

April 2025



# The Legacy Senior Living Center

By Sis. Diane Jones

What an awesome, momentous day, as hundreds of people gathered inside and outside of a huge, white tent, pitched on the large vacant plot of land, now owned by Mt. Zion Baptist Church. On March 26, 2025, Pastor Addis Moore announced, to the community, the birth of "The Legacy Senior Living Center!" The property, located on the corner of North Burdick and Frank Street, is the site for the development of a multimillion dollar housing project for senior citizens, which Pastor Addis Moore announced, will house 70 units. His dream is now being realized!



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# THE LEGACY SENIOR LIVING CENTER



On this slightly chilly, but sunny Wednesday afternoon, hundreds of people witnessed the groundbreaking ceremony, after hearing speeches and remarks from several dignitaries who attended. Some of the dignitaries present were Senator Sean McCann, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's representative, our Director of Housing, Mary Balkema, and several others. Prayers were rendered, lead by Rev. Karl Wallace, Rev. Lenzy Bell, and Rev. Jeff Porte. When it was time to "let the shovels meet the dirt," hard hats were donned and shovels were grasped, ready to "Break the Ground!" A thunderous applause and shouts of excitement filled the air. Although there were several huge, fluffy, cumulus clouds in the sky that day, God gave us a beautiful SUNNY day without a single raindrop falling. As I circulated the crowd, I captured many groups of people gathered. I heard Pastor Moore publicly pay recognition to Mrs. Mattie Jordan-Woods, (when he spotted her in the crowd) well known in Kalamazoo for her activism and hard work in helping to revitalize the Northside Community. There were many refreshments prepared by Sis. Latoya Gleaves, a member of our church and owner of Gleaves Gifted Hands. Her hundreds of beautifully displayed refreshments were delicious. Pastor Moore is definitely a VISIONARY! He had this vision several years ago and it's now coming to fruition.





# FAMILY MINISTRIES

By Sis. Talanda Ollie

## Speaking for the Future: Mt. Zion's Seniors Shine in Oratorical Contest

Spring time is always a joyous season for many reasons; budding flowers, sunshine and cool breezes, and many see it as a time of new beginnings. For us, spring is SENIOR SEASON! During this time we engage in different activities to highlight, honor, and celebrate our graduating high school seniors. First on the list is our annual Oratorical Contest.

The Oratorical Contest is a nationwide contest in which the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education releases a theme/writing prompt each year for high school seniors of participating churches to compose and deliver an oration on. Students participate in the competition within their church, followed by their District, State, and ultimately National levels respectively as they progress through the competition.

This year's theme is "Serving God In An AI Age" based on Romans 12:2, and we had five seniors participate: Mason Alston, Kimyah Babineaux, Sayani Jones, Cor'Nise Shepard, and Janiyah Whitley. Each student worked really hard to deliver some very well-composed speeches and were all able to receive a financial prize as a result of the generous giving of our membership. In the end, it was Kimyah who came in first place and will be representing Mt. Zion in the Chain Lake District Oratorical Contest on Friday, April 11th at 7 pm at Second Baptist Church here in Kalamazoo.



# WORDS, WISDOM, & SIGNATURES

By Sis. Sheletha Manuel

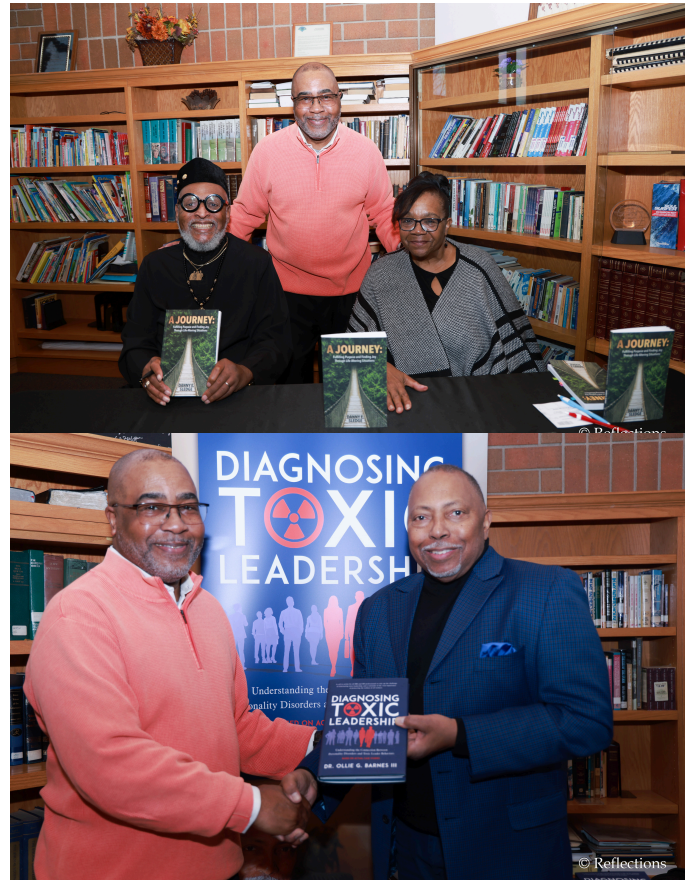
Attending an author book signing is a unique experience—one that connects readers with the minds behind the words, offering insights and personal interaction. On December 15, 2024, Dr. Ollie Barnes III and Bro. Danny Sledge captivated an eager audience at Mt. Zion Library, sharing passages from their books, answering questions, and signing copies.

Dr. Barnes' *Diagnosing Toxic Leadership: Understanding the Connection Between Personality Disorders and Toxic Leader Behaviors* explores the power and influence of toxic leaders on workplace culture, providing research-backed strategies for identifying and managing harmful behaviors. Bro. Sledge's *A Journey* weaves faith and personal experiences into themes of purpose, resilience, and gratitude. Their combined presence created a well-rounded experience, with Dr. Barnes offering analytical strategies for leadership and organizational health, while Bro. Sledge inspired internal growth and personal transformation. The event opened with a unifying prayer from Rev. Doreen Gardner, followed by Trustee Sheletha Manuel's warm welcome and introductions. Dr. Barnes shared compelling case studies illustrating toxic leadership behaviors, their effects on team dynamics, and strategies for fostering healthier workplaces. Bro. Sledge reflected on his personal journey, emphasizing faith, identity, and perseverance in the face of adversity.

A lively Q&A session followed, allowing attendees to ask questions and delve deeper into the themes of both books. Dr. Barnes provided actionable insights on recognizing and addressing toxic leadership, while Bro. Sledge shared wisdom on overcoming challenges with faith and gratitude. The authors' perspectives complemented each other, providing attendees with both practical tools and personal inspiration.

The event concluded with a book signing, where readers had the opportunity to engage with the authors, exchange words of appreciation, pose for photos taken by Dr. Toni Barnes, and receive personalized inscriptions.

The atmosphere was filled with excitement, reflection, and connection. Attendees left not only with signed books but also with valuable insights and inspiration, equipped with the knowledge to navigate professional spaces and the motivation to pursue personal growth. The event was a true celebration of storytelling, learning, and the power of shared wisdom.





# IN THE BUSINESS WORLD

## RJ's Printing LLC

By Bro. Sayani Jones

RJ's Printing LLC is a commercial printing business in Kalamazoo, Michigan, run by Deacon Sean Hollins. Dea. Hollins is also the owner of Fortitude Graphic Design & Printing, which owns RJ's Printing LLC. Dea. Hollins has been involved in the graphic design and printing industry since the late 1980s. He has worked tirelessly to refine his skills as a graphic designer, enabling him to manage a print job from inception to final product. The creativity of graphic design, coupled with the ability to operate a printer and bring ideas to life, has led to great success for Dea. Hollins' business.

Dea. Hollins' favorite aspect of being a business owner is the freedom that comes with it. He likes most that you can soar as high as you allow yourself to, saying, "There are no limits put on you as an entrepreneur, only ones you put on yourself."

Dea. Hollins also enjoys being a business owner because it gives him the ability to provide a service that the community needs.



Dea. Hollins' favorite projects he's done include working with authors alongside his wife, Sis. Sonya Hollins, to help them self-publish their books.

*Some books include Jammnin' in Kalamazoo, Little Eddie Goes to Carnegie Hall, and Benjamin Losford and His Handy Dandy Clippers.*

Finally, RJ's Printing is founded on two Scriptures: Isaiah 40:31 and Philippians 4:6. In summary, these Scriptures encourage us to put our trust in the Lord and not worry about anything, but instead pray about everything. Dea. Hollins says these Scriptures help keep him motivated and find the strength to push through all the challenges of being a business owner.

**Isaiah 40:31**  
*But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.*

# 2025 READINESS WORKSHOP

By Rev. Sheldon D. McCullough

This year started with a bang at our Church Readiness Workshop! Under the leadership of Senior Pastor Dr. Addis Moore, we focused on our 2025 theme: Committed to Executing the Word (James 1:22). Pastor emphasized that every confessed believer at Mt. Zion is expected to maintain active membership, which includes consistent worship, prayer, Bible Study, Fulfillment Hour, Christian Giving, and ministry participation.

Pastor also set bold goals for 2025:

1. Increase Christian givers by 15%
2. Increase Fulfillment Hour attendees by 20% (600)
3. Add 100 new families
4. 75 families with wills
5. 75 families debt-free

To achieve these, leaders must lead to get results. Facilitators, including Rev. Dr. Christopher M. Moore Sr., Pastor Timothy Troxler, and Pastor Bobby McKenzie, challenged us to embrace anointing, appointment, alignment, and anticipation in leadership. Inspired and empowered, our leaders left ready to execute God's vision and achieve our 2025 goals!

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## MOTHER'S CORNER

By Sis. Ashlee Franklin

**How has faith blessed me?** I've always had faith, but by listening to Pastor Moore's teachings and sermons which come directly from the Bible, I have grown in loving and forgiving everyone as God has instructed us to do. 2 Corinthians 5:17-18 tells us "Anyone in Christ is a new creation, the old is gone and the new has come, and that this is all from God who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation." We as believers must always have a heart that is open to reconciliation and forgiveness as this is what God has instructed us to do.

Psalm 51:10 says "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me," That verse has inspired me, and encourages me to live by my special motto "may the life I live speak for me." I believe that here at Mt. Zion we are on a good path. I enjoy seeing God move in my Fulfillment Hour Class. By attending Fulfillment Hour there has been an increase in my faith, and the class also encourages me to hold on and keep doing what God has instructed us to do.

I want everyone to be encouraged by Matthew 6:33 which states "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you." I can tell you that God has always looked out for me, no matter if it was big or small. Trust in him, and he will always look out for you too.



**Mother Inez Worthem**



# ANSWERING THE CALL

## MT. ZION'S 2025 LEADERSHIP INSTALLATION SERVICE

It was a cold and snowy January night, but that did not deter. The pews were full and hearts were light as we prepared to install the 2025 officers for Mt. Zion Baptist Church. As we had the opportunity to hear the preached word from Rev. Chevez Marshall, leaders in the church leaned into the task that had been given to them by God through our Pastor Rev. Dr. Addis Moore.



As church clerk, Rev. Caressa E. Bryant began to announce each name, we were called to line up - not just in order, but with purpose. Pastor encouraged us to survey the space, ensuring the congregation could see all whom God had placed in His house for this mighty work.



Over 150 different members of Mt. Zion Baptist Church had their name called on January 22, 2025, to be installed as leaders of our church. Our charge was threefold: 1: We are Anointed, 2: We are Appointed, 3: We are Aligned. We were asked to listen to the charge that was given to us and acknowledge by saying "I accept that charge." With each of the three charges we listened and we contemplated. We heard the voice of God and

we accepted our charges, looking out over the audience. There was a sea of people in our sanctuary. There was a sea of people on the stage. It was beautiful to see that no matter what the ministry, no matter how old you were—old or young, new member or seasoned member, people came from all places and spaces to say yes to the calling that God placed on their life.

Our Installation Service was more than just an opportunity to say, "Yes I do," but to say and acknowledge, "Yes, WE do." The Installation Service symbolized what a "Vibrant Community Living by Faith" looks like. Accepting our charge prepares us to "Empower People to Transform Themselves and the Community."

By Dr. Luchara Wallace

# 2025 Goals

268 Days Remaining

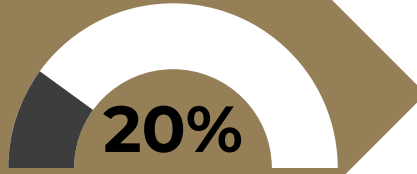


Souls added to  
the Body

103



Annual Target  
500

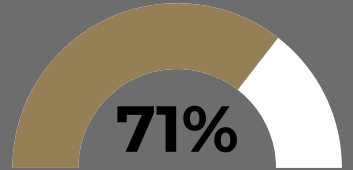


*Life is better  
together!*

Members in  
Life Group  
427

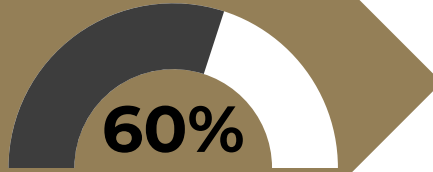


Weekly Target  
600



Endowment Fund

\$100K



## Upcoming Events

### APRIL

10th

CityLead @ Centerpoint

11th-12th

Chain Lake Inspirational  
Session and Oratorical  
Contest

18th

Good Friday Services

20th

Resurrection Sunday

### MAY

3rd

Wolverine State Inspirational  
Session & Oratorical Contest

11th

Mother's Day

16th & 18th

30th Pastoral Anniversary  
Banquet & Celebration

31st

Biker's Blessing

### JUNE

8th

Senior Recognition  
Sunday

15th

Father's Day

29th- July 2nd

Wolverine State Congress  
of Christian Education @  
Mt. Zion

#### MTZ VOICE MINISTRY

Sis. Cassandra Bridges  
Sis. Nancy Buchanan  
Sis. Deborah Jackson  
Bro. Sayani Jones  
Sis. Ashley Moorehead  
Dr. Wraegen Williams

#### PHOTO CREDITS

Dr. Toni Barnes  
Sis. Angie Daniels  
Sis. Diane Jones  
Rev. Michael Moore, Sr.

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120 Roberson Street Kalamazoo, MI 49007  
269.388.3111 | mtz.church