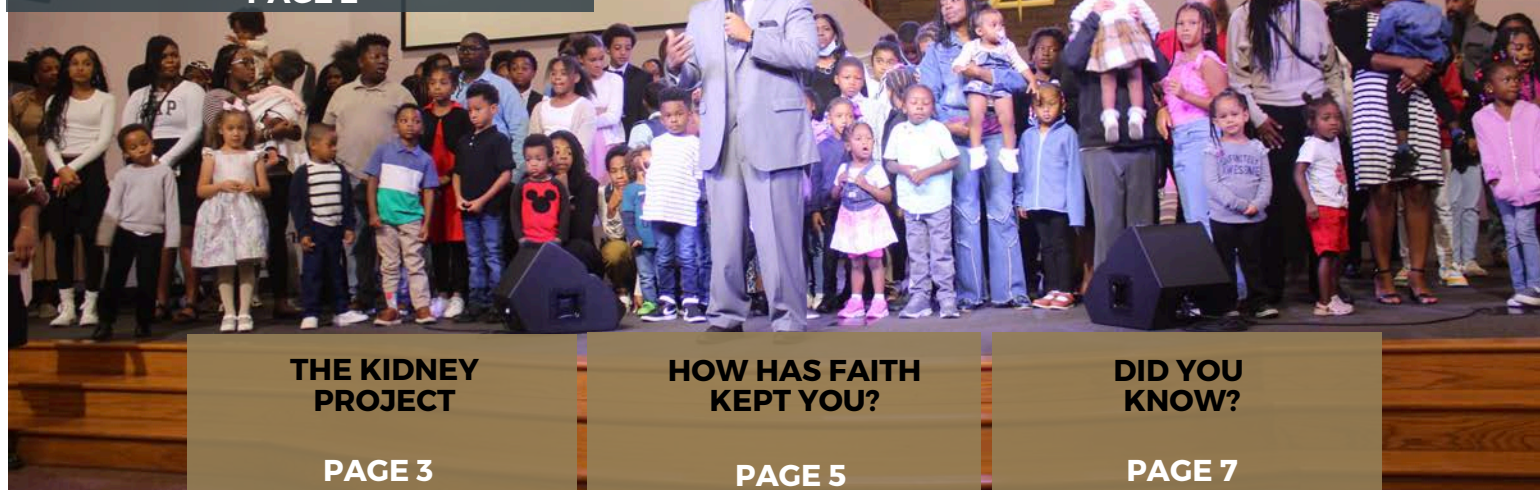




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**THE KIDNEY  
PROJECT**

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**HOW HAS FAITH  
KEPT YOU?**

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**DID YOU  
KNOW?**

PAGE 7

## Promotion Sunday & Grandparents Day

This year we got a double treat with Promotion Sunday and Grandparents Day being on the same day. Beautiful memories were made as we corporately prayed for the grandparents and grandchildren that were in attendance, and offered family pictures to be taken and printed on the spot for an immediate keepsake of the day. The Promotion Sunday service was sentimental, nostalgic, and cheerful all wrapped into one. We highlighted the impact of Christian Education, displayed the growth of our youth, expressed gratitude for our amazing parents, praised the efforts of our facilitators, and heard testimonies of how Mt. Zion has changed the lives of our young people forever. Yes, we may move them up in grade and watch them go on to college...but it is God who elevates them to new heights.

By Sis. Talanda Ollie

## Back-2-School Prayer Service

Our annual Back-2-School Prayer Service was definitely one to remember. The community and church came together in a meaningful way to not just cover our students and schools for the 2024-25 school year. But we intentionally focused on the needs of each group: students, teachers, parents, and administrators were all present to share the challenges, difficulties, and hindrances they faced... and also expressed what they felt they needed to have a successful year. Leaders prayed with focus and fervency, which not only proved to be effective but also impactful. To close it out, everyone in attendance joined hands around the sanctuary and sang "We Are The World" in unison. The love and compassion for one another and the presence of God were felt as our voices rang and filled the atmosphere. We can attest that this school year will be a blessed one.

# LEADERSHIP READINESS REBOOT

By Rev. Sheldon McCullough



On September 21, 2024, we held our Leadership reboot. It was an exciting day as we celebrated what we've accomplished so far this year and focused on the plan as we move ahead to achieving our goals for the remainder of the year. We have a goal of 500 souls this year and we are currently at 268, we also have a goal of 500 individuals in Life Groups and we are currently averaging 423. Pastor also shared that we are exceeding our financial goals this year. Though we have made progress, there is still work to be done.

Our Assistant Pastor, Rev. Dr. Christopher M. Moore Sr, kicked off our teaching sessions with the topic: SEEKING THE FACE OF GOD. He challenged us to seek God's help and direction in seeking the lost rather than asking God to bless what we are already doing. He also challenged us to pray concerning reaching the lost daily, as well as not to miss prayer and bible study but to pray with the body each week regarding God's corporate agenda, and to follow through with reaching the lost using God's power.

Our Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Addis Moore, followed up with a powerful teaching on the topic: **GETTING BETTER.**

Pastor Moore gave us four keys to getting better:

- **Learn Something New** - He told us that when we obey God, learning something new is automatic, and in the biblical sense is often associated with others and leads to production.
- **Try Something Different** - Pastor told us, when walking by faith, God stretches us, and trying something different is a natural part of our growth and development. That growth and development results in production for the Kingdom.
- **Find Something Better** - Pastor taught us that trying something different will lead us to find something better. This occurs when we abandon what we think and yield to God's direction this is the place where God leads us to produce.
- **See Something Bigger** - Pastor told us, that one certain way of knowing that you are obeying God is that you begin to see more and more of what He sees and are anxious to join Him in His work.



The reboot was a great day of celebration and refocusing. As we apply the principles that we learned for the remainder of the year. We expect to achieve every one of our goals.



# THE KIDNEY PROJECT

By Dr. Ollie Barnes

At Mt. Zion Baptist Church, we recognize the significant health disparities affecting the African American community and are committed to addressing them through education and awareness initiatives. One key effort is "The Kidney Project," which focuses on chronic kidney disease (CKD), a silent epidemic impacting approximately 37 million Americans. African Americans represent 35% of all kidney failure cases and are 4-5 times more likely to develop the condition, primarily due to higher rates of diabetes and high blood pressure.

Despite these alarming statistics, effective treatments like dialysis and kidney transplants can improve the quality of life. However, while 28.5% of those awaiting transplants are African American, only 12.9% were organ donors in 2020, highlighting the urgent need for increased awareness about kidney disease and organ donation.

To support this mission, Mt. Zion has produced an educational film that explores kidney health within African American families, encouraging open discussions about organ donation.

Pastor Moore urges our community to take action by educating themselves, joining the Friends and Family donor list, and spreading awareness through our film. Together, we can enhance the health and well-being of our community, one kidney at a time.

Kidney Project Team

Scan for the movie.



## GOALS!

- Educate the African American community about kidney disease and its risk factors.
- Provide information on treatment options, including dialysis and transplants.
- Promote healthy diets and lifestyles to manage and prevent CKD.
- Emphasize the importance of regular health checks to catch early signs of kidney disease.
- Increase the willingness of donorship and provide a list of easy access to potential donors.

## Friends and Family Donor List

The "Friends and Family" donor list is a crucial resource for those needing a kidney transplant. It features potential volunteer donors from our community who are willing to help. Managed by Mt. Zion members, this initiative offers a safe and supportive starting point for individuals seeking a donor, supplementing existing hospital donor lists. By reducing the fear and uncertainty associated with finding a donor, we aim to foster a sense of community and support.



# IN THE BUSINESS WORLD

## RJ Dunigan's WavyJTints



**By Bro. Sayani Jones**

WavyJ Tints is a small local business located here in Kalamazoo by a fellow member of Mt Zion, RJ Dunigan. WavyJ Tints specializes in window tinting and vinyl wrapping for all the different types of cars and trucks. RJ started his business between 2019 and 2020 by looking up low start-up cost businesses and choosing one that he knew matched his skillset and one that he could provide a good service. There was a lot of self-motivation that helped RJ start his business, but he also gives credit to his mom who inspired him by her running her own business.

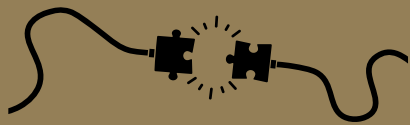
Throughout his time as a business owner, RJ has become familiar with the pros and cons that come with running a business. Some of the pros that he explained were that you can be your own boss, make your own schedule and hours, and you can save money from taxes through write-offs. One of the main things that RJ says helped him with his business is that "you don't have to do anything strictly by the book." Along with the pros, RJ describes the struggle of starting his business financially and working to build up clientele as the cons.

Finally, RJ stressed the impact that his relationship with God has helped him push through the trials and tribulations of running his business. RJ's favorite scripture to lean on is Philippians 4:13 which says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." He expresses that he knows God will always be on his side and give him strength as long as he stays close to Him. RJ compares his relationship with God to a great friendship saying, "He's a friend that stays closer than a brother."

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024

The long-awaited return of Vacation Bible School at Mt. Zion finally came! A time was truly had in the Lord as we welcomed our community and our congregation for a phenomenal week of faith, fun, and fellowship. It was clear that everyone was Team Jesus as we rocked the house with some original music, lifted the name of the Lord, and filled the sanctuary with mighty praise. All ages were served - from our nursery babies up through some of the most seasoned believers - because no one gets left out! The focus for the week was "Ready, Set, Go!," where we honed in on the Great Commission and recruiting for Team Jesus! The adults had the opportunity to glean from several facilitators, which included: Bro. Larry Harris, Sis T'Ausia Bronson, our Assistant Pastor Rev. Dr. Christopher Moore, Sr., and our Senior Pastor Rev. Dr. Addis Moore. The youth had a jam-packed week of learning, crafts, and physical activities as they engaged with their peers and were equipped to be God's MVPs in winning souls for Team Jesus! The culminating night was nothing short of BANANAS with a pep rally and performance by all the youth! To top things off, 22 souls were added to the Kingdom, and baptism was the cherry on top. We are looking forward to VBS 2025 already!

By Sis. Talanda Ollie



Friday, September 27th, we featured our entire Performing Arts Ministry at the 6th installment of our quarterly worship event the Worship Encounter. This event was a success. We featured our Rap Ministry, (Disturbance) Praise Dance Team, Young Adult Praise Team, Children's Choir, and Poetry Ministry. We Praise God for Pastor Moore allowing us to be on display for Christ. Our theme was simply "Connection."

We achieved our assignment. Showing how every joint supplies. We did this event with 2 things in mind; Let God be highlighted through our talents and use our talents in such a way that others receive Christ in their lives. Thank you for joining us.

If you would like to sign up for any Performing Arts, please contact  
Sheldon M. Turner @ 269-488-2132  
[Sturner@mtzionkalamazoo.org](mailto:Sturner@mtzionkalamazoo.org)

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## MOTHER'S CORNER

**How has faith kept you?** Faith has helped me keep my mind on things that are of the Lord. The Lord is my all and everything that I need. Knowing God and trusting him has kept me since I was baptized at age 11. In Genesis 1:1 it states "in the beginning God created heaven and earth." When Jesus said let there be light, there was light. In darkness, you cannot see, but with the Word, you can see exactly where you are going. Jesus is the way and the truth.

I want Mt. Zion Baptist Church to continue to grow, continue helping children, and train them for the next group. To have confidence in the people that have come before them because we have been where they are going. I would like the youth to know they are kings and queens and to know exactly who God is. To know He is the light and the truth, to walk upright. Be ready to serve, as that is our calling. Be the light to the world, so when the world sees us, they can walk in our footsteps. I have had a beautiful life with and in the Lord when I look back on it I can say I love people and I am a mother for all. Anytime I am needed, I'm here. I was a Sunday school and school teacher for 60 years and even though I am retired, I've never retired from the Lord.



*Mother Lewis*

By Sis. Ashlee Franklin





## NMA CARNIVAL

By Sis. Diane Jones

On Saturday, August 24th, 2024, Kalamazoo's 4th Annual Northside Ministerial Alliance Carnival was held on the expansive grounds of Lincoln International Studies School, right next to Mt. Zion Baptist Church. The main theme of this event was "Anti-Gun Violence."

What a wonderful sight, seeing so many exuberant children with their parents and friends. The carnival rides were so exciting, as was evidenced by all of the smiling faces. The weather was absolutely gorgeous with sunny skies, lovely temps, and low humidity. There was food galore: pizza, hot dogs, popcorn, potato chips and so much more. And, as always, everything was FREE!



A hearty "Thank You" goes out to the NMA (Northside Ministerial Alliance) and the many churches and organizations that help sponsor this event each year. It takes many hands, many hearts, and many volunteers to organize and implement such an event. Seeing all of the people in their turquoise shirts was evidence of the volunteers, as well as those trolling the grounds in the black 'Anti-Gun Violence' shirts.

Pastor Addis Moore, once again a very safe, fun, exciting, phenomenal, and successful Carnival was held, here on the "Northside!"



# DID YOU KNOW?

By Sis. Deborah Jackson

## **Did you know S.E.E.D.S is an acronym?**

S.E.E.D.S. is dedicated to providing a high-quality preschool program where children will thrive. In addition, S.E.E.D.S. believes each child should be welcomed into a nurturing environment where they can safely explore, learn, and grow. S.E.E.D.S.' mission is "Changing our community, one child at a time." S.E.E.D.S.' vision is "A Community Where All Children are Equipped, Educated, and Successful Learners." You are right. It is an abbreviation for Students Equipped Educated and Determined to be Successful.

## **Did you know approximately 10 years ago there was a preschool established on the northside of Kalamazoo?**

The preschool is located inside Mt. Zion Baptist, 120 Roberson Street. Its operating hours are Monday through Friday, 7:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. It's S.E.E.D.S.

## **Did you know a healthy meal improves concentration and energy levels?**

S.E.E.D.S. provides students with a healthy nutritious breakfast, lunch, and snack daily. S.E.E.D.S. believes nutrition and healthy eating habits are fundamental skills for young children. In addition, providing healthy food daily, nutrition education is provided and children participate in cooking activities. Menus are based on the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and staff must participate and complete training in the Child and Adult Care Food Program sponsored by the Michigan Department of Education.

## **Did you know creative activities are important to the learning and development of preschoolers?**

S.E.E.D.S. believes creative (imaginative) activities are necessary for a preschooler's learning and development. Additionally, S.E.E.D.S. believes creative activities allow preschoolers to explore the world around them, try new things, and use their imaginations to develop essential skills used throughout their lives.





# 2024 Goals Update

94 Days Remaining to Reach Goals

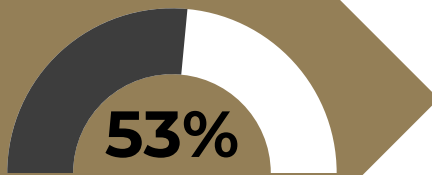


Added Souls

268



Annual Target  
500



Scan to  
Register for a  
Solid  
Foundation  
Life Group



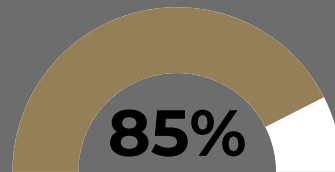
Life Group

423

Average  
Weekly Attendance



Weekly Target  
500



Every member with  
Life Insurance



Every member  
with a  
Will



Scan Here for  
Your Copy



## Upcoming Events

### OCTOBER

16th

Kidney Health Summit

20th

New Fulfillment Hour  
Series



27th

Family Fall Fest

### NOVEMBER

5th

Election Day

10th

Sacrificial Giving

22nd

Worship Encounter

27th

Thanksgiving Eve Service

28th

Thanksgiving

### DECEMBER

10th

Annual Family Meeting

25th

Christmas

31st

New Year's Eve

#### MTZ VOICE MINISTRY

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Sis. Nancy Buchanan  
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