

# THE PROGRESSOR

DECEMBER 2021

THE MOUNT ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH  
OF TAMPA, FL INC.

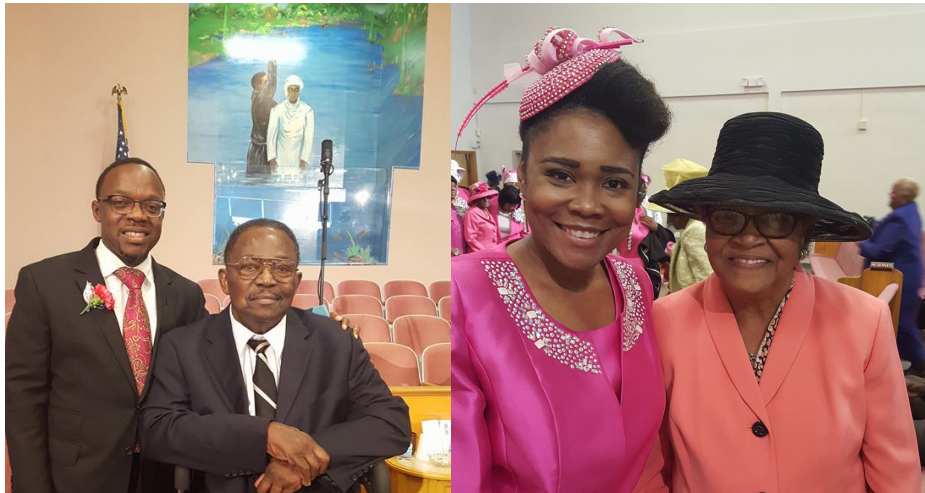


“We Are Changing The World Through The Love of Christ — One Soul At A Time.”

**REV. LARRY L. ROUNDTREE II, PASTOR**

2511 E. Columbus Drive Tampa, FL 33605  
(813) 248-8101=Office Website=[nmztampa.com](http://nmztampa.com)

 **A LEGACY OF LOVE** 



**Pastor Roundtree and Pastor Emeritus Williams**  
**First Lady Roundtree and First Lady Williams**

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**JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON.  
LET US REJOICE AND PRAISE HIM.**



*Merry Christmas*

## FROM OUR PASTOR



*"I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" - John 13:34-35*

What a joyful journey with Jesus we have been on through John's gospel! I am thankful to God for His faithfulness and abundant blessings to our church throughout another challenging year. It is encouraging to know that even in the face of obstacles and uncertainty, God shows His power and ability to bless His people.

As we approach the end of 2021, let us give great attention to fulfilling the command of our Lord and Savior, to love one another with the same passion that He loves us. I am convinced that if we can love right, we will live right. Please know that I love each of you and give God thanks for the great honor of serving as your pastor.

Because HE Lives,

Pastor Roundtree





As a means of communicating with our membership and non-members, Mount Zion is blessed to have the following platforms:

**CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?** If your answer is yes, then come by church on Wednesdays for **Drive Thru Prayer**. Now more than ever, the prayers of the righteous availeth much!

**WHEN:** Wednesdays from 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

**WHERE:** 2511 E. Columbus Drive Tampa, FL 33605

Our **VIRTUAL BIBLE STUDY and SUNDAY WORSHIP** is led by Pastor Larry L. Roundtree II. Expect the authentic truth with “An Exploration Through The Gospel of John” series designed to reinvigorate us with hope and encouragement during these uncertain times.

**WHEN:** Wednesdays at 7:00 PM

**HOW CAN YOU WATCH?**

[Website homepage](#)

[Facebook Live](#)

[YouTube](#)

Listen by dialing [\(805\) 706-4089](tel:8057064089) (*no access code needed*)

Join the **COMMUNITY PRAYER CALL**, as we seek His face for direction and strength these uncertain times. There is absolutely nothing that can stop a praying community.

**WHEN: JOIN FRIDAYS BY PHONE** [\(805\) 706-4089](tel:8057064089) (*no access code needed*)

**6:00 AM/12:00 Noon/6:00 PM**

## PASTOR'S PLAYBOOK...

Premiered with its first Game Kickoff for Week 1, Game 1 on Tuesday, October 5. Tune in to this new segment — Pastor's Playbook — brought to you by Pastor Roundtree. It highlights the Week's Sermon, Bible Study, and other CommUNITY News.

**ZION ZONE** is part of this Game Plan. It is planned for the membership to share milestones such as birthdays, anniversaries, special recognitions, surgical procedures, etc. This information can be sent to [community@nmztampa.com](mailto:community@nmztampa.com).



**to everyone who makes it possible for us to worship in person and virtually. Our church family is blessed to have you as part of our congregation.**



## NEW MOUNT ZION'S LEGACY OF PASTOR WALTER J. WILLIAMS



FROM JUNE 1940 –JULY 2021

*The following biography represents the Legacy of  
Rev. Dr. Walter J. Williams from 1995-2012 at The Mount Zion.*

Rev. Walter Williams was able to accomplish the following at Mount Zion with his calling as Pastor in 1995. He adopted "Raising the Standards" as his introductory theme. Rev. Williams stressed spiritual excellence and spiritual growth through Worship, Prayer, and intensive Bible Study. Through Mid-Week Family Night Prayer and Bible Study, classes were set up for adults, youth, and children. Using a study guide authored by him, New Members' Orientation was revamped. Rev. Williams instituted a Homiletics class to enhance male Christian growth; an Evangelism class to prepare and educate members for outreach ministry. The Shepherd Men's Ministry was organized to promote Bible Study through playing basketball as a means of reaching young men for Christ. The three adult choirs were combined and became the "Voices of Praise." Pastor Williams was instrumental in establishing: Quarterly Business Meetings, monthly Staff Meetings; Singles and Couples Ministries; Legal, Financial, and Senior Citizens ministries; Precious Jewels to minister to our Senior Citizens; Security Guide, Male and Female Custodians; Transportation Ministry to oversee the 29-passenger bus and 57-passenger bus. He was instrumental in the licensing of seven Ministers, two ordained Ministers, and ordaining 15 Deacons. Giving financial support to Florida Memorial University, Florida Baptist College and Seminary, and stipends to our recent high school graduates and college students. Our church's involvement in the district, state, and national levels increased our visibility in giving of our time, talents, and tokens of love. Pastor Williams' leadership brought about the building of the Family Life Center, which was later named The Walter J. Williams Family Life Center.

In October of 2011, Pastor Walter J. Williams became very ill and unable to serve. Therefore, in January of 2012, he officially resigned his leadership of The New Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Tampa Florida. (SOURCE: The New Mt. Zion's 115<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Journal)



The legacy of Rev. Dr. Walter J. Williams lives on in the hearts and minds of those who knew him. As an appreciation to Rev. Dr. Walter J. Williams, Pastor Roundtree instituted Pastor Walter J. Williams Day in June of 2014. On the Second Sunday of June (which would be Pastor Williams' Yearly Anniversary Celebration), members would bring gifts of love to be

presented to Pastor Emeritus Walter Williams each year. The compassion and love between Pastor Roundtree and Pastor Williams has been compared to that of Moses and Joshua. Pastor Williams Celebration of Life Service was held at Mount Zion on Saturday, August 1 with Pastor Roundtree delivering a dynamic eulogy. One of Pastor Williams' favorite songs is, "IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL." Before sharing the words, let us take time and read the history and the impact it had on the writer, Horatio Spafford.

### *The Story Behind the Hymn "It Is Well with My Soul"*

Horatio Gates Spafford was born in New York, on 20th October 1828, but it was in Chicago that he became well-known for his clear Christian testimony. He, and his wife Anna were active in their church, and their home was always open to visitors. They counted the world-famous evangelist, Dwight L. Moody, among their friends. They were blessed with five children, and considerable wealth. Horatio was a lawyer, and owned a great deal of property in his home city.

Not unlike Job in the Old Testament of the Bible, tragedy came in great measure to this happy home. When four years old, their son, Horatio Jr, died suddenly of scarlet fever. Then only a year later, in October 1871, a massive fire swept through downtown Chicago, devastating the city, including many properties owned by Horatio. That day, almost 300 people lost their lives, and around 100,000 were made homeless. Despite their own substantial financial loss, the Spaffords sought to demonstrate the love of Christ, by assisting those who were grief-stricken and in great need.

Two years later, in 1873, Spafford decided his family should take a holiday in England, knowing that his friend, the evangelist D. L. Moody, would be preaching there in the autumn. Horatio was delayed because of business, so he sent his family ahead: his wife and their four remaining children, all daughters, 11-year old Anna, 9-year old Margaret Lee, 5-year old Elizabeth, and 2-year old Tanetta.

On 22nd November 1873, while crossing the Atlantic on the steamship, Ville du Havre, their vessel was struck by an iron sailing ship. Two hundred and twenty-six people lost their lives, as the Ville du Havre sank within only twelve minutes.

All four of Horatio Spafford's daughters perished, but remarkably Anna Spafford survived the tragedy. Those rescued, including Anna, who was found unconscious, floating on a plank of wood, they subsequently arrived in Cardiff, South Wales. Upon arrival there, Anna immediately sent a telegram to her husband, which included the words "Saved alone...."

Receiving Anna's message, he set off at once to be reunited with her. One particular day, during the voyage, the captain summoned him to the bridge of the vessel. Pointing to his charts, he explained that they were then passing over the very spot where the Ville du Havre had sunk, and where his daughters had died. It is said that Spafford returned to his cabin and put his pen to paper to write the timeless hymn, beginning with the words:

When peace like a river, attendeth my way,  
When sorrows like sea billows roll;  
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,  
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

There are other accounts which say that it was written at a later date, but obviously the voyage was one of deep grief and is the clear inspiration of the moving and well-loved hymn. Horatio's

faith in God never faltered. He later wrote to Anna's half-sister, "On Thursday last, we passed over the spot where she went down, in mid-ocean, the waters three miles deep. But I do not think of our dear ones there. They are safe..... dear lambs. "After Anna was rescued, Pastor Nathaniel Weiss, one of the ministers travelling with the surviving group, remembered hearing Anna say, "God gave me four daughters. Now they have been taken from me. Someday I will understand why." Naturally Anna was utterly devastated, but she testified that in her grief and despair, she had been conscious of a soft voice speaking to her, "You were saved for a purpose!" She remembered something a friend had once said, "It's easy to be grateful and good when you have so much, but take care that you are not a fair-weather friend to God." Following this deep tragedy, Anna gave birth to three more children, but she and Horatio were not spared even more sadness, as on February 11th, 1880, their only son, Horatio (named after the brother who had died, and also after his father), he also died at the age of four. In August 1881 the Spaffords left America with a number of other like-minded Christians, and settled in Jerusalem. The original manuscript of the Spafford's hymn has only four verses, but later other verses were added. The music, which was written by Philip Bliss, was named after the ship on which Horatio and Anna's daughters had died – Ville du Havre. Horatio Spafford died of malaria on 16th October 1888. Anna Spafford continued to work in the surrounding areas of Jerusalem until her own death in 1923. Both Horatio and Anna were laid to rest in Jerusalem. It can truly be said, in the words that Spafford penned that, "It is well with their souls."



## "IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL "

1. When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, When sorrows like sea billows roll;  
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.
2. Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, Let this blest assurance  
control, That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate, And hath shed His own blood  
for my soul.
3. My sin—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!— My sin, not in part but the whole, Is  
nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more, Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
4. For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live: If Jordan above me shall roll, No pang  
shall be mine, for in death as in life Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul.
5. But, Lord, 'tis for Thee, for Thy coming we wait, The sky, not the grave, is our goal;  
Oh, trump of the angel! Oh, voice of the Lord! Blessed hope, blessed rest of my soul!
6. And Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,  
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll; The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall  
descend, Even so, it is well with my soul.

*REFRAIN/CHORUS:* It is well with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.

(You will note that Verses 4 and 5 are not in our Hymnal).

## NEW MOUNT ZION—DOWN THROUGH THE YEARS

New Mount Zion is blessed with a rich history of love, legacy, learning, and leadership.

### PICTURES FROM OUR PAST

Provided By Sis. Kathy Leeks Campbell



The Early **Mount Zion** Before Present Site.



The Early **New Mount Zion** At Current Site.



JUNIOR MISSION



THE DEACONS



FIRST MALE  
USHERS



THE CHOIRS





Let us take a historical walk, down memory lane, from the hearts of two of our members entitled: “GROWING UP IN MOUNT ZION: FROM CHILDHOOD TO ADULTHOOD.”

### **MEMBER #1: A Look From The Heart of Sis. Dora Dixon**

My journey began when I was probably four (4) years old. I attended kindergarten in the Mount Zion Church Annex, which was on the 26<sup>th</sup> Street side of the church; this is where the offices are now. My teacher was Mrs. Thompson. She was a no-nonsense person whose eyes said everything, but she gave hugs freely. As I remember, she was warm spirited along with the strict demeanor. Her daughter also assisted with the children. She had a baby that she pushed in an old-fashioned baby buggy; we children enjoyed pushing the buggy. In fact, it was a special treat to push the buggy. That “baby” is alive and well. As I learned who it was that we so enjoyed pushing around, some years later I saw her when she was well into adulthood. We sang the numbers from 1-100, and also sang the books of the Bible daily. We also had workbooks that were used for our study. I think, at the time, we were working just as if we were in a First Grade classroom. My teacher thought that I was “ready” and she promoted me to Third Grade. Too young at that time, so I started Second Grade at Lomax Elementary on a trial basis. It was shaky at first, but the shell broke and I began to show that I could handle the work. My Second Grade teacher was one of my favorites. I began attending Sunday School as a junior-aged student and that was enjoyable; but everyone practically dreaded going to the Intermediate Sunday School Girls’ class. That class was taught by Ms. E. J. Harris. She left her mark on everyone who sat under her teaching. She even did Bible Study in our homes. That was INTENSE!! I also attended RED CIRCLE under Sis. Harris directions. The Red Circle, as I remember, consisted of boys and girls about the ages of 9-11. We met every Tuesday in the evening and were taught about Jesus and His love. Once I was given a small book, which was the story of one of the men in the Bible, maybe Abraham. My assignment was to tell the story to the class. I don’t believe I ever got it right because Sis. Harris always stopped me if I missed a word. It dawned on me later that she wanted me to present that story verbatim. I don’t remember finishing the story. Attending church was a must! My Mama said you were getting up to go to church on Sunday whether you were out late on Saturday night or not. I was baptized at age eleven.

There were many pastors that were called to Mount Zion. Those I remember are: Reverends Griffith, Calhoun, Goins, Carter, Hudson, Williams, and our current Preacher/Teacher Reverend Larry Roundtree II.

Rev. Williams and Rev. Roundtree have had the most impact on my life. Through the years, prior to their leadership, I was a choir member, taught Vacation Bible School, Primary Sunday School class teacher; participated in Christmas, Easter, Black History Programs, and other programs, etc. There was travel with the choir in town and out of the city. During the earlier years, the choir participated in Choir Unions and the Choir supported the Pastor by singing wherever he was preaching when asked. I was in Choir #1, but there was also Choir #2, the Gospel Chorus, and the Junior Choir. Later, the Male Chorus was added.

Our church's early leadership presented their messages to us in different styles. Mostly speaking about Jesus in an emotionally driven way. I honestly listened most times, but not always. I had a visitor from a neighborhood church who visited my home and asked me a question. The question was, "If you were to die tonight, do you know for certain that you would go to Heaven? Well! I answered, but those were not the answers. So I was presented with the Gospel Message, long before I attended the Evangelism Explosion (EE) class under the leadership of Rev. Walter Williams. I learned that Heaven is a free gift; God sent His Son Jesus to take our punishment for our sins; Jesus died on the cross and paid our debt. Therefore, through faith, I have put my trust alone in Jesus for eternal life. So I know the answers to those questions that were presented to me in my home by the neighborhood church visitor. It was amazingly clear. My spiritual journey continues to grow as I have matured. The late Pastor Walter Williams was a teacher-preacher who was a calm, but strong presenter. His message was very clear, and you had to be still to hear it! Our current leader, Pastor Larry Roundtree also brings a message of Jesus very clear with a different presentation. His message is more animated; his examples reach those of every age level (2-100+). So, before the "hoop," the message is loud and clear. I have continued to grow spiritually under his leadership. It is my prayer that God continues to bless him and his leadership of New Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church.

## **MEMBER #2: A Look From The Heart Bro. Jeff Cole**

Growing up as a child in Mount Zion brings back so many memories. I recall the Rev. W.H. Calhoun being a very tall man and very loud. However, something about his mannerism just drew me to him. I loved him as a person but at the same time, I was much afraid of him. I recall his coming over to our home for Sunday dinner. I would be sitting under the table and looking at his feet. He had such huge feet to go with his tall and huge body. I truly respected him. He was a man who always took time out to sit and chat with the kids. As I look back over my life, I realized the Pastor was the person to go to for all kinds of help. For example, if a church member was incarcerated, he would go down and tell the law officials that this person is my church member. Before your dinner was placed on the table, your loved one would be walking through the door. He just had that much power. Another thought that came to mind is that of communion time. Silly me, I always thought it was a body underneath that cloth. But I found out that the Deaconess and the Mothers of the church set the table to look as if the body of Jesus was on the table. The table was sacred. You could not play around it nor touch it. The Deaconess, Mothers of the church, and many others like Sis. Susie, Sis. Butler, Sis. Rebecca Miller would get on you. As I got older, it would make my flesh crawl to see the communion table not being treated as sacred like my father and my mother raised us up in Mount Zion. Believe it or not, Mom went into labor at Mount Zion and was taken to the hospital to deliver me from Mount Zion. I've been here ever since. That has been 60 years. My baptism actually was done by the Rev. Bobby Jones. It was a memorable time. As I was going down into the pool, I remember seeing Deacon Newton and Deacon Swain giving assistance to Rev. Bobby Jones. Rev. Jones had it all; he could preach and pray. He was so good that he had me going back to night service without the family. I remember walking back to church just to hear Rev. Jones. Being in church at Mount Zion was just a place to be. I loved church then, and I love it now. Being in church has made me the man I am today. I know I'm getting ahead of myself. It was a job growing up singing in the Junior Choir, Young

Adult Choir and to the present. After we split up the Aquarius Choir, I joined Choir #1. My Mom went on a suit quest to find me a suit. So definitely I had to get in that choir, but wouldn't have it any other way. I recall our Young Adult Choir was the best in Tampa. Everywhere we went with Mount Zion, we left our mark. We were robbed! It got so bad, they stopped putting us first on programs to last on programs. Because every time we sang, we sang first, then people would walk out after we finished. So they said Mount Zion, y'all will have to be last or second from last on the programs. Our musicians Billy and Herbert had their chests stuck out because of the superior training we showed. As the years advanced, God has given us Pastor Roundtree. But God knew change had to come. I love my Pastor Roundtree. He has that old school spirit that has drawn me to him. I could go on and on. But just know this, Mount Zion will forever be in my heart because I'm apart of Mount Zion and I love Mount Zion.

### IT'S A DIFFERENT WORLD FROM WHERE WE COME FROM...

Do you remember the days when months of preparation went into the planning of our church's historical anniversaries? Do you remember the choirs combining to rehearse for the anniversary? Do you remember the competitions between birth months and a key person in our NMZ family always stated the month of September would always be victorious? Do you remember the anniversary banquets housed in hotels and then God blessed us with our family life center to house the banquets and other special events? Do you remember the elaborate decoration and settings that made our dining room look like a picture from a prestigious decor magazine? Do you remember the guest pastors and guest churches coming to fellowship with us? Do you remember the many busy nights and days given in preparation for each year's historical celebration? Do you remember Sis. Barbara Wright's "Parade of Pastors and their Wives?" Do you remember the scheduling of ministries' pictures? Do you remember friends and family members coming to celebrate with us? Do you remember anticipating the distribution of the anniversary's historical journal? Do you remember the grand finale on Anniversary Sunday? Oh! Yes, it is a different world from where we have come from. However, the key factor is God's New Mercies have continued through His Word. Upon this Rock, God has built His Church and the gates of hell will not and have not destroyed it.





Even though the various activities have temporarily ceased, we still celebrated NMZ's 119th Church Anniversary on Sunday, October 17 inside the Sanctuary. Adhering to Covid Protocols, we marched back into NMZ to fellowship on this different world Anniversary Sunday. The theme was **New Mount Zion's Pink "Maskquerade" Sunday** in which we gave honor to our breast cancer survivors. The service consisted of a mini musical followed by our Deacons giving devotional leadership. Pastor Roundtree delivered the Word of God with vigor and enthusiasm as he always does. His message was taken from John 14:1-8 with the focus being, "Be Fruitful: Trust God's process of cutting off the dead parts of your life in order to make you more effective!" The last time we were able to celebrate our church's anniversary within the Sanctuary was October 20, 2019 for our 117th Church Anniversary. Even though two years have come and gone, the Word of God has not been absent from NMZ. "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (2 Corinthians 4:6). Pastor Roundtree always quotes, "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us" (2 Corinthians 4:7). He has and continues to lift the Word to give God the glory.



**SCENE OF 119<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY WORSHIP**



**TWO GENERATIONS OF ZIONITES**  
 Daughter Vontrece & her Father Jeff Cole  
 Son Larenz & his Mother Angela Watson



## **SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT...**

### **“HOW TO LOVE LIKE GOD LOVES”**

**Submitted By Sis. Marilyn Washington**

***“Accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory.”***

**Romans 15:7 (NLT)**



Did you know that every time you show love, you give glory to God?

Here's how it works. Every time you show what God is like, you give him glory. And God is love. So when you love, you show God's glory. God says, "I am loving. I am compassionate. I want you to be like me. I want you to develop my character."

You're never going to *be* God. But God wants you to become Godly. He wants you to develop his character—like father like son, like father like daughter. He wants you to learn to love people the way he loves people.

There are many ways to love like God does. One way to love other people is by accepting them.

Romans 15:7 says, *“Accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory”* (NLT).

God wants you to accept everyone—no matter what. Does that mean you have to approve of everything they do? Of course not!

There's a difference between acceptance and approval. While God loves and accepts you unconditionally, he doesn't approve of everything you do. It should be the same for you. You can accept everyone without approving of everything they do.

Love is not saying, "I approve of everything you do." Love is saying, "I accept you in spite of what you do."

With every person you encounter today, take the opportunity to give God glory by loving as he loves—with unconditional acceptance. (SOURCE: Pastor Rick Warren—11/04/21)



**Reported By Sis. Alfredia Mulkey**

**Church Administrator**

This year Covid-19 has presented all of us with challenges unlike anything we have experienced before. The good news is that this Pandemic has not stopped our NMZ







## **PASTOR'S AIDE MINISTRY**

**Reported By Sis. Gwen Hayes**

Since our last gathering via *The Progressor*, the Pastor's Aide Ministry has honored Pastor Larry L. Roundtree, II, for Father's Day, his birthday and Pastor's Appreciation Month. We've honored his wife, Lady Sameya for Mother's Day and her birthday, November 24<sup>th</sup>.

In June, as usual, we held Reverend Walter J. Williams Day, and listened to a splendid message from his son, Reverend Larry Williams. He chose for his subject, "Another Chance," using Luke 13:6-9, telling the story of the fig tree and the vineyard.

Rev. Larry Williams told the story of his dad during the St. Petersburg's Gibbs High School football practice when lightning struck the field, killing one of his teammates. At that point, he had been given 'another chance,' which led to the founding of the Shepherd's Ministry, a Basketball-Bible study ministry.

After the in-door service, the Williams family was showered with lots of love, including gifts and a home-cooked meal.

Sadly, though, we lost Rev. Williams, the longest serving Pastor at New Mt. Zion (17+ years). He passed away on July 23, 2021. There was a glorious celebration for him at New Mt. Zion on July 31, 2021, with his pastor, Rev. Roundtree, bringing the message.

In August, our pastor took a much-deserved vacation, returning on the first Sunday in September.

The Pastor's Aide Ministry recognized Pastor Roundtree's birthday. President Brenda Holley delivered the birthday cake and refreshments to his home. Member Carlton Brown presented his gifts from the Ministry the following Sunday.

The month of October is recognized as "Clergy Appreciation Month." On behalf of the New Mt. Zion Family, the Pastor's Aide Ministry presented our pastor with gifts, a home-cooked meal and a Bible plaque with touching words.

We showed some love to Lady Roundtree on her birthday is in November.

It was the first Sunday in March 2013, that Pastor Roundtree stood before us as Pastor. Today, we're still thankful for what God did!

For the past year, Pastor Roundtree has found a way to make sure his congregants received the Word. We've had prayer services, Bible Study, Sunday School and Worship via YouTube and Conference Call via the phone – in the parking lot and in the building.

The COVID-19 Pandemic brought the City to a halt in March, 2020. But, we have not missed a beat – thank you Jesus!

The New Mt. Zion M. B, Church continues to praise God for what He is doing and for the wisdom and knowledge bestowed on our pastor, Rev. Larry Roundtree, II.

Brenda Holley is President of the Pastor's Aide Ministry.

The Pastor's Aide Ministry wishes all of you a Blessed Christmas and Blessed, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

# Welcome

## NEW MEMBERS

**Reported By Minister Willie Kimbrough, Director**

"In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.  
1 Thessalonians 5:18"

Greetings to you my Brothers and Sisters in Christ. The Bible tells us in this Scripture to give thanks in all things. To us this may seem a bit awkward, for there are many situations that we find ourselves in; both good and bad. However just as Paul encouraged the Thessalonians of that era, we too can be encouraged knowing that God is working things out for us through Christ Jesus. Even in the midst of this Pandemic, we can still find reasons to rejoice. We thank God for each and every one of you. Although we have not been able to come together as we normally would for New Members Orientation classes, I would encourage you to be patient as we explore other venues to use. We give thanks to Pastor Larry Roundtree II as he seeks to keep us focused and moving forward. We also give thanks and congratulations to our newest members listed below. Let us continue to be encouraged and moving forward for we know that God is working it all out.



**New Members:** Shelton Jones, Tanika Stewart, Jacklin Wilson, Brittney Davis, Ebony C. Moore, Ladonter Skinner, Sheraraka Davis



**NMZ Worship & Arts Ministry**  
**Reported By Minister Larenz Johnson**

“I will Exalt you my God and my King; I will praise your name for ever and ever” (Psalm 145:1). For over 15 months the NMZ Worship & Arts ministry has continued to press forward during one of the most horrific Pandemics known to mankind. Our Audio Visual ministry has been blessed with consistent volunteers who ensure that worship has continued virtually every Sunday. Our Praise team (**Carlton Brown, Valencia Holmes, Devin Hagans, Trinika Lewis, La’shanna Cook, Fabianna Nelson, Beverly Brinson, Fatricia Brooks-Campbell, Davani Beck, Shamira Hayes, Sharletha Edwards and LaTanya Riley**) have lifted their voices in song over 75 weeks, to provide music for NMZ virtual services, outdoor services and pastoral engagements. We are also grateful for our Voices of Praise, who have taken on the task of leading worship on several occasions. We also acknowledge our very own **Ashley Gooding-Butts** and **Naleyzah Kendrick**, who have provided liturgical and mime dances for our ministry on special occasions, representing our dance ministries. God is doing a new thing within NMZ, and The Worship & Arts Ministry is following God’s lead, as he takes us to higher heights in ministry.



**USHER BOARD #1**  
**Reported By President Janice Sturks**

*Guard my life, for I am faithful to you; save your servant who trusts in you. You are my God; have mercy on me, Lord, for I call to you all day long. [Psalm 86:3](#)*

First, I would like to take this time and apologize to my ministry for not reaching out to you all. The Pandemic has created new circumstances for the world and has been a challenging time with family and friends. The Pandemic has caused us not to be able to visit each other. I know we can always call or text for those who have access. Unfortunately, my phone was dropped in the water December 2020, which caused me to lose a lot of contacts; only 50 numbers were saved out of 270. So if you called me and I didn’t respond, it’s because I didn’t recognize your number. Some of us have lost

loved ones in this challenging time. For those who have lost loved ones last year and this year, I would like to express my condolences, if I have not done so. May the Lord continue to strengthen each of you in your time of bereavement.

The following will serve as an update of our ministry:

**Bereavement:** I was informed of and gave our condolences to: Sis. Retta Page in the lost of her brother; we lost long-time member RD Lewis (condolences to his wife Ida Mae Lewis and family); Bro. Percy Weatherly lost his mother, who was the grandmother of Sis. Monica Narain; Bro. Robert Cunningham lost his grandson.

**Birthday Wishes:** Sis. Toynetta Williams, Sis. Carrie Terrell, Sis. Francis Davis, Sis. Annie Preston, Dea. Willie Grant, Bro. Dan Mitchell (Honorary Members).

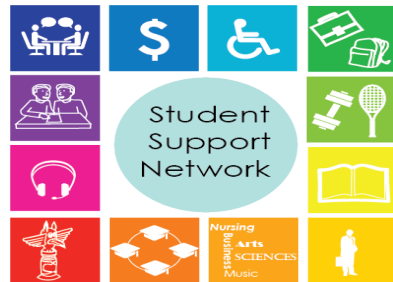
Sis. Retta Page, Sis. Shirley James, Sis. Monica Narain, Sis. Sharon Bryant, Sis. Cathy Morris, Sis. Barbara Bell, Dea. Wesley Collins, Bro. Percy Weatherly, Sis. Linda Mitchell, Sis. Robyn Andrews, Dea. Patrick Andrews,

Sis. Beverly Davis, Dea. Sutton Page, Sis.. Rhonda Joyner, Bro. Robert Cunningham, Sis. Fontella DeCoursey, Sis. Aislyn Coney, Bro. Mike Collins, and  
Sis. Francis Whytes.

**Finally:** We would like to welcome Sis. Carrie Terrell back home to Florida. Remember, she moved up North to stay with her son in August 2020.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS:** I am praying that each of you are blessed by the love of God and His abundance.

**Fear is natural, faith is supernatural. Remember what God's Word says, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." [Philippians 4:6](#)**





## STUDENT SERVICES MINISTRY

### Reported By President Sis. Kenya Jones



In July 2021, the New Mount Zion church family recognized a few high school and college graduates. The following graduates submitted their names and information to the Student Services Ministry to be recognized:

- Zoie Mulkey graduated from Tampa Preparatory School and is now attending Florida A & M University where she is majoring in music. Zoie is an active member of the NMZ youth choir, the Daughters of Zion and the praise team. Zoie is the daughter of Sis. Alfredia Mulkey.
- DaQuan Rhodes graduated from Blake High School and plans to attend Hillsborough Community College to major in business. DaQuan is an active member of the youth choir. He is the nephew of Sis. Debbie Toombs and Sis. Gwen McNeal.
- DeShawn Rhodes is a graduate of Blake High School, and his plans are to receive his ISSA certification and become a personal trainer focusing on fitness. DeShawn is an active member of Sunday school and the youth choir. He is also the nephew of Sis. Debbie Toombs and Sis. Gwen McNeal.
- Lanier Garrett graduated from King High School and is now enrolled in a vocational rehabilitation transition program that focuses on job skills and training. Lanier is an active member of the youth usher board and the drama ministry. He is the son of Sis. Charlene Larry.
- LaMont Tillery, Jr. graduated from McKeel High School located in Lakeland. LaMont's plans are to become a certified personal trainer and nutritionist. His goal while helping others stay healthy and fit, is to also share the goodness of Jesus with them so that they may be saved. LaMont is an active member of Sunday school and the youth choir. He is the son of Bro. LaMont Jr. and & Sis. Dorthula Tillery.
- Lennard Allen is a graduate of The Vanguard High School in Lakeland. He is currently attending the University of Central Florida in Orlando majoring in digital design. Lennard is an active member of the youth usher board, and he is the son of Bro. Berry & Sis. Shanika Jones Berry.
- Edward Givens, Jr. graduated one year early as a junior from Seminole Heights Charter School. Edward plans to attend Hillsborough Community College to earn his bachelor's degree in criminology. His plans are to join the C.I.A. and retire at the age of 35. After retirement, Edward plans to invest in different companies. Edward is the son of Sis. Michelle Givens.
- Darius Canty graduated from Florida A & M University with a bachelor's degree in computer science. In 2016, Darius was selected to participate in the "Co-Operative Education Program" with the Department of Defense. This required that he complete one year of training in that career field. To date, Darius has successfully completed the stringent one-year requirement for

this program. After graduating in the Fall of 2020, Darius relocated to Maryland and accepted a job as a software engineer working with the Department of Defense. When home, Darius is an active member of the food pantry ministry, and he is the son of Bro. Leroy & Sis. Tracey Canty.

- Madeline Ward graduated from Florida Career College with a degree as a medical technician.
- Kenya Douglas Jones is a graduate of Saint Leo University where she received an Educational Specialist degree in Educational Leadership. A specialist degree is a post master's degree in the field of education. Sis. Jones is an educator with Hillsborough County Public Schools where she is employed as an Exceptional Student Education Specialist at a middle school in Tampa. Her goal is to start an education consulting business to provide tutoring assistance to students with special needs. Sis. Jones is a current member of the NMZ Student Services Ministry, formerly known as the Education Ministry, where she serves as the president. She is the daughter of Deacon Oscar & Sis. Yvonne Gadson Douglas, the wife of Mr. Tim Jones, and the mother of Timothy and Zoie Jones.



## **AN EDUCATOR'S ENCOURAGEMENT DURING COVID**

**By Sis. Elise Odom**

Ecclesiastes 3:1 "To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven."

When my family, friends, co-workers, and students begin their negative talk, my simple reminder to them is to maintain FLEXIBILITY over emotions, challenges, and situations. Here is the encouragement I give with the term of FLEXIBILITY:

**F**ocus on elements in life that matter

**L**earning is a lifelong skill

**E**ducation will provide more opportunities in the future

**X**pect the best when you give your best

**I** matter and I am important too

**B**alance God, family, self, work, fun, and reflection

**I**t is ok to not be ok sometimes

**L**ack of planning from others is not an emergency of mine

**I**n God's time, normalcy will return

**T**ime management is essential

**Y**ou cannot control everyone's feelings, but you can control your own



## HEALTH AWARENESS TEAM

Sis. Wilma Garvin, President



Our ministry has been very active during these times of Covid-19. Once our church moved from parking lot worship back into the Sanctuary, we pulled together protocols that everyone must follow to adhere to the Centers for Disease Control mandates. We came up with a plan that would make it efficient and effective to screen everyone who would enter the Sanctuary. In addition to that, thermometers, face masks, hand sanitizers, and other items were purchased. We organized a team that would effectively rotate to meet the needs of our returning congregants. We are so thankful for the commitment of our Health Awareness Team (HAT) as we are changing the world through the love of Christ by providing a CDC Protocol environment for all who enter our church.



National data from the Census Bureau's Household Pulse Survey show that the health crisis is causing a parallel mental health Pandemic. About 35-to-40% of people are regularly reporting that they are experiencing symptoms of anxiety and depression as they deal with the Pandemic. That's up from a baseline that's closer to 25% before the start of the Pandemic. Anxiety, depression and fatigue grow out of uncertainty about the safety of loved ones and the loss of some fun and stress relieving activities. Consider adopting the following habits to cope with Pandemic fatigue and to

regain the strength needed to continue to engage in life saving practices (i.e. wearing masks, washing hands, and maintaining social distance practices).

**1. Reflect and Accept.** Reflect on how you are feeling and accept that you may be feeling moody and tired. **2. Breathe and Meditate.** Spend time daily slowing down your breathing as well as meditating/praying daily. “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.” -Isaiah 26:3 **3. Monitor your social media.** Watching anxiety provoking news or entertainment increases stress. Deliberately limit screen time and watch calming programs when feelings of anxiety are high. **4. Be active.** Routine exercise, like walking outside with nature, is a proven method of reducing anxiety, depression and fatigue. **5. Restore and replenish your energy.** Deliberately complete tasks that restore energy daily (i.e. taking a bath, reading a calming book, etc). **6. Gain 6-8 hours of sleep.** Restful sleep is essential to mental health. **SOURCE: Robinson-Kyles Counseling and Testing Services (863-398-6748)**



## FINANCIAL PLANNING MINISTRY

**Reported By Consultants Bro. Arthur and Sis. Brenda Holley**

**It doesn't matter what our circumstances are, let us make a joyful noise unto the Lord!**

**Ministry Purpose:** This ministry seeks to assist members and the community by providing a financial roadmap that helps them with their personal finances with an intent of assisting them with peace of mind.

We pay our bills each month and do our best to prepare for the future. However, the truth is, there's only so much money to go around and preparing for the future can be overwhelming.

We can assist by providing a Financial Needs Analysis (FNA) that covers five basic sections:

1. **Debt Solutions** – Illustrates strategies for paying off credit cards and loans in the quickest, most efficient manner possible with little or no additional cash outlay.
2. **Saving for Retirement** – Offers scenarios to show you how much money you need to set aside for retirement.
3. **Education Funding** – Projects actual costs for specific schools you select, then shows you several strategies for funding your children's education expenses.
4. **Income Protection** – Offers a variety of strategies to ensure your family's financial future should you die prematurely.
5. **Building Your Financial Future** – Pulls all your information together by outlining specific steps to put your plan into action.

Our Financial Planning is complimentary and confidential.

You can give us a call at (813) 417-3440.



## HOSPITALITY MINISTRY

### Reported By President Sis. Monica Narain

The Hospitality Ministry truly enjoys the opportunity to connect with our first-time visitors via phone calls, emails or text messages. NMZs online presence has allowed us to expand our reach and truly show the LOVE of Christ.

#### Hebrews 13:16

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. *"Sometimes when you're in a dark place you think you've been buried, but actually you've been planted" -Christine Caine*



### Reported By Superintendent Deacon Keith Powe

#### Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ...

Online virtual Sunday School and ZOOM classes are in session. For the online virtual Sunday school classes, we have been "Celebrating God." Our studies have taken us through the books of Exodus, 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel, Psalms, Mark, Acts and Revelation. We've had an encouraging response, with the purpose of equipping the saints of God. Rev. Berry and I have been coordinating the lessons each week. Regarding the ZOOM classes, conducted by Sis. Fraiser and Sis. Priester, there has been an encouraging response from the Early Elementary students. Sister Collins is also conducting a ZOOM class for the Upper Elementary students. I had the opportunity to sit in a little while for both ZOOM classes. The children were having a great time learning the word of God. The teachers are doing an outstanding job instructing their students. More children are expected to join these classes.

The upcoming quarter (December - February) will focus on Justice, Law and History. We look forward to having you join us as our studies begin. We will study the Pentateuch, 2nd Samuel, Ezra, Job, Isaiah and Nahum.

The lessons can be accessed on our "NMZ Community" church app and on the "NMZ Tampa" YouTube channel. Any students interested in participating in the Early Elementary or Upper Elementary class, please contact the church office to connect with the appropriate teacher. Until the time comes for us to resume our classes at the church, we encourage you to join us online.

May we, as a church family, "grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."







## CLYM'S CLOTHES CLOSET

### Reported By Coordinator Sis. Yvonne Douglas

"When I was hungry you fed me and when I was naked you clothed me."

We were happy to be working again in conjunction with the East Tampa Business and Civic Association on Saturday, November 13, 2021 for our Thanksgiving/Christmas Giveaway.

Our location was the East Parking lot, also known as the Clothes Closet Parking Lot. We wore our masks and the patrons had on their masks, too. The patrons came out in great numbers and they were able to get free groceries and come around the corner and get free clothes and other items from us. We brought out racks of clothes and boxes of shoes.



We are so glad to be of service to the East Tampa community. Our team let them shop as long as they wanted to and they filled their bags with everything they needed. We had manpower there, too, with Deacon Joe Williams, Bro. Jerrod Douglas, and Sister Strowbridge's son, Augustus. Minister Larenz Johnson delivered lunch to us from the church. It was a joy seeing the patrons shop. Rep. Hart was able to break away from giving out groceries to deliver some items to us. All of this was made possible by our gracious donors and volunteers.

The Pandemic has kept us from reopening our doors, so we brought things outside. Sometime in 2022, we are hoping that we can return inside with a limited capacity. This is one of the things we will be praying for while on hiatus in December. Thank you to the members who continue to donate toiletries because the dollar store is not the dollar store anymore. We always need toiletries like soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toilet paper, and washcloths. The patrons also request linens.

Sister Sherryl Cusseaux gifted to CCC \$500 from her Facebook birthday funds. CCC is one of her favorite charities, so there was no hesitation in her donating the \$500 check to us.

We used some of the money to purchase toiletries to add to the toiletries that were donated by our members. We also put an ad in our local newspaper. Monetary donations are graciously accepted. Make the check payable to New Mount Zion and put "clothes closet" in the memo. Brother Freeland (church comptroller) will notify us.







## DEACONESS AND MINISTERS WIVES

**Reported By Sister Mary Priester, President**

Our Ministry has continued to meet via conference calls being mindful of safety protocols. We pray for our bereaved and sick members and reach out to encourage them and assist where we can. We have been represented at our local Congress and District Association.

We continue to serve the church by preparing communion for distribution on the first Sundays. We count this as an honor and privilege.

In October, we participated in the First South Florida Seasonal Fellowship Feast via Zoom. We feasted on the Word of God that was presented by the various seasonal speakers. Some members attended the October session of Congress #4.

We were active in the First South Florida District Association held November 16-18, 2021 at New Mt. Zion. Our Ministry gave leadership to the effort of the Association's Community Outreach Project of providing \$10 Walmart gift cards to two of our local elementary schools.

As a Ministry, we continue to pray for our Pastor and the New Mt. Zion Church family. We know that prayer is essential for our growth and development into mature Christians.

**NOTE:** Thank you, New Mount Zion, for your generosity in going beyond our goal with the donation of Walmart cards. Our Church family is a blessing to many others.

## THE BROTHERHOOD



**Reported By Dea. Bobby Priester, President**

The Brotherhood has been in contact with members via text and phone. Most of us are following the CDC guidelines of staying safe at home. We are also tuning in virtually to the Sunday Services and Bible Study at New Mt. Zion in order to remain spiritually uplifted during these challenging times. We enjoyed several special Brotherhood Bible Study sessions that were facilitated by Minister Theron James. Some members continue to faithfully serve during Wednesday Drive Through Prayer. We also attended the October session of Congress #4. The Brotherhood was represented at the First South Florida Brotherhood Prayer Breakfast in Plant City. Let us continue in prayer for one another until Jesus returns.



## BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

### Reported By President Sister Jean Collins

*“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.” Colossians 3:15*

The turkey was hot out of the oven, potatoes were mashed, and the table set. You’re surrounded by loved ones and friends at Thanksgiving dinner, and yet you somehow feel empty inside. A once joyous times filled with laughter, good food, and even better memories now feels like nothing more than a trigger to miss the one who’s so painfully not here “Zionites”.

Family when we enter the holiday season grieving the loss of a loved one, everything feels different, flipped upside down and chaotic. A piece is missing and we’re often expected to go on living like everything is normal.

Grieving and mourning is heavy and can easily become too much to carry alone when Thanksgiving, Christmas and other holidays draw near.

**It’s OK That You’re Not OK...** You need someone to see your grief, to acknowledge it. Family, you need someone to hold your hands while you stand there in shock, staring at the hole that was your life. Some things cannot be fixed. They can only be carried.

The reality of grief is far different, Church family, from what others see from the outside. There is pain in this world that you can’t be cheered out of. You don’t need solutions. You don’t need to move on from your grief. You still need someone to see your grief and recognize it.

So, if you headed into the Thanksgiving mealtime missing a loved one who recently passed away, please know that you’re not alone and it’s totally okay to feel whatever you’re feeling.

Thanksgiving and other holidays can be tough because they are embedded in some type of our traditions and customs that connect us to our loved ones that allow us to relax. Zionites, when someone in our lives passes away, whether expected or unexpected, the memories stay with us and the routine that kept us grounded seems it is tossed in the wind.

Thanksgiving and Christmas can be especially tough for those going through heartache and grief for several of reasons:

- It was a loved one’s favorite holiday
- Traditions do not feel the same
- Pressure to live up to their legacy
- Just coping with grief during Thanksgiving and Christmas

We all know that Thanksgiving is suppose to be a time of the year to be thankful for what you have. It’s still difficult to have positive thoughts when all you can do is think about your loved one not being there. This is completely normal and acceptable.

Family, we realize that we all try to create space to grieve that special loved one during the Thanksgiving or any holiday of the year.



Your Bereavement Ministry would like to share some ideas that may feel right for you:

**1. *Talk about your loved one.***

Talk about how you are feeling to friends and family and allow them to respond. While this may bring up emotions, you're surrounded by people that love you and want to support you through your grief.

**2. *Journal.***

Instead of bottling what you're thinking and feeling inside, try writing it all down in a journal or as a letter to your loved one. This time is for you and will help you process what you're feeling as you find the way through your day.

**3. *Reminisce over old photos.***

Family, there's no better time than the holidays to bring out old photos of family, especially ones of your passed loved one. "Dig up them old photo albums."

**4. *Visit their grave or a place they found special.***

Getting out of the house and just to visit their grave alone, or go for a walk in the park you used to walk in together, find whatever spot you find special and spend some time there will help to connect to their memory.

Zionites, as you navigate grief during this season of the year, Pastor Roundtree and the Bereavement Ministry hope you know that you're not alone. Honor your loved one. Be thankful for the time, love, and memories you shared with your loved one.

Finally Family, it is our prayer that you experience a holiday, one that is full of thanksgiving, hope and healing. ***We Love you!!***

***In Memory***

*Those we Loved remain with us, For Love itself lives on,  
Cherished memories never fade, because a love one is gone,  
Those we Loved can never be, More than a thought apart.  
For as long as there is memory, They'll live on in our heart.*

— *Author unknown*



**“FAITHFULLY YOURS-- Emerging Victoriously”**

**Reported By Sis. Trellis Cooper**

God is good (all the time), and all the time (God is good)! As the world slowly returns to what is now our new normal, let us plan on emerging victoriously.

As Christmas approaches, we can look forward to cautiously gathering with our friends and family once again. It's been a long time coming. We are not only covered with the armor of God, but we are also well versed in the ways to stay safe at these larger gatherings. Let us never forget what the Pandemic has taught us (wearing masks and gloves, when necessary, social distancing, and staying home when you are sick).

Unfortunately, with us being isolated, we have heard of people acting out in not so good ways: fighting with flight attendants about wearing masks, going against each other due to vaccine preferences, etc. It is a perfect time to go back to basics in the following ways:

- Open and hold doors for others
- Give compliments
- Greet others with a smile
- Handle oppositions like adults
- Love on your families and friends like never before
- Express love openly
- Make your children feel safe, loved, and secure. Listen to them.

Stop putting things off! Write that book, start that new career, plant that garden, travel, get insurance, mend broken relationships, enjoy life. Life is too precious to wait. Just do it.

If you are entering this new phase of normal without a loved one, you have my deepest condolences. Believe me I know it is hard (I experienced multiple losses as well). Know that they are always with you and forever watching over you. Life is for the living and God has great things in store for us all (Jeremiah 29:11). He wants us all to emerge victoriously. Be blessed and Happy Holidays.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **UNITY** IN THE **COMMUNITY**

God blesses us to be blessings to others in words and in deeds. This encompasses the display of genuine love and heart-felt giving to others. Each day, we should be a blessing to relieve someone stress.



### **DRIVE-THRU FOOD PANTRY**

The East Tampa Business and Civic Association (ETBCA) provides a Drive-Thru Food Pantry at Mount Zion on Mondays through Thursdays from 10AM-1PM.

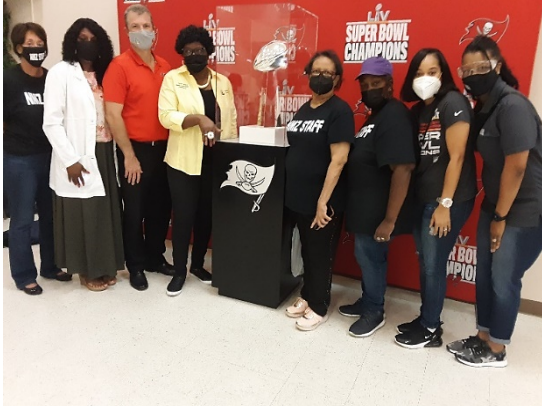


### **CLYM'S CLOTHES CLOSET**

Please check our church's marquee and emailed flyers indicating the next distribution date.

## COVID-19 VACCINATION

Commissioner Myers teamed up with the Florida Department of Health and Tampa Police to host a special vaccine pop-up event at New Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Tampa with the Vince Lombardi Super Bowl Trophy on display on August 7. Our Health Awareness poses with the trophy.



As a means of demonstrating NMZs "Changing The World Through The Love Of Christ—One Soul At A Time, we contributed to Haiti's Earthquake Relief and Hurricane Ida's Louisiana Relief. Rev. Fred, from Haiti, visited our Pull Up and Praise Worship on Sunday, October 10. Pastor introduced him and shared their need for funds to assist in their relief to the earthquake, orphanage, and school. In addition to our prior donations, we took up a love offering. God is blessing the New Mount Zion Church Family to be a blessing to others.



The East Tampa Business and Civic Association (ETBCA) yearly Thanksgiving Giveaway took place on Saturday, November 13. State Representative Dianne Hart and the Association, along with members from New Mount Zion, worked diligently to provide Thanksgiving boxes and meals again this year.



Our individual members and church ministries supported Food Pantry families and New Mount Zion families by **providing gift cards** from **Walmart, Target etc.** These cards allowed the recipients to purchase goods and services for both Christmas dinner and gifts for their children. Last year, NMZ blessed 15 families with donations of over \$1300.



## CONGRATULATIONS!!!



- Trenell Reid (Music Ministry's Drummer) married Sis. Keisha Knight on Saturday, April 24.
- Sis. Yama Gooding retired from Hillsborough District Schools after 40 years of caring service.
- Sis. Kenya Jones received her Educational Specialist Degree in Educational Leadership from St. Leo University on May 21. She is now working on her Doctoral Degree.
- Dr. George Shannon II is doing his Post-Doctoral Fellowship at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee.
- Dea. Les Miller (retired chairman of our Deacons' Ministry) was honored with the 2021 Ellsworth G. Simmons Good Government Award on June 3.
- Sis. DeShawnda Hall-Lewis was promoted to Airman First Class on May 18. She, also, became the bride of JaQuez Polite on Saturday, August 14.
- Dea. Clarence Fort was honored as part of Progress Village Community at the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on June 19.
- Minister Larenz Johnson received the 2021 Ida B. Baker Diversity Educator's Award at Madison Middle School posted on September 22.
- Sis. Tiffany Johnson received her nomination letter to join the Honor Society as a Presidential Member at National Louis University. She is in the Mental Health Masters Program maintaining a 4.0 GPA.
- Bro. Alonzo Ashwood and his coaching staff from Sumner High School in Riverview, Florida were featured in an October Edition of the Florida Sentinel for their football leadership.
- Deacon Darrious Bryant was elected Chairman of the Deacons' Ministry and Deacon Patrick Andrews was elected Vice Chairman. They were approved at the Church's Business Conference via Zoom on Friday, October 8.



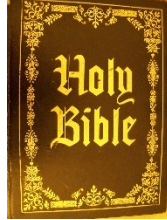
- Sis. Mary Priester concluded her impressive 10-year tenure as President of the Deaconess and Ministers' Wives Ministry in the First South Florida District Association on November 6.
- Sis. Catherine Waddell was elected President of the Senior Women's Ministry for the First South Florida District Association and Treasurer for Congress #4 Senior Women's Ministry.
- Sis. Dianne Hart and the East Tampa Business and Civic Association hosted their annual Thanksgiving Food Give-Away at New Mount Zion on Saturday, November 13.
- Sis. Joy Johnson was elected Worthy Matron for Lola Simon Chapter 33 Order of the Eastern Stars PHA.
- Sis. Tonya Lewis hosted her 19<sup>th</sup> year of Children With A Vision Pre-Thanksgiving Blessing on Sunday, November 21 in the parking lot of District 3s Tampa Police Department on 22<sup>nd</sup> Street.
- Bro. Li Fe Malcolm passed his bar exam and is now a practicing attorney with a local law firm. His mother is lifetime member, Sis. Ernestine Coleman.

**CHRISTMAS PHOTOS FROM THE PAST**





# Christmas Bible Quiz



**DIRECTIONS:** Please select one of the four listed choices. Your answers can be checked by referring to the recommended scriptures.

- 1. What does Jesus' other name, "Emmanuel," mean?***(Matthew 1:23)*
  - Son of God
  - Anointed One
  - God with us
  - He who is God
- 2. When Joseph first discovered that Mary was pregnant, he:***(Matthew 1:18-20)*
  - Beat her
  - Jumped with joy
  - To put her a way secretly
  - Tore his robe
- 3. Why did Joseph and Mary go to the city of David?***(Luke 2:4-5)*
  - To pay taxes
  - To seek the prophet Simeon
  - To visit Joseph's parents
  - To celebrate their wedding
- 4. In what city was Jesus born?***(Luke 2:4-7)*
  - Bethlehem
  - Nazareth
  - Cyprus
  - Galilee
- 5. Why were Mary and Joseph unable to stay in an inn?***(Luke 2:7)*
  - The innkeeper hated them
  - There was no room for them
  - They didn't have enough money
  - All the inns were closed
- 6. With what did Mary wrap newborn Jesus?***(Luke 2:7)*
  - Joseph's cape
  - A blanket
  - Swaddling
  - A scarf
- 7. After Jesus was born, where did Mary lay Him?***(Luke 2:7)*
  - She held him
  - In a pile of hay
  - On the ground
  - In a manger filled with hay

- 8. What was the Shepherds' initial reaction to the angel who visited them?(Luke 2:9)**
- They were excited
  - They were angry
  - They were upset
  - They were afraid
- 9. What did the angel tell the Shepherds?(Luke 2:10-12)**
- How to recognize the newborn Savior
  - To not be afraid
  - The location of the newborn Savior
  - All of the above
- 10. Who visited Joseph, Mary, and Jesus on the night He was born?(Luke 2:15-16)**
- Shepherds
  - Wisemen
  - Shepherds, wise men, and all those dwelling in Bethlehem
  - Shepherds and wise men
- 11. The Wisemen traveled from the \_\_\_\_\_ to Jerusalem.(Matthew 2:1)**
- North
  - South
  - East
  - West
- 12. Who diligently asked the Wisemen about baby Jesus?(Matthew 2:7)**
- King David
  - King Elias
  - King Herod
  - King Pilate
- 13. Why did this man (Question 12) want to learn more about Jesus' whereabouts (Matthew 2:16)**
- He wanted to kill Jesus
  - He wanted to worship Jesus
  - He wanted to ask Jesus to be the heir to his throne
  - He wanted Jesus to heal him
- 14. What guided the Wisemen to find Jesus?(Matthew 2:9)**
- A star
  - An angel
  - A dove
  - Their dreams
- 15. What gift did the Wisemen NOT give Jesus?(Matthew 2:11)**
- Frankincense
  - Gold
  - Silver
  - Myrrh
- 16. What was Jesus' approximate age when the Wisemen presented Him with gifts?(Matthew 2:16)**
- 10 years old
  - less than 2 years old
  - 6 years old
  - 12 years old

