



THE MT. ZION MESSENGER

THE GOOD NEWSletter

Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 33 Oak Street, Springfield, MA 01109

Volume 20; Issue 4 Rev. Dr. Atu O. White, Pastor September 2018

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, September 2, 2018
10:00 a.m.

Enter to Worship.....Pause to Pray.....Depart to Serve

Call to Worship.....Rev. Milton White, Jr.
Invocation.....Rev. Milton White, Jr.

Worship through Praise

Praise & Worship.....Mass Choir

Worship through Sharing

Pastoral Emphasis.....Rev. Milton White, Jr.
Welcome of Guests.....Rev. Milton White, Jr.

Worship through Music

Song of Preparation.....Mass Choir

Worship through the Word

Morning Message.....Pastor Atu White
Invitation to Unite.....Pastor Atu White

*If you wish to publicly profess your faith in Jesus Christ,
to reaffirm your commitment to Him, or to join the membership of this
Church, you are invited to come forward at this time.*

Worship through Prayer

Altar Prayer.....Pastor Atu White

Worship by Giving

Tithes, General & Benevolence Offerings.....Trustees & Ushers

Worship by Remembering

Holy Communion.....Pastor Atu White

Worship by Serving

Benediction.....Pastor Atu White

September is Women's Ministry Month

This month we will be celebrating
Women.

Inside this issue is a
Calendar of Events.

There are activities for everyone-
Women, Men, and Children.

Please review and participate!

Inside this Issue

- September Birthdays
- Upcoming Pastoral Engagements
- Sight & Sound Trip Reviews
- Women's Ministry Month Calendar
- Youth News
- And Much, Much, More...

School's
Back In!

Be Safe!!



HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Sept. 1-----Bro. Thomas Garner
 Sept. 2-----Sis. Kelli Powell
 Sept. 4-----Bro. Kenneth Asiamah, Jr.
 Sept. 5-----Dea. Ivrie Thompson
 Sept. 6-----Sis. Deborah Gary
 Sept. 6-----Bro. Camren Housey
 Sept. 6-----Sis. Rosie Madera
 Sept. 6-----Sis. Shakira Mitchell
 Sept. 9-----Sis. Tameka Bennett
 Sept. 10-----Bro. Darryl Denson
 Sept. 10-----Sis. Andrea Dixon
 Sept. 11-----Sis. Nicole Taylor
 Sept. 12-----Sis. Jahyra Wilson
 Sept. 14-----Sis. Angela Caldwell
 Sept. 15-----Sis. Alycia Drake
 Sept. 17-----Sis. Earlean Caldwell
 Sept. 17-----Sis. Tracy Heywood
 Sept. 18-----Bro. Samuel Thomas
 Sept. 21-----Sis. Lakisha Coppedge
 Sept. 21-----Sis. Hilda Ledbetter
 Sept. 21-----Sis. Ebony Shippy
 Sept. 25-----Sis. Suzetta Crane
 Sept. 25-----Sis. Deborah Stone
 Sept. 26-----Bro. Earl 'Mitch' Andrews
 Sept. 27-----Sis. Tashia Jordan
 Sept. 28-----Bro. Brenton Jenkins
 Sept. 28-----Sis. Aundrea Paulk-Lopez
 Sept. 30-----Sis. Tawnya Pitts-Jones
 Sept. 30-----Sis. Dana Pugh

Life is Fine

By Langston Hughes

I went down to the river,
 I set down on the bank.
 I tried to think but couldn't,
 So I jumped in and sank.

I came up once and hollered!
 I came up twice and cried!
 If that water hadn't a-been
 so cold
 I might've sunk and died.

But it was Cold in that water!
 It was cold!

I took the elevator
 Sixteen floors above
 the ground.

I thought about my baby
 And thought I would
 jump down.

I stood there and I hollered!
 I stood there and I cried!
 If it hadn't a-been so high
 I might've jumped and died.

But it was High up there!
 It was high!

So since I'm still here livin',
 I guess I will live on.
 I could've died for love--
 But for livin' I was born

Though you may hear me holler,
 And you may see me cry--
 I'll be dogged, sweet baby,
 If you gonna see me die.

Life is fine! Fine as wine!
 Life is fine!

http://famouspoetsandpoems.com/poets/langston_hughes/poems/16946

PASTORAL ENGAGEMENTS

Pastor is Keynote Speaker

Our Pastor, **Dr. Atu White**, will be the Keynote Speaker for the Greater Springfield NAACP Centennial Celebration Service on **Tuesday, September 11, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.** The service will be held at **Spring of Hope Church of God in Christ**, 35 Alden Street, Springfield, MA.

Pastor to Preach in Waterbury

On **Thursday, September 27, 2018**, our Pastor, **Dr. White**, will be the guest preacher at **Zion Baptist Church**, 137 Pearl Street, **Waterbury, CT**. This Fall Revival service starts at **7:00 p.m.** Rev. Calbert Brantley is the Pastor. *Note: The Church is looking to provide a bus. More information on this later this month.*

Pastor to Lecture in October

Pastor White will be the guest lecturer at the **October 5th** service of the Alden Baptist Church City Wide Revival, October 3, 4, & 5, 2018. This event, which starts at **6:30 p.m.** each night, will be held at the Griswold Theater, 1000 State St., Springfield, on the campus of American International College. Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley, Alexandria, VA, will be the featured speaker.

Please mark your calendars and plan to accompany the Pastor to these services.



Bro. Dwight & **Sis. Lee Ware** welcomed the newest member of the Mt. Zion family. Dwight Tyrone Ware, Jr. was born June 5, 2018, weighing 6 lbs., 1 oz., and measuring 19 ½ inches long.

*Congratulations to the
Ware/Caldwell Family!!*

THE JULY TAG SALE

The tag Sale that was held on July 21, 2018, was not only fun, it was successful. The Church rid itself of items that we no longer used (e.g., old hymn books, and a past pastor's robe), and along with items donated from members, was able to bring in a little over \$400. Four (4) other members also purchased tables.

UPCOMING TAG SALE

Due to the success of our July Tag Sale, we have decided to have one more this year.

Our next Tag Sale will be held on Saturday, October 6.

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS EVENT!

1. If you would like to have a table, the cost is \$25.
2. If you have items you want to donate, bring them to the Church By 8 a.m. on 10/6.
3. If you can do neither 1 or 2, come out and make a purchase or donation on the 6th!

THANK YOU TO THE PAINTERS

Last summer, a group of Mt. Zion volunteers took it upon themselves to paint the two rooms across from the sanctuary. Unfortunately, the painters were unable to complete all of the area where the YMCA holds its After-School Program because of items stored there. This year, however, was a different story.

“Thank you's” go out to **Bro. Walker Bryant, Bro. Al Dixon, Dea. Dan Jones, Bro. Steven Ramsey, Bro. Richard Scroggins, and Bro. Ronnie Williams.** Not only did they complete the painting, they also replaced broken window panes, and installed new carpet tiles in this room. In addition, in the hallway outside the sanctuary on the north end, they re-plastered and painted the wall leading up and down the stair case.

Everything looks Amazing!!!!
Thanks, Guys!

SOUP KITCHEN NEWS

Written by Sis. Andrea Dixon

SUMMER MEAL SITE 2018

First, we need to thank the volunteers who came out to help us in this effort of feeding the children this summer. Tammy Ciak-Bissaillon from the Work Opportunity Center in Agawam, MA, who brought with her four ‘special people’ as our helpers: Amanda, Joshua, Keturah and Patti. They came every Monday to help. Thanks to **Sis. Rosa (Aunt Rose) Ware, Sis. Laura & Jade Green,** and a huge thanks to **Sis. Debra Gary and Sis. Tina Garner.** Without them, we would not have made our numbers.

Our final count was 649 lunches over the 8-week period, which averaged 81 lunches weekly or 16 lunches daily.

My personal thank you goes to my sisters in the vineyard—**Deaconess Lucille Hogan and Sis. Betty Mayweathers,** who, when I was not there, they were! My God, how much I appreciate and love them!

God is still keeping us and helping us to do what our hands continue to do, which is to feed his flock. I'm still so in awe of what He does!

FUNERAL REPAST

Secondly, we thank all the Mt. Zionites who contributed to the meal for Dea. Arthur Kitt's repast. God was pleased. The family was pleased and ‘thank you's’ were rendered to all from the family.

A SOUP KITCHEN MEAL

Thirdly, we thank **Sis. Christine Hartsfield** for her contribution of an entire lunch meal for the Soup Kitchen one Wednesday in August. What a blessing that was and it helped to stretch the budget we have. Sis. Christine was God-sent that week because we had no idea what to serve! Also, we thank both the Get Connected Ministry and **Sis. Patrice Caudle** for donating hotdogs for another Wednesday meal. The hotdogs were enjoyed by all. Thank you again Sis. Hartsfield, Sis. Caudle, and Get Connected for having us on your minds.

THANKS TO ALL

Finally, the Soup Kitchen Staff would like to thank each and everyone, especially **Pastor Atu,** who continues to pray for us. We believe if we strive to do what's been asked of us, God will continue to give us the strength and the means to do so. Blessings to all.

Paint Party Results

Written by Sis. Kim Weir

To God be the Glory for a wonderful fel-



lowship by all those who attended Mt. Zion's first Paint Social. The final count was 21 (20 females and 1 male). Thank you **Dea. (Steve) Powell** for being that one male to support this event.

There was good food, laughter and everyone went home happy with their master piece.



Also, thank you to **Sis. Kimberly Rennis and Sis. Pam Medlock** for their donations to this event.

NEW MEMBERS

Joining Mt. Zion in August were:

SIS. TAI LANAE BRANTLEY
Date Joined: August 12, 2018
Method: Candidate for Baptism

SIS. JACQUELINE FLOWERS
Date Joined: August 12, 2018
Method: Restoration

SIS. DONNA SEYMOUR
Date Joined: August 5, 2018
Method: Christian Experience

Welcome to All!

BAPTISM

The date and time for our next baptism class and baptism service will be announced at a later date. No one was baptized last month.

Another Safe Trip to Sight & Sound!!!

Written by Sis. Wanda Powell

On Friday morning, August 10, 2018, at 5:00 a.m. sharp, a King Ward Motor Coach filled with 48 sleepy, but excited Mt. Zion members, family and friends, began the journey to Lancaster County, PA. As we were equipped with only a couple of DVDs, to help occupy time on the 8-hour journey, **Dea. Steve Powell** challenged the eight (8) kids on board to find names of cities on signs and different animals along the way. Several stops later (including one at Stauffer's Cookie Outlet in York, PA where everyone received a free bag of animal crackers), around 1:00 p.m., we pulled into the parking lot of the Hampton Inn, also in York.

With a couple of hours to kill, some travelers relaxed. But with the hotel being located in the midst of a huge shopping center, some went shopping. Regardless of how this downtime was spent, at 3:15 p.m. everyone was back on the bus and we were off to dinner at Hersey Farms Restaurant in Ronk, PA. The smorgasbord at Hershey's Farm was incredible, offering foods of fried chicken, roast beef, fish, shrimp, ham balls, all kinds of fresh veggies and side dishes, and an array of mouthwatering desserts. Everyone found something they liked.



At 5:45 p.m., we literally 'drove up the hill' to Sight & Sound Theater to see the musical, "Jesus." Sight & Sound does an amazing job of bringing the Bible to life, and this musical was no exception. We watched as Peter, John and James fished, as Peter walked on water, as Jesus was nailed to cross, and as He ascended to heaven. The play was awesome!! We were back at our Hotel by 10:30 p.m.

On Saturday morning, August 11, after breakfast at the Hotel, everyone boarded the bus and off we went to experience the Turkey Hill Experience (you know, the ice cream and tea company). Here we sampled different kinds of ice cream (about 8:30 in the morning) and teas to our hearts content, made commercials, and even milked a (fake) cow. With our fill of ice cream, about an hour later, we moved on to Kitchen Kettle Village in Intercourse, PA, where we browsed and shopped in over 40 shops. Around 11 a.m., a Tour Guide from Amish Neighbors Tours joined us on the bus to talk about the Amish lifestyle. We listened to historical and cultural information about Amish people while traveling through vast farmlands. We made a couple of stops—first at a farm/quilt shop and secondly, a road-side store where some of group purchased homemade ice cream and hot, soft pretzels. Both of these treats were amazing!!

At 1:00 p.m., we stopped for lunch at Bird-in-Hand Family Restaurant in Bird-in-Hand, PA. This smorgasbord featured a variety of fresh vegetable, broasted chicken, ham balls, baked fish, and shepherd's pie, to name a few dishes. Dessert included soft serve ice cream, fresh fruit, and an array of pies, puddings and cakes. Again, no one left hungry.

Our last stop, just down the road from the Restaurant, was the Bird-in-Hand Farmer's Market, where items such as fresh vegetables, fruits, teas, popcorn, scarves, dolls, toys, etc. was sold. Among many other things, at least one big watermelon came back with us.

By 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, we were headed home. We arrived back at Mt. Zion at 10:00 p.m. It was a glorious trip! All praise, honor and thanks are due to God.

COMMENTS ABOUT THE PA TRIP

THE MISSION CORNER

Our Church, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, sponsored a trip on August 10 and 11 to Strasburg, Pennsylvania to see the play, "Jesus" at the Sight & Sound Theater. The trip and play were well organized and inspirational. "Jesus" certainly captured the audience's attention with the musical and biblical scenes. Missionaries **Sis. Christine Hartsfield** and **Sis. Anna Howell** attended.

Appreciation goes out to **Deaconess Wanda Powell** and **Sis. Mary Moore** for their hard work in putting this trip together.

--Written by The Missionary Ministry--

THE "JESUS" TRIP TO LANCASTER, PA

Written by Sis. Andrea (Mimmie) Dixon

One (1) Word: **GREAT!**

SEPTEMBER IS WOMEN'S MINISTRY MONTH

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	TIME	EVENT	PREACHER/SPEAKER	LOCATION	GUESTS
Saturday, Sep. 1	9:00 am to 1:00 pm	<p>"Pamper Me Day"</p> <p>Activities include Gospel Zumba, Yoga, Hand Massages, Blood Pressure Checks, Nutritional Info., Breast Cancer Info., & Much More</p> <p><i>Bag lunch will be served.</i></p>		Parking Lot & Outdoor Basketball Court	Women Only
Wednesday, Sept. 5	7:00 pm to 8:00 pm	Bible Study	Rev. Dr. Barbara Headley, Pastor of Zion Community Baptist Church, Springfield	Sanctuary	Women & Men
Sunday, Sept. 9	8:00 am to 9:30 am	<p>"Tea-for-Two"</p> <p>Before service starts, join us in sampling assorted hot and cold teas, along with bagels, muffins, fresh fruit, etc.</p>		Welcome Center	Women, Men & Children
	10:00 am (During Service)	<p>"Parade of Hats & Headwraps"</p> <p>Join in the fun by styling and wearing your most original headdress. Prizes will be awarded.</p>		Sanctuary	Women Only
Wednesday, Sept. 12	7:00 pm to 8:00 pm	Bible Study	Rev. Paula Alexander, Pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Community Church, Holyoke	Sanctuary	Women & Men
Saturday, Sept. 15	9:00 am to 1:00 pm (Doors Open at 8:30 am)	<p>"Order My Steps in thy Word"</p> <p>Get a better understanding of direction our steps should take us. Event includes testimonies, prayers, a skit, and a speaker.</p> <p><i>Light breakfast & lunch will be served</i></p>	Ms. Ryan Clemons, Lake Charles, LA Author of <i>"Victorious: The Journey of a Single Mom and Her Faith"</i>	Gymnasium	Women Only
Sunday, Sept. 16	Following 10:00 am Service	<p>"Sweets for the Sweets"</p> <p>Assorted desserts and a blessing will be handed out as you leave service.</p>		Welcome Center	Women, Men & Children
Wednesday, Sept. 19	7:00 pm to 8:00 pm	Bible Study	Rev. Laura Reyes, Pastor of Union Baptist Church, Jamaica Plain	Sanctuary	Women & Men
Sunday, Sept. 30	10:00 am	Worship Service	Rev. Dr. Vanetta Rather, Washington, DC	Sanctuary	Women, Men & Children
		<p>Community Service Project: "Hope for Kids"</p> <p>Donate toiletries for those in need.</p>			

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Written by *Sis. Patrice Caudle*

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

On Sunday, August 12, 2018, the children were asked, "Who is God?". We used Acts 17:16-34 to show how God is a Creator, a Ruler, a Sustainer, A Father, and a Judge. To review at the end of the lesson, the children had to tell us the 5 roles of God and how God meets each of those roles.



On Sunday, August 19, 2018, the children were taught how to use the Bible to look up scripture verses. They learned that first comes the book, next comes the chapter, and then the verse. We also worked on reading scripture references and played a Bible verse look up game. We will be working on using the Bible to look up information in each class. *[Parents, please work with your children to start memorizing the books of the Bible]*. Each Sunday we had 13 children, 3 leaders, and 1 nurse in class.

IMPORTANT NOTE: *Starting this month, Children's Church will return to one time a month—on the 2nd Sunday only.*

FIRST FRIDAY: ANTI-BULLYING PROGRAM

On Friday, August 17, 2018, we held our 1st Friday--an Anti-bullying Program. Our speaker was our own **Rev. Milton White, Jr.**, of New England Fit MMA. After dinner of pizza, chips, and dessert, Rev. White spoke to 18 children about how to identify a bully, what to do if someone is bullying you, and read stories about real-life people and their experiences with bullying. After his talk, he taught the children some basic self-defense moves and also what to do if someone tries to abduct them. The children really enjoyed themselves and we look forward to having Rev. Milton come back again!

EASTFIELD MALL MOVIE TRIP



The Youth Ministry took 8 children and 6 adults to the summer movie, *Smurfs: The Lost Village*, playing at Eastfield Mall on Wednesday, August 22, 2018. After a breakfast of muffins, yogurt, and juice, everyone piled into the church van to make the 10 o'clock movie. Once we arrived and got our snacks, we settled in to watch the big screen. The movie had some really funny parts and was enjoyed by young and old alike. Once the movie was over, we stopped at McDonald's and Wendy's for lunch. After lunch was over, we returned to the Church. Everyone had a great time and we will definitely take more trips to the movies next summer. A big thanks to **Dea. Dan Jones** and **Deaconess Deborah Jones** for being our van drivers!

"I CAN DO ALL THINGS" BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

We held our 2nd Annual "Back-to-School Night" on Friday, August 24, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. Our speaker this year was Principal Arria Coburn, Renaissance School. Principal Coburn is also the daughter of **Sis. Phyllis Tolbert**. Twenty-one children were in attendance to listen to Principal Coburn give a fabulous speech about tips for success for the upcoming school year. One tip was to surround yourself with good people; another was that only you determine how far you will go. You could tell the children were paying attention. After the speaker, we ate dinner and then separated into groups for activities. The younger children made back-to-school picture frames and played bingo and memory games. The older children made slime and played a baby food guessing game. Before leaving for home, we gave out school supplies. We look forward to making next year's event even better. Thank you to **Sis. Kim Weir**, **Sis. Andrea 'Mimmie Dixon**, and **Sis. Christine Hartsfield** for donating drinks, dessert, and backpacks for our event!

UPCOMING EVENTS

A Financial Literacy Program for children and their parents. Topics will include: credit, saving, investing, youth entrepreneurship, college savings, and more! Light refreshments will be served. See **Sis. Patrice Caudle** to sign up.

Go-kart trip to Autobahn Speedway for ages 12 to 17. Cost \$20.00. Please have youth wear a Mt. Zion T-shirt and bring spending money for food/snacks. Must have signed permission slip on file. See **Sis. Patrice Caudle** to sign up by September 2, 2018.



GRANDPARENT'S CORNER

KEVIN JACKSON

An update on Kevin Jackson (grandson of Bro. Al & Sis. Andrea Dixon, & son of Sis. Shayla Dixon)

After his return from Canton, Ohio participating in the Pro Hall of Fame Academy for Middle School players, which was in July, Kevin was recently chosen as 1 of 100 middle schoolers across the country to be a player on one of the Diamond All-American Football Teams! These games will be played in Myrtle Beach, SC, between December 27-December 31, 2018.

Kev absolutely loves the sport of football! So, we continue to pray that he remains humble (and he is) as he continues to do his best at what he loves.

Written by Grandma (Nana) Mimmie

WESLEY DAVIS, JR.

Rev. & Mrs. Bert A. Johnson are again proud grandparents as their grandson, Wesley L. Days, Jr., has won first place in the Youth Activist Oratorical contest hosted by Blacks in Government for 2018. Wesley won first place in the local (Springfield) and regional (Boston) contests, and third place in the National (Atlanta City, New Jersey) contest in 2017. This year he duplicated his successes in the local and regional contests, and then went to New Orleans, LA on August 16, 2018, and won first place in the National for 2018. This earned Wesley another scholarship toward his college.

Wesley is a senior at Longmeadow High School and hopes to go to college and major in Journalism when he graduates next year. Wesley is the son of Dea. Wesley L. Days, Sr. and Attorney Alesia Days. They also have a daughter, Brooke I. Days, who is a sophomore at Longmeadow High.



Submitted by Rev Bert A. Johnson

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