the push to establish one?

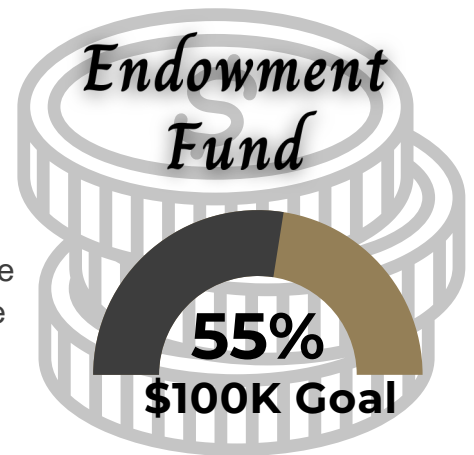
An Endowment Fund serves as a dedicated sum of money aimed at supporting the church both presently and into the future—a gift that keeps giving. To grasp its essence, consider it like a regular savings account, with a distinct purpose. Just as you might save funds towards a specific goal like a car, Christmas, or vacation, contributions to an Endowment Fund are also made regularly or periodically. However, unlike a typical savings account where withdrawals deplete the balance, the principle behind an Endowment Fund is to remain forever and grow, relying on the interest generated to fund church needs.

At Mt. Zion, our Endowment Fund is managed by the Kalamazoo Community Foundation, pooling resources with numerous other organizations and individuals. This collective approach amplifies the earning potential, leveraging combined investments to yield substantial returns. Crucially, unlike conventional savings, contributions to an Endowment Fund are intended as permanent investments. This signifies that the principal sum remains untouched, with only the accrued interest available to be spent.

Imagine a future where our operations are sustained entirely by the interest generated from our Endowment Fund, freeing up 100% of tithes and offerings for direct ministry. By nurturing this fund today, we pave the way for our children and grandchildren to make a profound impact on the community, leveraging our foresight today to meet tomorrow’s needs. Through steadfast commitment to the Mt. Zion Endowment Fund, we ensure a legacy of enduring support for generations to come.

“A good man leaves an inheritance to his children’s children, But the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous.”

Proverbs 13:22



BLACK HISTORY

IN THE BUSINESS WORLD

by Sis. Valetta S-Evans

Congratulations to Sis. Cheryl Wright on achieving the level of Mary Kay Sales Director. On Saturday, February 24, 2024, family and friends witnessed this milestone, which is especially significant as Sis. Wright is the First and Only African American Sales Director in Kalamazoo, MI.

After Sis. Wright's teaching position was eliminated in 2014, she reflected on Pastor Moore's sermon in which he asked, "What was the last thing God told you to do that you haven't done?" This proved to be just the catalyst, Sis. Wright needed to step out on faith and follow God's plan for her, as He grew her Mary Kay business. And on December 1, 2023, Sis. Wright finished the Director in Qualification (DIQ) process and started her journey as a new Sales Director of The Awesome Wonders Unit.

The focus Scripture is based on Exodus 34:10 (NIV) Then the Lord said: "I am making a covenant with you. Before all your people I will do wonders never before done in any nation in all the world. The people you live among will see how awesome is the work that I, the Lord, will do for you." Sis. Wright shared that she, along with her unit of thirty-seven Mary Kay Consultants, are so excited to see what God has in store, as they walk by faith, build endurance and grow! To God be the Glory!



Mt. Zion Baptist Church hosted a Special Worship Service, on February 18, 2024, highlighting "The Association of Black Judges of Michigan." There were approximately two dozen judges in attendance. After a very informative discussion from a small panel of judges, we were inspired by a riveting sermon, by Pastor James Liggins, Jr., Esq. This was truly a very inspirational afternoon.

Front row: Pastor Addis Moore, President, NMA, First Lady Gwendolyn Moore, Rev. Lenzy Bell, NMA Vice President, & Pastor James Liggins, Jr., Esq. Behind Rev. Bell (in all black), Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, Judge Kyra Harris Bolden. Next to her is the Honorable Curtis Jason Bell, 9th Circuit Court of Michigan.

IN THE KNOW

YOUNG ADULT REVIVAL

On March 18, the Young Adult Life Group hosted a 3-day Revival with Elder Willie Moore, III from Savannah, Georgia! It was an amazing worship experience that included bringing many young souls to Christ.

Throughout the three nights, Elder Moore preached about:

- Night 1 - "Footsteps in the Dark" (John 8:12)
- Night 2 - "When Flexing Goes Wrong" (Acts 5:1-5)
- Night 3 - "The Impact of Influence" (Proverbs 13:20)

Over the course of the Revival, we learned how much of an impact young adults can have within their community to influence others about their faith in God.

- We are encouraged to not stay silent about topics that are pushed on us by society that are not within God's Word.
- To be more confident in our knowledge about God and his Word.
- To share our testimonies about what God has done for us with others, and to be able to influence them to strengthen their faith and focus on a path that will lead them to the purpose God has for each of his children.
- To be mindful of temporary actions and feelings that can change the trajectory of our lives and lead us astray from God.

This revival is only the beginning of hearing the young voices speak about their love, faith, and confidence in God. We will continue to see God moving for generations to come. We will be an influencer for Him, as we have a duty to God to champion His Word. Our Young Adult Life Group is ready to show our influence within the church and our community to bring more young souls to Christ!"

by Sis. Nikayla Jones

MOTHER'S CORNER

Wisdom, we all need young and old. "That night God appeared to Solomon and said to him ask for what you want me to give you." Solomon asked for wisdom (2 Chronicles 1:7). Wisdom comes with age, knowledge comes with experience, mistakes/trials/illness/death of loved ones are all a part of life. But through it all, life also comes with happiness and joy. We are seeing the same things now in a different way than when we were young. Raising children and taking care of families working jobs, and helping the church, are all areas that require wisdom. People need to be working in love and peace. "I was young and now I am old. Yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken (Psalm 37:25). As we age, we stay in prayer, we obey and trust God. And as we age, our wisdom increases which should also cause our faith to increase.

by Sis. Ashlee Franklin



Mother Myles

"As your wisdom grows, so should your faith. Stay in prayer!"



*Firmly Committed to
God's Promises for
My Life in
All Things*

2024
Oratorical Contest Theme

*Focus Scriptures
Jeremiah 29:11
&
1 Corinthians 15:58*



FAMILY MINISTRY

by Sis. Talanda Ollie

2024 for the Family Ministry has been off to a phenomenal start. Since the new year, our youth have been on board and committed to executing God's Word and to our church goals! They have been coming consistently, joining ministries, and really taking ownership of what we are able to accomplish as a body. With new families joining and our youth inviting their peers, our attendance numbers steadily climbed to a record-high of 104 youth in Fulfillment Hour at the end of January...but it didn't stop there. We surpassed that on February 4th with 108 youth in attendance, our highest since returning after Covid-19. And the year isn't over yet!



On Wednesday, March 13th, 2024 we held our annual Oratorical Contest. The Oratorical Contest is held annually by the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education. It gives graduating high school seniors an opportunity to not only develop and receive recognition for their public speaking skills but also earn additional scholarship funding toward higher education. Contestants write according to an annual theme and are judged on a set of criteria such as the quality of their speech content, delivery, and mastery of the material to name a few.

Contestants begin with a contest held at their church; the winner moves on to participate in their local district, state, and national conventions respectively as winning continues. We had three seniors participate this year: Sis. Sadaya Hamby, Sis. Sasha Hollins, and Bro. LaDanien Shelton. Of the three, it was Bro. LaDanien Shelton who received top scores, securing a first-place win, and will move on to the Chain Lake District competition on April 19th in Lansing, MI.



COMMITTED TO EXECUTING THE WORD

by Rev. Sheldon McCullough

This year started in a power-packed way at our 2024 Church Readiness Workshop! Our Senior Pastor presented us with this year’s focus, “Committed to Executing the Word.”

Pastor Moore started our session revealing to us that God wants more. “God wants more production, more obedience, more souls, more, more, more...” God wants more because we belong to Him because He gave us the ability to do more because He is disappointed when we do not produce more, because of our connection to Him, because of the power of His Word, because He is in charge of the production, because of His instructions to us, because we have been given much therefore much is required, and because His power is active in the lives of obedient believers. Pastor also taught us that in order to accomplish more it would take personal commitment and accountability.

Our impactful presenters this year were: Pastor Timothy Troxler, Pastor of the Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in Battle Creek, MI, Mt. Zion’s Assistant Pastor, Rev. Dr. Christopher M. Moore, Sr., and Pastor Bobby McKenzie of the Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church of Albion, MI.

By the end of this year’s Church readiness workshop, we were fired up and inspired to accomplish our goals through Executing the Word!

*But be doers
of the word,
and not
hearers only,
deceiving
yourselves.*

James 1:22

BECAUSE HE LIVES

Mt. Zion Baptist Church • Rev. Dr. Addis Moore, Senior Pastor
120 Roberson Street • Kalamazoo, MI • 49007 mtz.church

PASSION WEEK

Mid-Week Worship Services
Wednesday, March 27, 2024



Rev. Doreen Gardner
11:30 a.m.



Min. Shelly Wright
6:30 p.m.



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Youth Service Preacher
Rev. Michael Moore

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES

Friday, March 29, 2024 - 6:45 PM

“Why Did Jesus Have to Die?”



Min. Charmane Echols Min. Vanessa Hayes Min. Henry Milliner Min. Justin Williams
Min. Betty Dennis Min. Troy Haas Min. Maurice McDuel Min. Stephanie Prevo



2024 Goals Update

275 Days Remaining to Reach Goals



Life is better together!



Upcoming Events

APRIL

19th - 20th
Chain Lake
Inspirational Session

27th-28th
Men's & Women's
Weekend

MAY

3rd - 4th
Wolverine State Inspirational
Session

12th
Mother's Day

19th
Pastoral Anniversary

22nd
Kidney Health Summit



JUNE

5th
High School Senior
Prayer Service

8th
Biker's Blessing

9th
Senior Recognition

16th
Father's Day

19th
Juneteenth



MTZ VOICE MINISTRY

Sis. Cassandra Bridges
Sis. Nancy Buchanan
Sis. Deborah Jackson
Dr. Wraegen Williams

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