

July 2024

# MTZ Voice

Official Newsletter of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church

## ALL THINGS SENIOR

by Sis. Talanda Ollie

The beginning of June was filled with all things senior! Each year, we have the amazing privilege of celebrating and recognizing our high school graduates and this year was no different. Our class of 2024 included eight phenomenal graduates from different schools, and each with their own stories to tell. We thank God for the opportunity to be a part of the villages for each of them, and praise Him in advance for what He is going to accomplish through them!



### CLARK ATKINSON\*

*Parents*

Craig & Ronita Atkinson

*High School*

Kalamazoo Central

*Favorite Scripture*

Philippians 4:6

*Future Plans*

Michigan State University with  
a major in finance.



### DA'MIERRIAY BENNETT

*Parent*

Tunisha Johnson

*High School*

Phoenix

*Favorite Scripture*

Romans 5:3-5

*Future Plans*

University of Olivet with a major  
in early elementary education.

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## **AIJA GARDNER\***

*Parents*

Dea. Ajamian & Rev. Keisha  
Gardner

*High School*

Kalamazoo Central

*Favorite Scripture*

Proverbs 14:30

*Future Plans*

Western Michigan University  
with a major in early childhood  
education.



## **SADAYA HAMBY\***

*Parents*

Min. Caressa Bryant & Zacarii  
Hamby

*High School*

Kalamazoo Central

*Favorite Scripture*

Ecclesiastes 3

*Future Plans*

Albion College with a major in  
biochemistry.



## **SASHA HOLLINS**

*Parents*

Dea. Sean & Sonya Hollins  
*High School*

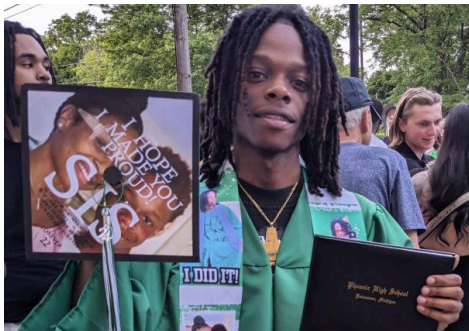
Gull Lake

*Favorite Scripture*

Matthew 6:34

*Future Plans*

Kalamazoo Valley Community  
College with a major in arts  
education.



## **DZHANTE REYNOLDS**

*Parents*

David & Jennifer Williams  
*High School*

Phoenix

*Favorite Scripture*

Joshua 1:9

*Future Plans*

Grand Valley State University  
with majors in business &  
secondary education.



## **KING-NASIR SANDERS**

*Parents*

Elijah Sanders & Nikkita Garrett  
*High School*

Kalamazoo Central

*Favorite Scripture*

Romans 5:1-5

*Future Plans*

United States Navy to become  
an Aviation Electronics  
Technician.



## **LADANIEN SHELTON\***

*Parents*

Dea. Leonard and Shayla  
Shelton

*High School*

Kalamazoo Central

*Favorite Scripture*

Matthew 4:19

*Future Plans*

Michigan State University with a  
major in computer science.



# Anniversary 29 YEARS Celebration

## 29TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY

by Sis. Diane Jones

On May 19th, 2024, we honored our Pastor, Rev. Dr. Addis Moore and First Lady Gwendolyn Moore by celebrating their 29th Pastoral Anniversary here at Mt. Zion Baptist Church. We are truly blessed to have Pastor Moore as our shepherd. Not only is he our Pastor, our and our Leader, but he is also a dynamic force within our whole community.



Both he and his wife have faithfully served in countless ways. One only has to go to our "Mt. Zion Baptist Church Website" on Facebook to see (and hear) the extensive, far-reaching community involvement that he has spearheaded.

We had two great guest preachers on this joyous Anniversary Sunday morning. The Reverend Dr. Howard Earle of New Hope church from Grand Rapids, Michigan preached our 8 o'clock service using as his theme, "Thank God for My Pastor." For our 11 AM service, we welcomed the Rev. Dr. Kevin Johnson, Sr. from the New Salem Church in Detroit, Michigan. The theme of his message was "Thank God for our Leadership," using as his anchor scripture, Hebrews 13:7.

The services ended with many hugs along with a shower of cards and gifts of appreciation! When God sent the "Moore Family" to Kalamazoo, He surely sent this city a gift. Thank You for being a God-Chosen, Bible Teaching, Dynamic Preaching Man of God!!

## "Thank God for My Pastor"

Rev. Dr. Howard Earle, Jr.  
**Hebrews 13:7**



## "Thank God for Our Leadership"

Rev. Dr. Kevin Johnson, Sr.  
**Hebrews 13:7**



## *TRINITY PREP CENTER CELEBRATES 10 YEARS*

Trinity Prep Center, LLC is not your ordinary dance studio. It was rooted and formed through Christ in 2014 in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Its founders and tri-owners; Adiah Jones, Carmilla Little, and Courtney Wrenn worked in tandem as leaders of the youth praise dance ministry at Mt. Zion Baptist Church. This fueled the idea initiated by Adiah to expand the dance opportunities into the community and start a dance studio, a little-known dream of Carmilla and Courtney.

Trinity Prep Center is black-owned and Christian-based, focused on building relationships with the families not just the students. Trinity Prep uses dance as an avenue to capture the students' attention. The true intent is to foster a positive environment by assisting students in learning how to carry themselves in a manner that is pleasing to God. Ten years is credited to the favor of God, the blessings of an amazing team and additional instructors, wonderful community, and peer industry support.

### ***Parent's Perspective***

Adiah, Carmilla, and Courtney have always had a special connection with young children through their love for dance. We have enjoyed the opportunities and exposure Trinity Prep Center has afforded our girls, performing in the community, and competing throughout the United States. The girls are in love with the prospects of meeting and making new friends, traveling, and gaining confidence through dancing and getting out of their comfort zones. It is a blessing for our children to be a part of Trinity Prep Center

Happy 10th year Anniversary  
and May God bless you with  
many more years to come.

**by Sis. Kimberly Babineaux  
& Sis. Deborah Jackson**





# COMMITTED TO EXECUTING THE WORD

May 26, 2024

“For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ,” 1st Corinthians 12:26. The family of Pastor Lenzy E. Bell and the First United Baptist Church family, would like to thank the Mt. Zion Baptist Church and the leadership of Rev. Dr. Addis Moore, for your outpouring of love, during the Smooth Transition of First Lady Lori Ann Bell. We are thankful and grateful for your Ministry of presence, and your support of you allowing us to use your Fellowship Hall for our repast, and the many kind gestures you gave to make it warm and inviting.

The Bible says, a friend loves at all times, and I thank you for being a friend, helping us in our time of need, both physically and financially, but most of all prayerfully, for the prayers of the righteous avails much. Your prayers, calls, cards, and words of comfort have been invaluable to our family and church family. As we were grieving, you grieved with us and were there to bring words of comfort to assure us with God’s word that “weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.”

Thanks for responding to one part of the body that was hurting, you helped with our recovery process. Thanks again for being obedient to the word, “We are many members, but one body.” This was a great display of Unity in the Body of Christ. We love you and deeply appreciate everything you did for us during this time. And now we are equipped to do the same and even more, for the next family that mourns a loss.

Until the Gospel is Preached!

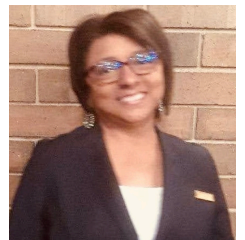
Rev. Lenzy E. Bell, Pastor  
Deacon Shawn Moore, Deacons Chair  
Deacon Arnold LaBarre, Trustee Chair

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

**James 1:22**

## MOTHER’S CORNER

First of all, I thank God for the opportunity to serve in the Mothers Ministry. Proverbs 16:3 says “Commit your actions to the Lord and your plans will be established.” With this verse in mind, I will use my faith to serve and share with others in the Mother’s Ministry and within the church body to please God. I am looking forward to serving where I am needed while living out the Mothers Ministry Mission and Vision Statement that is tied to Titus 2:3-5. “The older women to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, and teachers of good things. To love and submit to your husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, to that the word of God may not be blasphemed.”



Mother Boyd  
*Ready to Serve!*

While Sis. Boyd is new to this ministry, she is not new to serving God. Beyond the Mothers Ministry, Sis. Boyd can be found serving in the Deaconess Ministry and the Hospitality Ministry.

by Sis. Ashlee Franklin



## BIKERS BLESSING

by Dr. Ollie G. Barnes



*Our vision is to make this event the largest and most unique health and safety community gathering in Southwest Michigan. Participants have already expressed that our Blessing of the Bikes stands out for its spiritual significance, as our church congregation comes together to pray with each biker right at their bikes.*



This year marks the 10th annual Blessing of the Bikes event, a unique and special tradition that signals the start of summer fun for our community. Led by Pastor Addis Moore, Mt. Zion Baptist Church has always prioritized the health and safety of our community members.

The Blessing of the Bikes event serves as a fun and important reminder for everyone to be extra cautious and aware of bicycles, motorcycles, mopeds, and scooters on the roads. This event is not just about fun; it's about promoting community safety and awareness, and we are grateful for the support of organizations such as Kalamazoo Public Safety, Battle Creek Harley Davidson, Pedals Bicycle Shops, Bronson Trauma Center, and Leaders Marine, among others.

Pam and Kevin Wallace from Marion, Indiana, shared their experience saying, "We had a wonderful time at the motorcycle blessing this year, and we are eagerly looking forward to next year's event."

In addition to the spiritual aspect, our Blessing of the Bikes event offers a delicious lunch, commemorative tee shirts, safety tips for riders, and a chance for amazing fellowship. It's more than just a motorcycle rally; it's a true blessing for all riders who join us.

Riders from various cities including Battle Creek, Grand Rapids, Detroit, Chicago, Indianapolis, Marion, and Gary, Indiana, have joined our blessing over the years. Our Assistant to the Pastor, Rev. Dr. Christopher M. Moore, a licensed motorcyclist himself, understands the importance of biker safety and is dedicated to ensuring a safe and enjoyable event for all.

If you hear the rumble of a thunderous roar on a clear June weekend, rest assured it's not rain—it's the annual police-escorted parade of motorcycles making their way to Mt. Zion for a truly spiritual Blessing of the Bikes for both bicycles and motorcycles alike.





## ***FORK AND THE ROAD***

### *HEALTHY EATING AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY FOR OLDER ADULTS*

by Sis. Cassandra Bridges

On Tuesdays at 9:30 am, the Mt. Zion Conference Room was the place to be for the 60 and over crowd. Our instructor was Ms. Tina Guajardo, a dietitian affiliated with Bronson Hospital, in Battle Creek, MI. Below are reflections from a few of the participants. We are grateful they took the time to share their thoughts on this enriching experience.

*Sis. Debra Mc Cullough*

Mt. Zion has been blessed for a second year to provide the Fork & The Road class. The class is specifically designed to promote health and fitness for older adults. The class met one day per week, for one hour for six weeks. Classes were on sugar, healthy hearts, healthy bones, seasoning without salt, protein matters, and fiber facts. We also learned how to read food labels. We received recipes and demonstrations on how to prepare the recipes as well as recipe samples.

*Sis. Davette Whittaker*

We learned how to cook, shop, and try new foods for healthy aging, heart, and bone health. We learned that food can taste good without lifting the saltshaker (and our blood pressure will thank us)! Despite being tentative at the beginning, we really enjoyed the recipes. It was a wonderful ah-ha moment when we had to admit the nutritionist was right: the food tasted great!

*Sis. Yvonne Hawkins*

Each week Sister Pricilla Boyd enthusiastically led us in the chair exercises that were introduced in the weekly newsletters provided by the Michigan Fitness Foundation. We loved *it and were* a very cooperative class. I enjoyed learning about facts and myths on health and eating issues, and that the class included chair physical exercises.

At the end of each class, we were encouraged to take home fresh vegetables grown at KVCC and organic canned goods related to the healthy recipe introduced during the session. Don't be surprised if you see an extra pep in the steps of everyone who participated!

### *Recipe Pickled Beets*

1. Wash the beets
2. Cover the beets with cold water in a pot and boil for about an hour or until they are easy to pierce.
3. Peel and slice in the pot.
4. Bring to boil an equal part of water & red wine vinegar (just enough to cover the beets).
5. Add 1 tablespoon brown sugar. Whisk to mix sugar.
6. Simmer for 30 minutes
7. *Optional* - add slices of red onion
8. Pour water and vinegar over sliced beets in glass jar. Let cool and place in refrigerator to pickle.



# 2024 Goals Update

184 Days Remaining to Reach Goals



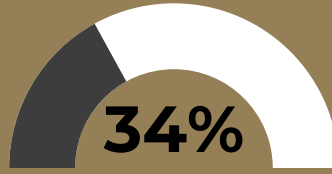
Added Souls

173



Annual Target

500



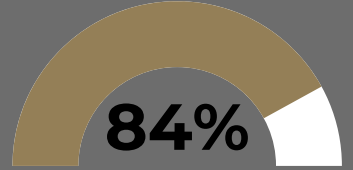
*Life is better together!*

Life Group  
423  
Average  
Weekly Attendance



Weekly Target

500



Every member with  
Life Insurance



Every member  
with a  
Will



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## Upcoming Events

### JULY

4th  
Fourth of July



15th-18th  
Chain Lake Annual  
Session

22nd - 25th  
Vacation Bible School  
Team Jesus: "Ready, Set,  
Go!"

### AUGUST

6th  
Election Day

16th  
Worship Encounter VI

24th  
NMA Anti-Gun Violence  
Carnival

28th  
Back to School  
Prayer Service

### SEPT.

3rd - 5th  
National Baptist Annual  
Session

8th  
Grandparents Day  
&  
Promotion Sunday

15th  
Back to Church Sunday  
21st  
Reboot Workshop

#### MTZ VOICE MINISTRY

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

#### PHOTO CREDITS

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