

# THE PROGRESSOR

## DECEMBER 2023

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



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

813-248-8101/nmztampa.com

REV. LARRY ROUNDTREE II, PASTOR

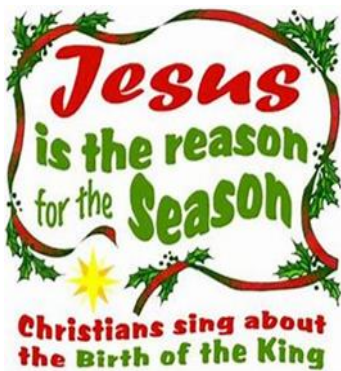


(PRAISING GOD FOR ANOTHER YEAR OF CELEBRATION)

121<sup>ST</sup> CHURCH ANNIVERSARY PHOTO

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>CONTENT</b>	<b>PAGE</b>	<b>CONTENT</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
Table of Contents	2	Health Awareness	19-21
Words From Our Pastor	3	Bereavement	21-22
It's Newsey	4-5	Lost Loved Ones	23
<b>SPECIAL FEATURE</b>		Financial Planning	23-24
121 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary	6-7	Sunday Church Nursery	24
It's Our History	7-9	Worship and Arts	25-26
Something To Think About	9	Sunday School	26-27
Food For The Soul	10	Student Services	27
Breaking News	11-12	Youth News	28
<b>MINISTRIES AND MORE</b>		Married Couples	29
Deacons	12	Security	29
Deaconess and Ministers Wives	12-13	Senior Women	30
Brotherhood	13	Women's Intermediate	30-31
Hospitality	14	Clym's Clothes Closet	31-32
Pulpit Aide	14	Food Pantry	32
Evangelism	15	Social Services	33
Pastor's Aide	15-16	Trunk a Treat	33
Usher Board #1	17	<b>FUN PAGES</b>	34-35
Usher Board #2	17-18	<b>Memorable Scenes</b>	36



## “JESUS, OH! WHAT A WONDERFUL CHILD”

Jesus, Jesus, Oh what a wonderful child  
 Jesus, Jesus, So lowly meek and mild  
 New life, new hope, new joy he brings  
 Won't you listen to the angels sing  
 Glory, glory, glory, To the new born king  
 He was herald by the angels, Born in a lowly manger  
 The virgin Mary was his mother, And Joseph was his  
 earthly father, Oh, Three wise men came from afar,  
 They were guided by a shining star  
 To see King Jesus where he lay, In a manger filled with hay



## **WORDS FROM OUR PASTOR**

**"O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good; his mercy endures forever"! - 1 Chronicles 16:34**

**As I reflect on God's goodness to the New Mt. Zion church family throughout 2023, my soul erupts in praise and thanksgiving! God's favor has been evident as He continues to enlarge, equip, and empower the ministry of this church.**

**We have welcomed record numbers of new members into our family in the past two years and the growth is giving no indication of slowing down: to God be the glory! Our ministries are growing; our mission impact is growing, our finances are growing...to God be the glory! Most importantly, the Kingdom of God is growing, as new souls are coming to Christ by faith and being baptized in the family of faith: TO GOD BE THE GLORY!!!**

**In addition to the gratitude we should possess, we must also realize the responsibility that is attached to the blessings we are experiencing. More than ever before, it is necessary for us to understand and accept our obligation to maintain and enhance what God has entrusted to us. Just as Jesus related in his parable about the talents in Matthew 25, we are all stewards of the gifts that God has given us; we are required to develop our gifts for His glory and for the good of our brothers and sisters in Christ.**

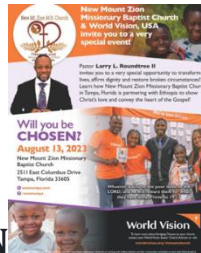
**Let us boldly face the future with great faith that God will continue to strengthen this church to change the world through the love of Christ, one soul at a time!**

**Because HE Lives**

**Pastor Larry Roundtree II**

# IT'S NEWSEY

On the 4th Sunday, May 28, 2023, Pastor called to the front of the Sanctuary the **Health Awareness Ministry and other Frontliners**. He **thanked them** for the continuous service they gave during the years of the Covid mandates. The CDC lifted the mandates on May 15. On Sunday, June 1, we entered without screening and having to wear masks. However, anyone desiring to wear a mask can continue to do so. Through the extreme years of Covid, we have survived.



## WORLD VISION

Two weeks prior to Sunday, August 13, Pastor Roundtree made an appeal to our church family to adopt children in Ethiopia. On Sunday, August 13 visitors from **World Vision** were in church to give an overview of their mission—CHOSEN. Rev. Burney Anderson, of **WORLD VISION**, shared the scripture from Luke 10: 33-35 on The Good Samaritan. With the scripture being an overview of the mission of the ministry, he shared the following about **WORLD VISION**: it is 70 years old; located in 100 countries; focuses on children in poverty; adopting one child will help four others in community; the children will choose us; the chosen party will be held on the upcoming Wednesday; the child who chooses you will write you a letter of introduction.



## DAUGHTERS OF ZION

### Reported By Coordinator Sis. Kandace Johnson

"Daughters of Zion," a dance ministry led by Sister Kandace Nunn Johnson, represents a spiritual initiative within a community to express devotion and worship through dance. On September 9th, the ministry held a Praise Dance workshop titled "A Dance Revival" to enhance their dance worship techniques and explore deeper meanings behind their praise and worship through movement. In Isaiah 52:7 (NIV), it says, "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, 'Your God reigns!'" This verse signifies the beauty and significance of those who spread the message of God's grace and salvation. The Daughters of Zion dance ministry serves as a way to embody and share this divine message with others through praise dance.

"A Dance Revival" was a wonderful experience with guest facilitator Tankia Walton. She added a perspective and expertise of dance to the workshop. The workshop also emphasized exploring the 'why' beyond their praise, dance, and worship, which signifies a deeper introspection into their expressions' spiritual significance and intentions. Proverbs 16:3 (NIV) states, "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans." DOZ ministry is committed to seeking knowledge and improving their skills to serve God. In conclusion, this workshop has equipped and prepared the ministry for future ministering in 2024. Daughters of Zion dance ministry is learning and growing with a pursuit of deeper understanding and preparation to do the Lord's work through Worship Arts. If you are interested in joining this ministry, please contact Sister Kandace Johnson for additional information at [mzdaughtersofzion@gmail.com](mailto:mzdaughtersofzion@gmail.com)  
This is "A Dance Revival," we are glad about it and all God is doing!



### **WHAT'S HAPPENING?**

If you are not being kept informed on what is happening at New Mount Zion, you need to check with our church's office to make sure your media contact has been provided. Information concerning our church is shared weekly via Robocall, Email, Facebook, and Sunday Worship.  
Don't be left out--connect with your church family.



### **THE BODY OF CHRIST IS GROWING AT NEW MOUNT ZION...**

Each month new members are posted in the weekly announcements and are welcomed to our church family on the Fourth Sunday of each month. On Sunday, October 29, 2023, new members, joining in 2022 and 2023, were welcomed with a luncheon after 10AM Worship honoring them. We are blessed to have so many new members to join and become active participants.

### **A NEW AND IMPROVED LOOK PROPOSED**



The above photo represents the proposed rendering of the pulpit and the choir stand. More information will be shared in the future.





## SPECIAL FEATURE

### **New Mount Zion Celebrates 121 Years Reported By Hospitality Ministry President Sis. Monica Narain**



The Hospitality Ministry had the pleasure of spearheading the 121st Church Anniversary this year. Our ministry was guided by our theme: Growing Stronger. Growing Deeper. Reaching Higher. Our scripture: Isaiah 40:31--But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”

Our anniversary fundraiser kicked off with Kona Ice. From September 17-October 29 Kona Ice donated 25% of their proceeds toward our anniversary celebration.

Other fundraisers included T-shirt sales and a Friday night fish fry. The fish was hot and hit the spot!



On October 8<sup>th</sup>, our church celebrated Friends and Family/ Food Truck Sunday. Our souls were filled as we were blessed with a powerful message from Rev. Hugh Strafford of Friendship M. B. Church. With filled souls, members took to the life center parking lot to fill their bellies where five different food trucks were there. From seafood, to soul food, from chicken and waffles to steak and rice and BBQ; our food trucks were a hit! Friends and Family/ Food Truck Sunday was truly good for the body and food for the soul.

Our 121st Anniversary Service was a unity service which took place on October 15<sup>th</sup>. The Unity Choir filled the church with praise; then our very own Pastor Roundtree punctuated the service with his dynamic sermon reminding us that no matter the circumstances- Just keep the faith! After service, members were given a meal to go. The Hospitality Committee hoped you were able to partake and enjoyed the activities that took place throughout the Anniversary Celebration. We thank you for your support and commitment to New Mount Zion M.B. Church.



Sunday morning the congregation left the Lily White Temple and walked seventeen blocks to this present building. The air was filled with excitement and joy as we reached our destination. Just imagine a new, large brick building with air conditioning. On the west side of our church building, we had a new parsonage that was attached and furnished. Inside the church were new pews and an organ was purchased. The church was renamed "The New Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church." A Federal Credit Union was instituted and maintained for two years. Before Rev. Calhoun's departure, the mortgage was burned on March 17, 1968. Rev. Bobby Jones accepted the "Call" on July 28, 1968 and served until the mid-seventies. Membership increased; the church's first mini-bus was purchased; a home was purchased in the River Grove Subdivision on Orangewood Terrace to become the parsonage. After Rev. Jones departure, Rev. Mims served as interim Pastor. New Mount Zion would have the same experience of needing new pastors twice by 1988 as Rev. F. Goynes and Rev. Lester Carter resigned. Rev. Frank Williams served as interim pastor during that time. In March 1988, Rev. Zachary Hudson accepted the "call." Rev. Hudson focused on Preaching, Christian Education, and Leadership. Under his leadership between the years of 1989 and 1992, Phases One and Two of the church's interior renovations were completed; Ethnic Mural unveiled; five parcels of land were purchased for future expansion; a Studio Grand Piano was purchased; four additional staff members were hired. Rev. Hudson resigned in 1994. Upon Rev. Hudson's resignation, Rev. Foster Garvin, Sr. served as a capable and caring interim pastor. The Rev. Walter James Williams followed the leadership of the Holy Spirit and became our pastor on May 1995. Rev. Williams adopted as his theme, "Raising The Standards." Pastor Williams sincerely desired that New Mt. Zion achieve spiritual excellence and spiritual growth. He stressed witnessing as a way of life for every Christian. His emphasis was worship, prayer, and intensive Bible Study. Through Mid-Week Family Night, Prayer and Bible Study classes were developed not only for the adults but for our youth and children, too. There was a place for the entire family. New Members Orientation was restructured using a study guide written by Pastor Williams; a Homiletics class was offered to enhance Christian growth; six Evangelism classes graduated and became active; the Shepherd Men's Ministry was organized to promote Bible Study through fellowshiping by way of playing basketball. This ministry served as a means of attracting young men to Christ. The adult choirs were combined and became the "Voices of Praise." Quarterly business meeting was established; monthly staff meetings; singles and couple ministries were organized; paid security guards; full time male and female custodians; purchase of a 57 passenger church bus; refurbishing of church vans; 13 deacons were ordained; licensed six ministers and ordained two ministers.

Pastor Williams' leadership brought into fruition our vision of a family life center. This new two-story 10,000+ square foot addition includes: an elevator, choir room; computer lab; church networking; new offices, Pastor's private suite, five additional classrooms; nurses station, and a state of the art kitchen with large walk-in freezer and refrigerator; ice maker, commercial stove and oven, two deep fryers, etc. The dining room seats 250; three stages; two 27" monitors with power point presentation satellite and video projection. Also, purchased three additional lots; exterior cross with signage; landscape ungrades; benches and painted the exterior; a new marquee was added. Rev. Williams served for 17 years and resigned due to declining health. Thus far, Pastor Williams was the longest serving Pastor. Pastor Larry Roundtree accepted the "Call."

One Sunday morning, I was seated on the west side of the sanctuary. As I looked to the west side, I saw this stately gentleman walking in sharp strides toward the pulpit. Immediately in my mind, I thought, "look at David." Much to my amazement, it was Rev. Larry Roundtree II. He delivered a hair-raising message entitled, "God Did It." WOW!!! He can preach and sing. His theme for our church is "Changing the World Through the Love of Christ One Soul at a Time." God is still in the blessing business. Pastor Roundtree's accomplishments are as follows: revamped the by-laws; implemented a church administrator concept; expanded church music instrumentation; upgraded audio visual



capabilities, implemented virtual communications of Facebook, YouTube, Zoom, Conference Calls; revisited parking; purchased youth house; purchased clothes closet house; purchased additional lots near the church; remodeled the kitchen; partnered with community agencies to distribute Covid vaccines; implemented our church's food pantry; implemented conference line prayer; and much more. Thank God for His abundant blessings for 121 years.

LET THE CHURCH SHOUT A-MEN.



## **SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT**

**Submitted By Sis. Marilyn Washington**

### **“Why Is Giving Emphasized in the Christian Faith?”**

Our God is a giving God. He is a God of abundance (John 10:10; James 1:5; Psalm 103:8; Isaiah 55:1-7; 2 Corinthians 9:8; Romans 5:20), and He loves to give. He sacrificed willingly on the cross and then invited us into fullness of life. As His children, we are called to imitate Him (Ephesians 5:1). Our generosity in giving is a demonstration of God's character and a response to what He has done for us.

Christians are a light to the world (Matthew 5:14-16). As we become more and more who God has called us to be – more like Him – through the process of sanctification, we reflect God more and more. We become more loving, more gracious, and, yes, more giving. Because God is generous, we are also called to be generous. Generosity not only points others to God, it is an appropriate response to what God has done for us. “To whom much has been given, much more will be expected.” This has become a common phrase in Western society. Its biblical roots are in Luke 12:48. Because we have been so freely loved, we now love others (John 13:34). Because we have been forgiven, we forgive others (Matthew 18:21-35). Our response to God's abundance with us is to share that abundance with others. When we appropriately receive God's generosity, it humbles us. We recognize that we are not worthy of His gift. Out of gratefulness, we become more gracious with others. We begin to learn the heart of God and want to be more like Him. Generosity has positive effects in human relationships. When one person gives freely to another, the recipient often “passes forward” the gift. In the Christian life, the impetus is much greater. Jesus taught us that “it is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35). Not only does our giving demonstrate God's character to the world, it results in increased faith for us. When we are willing to give, we declare that our faith does not depend on material possessions. Instead, we show that our faith is in God, who is always faithful to provide (1 Kings 17:7-16). Christians are giving people, and, in giving, they lose nothing. As Bunyan wrote, “A man there was, tho' some did count him mad; the more he cast away the more he had.” When we give, we empty ourselves in order to be filled again by God. “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you” (Luke 6:38). <https://www.gotquestions.org/Christian-giving.html>





## **ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT**

**Reported By Sis. Alfredia Mulkey**

Greetings, NMZ church family! It's time to dive into the exciting and impactful events that have shaped our community over the past few months.

### **Unveiling Our Partnership with World Vision**

August marked a significant milestone as we unveiled our partnership with World Vision on the 13th. The response was overwhelming, with 89 sponsorships secured on our launch day and an impressive annual contribution of \$41,652 for this noble cause. The heartwarming news is that our church sponsored four members from the generous donations collected. What's more, we had additional sponsorships registered after our launch date, bringing us to our goal of 100 sponsorships.

### **Family and Friends Day: A Day of Togetherness**

October 8th was a day of celebration as we observed our annual Family and Friends Day. The house was packed, and we received an inspiring message from Rev. Hugh Strafford of Friendship M.B. Church of Dundee, FL. Post-services, we enjoyed fellowship, delectable food from food trucks, and music in the lively ambiance of the Life Center parking lot.

### **121st Church Anniversary: A Time of Unity**

Our 121st Church Anniversary on October 15th was marked by a heartwarming unity service at 10 am. The celebration saw an impressive turnout, and we shared a sumptuous lunch after the services. While we continue to receive funds for the church anniversary fundraiser, the net total thus far stands at an impressive \$23,846.11.

### **Maintenance Milestones**

In the realm of maintenance:

- We've taken care of minor repairs, including the Sanctuary, Life Center, Clothes Closet, and the 29-passenger van to rectify repair issues.
- The equipment in the AV area underwent an upgrade with hard-wiring and meticulous cable tagging. Additionally, we've constructed a protective box on the balcony wall to safeguard the wiring.
- Exciting news! We've replaced our security cameras. This comprehensive upgrade involves HD quality cameras which will enhance our ongoing security efforts to protect our church and its surroundings.
- Our Sanctuary is slowly undergoing a transformation. A major highlight of the month was the completion of our large-scale project—painting the sanctuary walls and removing the old wood paneling on the outside of the balcony wall.

### **Human Resources: Nurturing Talent**

In the realm of Human Resources:

- Effective October 1st, we welcomed Rachel Touze as our new Financial Secretary. Rachel brings her expertise in Information Technology to the role. Sis. Juanita Seawright will continue to support as a contractor as needed.

- On the musical front, we are currently in the process of seeking replacements for our Lead Musician and Drummer positions.

Stay tuned for more exciting updates and events in the coming months as we continue to grow and thrive as a church family. We're grateful for your unwavering support and look forward to more remarkable achievements ahead!

## **MINISTRIES & MORE**



### **DEACONS**

#### **Reported By Vice Chairman Dea. Patrick Andrews**

We want all members to know the Deacons are available to assist you with prayer when there is a need. If you are unable to attend Communion, we will come to your home and provide fellowship/communion. The Deacons are servants in the church and are willing to assist our members. During the Fifth Sundays, we have a table set up to assist all members, who do not know their Deacons, to meet and greet each other. We encourage all members to stop by and meet their Deacons.

The Deacons send a special thank you to the Deaconess and Ministers Wives Ministry for the Appreciation Dinner honoring us. We are appreciative of the special program and the special gifts given to us. To God Be The Glory for your thinking of us.



### **THE DEACONESS AND MINISTERS WIVES**

#### **Reported By Sis. Mary Priestler, President**

Our Ministry is still “on duty” to serve this present age, our calling to fulfill. Oh, may it all our power engage to do the Master’s Will. Our ministry is standing ready to assist whenever and wherever we can. Our work involves preparing communion, assisting baptismal candidates in dressing for baptism, laundering the communion tablecloths and baptism clothing, welcoming new members that join, showing support for the bereaved families with cards, attendance at homegoing services, and other duties as assigned.

One of our highlights was to lead the church in showing appreciation to the Deacons of New Mt. Zion. They were honored with dinner and gifts as the church said “thank you” for the work that they do. This celebration was the vision of Sister Nell Kimbrough. She expressed that it was needful to say “thank you” to them while they were alive and could hear the accolades. She selected a committee of Deaconess to assist her in hosting this grand occasion.



(The tables were set and ready for our guests at the Deacons' Appreciation Program.)

We praise God for the privilege and opportunity to serve for the upbuilding of God's kingdom. We welcomed a new member, Sister Evelina Hopson to our Ministry. Sister Shelia Wade and Sister Bonnie Lewis opened the trunk with treats during our Fall Festival. A joyous fellowship was had by all in attendance.

Our ministry strives to live out the challenge of I Corinthians 15:58, *"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."*

**Deaconess Motto:** LORD, help me to be: A mind through which Christ thinks, A voice through which Christ speaks, A heart through which Christ loves, A hand through which Christ helps.



## **THE BROTHERHOOD**

### **Reported By President Deacon Kelvin DeCoursey**

The Brotherhood had a busy August. On August 5, 2023, members of the Brotherhood Ministry (and their guests) participated in the Annual Brotherhood Prayer Breakfast in Bartow, Florida. On August 25-26, 2023, New Mount Zion hosted the Brotherhood Unity Day and Deaconess Summit/President's Inaugural Program. More recently, our very own Deacon Bobby Priestler gave leadership as the Brotherhood participated (along with the Deacon's Ministry), in New Mount Zion's Trunk or Treat.

**NOTE:** Recently the United States, as a Nation, celebrated Veteran's Day. A day to say thank you to the men and women who served and are serving in the Armed Services: Air Force; Army; Coast Guard; Marine Corps; Navy and The Space Force. At 11AM Worship, Pastor Roundtree asked our active and non-active armed services members to come to the front for special recognition. Thank you all for your service. A Veteran is defined as a person who has a long experience in a particular field; a person who has served in the military. No matter the length of time, in which one accepts Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, all Christians are Veterans. Therefore, if you are a former or current member of the Armed Services or did not serve in the military, you deserve to be saluted because we are all members of God's Army and are doing our part to Save the World through the love of Christ one Soul at a time. Look forward for more opportunities to serve the remainder of 2023 and in 2024.







## Reported By Vice President Sis. Pat Hall

### Evangelism: Why Should I Share the Gospel with Others?

To answer this question, the first thought is to give the obvious answer. We should share Christ because we are commanded to do so in *The Great Commission*. **Matthew 28:18-20** documents where Jesus told the eleven disciples that authority had been given to them, and that they should go and make disciples. However, there are several other reasons as to why we should share the gospel.

Since Jesus has given us this same commandment that He gave the disciples, and we should be obedient. The connection between love for Jesus and obedience to Him is a recurring theme in the apostle John's writings. **1 John 5:3** says "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome."

Another reason is we understand from the Bible how horrible hell is to the unbeliever. When we recall the account of Lazarus and the rich man in **Luke 16:19-31**, the rich man was suffering in hell. So much so that he wanted "Father Abraham" in heaven, to send Lazarus back to earth to warn his brothers to repent so that they would never join him in hell. We should not want ANYONE to go to hell. It's horrible and it's permanent.

Who has the Holy Spirit placed on your heart for you to share Christ? Depend on the Holy Spirit to prepare their heart. We are praying for you to walk in obedience.



## PASTOR'S AIDE MINISTREE

*"Let brotherly love continue."* Hebrews 13:1

Pastor's message on Sunday, November 12, 2023, using the above scripture, was so fitting – loving one another as Christ loves us all. The past 6 months – since our last *Progressor* edition – have been very busy at New Mt. Zion. All of our ministries have been diligently working to "change the world through the love of Christ one soul at a time" by reaching out to show love. Thank you, New Mt. Zion, for joining Pastor and Lady Roundtree and the Pastor's Aide Ministry (PAM) in July as we shared our love with our former First Lady, Sister Lena Williams and her family for an afternoon dinner. It was a blessed time of sharing.

Although on vacation in early September, Pastor Roundtree, as the Undershepherd of this flock, found time to share in the Homegoing Services of members. He returned to the pulpit to

continue the push alerting the members to prepare for the church's 121<sup>st</sup> Anniversary on October 15<sup>th</sup>.



A very important date was Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. Thank you, New Mt. Zion, for joining PAM as we celebrated our pastor's 45<sup>th</sup> birthday. We sang 'Happy Birthday to him and celebrated with tokens of love, punch and cake after the 11am service.

Back to October. On Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>, Family and Friends Day was held, followed by the Anniversary the next week. The month of October is also "Clergy Appreciation Month." New Mt. Zion showered the best Pastor around with love on Sunday, October 22, 2023. Thanks to PAM members Sisters Lo Berry and Carolyn Williams, for first of all, sharing from the Word in Isaiah 44:3-4, *For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessings upon thine offspring: and they shall spring up as among the grass as willows by the water courses.* They presented Pastor with a plaque engraved with, "May the Lord pour out His blessings on you today and always," and other tokens of love.

Thanks to Deacon Darrious Bryant and his words of appreciation for "the best pastor around," and the certificate presented to Pastor Roundtree with reference to Romans 10:14, *How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they hear without a preacher?*

Family, Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> was Thanksgiving Day. We hope you all had a blessed and thankful time with family. But, on Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, Lady Sameya Roundtree celebrated her birthday. We celebrated her on Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup>.

As we go into this Holy holiday season of Christmas and New Year's, may we continue to pray for those who are less fortunate, the sick and shut-in among us, as well as those who are mourning. Let us just pray for the conditions of the world.

Let us stay focused on the reason for the season.

>>>>>>>>>>

Hebrews 13: 7-9

Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation. <sup>8</sup> Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever. <sup>9</sup> Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines.

**"WE MUST HOLD TO GOD'S UNCHANGING HANDS"**



## USHER BOARD #1

### Reported By President Sis. Janice Sturks

Psalm 146:1-3—"Praise ye the Lord, Praise the Lord O my soul; While I live will I praise the Lord: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being; put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help." Our ministry send out birthday blessings to the following members: **August:** Sister Carrie Terrell, Deacon Willie Grant, Sister Janice Sturks, Deacon Patrick Andrew; **September:** Sister Annie Preston; **October:** Sister Rhonda Joyner, Deacon Sutton Page, Brother Robert Cunningham; **December:** Sister Aisley Conley, Brother Ernest Higginbotham; Our ministry knows: Psalm 124 "We never would have made it without the Lord! Therefore, let us praise God for his present." We are sending up prayers for our honorary and sick members: Sister Toynetta Williams, Sister Carrie Terrell, Sister Francis Everette, Sister Annie Preston, Sister Retta Page, Sister Linda Mitchell; Deacon Willie Grant, Deacon Sutton Page and Brother Dan Mitchell. Because we are ushers, it is our belief: "For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tent of the wicked (Psalm 84-10). Usher Board #1 is still looking for smiling faces with the love of Christ. We meet Thursday before the First Sunday and we usher on the First Sunday of each month 8am and 11 am.

I would like to thank each of our members for your services this year 2023. It is my prayer that the Lord continues to bless each of you as this 2023 year ends and in the new year of 2024. I

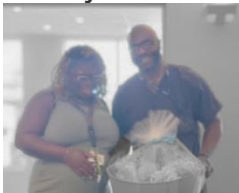
## USHER BOARD #2

### Reported By Vice President Sis. CaSandra Washington

*For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.*  
PSALM 84:10

We welcome our new members: Wanda Powe, Aaron Berry and Charise Dixie.

A baby shower was held on August 8<sup>th</sup> for our Captain John Reed and his lovely wife Lauran Reed.



A huge gift basket was created by our very own Sister Gloria Jacobs and filled with baby goodies contributed by all members of Usher Board #2. Congratulations to Mr. and









## HEALTH AWARENESS TEAM

Reported By President Sis. Wilma Garvin

On Saturday, July 7, 2023, the Deacons and HAT were finally able to present a Human Trafficking presentation after months of delays and obstacles; it finally took place in the Family Life Center. After getting the word out in every possible way, the response was excellent. The audience was very responsive with testimonies and tips on what to be aware. Rev. Leon Gallon stopped by and gave input. There was a lite lunch box provided to go. Praise the Lord for shining on the event. On Sunday July 30, 2023, we took part in the summer Ministry Fair; Blood Pressures were taken with health literature and fruit given. We recruited a new member, Sister Sabrina Nelson Winters. Welcome!

## FOR YOUR HEALTH

**Submitted Sis. Joyce McCray, DNP, MSN/Ed, RN**

November was Diabetes Awareness Month; so we would like to share the article below with our church family and others.

### **What is Diabetes?**

With diabetes, your body either doesn't make enough insulin or can't use it as well as it should.

Diabetes is a chronic (long-lasting) health condition that affects how your body turns food into energy.

Your body breaks down most of the food you eat into sugar (glucose) and releases it into your bloodstream. When your blood sugar goes up, it signals your pancreas to release insulin.

Insulin acts like a key to let the blood sugar into your body's cells for use as energy.

With diabetes, your body doesn't make enough insulin or can't use it as well as it should.

When there isn't enough insulin or cells [stop responding to insulin](#), too much blood sugar stays in your bloodstream. Over time, that can cause serious health problems, such as heart disease, vision loss, and kidney disease.

There isn't a cure yet for diabetes, but losing weight, eating healthy food, and being active can really help. Other things you can do to help:

- Take medicine as prescribed.
- Get [diabetes self-management education and support](#).
- Make and keep health care appointments.
- About **38 million** US adults have diabetes, and 1 in 5 of them don't know they have it.
- Diabetes is the **eighth leading cause** of death in the United States.

- Diabetes is the **No. 1** cause of kidney failure, lower-limb amputations, and adult blindness.
- In the last **20 years**, the number of adults diagnosed with diabetes has more than **doubled**.

### **Types of Diabetes**

There are three main types of diabetes: [type 1](#), [type 2](#), and [gestational diabetes](#) (diabetes while pregnant).

#### **Type 1 Diabetes**

Type 1 diabetes is thought to be caused by an autoimmune reaction (the body attacks itself by mistake). This reaction stops your body from making insulin. Approximately 5-10% of the people who have diabetes have type 1. Type 1 diabetes can be diagnosed at any age, and symptoms often develop quickly. If you have type 1 diabetes, you'll need to take insulin every day to survive. Currently, no one knows how to prevent type 1 diabetes.

#### **Type 2 Diabetes**

With type 2 diabetes, your body doesn't use insulin well and can't keep blood sugar at normal levels. About 90-95% of people with diabetes have type 2. It develops over many years and is usually diagnosed in adults (but more and more in children, teens, and young adults). You may not notice any symptoms, so it's important to get your blood sugar tested if you're at [risk](#). Type 2 diabetes can be prevented or delayed with healthy lifestyle changes, such as:

- Losing weight.
- Eating healthy food.
- Being active.

#### **Gestational Diabetes**

Gestational diabetes develops in pregnant women who have never had diabetes. If you have gestational diabetes, your baby could be at higher risk for health problems. Gestational diabetes usually goes away after your baby is born. However, it increases your risk for type 2 diabetes later in life. Your baby is more likely to have obesity as a child or teen and develop type 2 diabetes later in life.

#### **Prediabetes**

In the United States, about 98 million adults—more than 1 in 3—have [prediabetes](#). More than 8 in 10 of them don't know they have it. With prediabetes, blood sugar levels are higher than normal, but not high enough for a type 2 diabetes diagnosis. Prediabetes raises your [risk](#) for type 2 diabetes, heart disease, and stroke. But there's good news. If you have prediabetes, a CDC-recognized [lifestyle change program](#) can help you take healthy steps to reverse it.

## **MENTAL HEALTH**

### **Reported By Sis. Terrell Morrison “Holiday Depression & Stress”**

The holiday season is a time full of joy, cheer, parties, and family gatherings. However, for many people, it is a time of self-evaluation, loneliness, and anxiety about an uncertain future.

#### **What Causes Holiday Blues?**

Many factors can cause “holiday blues”: stress, fatigue, unrealistic expectations, over-commercialization, financial constraints, and the inability to be with one's family and friends. The demands of shopping,

parties, family reunions, and house guests also contribute to feelings of tension. People who do not become depressed may develop other stress responses, such as: headaches, excessive drinking, over-eating, and difficulty sleeping. There are ways of coping with stress and depression during the holidays.

### Helpful Hints to Combat the “Holiday Blues”

- ★ Keep realistic expectations. Pace yourself. Organize your time. Make a list and prioritize the important activities. Don’t put the entire focus on just one day...spread out the activities to increase enjoyment.
- ★ Remember the holiday season does not dismiss reasons for feeling sad or lonely. Take time to express your feelings and emotions either verbally or in writing.
- ★ Life brings changes. Focus on the future. Enjoy today in your own way.
- ★ Volunteer some time to help others.
- ★ Enjoy **FREE** activities such as window shopping or driving around to look at holiday decorations.
- ★ Try something new.
- ★ Spend time with supportive and caring people. Connect with old friends and make new friends.
- ★ Save time for **YOURSELF!** Let go and let others share in the planning and executing of activities.

HELP is available...

- If you are or someone you know is experiencing a mental health emergency, call 9-1-1 for immediate assistance. Also, The Crisis Center of Tampa Bay offers free crisis counselor/support, 24/7/365, just dial 2-1-1.



## **BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY**

### **Reported By President Sis. Jean Collins**

Isaiah 26:3 “You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.”

Grief. It’s all-consuming at times, like a tsunami that rushes in, destroying everything in its path. Those in grief can wake up with every intention of having a good day, when suddenly out of nowhere, we’re flooded with memories and tears of a love one.

Everything about the holidays seems harder when someone you love is missing. Someone special like:

**Sister Maybell C. Jackson**  
**Sister Luvator Henry Nelson**  
**Rev. Willie Kimbrough**  
**Deacon Lawrence James Dixon, Sr.**  
**Brother Duncan Edward Andrews**  
**Deaconess Ella Mae Banks**  
**Brother Donald Clark, Sr.**  
**Sister Annie Jelks**

Remember in the past, you use to make plans, visualizing the way you want to set the table, food to cook, the decorations placed and your families hustling and bustling coming in together. You even know some family members are going to be late but you want that time together with your family and friends to be fun. That's why it's important to us, the Bereavement Ministry, to reach out to family members. With a caring call, visiting if permitted, or just sending a card, we let them know we are thinking of them. We realize grief doesn't end just because the calendar shows a particular date. Instead of looking forward to Thanksgiving and Christmas, you will find yourself quietly wondering how you're going to make it through without that loved one. The holidays for you won't be the most wonderful time of the year! Especially when they are the first you won't be able to share with your Loved One. It leaves you with a broken heart.

Zionites, you know the holidays are coming closer and closer. You can even hear music in the malls; see displays in the store windows; decorations in your neighbor yards and the air even seems a little cooler. But for those who grieve, the holidays come too fast causing your grieving to emerge unexpectedly. You feel a sense of anxiety. Nevertheless, you still wonder how you're going to make it. It's okay to pause any festivities for as long as you need to process what you're feeling. God knows we lack peace when we've lost our Loved Ones.

Zionites, sometimes we forget Jesus visits us in our times of grief and despair. He is full of compassion and He sees and knows that we are hurting. He is there with us in our grief. God gives peace, unlike anything this world can offer us. It's His peace that watches over us. Even though we are hurting severely, He lets us know that things are going to be alright even though we are hurting severely. So, what do we do as we see the holidays approaching, Zionites, when some of our grieving families anxious thoughts seem to never go away? God tells us to cast that anxiety on Him, that burden on Him. It's like when we are learning to walk all over again, do we give up? No! We reach out our hand and lift each other up again and again with God's help. If we are loving and caring to our NMZ members who have lost loved ones, we know that our Heavenly Father will never get tired of picking us up when we are burden down or just holding us close whenever we need Him too. God is there 24/7 and that's good news!

As a final point, Zionites, when we cry, God gathers each and every one of us who are grieving. He tells us in 1 Peter 5:7- "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." Even when we don't feel like we can hold on any longer, it is so comforting to know that God is our rock, our refuge, and our stronghold.

Finally, when you feel like you cannot handle the holidays, Zionites, slip away and let God comfort you with this **Prayer**:



Lord, you know those who are hurting right now. We know you care because you are our Heavenly Father. God, I thank you for giving us comfort when we hurt. Help us remember we are not alone as we grieve. Help us cling to You when we feel despair when we miss those we have lost. Father, show us how to take refuge in You when our hearts are devastated. We know you understand. We lift up each person grieving this Holiday Season right now, Lord, comfort them. We pray this in Your Son's Jesus' name. Amen

*Have A Joyous Christmas And A Happy New Year*



## LOST LOVED ONES MINISTRY

### Reported By Minister Ron and Sis. Gloria Thomas

This the day the LORD has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it. (Psalms 118:24).

We have a Grief Share meeting at our Church every other Thursday night. At this meeting, even though we didn't shed any tears, hearts were heavy, and we could feel it. We pray for everyone dealing with grief; it is not easy to walk in sorrow, but it is a part of life. We will not understand everything that God is doing in our lives; even His disciples were confused, and they had Jesus right there with them. We have to choose to pursue Him in the midst of confusion, and our grief will get better with time and God. Our ministry is thankful to God for allowing us to relaunch and meet the needs of members who lost loved ones before we reassembled as a church family. Now, we continue to be a blessing to each other as members go through the grieving process by sharing their emotional stress of death swallowing up their loved ones.

This ministry meets twice a month (or individually as requested) to meet the needs of members and non-members who have voiced a concern to aid them through their grieving process. If you have lost a loved one and would like to meet with Christians who channel each other through the grieving process, please contact:

Minister Ron Thomas at 813-621-7175/email [Paulscontentment@yahoo.com](mailto:Paulscontentment@yahoo.com)

Sis. Gloria Hobbs Thomas at 813-621-7175/email [gloriahobbs82@yahoo.com](mailto:gloriahobbs82@yahoo.com)

In this ministry “We Are Changing The World Through The Love of Christ—One Soul At A Time” as we loving share, cry, listen, pray, and assist each other through grief. We are here to minister to each other.



## FINANCIAL PLANNING MINISTRY

### Consultants Bro. Arthur and Sis. Brenda Holley

### “WAYS TO FINANCIALLY PLAN FOR CHRISTMAS”

Whilst the latest tech or even a brand new pair of socks are usually welcome Christmas gifts, debt and financial worries are certainly not. But unfortunately, once the excitement of Christmas is over that's what some of us could face come January. The good news? With a bit of financial planning, you can avoid the dreaded 'Christmas debt hangover' and see in the new year stress-free. **Plan early** It's never too early to start planning for Christmas – and this includes your finances. From the ever-growing Christmas gift list to how many people you'll have round for Christmas dinner, getting organized and planning ahead can help you feel more in control from the get-go. The sooner you start saving, the



better. Put aside what you can afford each month in the run up to Christmas – it'll make setting your budget (see tip 2!) much less daunting. **Set a budget** This is probably the most important thing you can do to keep your festive spending in check. Once you know what you need to buy or budget for, it's time to be realistic about how much you can afford to spend. Write everything down to keep yourself on track and don't forget to include hidden costs, like food, decorations and travel to visit family and friends. Sticking to your budget is just as important as setting it. While it might be tempting to overspend – especially when you're in the festive spirit – you might regret it in the new year. **Keep paying your monthly bills** It might sound obvious, but don't forget to factor your monthly bills – such as your mortgage or rent, utility bills and phone contract – into your Christmas budget. If you get paid early in December, try to pay your regular bills as soon as you can so you don't spend the money on something else. If that's not possible, you could move it into a different account instead. **Look out for deals and freebies** Another benefit of planning ahead for Christmas is that you'll have time to shop around to find the best deals. This could mean switching from your regular supermarket to one that's better value or hunting down the cheapest place to buy the perfect gift for your loved one. Being a savvy shopper can make a big difference to your festive spending. Don't forget to look out for freebies too.

Source – [The Independent](#)

Please don't hesitate to contact this ministry for a confidential financial wellness check up at (813) 417-3440.



## SUNDAY CHURCH NURSERY

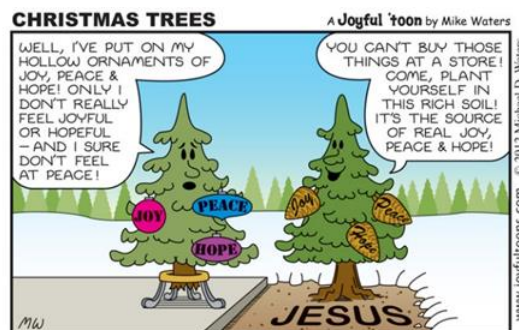
**Reported By Coordinator Sis. Sheila Wayne**

We are back in action in 2023 to watch your little ones! We are currently staffed for 11 A.M. service only until we have more volunteers to serve both services. Donations of snacks are always welcome. Types of snacks would include chips, raisins, fruit snacks, cereal bars, and cookies to name a few. Also, the little bottles of water are good for the children as well. We welcome you to use our services. Have your child come play, while you enjoy a peaceful worship service.

**We need helpers.** If you are interested in serving, please let me or one of the other nursery staff know. We welcome you! We look forward to seeing you and your children.

If you would like to serve or provide a donation, I can be reached at 813-7897217; [sheila95@msn.com](mailto:sheila95@msn.com).

>>>>>>>>>>



Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.  
- ROMANS 15:13 KJV



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

**We are rebuilding and growing:**

### **Music Ministry:**

Each Sunday has been blessed with spirit filled singing! We've seen unprecedented unity amongst our choirs and praise team! Family friends were blessed to have singers from all over the city to participate in our Family and Friends Day chorale! Over 50 voices came together to minister, "My Soul is a Witness" and "When Sunday Comes" featuring recording artist Fabiana McIntyre and Samuel Mitchell. We were tremendously blessed at our church anniversary with Ole time singing! Sis. Bonnie Lewis, powerfully ministered "I can go to God in prayer" and Sis. Khadijah Jenkins led us into worship with, "God will Open Doors." Our Unity Choir packed the choir stand lifting God with fervor, power and excellence! Our Clark Sisters tribute on 5th Sunday showcased the vocal stylings of our very own; Davani Beck, Khadijah Jenkins, La'Shanna Cook, Fabiana McIntyre, Trinika Lewis and Mya.



The ladies ministered with the singing of "Blessed and Highly Favored," "You Brought the Sunshine" and "Name It, Claim!" The Congregation has rave reviews of the vocal excellence executed by our "Zion Sisters."

While this year has been one of great transition, our Music Ministry has remained faithful to the call!



### **Daughters of Zion:**

Our Daughters of Zion are back and better than ever! Sis. Kandace Nunn Johnson led a powerful workshop weekend on September 9, 2023. The event was impactful as the guest facilitator, Tanika Walton, gave powerful instruction to help cultivate and educate our Liturgical and Praise Dancers! Young women from all across the county came out to participate and

demonstrate their gifts. We are tremendously blessed to have Sis. Johnson leading our young women and we are expecting great things from D.O.Z.



**Total Praise Mime Ministry:**

Sis. Valencia Holmes, with The Total Praise Mime Ministry, has shown grace and consistency as they've ministered all across the Tampa Bay Area! With over 20 young participants, Sis. Holmes has worked diligently to take our Mime Ministry to the next level! Their talents have been clearly recognized as they are in demand across the area! Some of their most recent ministering has been at Beulah Baptist Church and at the Gospel Music Workshop of America 30th Anniversary Concert! We were able to witness their tremendous talents right at home as a part of our Church 121<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Celebration! It is clear our young people are authentically worshipping and growing in God through this ministry!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL



**Reported By Superintendent Deacon Keith Powe**

Greetings NMZ Family...

Sunday school classes are in session.

Classes are conducted each Sunday at 9:30 AM or shortly after the 8 AM Worship Service. On Fifth Sundays, we meet at 8:30 AM. We invite you, your family, and friends to join us as we share in the Study of God's Word. If you are unable to attend in person, the Adult Class lesson is available on the church website or our YouTube channel.

The NMZ Sunday School Ministry was blessed to be a part of a multi-ministry partnership with World Vision. We have sponsored an eight year old child named Alemayhu Mamush. We are thankful to God for this blessed opportunity to share in the life of Alemayhu. We, also, connected with the community as the Sunday School teachers and other church ministries were well represented at the church "Fall Festival." It was truly a blessing to meet, greet, pray for and express the love of God in the local community. God's law is love was the focus of last quarter. We have studied; "Love completed, law fall short"; "Faith triumphs, law fails"; closing out with "Christ free's, law enslaves."

Our present quarter's (December) theme is "Christ Jesus is our Savior". The focus will be "Faith that pleases God," with studies in 1 Samuel, 2 Chronicles, Daniel, Proverbs, Isaiah, Habakkuk, Matthew, Luke, and Romans.

God is doing a mighty work in us and through us as we look forward to these upcoming lessons. Our Sunday school teachers are faithful servants of God leading our classes in the study of God's Holy Word. It is truly a blessing to be a part of the learning experience as the teachers and students share insights from our weekly lessons. We are also blessed and encouraged with a weekly brief lesson review from the Ministers of NMZ.

Praise God for Pastor Roundtree, his leadership and support for our Sunday School Ministry. We encourage you to join us as we are with God's grace, "Changing the world, through the love of Christ, one soul at a time."

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 3:18a



## **STUDENT SERVICES MINISTRY**

**Reported By President Sis. Kenya Jones**

**"Keep the Learning Going During the Winter Holidays"**

Teachers spend quite a bit of time reviewing and re-teaching material that students have forgotten during the holiday breaks. Many students lose reading and math skills during the holiday break and do not score as well on standardized tests as students who continue to learn during the break. Plainly put, each holiday break, a student isn't learning adds up and can have a long-term impact on overall performance in school.

During the Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks, the temptations are great for children to spend hours on their phones, browsing social media, watching television, or playing video games. With a little advanced planning, these breaks can be transformed into a time to stretch the mind, explore new hobbies, learn about responsibilities, and building on skills learned during the school year.

This doesn't mean that children should be doing math and reading worksheets to preserve the skills the entire time. Winter Break is the perfect time for children to discover that learning is fun and can happen anywhere. You want them to grasp that learning is fun and can happen anytime, anywhere, with handy materials, and not only based on the instruction of their classroom teacher. Winter Break is the perfect time to try out new things and explore interests that don't necessarily fit into the school curriculum; so, allow your children that opportunity to explore, while also learning at the same time.

Learning can take place whether you are taking a trip to visit family for the holidays or spending time at home in your own neighborhood. Be careful not to over-plan but do provide options. To avoid boredom, a child must learn to be motivated on his or her own, to a certain extent. They will never learn to develop their own resources if we as parents always step in with a quick solution when they say that they're bored. That's just not how it works. In addition, be sure to allow your child the opportunity to rest and just be a kid without the demands of being in school while on break. This will help to make their time away from school more relaxing and enjoyable.





{Pictured=Pastor prays for our youth and educators}

## **YOUTH NEWS**

### **Reported By Sis. Khadijah Jenkins**

New Mount Zion is excited about the wonderful Youth Ministry and its endeavors. Most recently the Youth Ministry was able to host two successful events, averaging over 200 youth from within the church and our local community. The Inaugural event, under the leadership of Sis. La’Shanna Cook and Sis. Khadijah Jenkins, was our 2023 Back to School Bash. It provided our students with supplies, also, hairstyles, haircuts, food, prizes and entertainment. In conjunction with the Women’s Intermediate Mission, 150 backpacks were donated to VPK, Elementary, Middle and High School students. Our Youth Leaders are determined to show our young people that they matter and can make a difference in God’s Kingdom! This has been displayed through the youth choir, ushers, and Total Praise Mime Ministry. Each month our young people have been able to lead our congregation in worship, scripture reading and prayer demonstrating their love for God and His church. Our youth have been able to share their gifts with their peers in the community as well; Mr. Kameron Straughn has begun his walk in evangelism inviting his classmates to come meet Jesus Christ for themselves. So far, over ten students from his school have visited our worship experiences and events. This is a testament to our youth ministry’s mission to change the world through the love of Christ, one “young” soul at a time. The Youth Leaders have commenced our quarterly fellowship nights. Our Holiday Movie Night was an awesome occasion filled with fellowship, laughter, and love. Over 125 young people, gathered in the Walter J. Williams Family Life Center to have a night of positive fun. We recognize that our young people could be anywhere, but they have decided to make Jesus their choice. We believe that it is our duty, as counselors, to provide them with outlets to enjoy themselves as they enjoy their faith. We want to make a lasting impact on our youth and make a tangible difference in the lives of the community we serve. In order to do this, we need your help, donations, volunteers, and your personal participation in youth events to help make a lasting impact on our young people. If you desire to become a part of the Youth Ministry or would like to make a donation, please contact Sis. La’Shanna Cook or Sis. Khadijah Jenkins through the church office.

>>>>>>>>>>

**Jesus loves the little children  
All the children of the world  
Red & yellow, black & white  
They're precious in his sight  
Jesus loves the little children of the world  
Jesus cares for all the children  
All the children of the world**







## **SENIOR WOMEN**

**Reported By President Sis. Linda Cook**

Hello New Mount Zion Family and Friends:

We are coming to the end of 2023, and we would like to give you more information of the things we have been doing: (1) attended the New Members Dinner introducing our ministry. (2) World Vision adoption of Chakiso Treda -we have a son! (3) did a musical called "Throw Back." Just to name a few, we share in the National, State and Congress #4s programs. Last, but not least, we gather together for relaxation at least once a month. We have recently submitted our "2024 FOCUSED GOALS." As Senior Women, we must always keep our minds on God's commandment by "worshipping, studying God's Word, helping the sick, shut-in as well as the homeless. We donate whatever and wherever needed by showing the greatest gift of all which is LOVE. In saying that, THANK YOU, MT. ZION, FOR YOUR HELP AND CONTINUED LOVE. You will be hearing from us soon. Please show your love by supporting us as we support you!

>>>>>>>>>>

**“Then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find what is known of God.  
For the Lord gives wisdom. Much learning and understanding  
Come from His mouth. He stores up perfect wisdom for those who are right with Him.  
He is a safe-covering to those who are right in their walk.  
(Proverbs 2:5-7)**



## **WOMEN’S INTERMEDIATE MISSION**

**Reported By President Sis. Sheila Wayne**

The WIA (Women’s Intermediate Auxiliary) is in full swing in 2023. Our ministry has returned to meeting monthly at the church on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month @ 10:00 A.M in the conference room. I, “Sheila Wayne,” am the President, and the Vice- President is LaTanya Hayes. We want to take our mission to the next level with the fellowship of Women ages 35-60. As we move into 2024, WIA will continue to serve at the church and start to work on the National and State District Congress in keeping God’s commandments of serving at home and aboard.

This year, WIA has provided sack bags for the Homeless; welcome gifts for all new members; a back-to-school drive, and our annual Prayer Breakfast.



We are Women In Action! We look forward to fellowshipping with you.



## **CLYM'S CLOTHES CLOSET**

**Reported By Coordinator Sis. Yvonne Douglas**

**"When I was naked, you clothed me."**

Clym's Clothes Closet, at New Mt. Zion Church on Columbus Drive, is open once per month to serve our church and community on the Monday after the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday for 3 hours. The hours are 10 a.m. till 1 p.m. All items in our clothes closet are free. The first hour is always hectic on distribution day and we love it. We always enjoy making our patrons happy. Social distancing is still being practiced. Our ministry participated in the Trunk or Treat at NMZ; we gave away 20 hygiene bags packed with toiletries; we won first place at the Spring Ministry Fair with our beautiful display which came with a donation and bragging rights. We have so many talented people associated with our clothes closet. Please call the church office at 813-248-8101 or Sister Douglas at 813-505-1108 if you have a donation. Do not leave donations on the porch or at the church. Someone will be at the clothes closet on Sundays for about 15 minutes after the afternoon benediction to receive your donation. Please call first. Random donations and drive-by donations are not taken at the church because we do not want to be overwhelmed with too many clothes and not enough space in our clothes closet to receive them. Donations can be brought to Deaconess meeting, Senior Mission meeting or Noon-Day Bible Class. Monetary donations are accepted to purchase toiletries. We have plenty of hangers and bags; so, do not include those with your donation. Sorting days are usually Wednesdays before the distribution from 1:30 until 4:30 p.m. That's also another opportunity to bring donations. Please call first so we will know you are coming. The display room is beautiful. The clothes in the display room will be given away as Christmas gifts to our patrons at our Christmas Distribution on December 18<sup>th</sup>. That will be our final distribution for 2023. The 2024 calendar will be available soon. We also have a TV. that was donated to us. We will also give it away as a Christmas gift. Toys and teddy bears are also accepted. Leftover items from the grab n' go tables will now be boxed up and given to Pastor and Sister Alexandre who travel to Haiti once per year. They have an impressive website. They came to the clothes closet one day and got clothes for the children of Haiti and gave us a \$100 donation to purchase toiletries. Sister Alexander said she usually buys clothes from Metropolitan Ministries to take to Haiti. She will shop with us again soon. One excited patron called me the other week and said she had won 1<sup>st</sup> place at her church on Breast Cancer

Awareness Day. She wore the pink dress that she received from our clothes closet. We were glad to be of service. We need more men's sizes 34, 36, and 38 pants. We have lots of men's suits and tuxedo shirts. The patrons are so grateful. Because of the donations from our NMZ family, we are able to be a blessing to others. Thank you, donors, and thank you volunteers.

## FOOD PANTRY



### Reported By Coordinator Bro. Jerry Chatman

Since we relaunched on Thursday, January 18, 2023, we have distributed 1,414 bags of food as of November 2023. We experienced a 30% increase in bags distributed in October. The word has gotten out in the community that NMZs Food Pantry is open. The Food Pantry is developing a Flag sign to advertise to the community that the Food Pantry is open. With the increase cost of groceries, we average approximately \$16 per bag. Each bag contains food for breakfast (milk, a cereal); anytime meal (peanut butter, jelly); dinner (chicken legs or pork chops, a variety of canned goods); produce (cabbage, potatoes); loaf of bread. Homeless bags are, also, available with easy open canned meats, fruits, crackers, water, plastic utensils, hand sanitizer, etc. We are meeting the needs of those with homes as well as those without homes. Thanks to our membership, all the food is fresh and not expired. Those who visit our Food Pantry are so thankful and appreciate our caring for the community. Not only are we meeting their physical needs; we have a member from the Evangelism Ministry who comes to share the Word of God with them. As of their recent two visits, the Evangelism Ministry has been praying with those requesting prayer and has brought seven to salvation. Yes, this ministry joins many other in changing the world through the love of Christ one soul at a time by sharing food bags of love. Upcoming distribution days are posted on the bulletin board near the Evangelism table in the Family Life Center. Distribution Day schedules can, also, be obtained from the drop boxes on both sides of the stairs leading to the balcony. If you would like to donate to this ministry, there is a nonperishable food collection barrel in the entrance of the Family Life Center. Monetary donations can be earmarked to the Food Pantry Ministry, too. Also, if you know of anyone who can benefit from food donations, please inform them of our distribution dates. Because of your generosity, this ministry is blessing others. For more information on the Food Pantry Ministry, please contact me Bro. Jerry Chatman (Coordinator) or Bro. Percy Weatherly (Assistant Coordinator).

>>>>>>>>>



**LET'S TAKE TIME AND REFER TO THESE CHRISTMAS REFERENCES: Please indicate YES if you are familiar with Isaiah 9:6 \_\_\_ Luke 2:7 \_\_\_ John 1:29 \_\_\_ and John 3:16 \_\_\_?**





**Social Services Ministry**  
**Reported By Sis Miriam Mitchell, Coordinator**  
**Meet the Social Services Ministry Team**



Miriam Mitchell   Sharae Smith   Claudia Terrell   Patti Bonner

The Social Services Ministry provides community resources of help, hope and healing. Information for various sources such as: Jobs/employment, suicidal callers, sexual assault services, telephone reassurance, financial assistance, emergency food, elder abuse, legal assistance, housing, transportation, veterans & military services, volunteer services and much more are available to our members. Please call the NMZ office and your call will be directed to the Social Services Ministry for assistance. In keeping with the holiday spirit, the Social Services Ministry wishes everyone a Season of Joy this holiday season!

Since we have already entered the holiday season, let us give thanks to the Lord from whom all blessings flow! **JOY:** As you choose the attitude of joy, the Holy Spirit will gradually recalibrate your emotions, and you will find weeping may endure for a moment but **JOY** comes in the morning; **PEACE:** We can only handle the stresses of the season when we have God’s peace within us; **FAITH:** Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God; **HOPE:** The attitude of hope within us lifts up everyone around us.

>>>>>>>>>>

**“For He has not turned away from the suffering of the one in pain or trouble. He has not hidden His face from him. But He has heard his cry for help.”**

**(Psalm 22:24)**

>>>>>>>>>>



**TRUNK OR TREAT**

Back by popular demand, the Special Events Ministry provided a safe and a fun-filled fellowship on Tuesday, October 31 from 5PM until 8PM for our church family as well as the community. The ministries had their trunks opened to give out eatable treats to youth as well as adults. Not only were there treats, but there was entertainment, music, food vendors, health displays, clothes closet toiletry bags, and food pantry food bags, too.



## CHRISTMAS FUN PAGE

**DIRECTIONS:** Have fun unscrambling the following words: angel, candle, Jesus, manger, Mary, star, wiseman, camel, shepherd, Bethlehem, peace, love, joy, Emmanuel, birth, donkey, Heaven, innkeeper, Joseph, Savior, Holy Spirit, straw, kings, blessed.

visroa_____	ngela_____	yram_____
odnyke_____	iskng_____	hejops_____
naecdI_____	bhtri_____	avenhe_____
sinamew_____	malec_____	dprehseh_____
lhehteemb_____	remgna_____	rastw_____
peeknnrie_____	tsra_____	ytspoiHLir_____
sujes_____	sedSble_____	aepec_____
veol_____	oyj_____	meamulne_____

**DIRECTIONS:** Have fun **completing the titles** to these Christmas songs.

Little \_\_\_\_\_ Boy; O \_\_\_\_\_ Night; Joy To The \_\_\_\_\_;  
 Hark The \_\_\_\_\_ Angels Sing; Silent \_\_\_\_\_; Away In A \_\_\_\_\_;  
 The \_\_\_\_\_ Noel; We \_\_\_\_\_ Kings; O Come All Ye \_\_\_\_\_;

**DIRECTIONS: CAN YOU IDENTIFY THE LOCATION OF THESE SCRIPTURES?**

1. "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." \_\_\_\_\_
2. "And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." \_\_\_\_\_
3. "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" \_\_\_\_\_
4. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." \_\_\_\_\_

# CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

D N L M Z N N E M M A N U E L H N  
L E R D J E K D M B F J L V L W G  
Q W T T M O V B K A N H E A V E N  
H B L D M E Y O S S R Q L K Y T J  
S I J L T T H U L T M Y Z E M Z T  
E R K E N L S E N A N Y K P Y T V  
E T T G N E L L L R Q N T G X L M  
R H L N J R Y T V H O L F T N F J  
T R H A N K Q E O D T M A N G E R  
D S T T Q Q C L N R Y E K K J D C  
N A R V T A Y L Z M D N B W K C H  
U V I V E S P Q R F E J I W Q M Q  
O I B P P M Q H M W X S O N P Z C  
R O R I R N R C L N E K T S L K M  
E R R X S G N I K M T C M W E T L  
H I B C P B F K E L M L N T P P R  
T K Y Z H E L N D R E H P E H S H

[www.WordSearchMaker.com](http://www.WordSearchMaker.com)

ANGEL	JOSEPH	PEACE
BETHLEHEM	JOY	SAVIOR
BIRTH	KINGS	SHEPHERD
DONKEY	LOVE	STAR
EMMANUEL	MANGER	THE ROUNDTREES
HEAVEN	MARY	WISEMEN
HOLY SPIRIT	NEW BIRTH	
JESUS	NEW LIFE	

**MEMORABLE SCENES**



**NEW MEMBERS BLESS OUR MEMBERSHIP**



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2023**



**WORLD VISION "CHOSEN" DAY AND YOUTH GREETING CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES**

**>>>>>>>>>>**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!**

It is my prayer that you enjoyed this edition of our news magazine. ❤️ Clara Wardlow