

JANUARY 2021

The Messenger

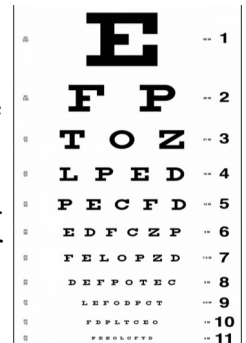
ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

"The Church with a history and a future"



2020 Vision

I imagine many pastors are rethinking their sermons and newsletter articles written this time last year with the theme, *"2020 Vision—looking ahead to a perfect year."* 2020 was no perfect year, however it was a year we will never forget. Have you ever considered the meaning behind the phrase 2020 Vision? It simply means normal vision. A person with 2020 vision can see what an average individual can see on an eye chart when they are standing 20 feet away. 2020 vision is normal vision acuity, which is the sharpness or clarity of one's vision. I have never had any vision problems, never needed to wear glasses or contacts, until several years ago I was diagnosed with "over 40 condition." I was over 40 years old and needed the aid of reading glasses. What I once could see clearly up close, was now a complete blur without glasses. How sharp and clear is your vision? Do you have 2020 vision or do you need the help of glasses to see clearly?



In Mark's gospel we read about Jesus healing a man with vision problems; "They, (Jesus and His followers), came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When he had spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, 'Do you see anything?'" He looked up and said, 'I see people; they look like trees walking around.' Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly."

At times we go through life and everything is ok. No problems with work, school, or our health. Then it seems storms arise and clouds blur our vision, making it difficult to see a clear path ahead. Many of us are still dealing with the storms of the previous year, with no clear path or vision for what our new year will bring. Our vision is blurred and we need help to see clearly. 2020 Vision is not perfect vision, it is normal vision, and only 35% of people have 2020 vision. This means the majority of us need help to see clearly. Some of us believe we can see fine on our own. Others have figured out how to see ok through worldly lenses. This type of vision may satisfy some, but it is nowhere near the perfect vision Christ offers us. On our own, we see folks walking around looking like trees, but with the help of Christ we are able to see clearly. Irish author and clergyman Jonathan Swift said, "Vision is the art of seeing what is invisible to others." What may be invisible to the world is visible to us through Christ's perfect vision. May we all be blessed with the perfect vision of Christ. May we see clearly the path God has planned for us this new year. May we always look to Christ to give us hope, strength, and guidance on our journeys that lie ahead.



In Christ,

Matt

"Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art; Thou my best thought, by day or by night; Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light."



*All ladies of the church are invited
To a drive-through bridal shower
For Katie (Lail) and Lucas Rollins
On Sunday, January 10th, 2021
2:30 -- 4:00 pm*

*Under the breezeway outside the back entrance of the church
Registered at Target, Bed, Bath & Beyond and Amazon
Colors: Blue and gray*



Dear Church Family,

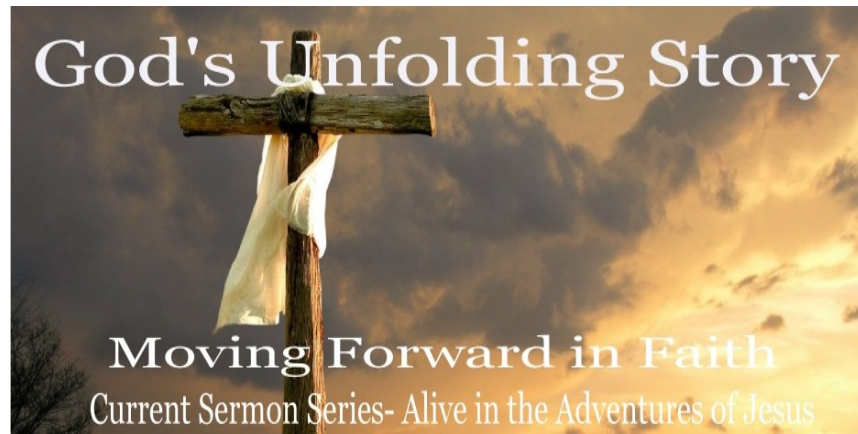
Thank you so much for the outpouring of love during Ronnie's passing. I wanted to reach out and let you know how much I appreciate the support and prayers. The meal after the service was wonderful and greatly appreciated. I will be in touch soon.

Kim, for the Ronnie Charles Blanton family



Friday Feed the Homeless—In partnership with the GCC Baptist Association, we will be providing 75 bagged lunches for the hungry one Friday of each month. We are blessed to have several volunteers and families to prepare and deliver the lunches. If you are interested in helping with the project or making a donation to help cover the costs of the meals, please contact Matt.

Various Work Projects around the church - In anticipation of retuning to normal church activities at church sometime this year, there are several work projects we would like to have completed. Please contact Kenneth Wellmon or Franklin Barbee if you are interested in helping with a variety of church work projects such as pressure washing, painting, cleaning, trimming limbs and shrubs, pulling weeds, repairing drywall, etc. The church will provide the supplies and tools if needed.



God's Unfolding Story: Moving Forward in Faith – A Year Through the Bible. God is not finished with us. We are still being made and created. We still are able to learn, mature, think, change, and grow. We have the freedom to choose our paths, we can move forward, grow, adapt, change, or we can stay put, regress, lose our way. Which path will we take, which road will we choose for our continuing faith journey? Our faith was never intended to be a destination, a status, or even a Tupperware container for all our spiritual stuff. We open up the container when we need something spiritual, then close it and put it back in the fridge until we may need it again. Faith is not the destination, but the journey. Faith is the road we take. Faith is our path from the old broken ways into the new creative life God has gifted. The road we take as part of our faith journey leads us into the future. As we have experienced this year, sometimes our future is unknown, we can't count on the past ways or normal life to comfort us; things change, and we must adapt, change, and move ahead the best way possible. We invite you to join us on a special journey where we walk towards an unknown future trusting God to move us forward in faith. Each week we will look at a story of God's presence, protection, and providence of God's people as they strive to move forward in faith. The road of faith is not finished, there is still much for us to learn. Many of us all keep walking the path God has placed before us, may we be encouraged by past stories of faith, may we trust God to lead us into our future stories, and may we allow God to create in us what is needed for us to move forward in faith.

January 3 – Boy Jesus: [Luke 2:39-3:14](#)

January 10 – Jesus' Invitation to Discipleship: [Luke 4:1-30](#); [5:1-11](#)

January 17 – A faith that works wonders: [John 2:1-12](#)

January 24 – Jesus the teacher: [Mark 4:1-34](#)

January 31 – Jesus and the multitudes: [Luke 5:17-32](#)

February 7 – Jesus heaven, and hell: [Luke 16:19-31](#) or [Matthew 25:31-40](#)

February 14 – Jesus, violence, and power: [Matthew 16:13-17:9](#)



Thank you for your continued support of Zion Baptist Church during this difficult time. Each week we share a Call to Give; it is a charge to recognize our blessings from God and then give back a portion of those blessings for Kingdom work. We acknowledge the blessings of time; we seem to have an abundance of free time now. How can we give back our time this month? We can call, give cards or texts, and do some individual and family mission projects at church. We are gifted with talents, those unique skills we are able to use to help others and glorify God--mowing a neighbor's yard, helping with a work project at church. We are blessed with treasures--our financial resources. I am thankful for the ways Zion Baptist Church has continued to share their treasures, even when we are not able to gather in person. Here is our giving report, weekly, YTD with budget and expenses:

Offerings:

December 6th	\$7,527.00	December 20th	\$5,702.00
December 13th	\$8,055.00	December 27th	\$12,165.00

As of December 31st, the giving is \$29,221.00 above expenses and is \$19,011.00 behind the budget.

Many folks are mailing in their offerings, some are giving online via our webpage or mobile phone app, and some are folks are dropping off their offerings at church. We are limiting our work time in the office. Wanda will be available Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays from 8:30am -1:30pm. We do also have a church mailbox attached to the office that remains locked, if you choose to drop off your offering here. The church mailbox and office locked box are checked daily each evening.

Due to the virus and not being able to gather or meet in person, the deacons have approved to have the same 2020 financial budget for the upcoming year of 2021.

Please pick up your 2021 Offering Envelopes. They have been placed on a table in the downstairs hallway near the double doors at the breezeway entrance. This door will be unlocked on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00 am through 1:30 pm.



January Prayer Requests

CHURCH FAMILY

Linda Alexander
Dorcas Barbee Family
Kim Blanton
Ronnie Blanton Family
Jessica Brooks
Janice Cabaniss
Dick Canipe
Danny Cartee
Mike Falls
Dixon Fletcher
Blake Goforth
Clyde Gold
Gary Gragg
Jane Gragg
Jim Hendrick
Myrna Hollifield
Dale Jackson
Kim Lee
Dale Mayes
Marshall Mayes
Jimmy McSwain
Mickey Morehead
Buck Proctor
Rachel Proctor
Randy Raynor
Lisa Spangler
Melanie Storie
Grady & Barbara Ward
Barbara Wellmon
Betty Wellmon
Scott Wellmon

OUR HOMEBOUND

Sue Cabaniss
Gene Cornwell
Veva C. Gold
Ora Trivett
Billy Wright

MISSIONS

Will & Lucia Meeks - Honduras
Larry Hoyle - Larry Hoyle Ministries
Marc Brice - Haiti people, mission, orphanage
Cecelia Beck - Buffalo St. Ministry
Fuente de Salvacion - Guatemala
Daniele Selena Tercero - hospital chaplain, Honduras

OUR NATIONAL & STATE LEADERS HEALTHCARE WORKERS TEACHERS AND STUDENTS



Dear Friends,

Our time of working together in Shelby is coming to an end. As I retire December 31, my heart is full of gratitude for your faithful prayers and support these past 11 years. Together we have given hope in the name of Christ to many of our neighbors and lightened their burdens in countless ways. Many lives were impacted and changed forever.

Ending this ministry in the middle of a pandemic is particularly difficult as the needs are more troublesome than ever. My prayer is that we will all look around and see ways to offer hope wherever we see it is needed. We do not need to look far and as Christ followers it is what we do.

Until our paths cross again, may God bless you as you seek to be the hands and feet and presence of Christ. "Whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40

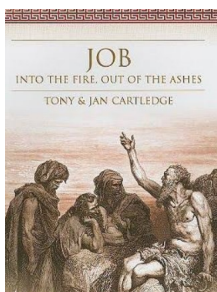
Thank you, thank you, thank you,
Cecilia, Buffalo Street Ministry



- 1 Brittney Horn
- 3 Miranda Bumgardner
- 4 Jim Hendrick
- 6 Megan Hoyle Allen
Rachel Harris
- 7 Hayley Hoyle Halsey
- 10 Dan Hoyle
Kendall Sharpe
- 13 Chelsea Hamrick Enterline
- 14 Thomas Fletcher
- 15 Sally Barker
Beau Harrill
- 16 Terri McSwain
Alan Sparks
- 17 John Barker
- 19 Dennis Dorsey
- 22 Jim Cabaniss
Myrna Hollifield
- 23 Angela Brooks
LaDonna Hastings
- 25 Gary Gragg
- 26 Matt Cornwell
- 29 Emerson Bumgardner
- 30 Mindy Humphries
- 31 Martha Cabaniss

25th Tommy and Connie Harrill

If we have omitted your birthday or anniversary, please contact the church office and we will be glad to add it to our calendar.



Join us for our Wednesday Evening Prayer Time and Bible Study of the book of Job, online at 6pm via our Facebook page or church website directly following. Tony and Jan Cartledge, the writers of the study guide, “Job—Into the Fire, Out of the Ashes,” share the following about the book of Job: “You have heard of the patience of Job,” said one New Testament writer (James 5:11). But have you heard of his *impatience*? Readers will soon learn that Job’s patience lasted barely a week. Shortly after suffering unspeakable tragedies, Job spoke surprisingly impassive words of acceptance and trust in God in the face of loss. After seven days of suffering in silence, however, Job filled the air with complaints and accusations toward the God who had repaid his righteousness with ravaging. All people who live long enough will experience suffering and unexpected sorrows that lead them to join Job in questioning whether God is playing fair. Questions come easily; answers are hard. Studying the story of Job requires us to enter a dark world that is sometimes painfully like our own. Sometimes, like Job, the lesson we learn may be that there are no clear answers or that we may be asking the wrong questions. The book of Job recounts a dark and dangerous journey toward unseen insights that challenge both human assumptions and traditional theological beliefs. Those who dare to enter Job’s world may discover that their own world--or view of the world--has changed in surprising ways. In the end, however, those who stick with the ancient sufferer may discover spiritual depths that had not previously imagined.”



ORANGE

It's a new year and a new opportunity to have some fun. Although we're not meeting in person for the time being, let's not allow that to stop us from learning more about Jesus and how we can know Him! In fact, let's use this time to grow in Christ, and in love, as individuals and as families. Every Wednesday in January, a video will be posted on the children's ministry Facebook page, the church's YouTube channel, and the church website (zbcshelby.org/children). This month, we're talking about a big word with some big consequences – responsibility. We encourage you to watch the video together and to discuss the story and the lesson each week!



S.N.A.C.

New year, new opportunities to be with each other on Sunday nights. With the appropriate precautions taken, and while continuing to monitor the situation and COVID-19 guidelines, we will continue to meet for Sunday Night After Church (S.N.A.C.) on Sundays throughout January as able from 6:00-7:00 p.m. We hope to see you there!

JANUARY 2021

The Messenger

"The Church with a history and a future"

ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

525 West Zion Church Road

Shelby, North Carolina 28150

Phone 704-487-8216, website: zbcshelby.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Church Staff

Dr. Matt Storie, Pastor	704-244-0879	pastor@zbcshelby.org
Rev. Carson Putnam, Minister of Youth & Children	704-300-8068	carson@zbcshelby.org
Carol Martin, Minister of Music	704-472-8135	cmartinunc86@gmail.com
Dick Canipe, Custodian	704-482-4179	
Jennifer Cabaniss, Pianist	704-481-9212	jenny@zbcshelby.org
John Carroll, Organist	704-434-5193	john@zbcshelby.org
Wanda Schenkel, Secretary	704-487-8216	secretary@zbcshelby.org



ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

The bulletin is printed each week on Friday Morning. Please forward any announcements, inserts, or prayer requests to the office by 10:00 am on Thursdays for publication the following Sunday.

NEXT CHECK WRITING DATES - JANUARY 11TH AND 25TH

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING INFORMATION FOR
PUBLICATION IN THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER, JANUARY 27TH**

**SECRETARY'S OFFICE HOURS:
MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY
8:30 AM - 1:30 PM**

Please continue helping our church folks stay connected by calling, emailing or texting to let them know you care and are concerned. If you know of someone who needs some meals or needs someone to run errands, please help them or call Matt or the church office and we will try to meet that need.