

MARCH 2021

The Messenger

ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

"The Church with a history and a future"

Observations from the Desert

Have you ever been to the desert? I have never been; maybe seeing too many movies scenes about folks stranded in the desert having to struggle to survive has slowed my plans to visit. However, there are some pictures I have seen that make it appear to be a beautiful place. Maybe one day I will take a trip to the desert.

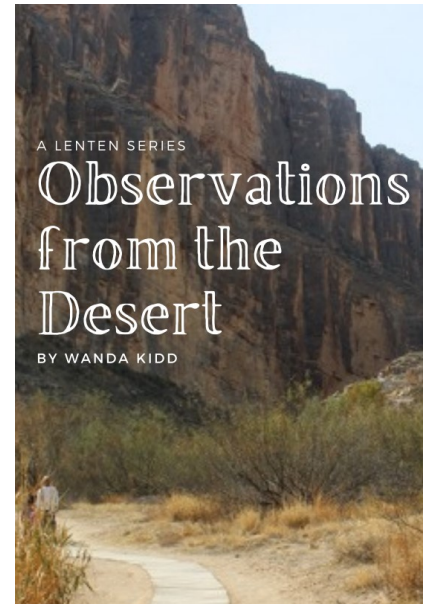
Jesus traveled into the desert immediately following his baptism and those powerful affirming words "You are My Son, whom I love, with you I am well pleased." Jesus, God's beloved Son, was sent out into the wilderness by the same Spirit that was present at His baptism. According to Mark's gospel, He was there in the wilderness for 40 days, during which He was tempted by Satan, with the wild animals, and attended to by angels. Matthew and Luke give us more details about Jesus time in the wilderness where he fasted for those forty days and resisted the Devil's temptations by saying no to the bread, no to the kingdoms, and no to the angelic body guards. Jesus passed the wilderness test. While none of us will ever face the same temptations Jesus faced, or even find ourselves fasting in the desert for forty days, we will spend some time in the wilderness. Wilderness times are when we are tested to our limits. We describe these times in life with words such as dry, desolate, lonely, trying, difficult, agonizing. In those times we feel spiritual hunger and thirst. The wilderness can be a dangerous spiritual place. As much as we try, we cannot avoid the wilderness moments in life. But that can be a good thing, because sometimes in the wilderness we find the clarity we need, we gain grit and remember hope, we are strengthened spiritually, and we pass our wilderness tests.

I first met Wanda Kidd through her ministry partnership with Together for Hope, a rural poverty initiative. She had offered to share some of the proceeds from her handmade jewelry sales to a Together for Hope mission in Arkansas. The missionaries, instead of accepting the donations, asked if she would come and teach them and their youth how to make the jewelry. This led to the creation of a business for this ministry to help provide valuable resources to their community. I modeled this business as mission ministry at a rural mountain church in Virginia, but lacked any skills or knowledge of handmade jewelry. I called Wanda, and she was gracious to offer training, supplies, and the help we needed to get our new ministry started.

During the Season of Lent last year, Wanda was on a sabbatical journey where she travelled out west through the desert. She has shared her observations of this trip in the form of 26 devotions to read during the Season of Lent. A different devotion for each day will be posted during the month of March, up until the 26th. You can read them from our church website, <https://zbcshelby.org/zion-blog/>, or pick up a printed copy from the church office. May we all take some time during this season of Lent to spend some time in prayer and reflection as we journey to the cross and the Easter celebration.

In Christ,

Matt



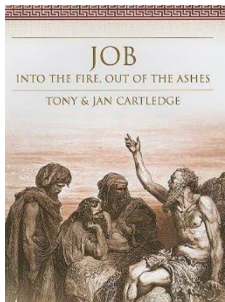
Monthly Mission Projects for March

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.

Guatemala Mission Partnership—As we have experienced the effects of the virus on our life here in Shelby, our fellow Christians in Guatemala are dealing with the same issues brought on by the pandemic. Some businesses closed, limited people are allowed in churches, and for many children there is remote school. Efrain Juarez, missionary and pastor in Huehuetenango, has asked for folks to help provide tablets for the children to use during their remote school lessons. Each tablet costs around \$100. If you are interested in helping, you can mark your donation Guatemala Mission. If you have any questions please contact Matt.

Haiti Mission Partnership-- Haiti is currently struggling with an unstable political situation, extreme poverty, and also the virus. Marc Brice, our missionary partner in Haiti, is continuing to minister to many people in Haiti through support of orphanages, schools, churches, and a soon to be built job training center. If you are interested in sponsoring an orphan or making a donation to help support Marc Brice's ministry, you can send your donation through our church. You can also visit the mission's website for more information, www.caribbeanchristianclub.org



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.”

T. Mills and Earcie Dellinger Cornwell College Scholarship Applications

Any interested applicant must complete an application and return it to the church office on or before May 6th. No applications will be considered if received after May 6th. Scholarship applications are available on a table in the first floor hallway and in the church office.

Hi Zion Church Family! I'm Rachel Harris, and for those of you who don't know me, I've been a member of Zion since I was a little girl! Now I'm a junior at NC State University.

This summer I founded a new coed, competitive a cappella group at NC State, Chordination A Cappella! In the midst of a global pandemic, I wanted to create a new space for my peers to express themselves, feel included, and interact with a diverse group of people. With the help of some great friends and the music department at NC State, Chordination is now a group of 17 undergraduate and graduate students heading into our first international competition in March! Some of our latest, and upcoming releases include Electric Love by BORNs, Courage to Change by Sia, and Rescue by Lauren Daigle!

The next step for Chordination is to record our first EP with Liquid 5th Productions! We are so excited to create and share professional quality music with our friends and families, but we need community support to make this happen. You may write your check to Zion Baptist Church and Wanda will forward it to Chordination. I am so blessed and thankful for the talent God gave me to share my voice! I hope you'll consider donating to Chordination, but if you can't, please support us by following our social media and sharing our music. Thank you! Be sure to check out our website: Chordination A Cappella.

Rachel C. Harris

North Carolina State University, Class of 2022
Industrial and Systems Engineering, B.S.

[Engineering Ambassador](#) | [Chordination A Cappella](#)





It is hard to imagine we have begun the season of Lent and we will soon be celebrating Easter. Never did I imagine we would still be dealing with the virus, wearing masks, social distancing, and not be able to gather as a church family as we have in the past. Yet here we are, we have made it this far, and we will continue forward.

The past year we have been looking at God's Unfolding Story each Sunday. We heard stories of creation and crisis, calling and captivity. We looked at the many adventure stories of Jesus. As we have begun the season to prepare for the Easter Celebration, we have started a new series—Joining Jesus' Adventure. If you have ever run a race, then you most likely have experienced all the emotions of the starting line. Anticipation and excitement of the race. Anxious nerves and worry if your training has prepared you for this moment. As the race begins, those nerves turn to energy as you set off to do your best. Too often, many view their faith as a finish line, thinking, "I have made it, I believe in Jesus, life is good, nothing more to do." However, when we Join Jesus' Adventure, it is actually a starting line. We partner with Jesus to go about God's mission as we run the race of life. Yes there may be hills and hard moments, but we are not running alone. We invite you to join us each Sunday during the season of Lent where each week we will look at Jesus most concentrated teaching, in the Sermon on the Mount, (Matthew 5-7).

2/21—"A New Identity" - Matthew 5:1-16

2/28—"A New Path" - Matthew 5:17-48

3/7—"Your Secret Life" - Matthew 6:1-18

3/14—"Why we Worry and Judge" - Matthew 6:19-7:12

3/21—"The Choice is Yours" - Matthew 7:13-29

3/28—Palm Sunday "A Different Kind of Parade" - Luke 19:29-46

4/2—Easter Sunday "Everything Must Change" - Luke 22:39-23:56

Lenten Prayer Service Online-

Join us each week on Wednesdays at 12 noon via Zoom for a brief time of devotion and prayer. We continue each Wednesday of this month ending on March 30th. If interested contact Matt or the church office and we will send you the Zoom link.



Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 14th. Remember to set your clocks **ahead** one hour on Saturday night, March 13th.

Sunday School - 9:00 am Online
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:00 am in Family Life Center and Online
Wednesday Lenten Prayer Service - 12:00 noon via Zoom
Wednesday Adult Bible Study and Prayer Meeting, 6:00 pm Online



March Prayer Requests

CHURCH FAMILY

Linda Alexander
Kim Blanton
Jessica Brooks
Janice Cabaniss
Dick Canipe
Danny Cartee
Mike Falls
Dixon Fletcher
Blake Goforth
Clyde Gold
Gary Gragg
Amy Cartee Greene
Jim Hendrick
Myrna Hollifield
Dale Mayes
Marshall Mayes
Jimmy McSwain
Mickey Morehead
Buck Proctor
Carson & Laney Putnam
Rachel Proctor
Randy Raynor
Lisa Spangler
Grady & Barbara Ward
Barbara Wellmon
Scott Wellmon

OUR HOMEBOUND

Sue Cabaniss
Gene Cornwell - *Lincolnton Rehab Center*
Veva C. Gold
Ora Trivett
Billy Wright

MISSIONS

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

OUR NATIONAL & STATE LEADERS HEALTHCARE WORKERS TEACHERS AND STUDENTS



From the Spanglers

Our family has felt uplifted and loved by the prayers and actions of our Zion church family these past two months. Lisa is undergoing treatments and will be reevaluated next month. We are trying to keep her spirits up. She is definitely not used to being idle. The cards and messages from Zion really brighten her day. We appreciate the concerns of our church family and are giving Matt weekly updates. Again, thank you for your prayers.

Mike and Iris Spangler

MARCH



- 1 Anita Horn
- 2 Gene Hastings
Luke Scism
- 4 Jeff Cornwell
- 6 Claire Cabaniss
Jenny Cabaniss
Lisa Spangler
Laura Wellmon
- 9 Brett Hamrick
John Hamrick
Jason Parker
- 10 Ron Alexander
- 14 Sandra Cartee
- 15 Susan Beaver
Blake Dyer
- 16 Shane Bostic
Eloise Stallings
- 17 Barbara Hilton
- 18 Ginny Davis
- 19 Adrienne Fletcher
- 20 Hazel Wilson
- 22 Ned Gold
Rachel Proctor
- 23 Brandon Johnson
- 24 Kenneth Bostic
- 25 Kiley Gold
Michael Wright
- 26 Mike Bankhead
- 27 Carol Martin
Chuck Benton
- 28 Jessalyn Jenks Marcella
Jessica Yarboro
- 30 Jenny Harrill
- 31 Betsy Boatwright
Dennis Wright

MARCH



- 3rd Ned & Lorah Gold
- 10th Todd & Julie McMurry
- 15th Rusty & Lindsey Albrecht
Lem & Beth Hafer
- 21st Randy & Linda Raynor
Scot & Kelly Snellings



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

—STAYING—

CONNECTED

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 try to help them or call Matt or the church office and we will try to meet that need.



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:

February 7th	\$5,475.00	February 21st	\$3,457.00
February 14th	\$8,952.05	February 28th	\$12,830.00

As of February 28th, the 2021 giving is \$8,876.00 above expenses and is \$8,026.00 behind the budget. The weekly 2021 budget is \$7,055.04

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.

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Psalms for Lent– Each week we would like to include the children in our weekly worship services during Lent. If they would be willing to read a Psalm and have it recorded as a video, (for those old enough to read, or as a parent, you can help them read the text), we will have it as part of our service. If you would prefer, they can read it in person during our service at church in the FLC. If your child is interested in helping lead worship, please contact the church office or Matt.



Our Youth had a good meeting this past Sunday evening at Mi Pubs for a time of fellowship, food, and planning. They discussed some upcoming Youth outdoor activities and possible summer trip. Youth will meet on Sundays March 14th and 28th from 5:30-7pm.

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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
Carol Martin, Minister of Music
Dick Canipe, Custodian
Jennifer Cabaniss, Pianist
John Carroll, Organist
Wanda Schenkel, Secretary

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704-482-4179
704-481-9212 jenny@zbcshelby.org
704-434-5193 john@zbcshelby.org
704-487-8216 secretary@zbcshelby.org

But I trust in you, LORD;
**I SAY, "YOU ARE
MY GOD."
MY TIMES ARE
IN YOUR HANDS.**

PSALM 31:14-15, NIV

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 - MARCH 8TH & 22ND

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING INFORMATION FOR
PUBLICATION IN THE APRIL NEWSLETTER, MARCH 30TH**

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