

July 2024



Official Newsletter of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church



ALL THINGS SENIOR

by Sis. Talandra 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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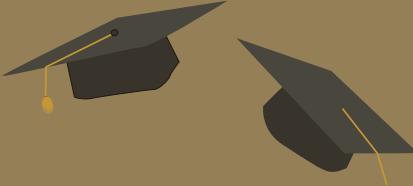
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Congratulations



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 & Zaccarrii 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



IN THE BUSINESS WORLD

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."

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.



Mother Boyd
Ready to Serve!

by Sis. Ashlee Franklin



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.



BIKERS BLESSING

by Dr. Ollie G. Barnes

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 Priscilla 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



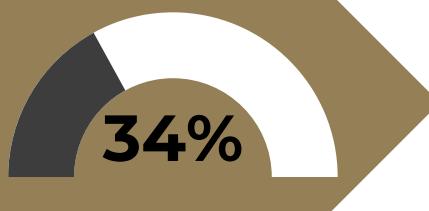
Added Souls

173



Annual Target

500



Life is better together!

Life Group

423

Average Weekly Attendance



Weekly Target

500

84%



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

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