

JUNE 2021

The Messenger

ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

"The Church with a history and a future"

"Normal" Church Life

I read recently where someone said, "when we finally get back to church, we will all be newcomers." There is some truth to this statement; it has been over a year since we participated in normal church activities and ministries, so we may feel like newcomers when we return to church. Many folks have wondered, what "normal" church life will look like post virus pandemic. I imagine 'normal' church life will include many of our traditional church ministries, There is something to be said about traditions, there is comfort in the familiar. I believe 'normal' church life will also be to continue some of our online and remote ministries to allow us to keep connecting with our church family and community who may not be present for some of our in-person ministries, such as Sunday worship. Perhaps there may be some new approaches and ministries we discover that could potentially be a part of our 'normal' church life.

In the gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells several stories about a farmer and the sowing of seeds. The Farmer cultivates the soil so the seeds can grow into a good crop. Jesus taught folks through parables. He shared stories about their life to help them better understand God and communicate truth. They knew what it meant to farm, to cultivate the soil, to sow seeds, to nourish them through water, to get rid of the weeds, and to wait patiently for the seeds to grow.

Let us consider the language and imagery of farming. In order to sow and plant, the soil must be prepared. The farmer cultivates the soil by breaking it up to be usable for the planting of crops. As we return to 'normal' church life, our goal is to allow God to work the soil of our church, to cultivate our lives so God's plan for our church may grow. As many of y'all know, farming takes time. It involves the rhythms and cycles of life. There is a season to cultivate, a season to plant, and a season to grow. I wasn't in a big rush this spring to plant my garden, 'cause all the Old Timers say not to plant before May 10th. Now I am in the season of growth (hopefully we will get some much needed rain to help my garden grow). Discovering God's plan for our 'normal' church life will take time.

First, we need to allow God to cultivate a better awareness and understanding of our context. This is what is going on around us in our homes, church, and community. To do this, we will take time to listen and share stories when we are gathered together. Next, we want God to cultivate new and fresh ways for us to engage scripture. A few years ago, I visited a vineyard that used a new farming technique called bio diversity. They created several gardens around the farm to attract the good bugs whose job would be to get rid of the bad bugs. This eliminated the need for many of the harmful chemicals and pesticides. Sometimes we need a new approach. How can we approach scripture in a new and fresh way? Maybe by reading the gospels in a different translation than the one we are used to. You may also choose to spend several weeks studying a particular scripture passage such as Luke 10:1-12 or Matthew 13:1-43. We will also need to allow God to cultivate our spirit. This will be the time when we search for that deeper understanding of God. This can be done though personal prayer time each day. Praying for God to help us discern our gifts and calling. I enjoy working in my garden, taking the time to weed, tend the plants, and water them with hope they will grow. If I don't commit to working in the garden on a regular basis, then the plants may not grow as they should. Knowing God takes time and it takes our commitment to spend time with God each day. Finally, we need to allow God to cultivate hope in our lives and within the life of our church. There are so many things that can discourage us as Christians and as a church. These challenges offer little hope for the future. However, hope is cultivated in knowing that God's future is among God's people. God will be with us through our faith journey, through our discovery of what 'normal' church life will be for Zion. We can take comfort in knowing this.

Peace and Joy,
Matt

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.

Our final sermon series a part of God's Unfolding Story is, "Living in the Spirit of God." We will be considering the question, "How can we connect and partner with God's Spirit?" If the wind is blowing, but our boat's sail isn't raised, we don't go far. We may be surrounded by oxygen, but if we don't breathe, the air will do us no good. God's Spirit is on the move, and in order for us to connect we too need to move. Join us each Sunday as we learn how to be filled and on the move with God's Spirit.



Living in the Spirit of God

May 30—"Learning to Move with the Spirit" - Galatians 5:13-26

June 6—"Spirit of Love" - Ephesians 3:14-21

June 13—"Spirit of Unity and Diversity" - Ephesians 4:1-16

June 20—"Spirit of Service" - John 13:1-15

June 27—"Spirit of Power" - Acts 4:1-31

July 4—"Spirit of Holiness" - 1 Corinthians 3:9-15

July 11—"Spirit of Life" - Luke 20:27-38

July 18—"Spirit of Hope" - Revelation 21:1-8

July 25—"God is our Destination" - 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

Zion Youth and Children's Minister Search Committee Update

On Sunday evening May 23rd, our search committee had their first meeting. We already had numerous applicants and have begun scheduling interviews with candidates for the Youth and Children's Minister over the next several weeks. The Search Committee covets your prayers as they seek to discover the right person God is calling. Search team members include Lily Cornwell, Jeff Cornwell, Cody Dorsey, Jenny Harrill, Joy Hord, Caroline Lattimore, Julie McMurry (chair), Emily Parker, and Matt Storie. Thank you for your prayers and support for the committee during the search process.



Sunday School Update:

What sweet Christian fragrance fills the room, as we have begun to worship God together as a Zion family in the sanctuary once again! Thanks be to God!

Some of the adult Sunday School classes have begun to gather again or plan to begin in the near future. Your teacher may have contacted you about the time and place. If your class is not meeting yet and you'd like to connect temporarily with another class, please give me a call and I'll help you. Also, if you've been watching the Sunday School lessons online and have found what you've been missing, please let me know and we'll get you plugged in to a class. What wonderful teaching has been faithfully shared online, and we shout out a huge "Thank You" to Dean and Dennis!

Decisions about children's Sunday School are still to be determined.

Kathi Fletcher
704-477-8427



The JOY Club will visit Elliott's Daylily Farm on Tuesday, June 15th. If you want to ride the bus, please be at the church By 9:30 am, or you may meet at the farm at 10:00. You may pack a picnic lunch, or we will order burger baskets from Christie's in Polkville. Someone will pick them up and bring them to the farm.



*Drive-through Bridal Gift Card Shower
to honor Courtney Morehead
Sunday, August 1st
(Gift cards from Amazon, Target or Belk)*



Thank you for your continued support of Zion Baptist Church during this past year. Here is our giving report, weekly, YTD with budget and expenses:

Offerings:

May 2nd	\$11,952.35	May 16th	\$10,214.00
May 9th	\$8,625.00	May 23rd	\$3,817.00

As of May 28th, the 2021 giving is \$39,346.00 above expenses and is \$1,998.00 above the budget. The weekly 2021 budget is \$7,455.04

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.



Zion Missions for June

Cleveland County Children's Home Projects: On Saturday, June 19th volunteers are needed to help with a mission project work day at the Cleveland County Children's Home. Please Contact Matt if you want to help or even lead a project.

Zion Church Work Day: We will be planning another church work day to finish up a few outdoor and indoor projects, such as painting, pressure washing, drywall repair, and other various projects. Contact Franklin, Kenneth, or Matt if you are interested in helping.

June Prayer Requests

CHURCH FAMILY

Kim Blanton
Jessica Brooks
Janice Cabaniss
Jenny Cabaniss
Dick Canipe
Danny Cartee
Mike Falls
Dixon Fletcher
Brittney Gaines
Lib Gantt
Blake Goforth
Family of Veva C. Gold
Gary Gragg
Amy Cartee Greene
Jim Hendrick
Myrna Hollifield
Natalie Humphries
Dale Mayes
Marshall Mayes
Mickey Morehead
Buck Proctor
Rachel Proctor
Jim Ramsey
Randy Raynor
Lisa Spangler
Kathe Sparks
Family of Ora Trivett
Grady & Barbara Ward
Scott Wellmon

OUR HOMEBOUND

Sue Cabaniss
Gene Cornwell - *Lincolnton Rehab Center*
Billy Wright

MISSIONS

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

OUR NATIONAL & STATE LEADERS HEALTHCARE WORKERS TEACHERS AND STUDENTS



**Join us for our Wednesday Evening Prayer Time and Bible Study
on the book of Ephesians**

Online at 6:00 pm via our Facebook page
or the church website directly following



1 Julia Wellmon
 2 Lisa Fitts
 Betty Hendrick
 3 Max Davis
 Betty Hartley
 4 Aimee Jackson
 5 Larry Dixon
 Chris Bridges
 7 Sam Cornwell
 9 Dale Beaver
 Will Hamrick
 Lynn Ledford
 Dannie Moore
 11 Evan Parker
 15 Clyde Gold
 Tap Ramsey
 16 Mark Davis
 Owen Storie
 18 Steve Greene
 22 Michael Morehead
 Mary Kathryn Fletcher
 24 Sophie Aderholdt
 26 Sam Wilson
 30 Dean Jenks
 Jerry Wellmon

2nd John & Sally Hamrick
 Dean & Jan Jenks
 5th Eddie & Jenny Harrill
 6th Brad & Heather Cornwell
 Jim & Betty Hendrick
 7th Jeff & Mary Cornwell
 8th Gene & Joy Fortenberry
 Gene & Irma Metcalfe
 9th Ted & Lynn McSwain
 10th Larry & Brenda Dixon
 14th Dick & Jenny Cabaniss
 Frank & Anita Horn
 Bruce & Carol Martin
 Dannie & Linda Moore
 Mike & Iris Spangler



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



To Our Sweet Zion Church Family,

First off, we would like to personally thank each one of you from the bottom of our hearts for surrounding us in your support, love, and prayers through our adoption. Because of your generous love offering, you have made it possible for us to adopt our baby much sooner than we could have expected, and through God's love, we couldn't ask for a more supportive community to bring our child into! We currently are just waiting on a phone call that could happen at any time, answering our prayers, to become parents. You have overwhelmed our hearts with love, and through God, given us the gift of life! Through your love and prayers, we will never stop thanking you! We can't wait for you to meet Baby Clark!

With love,
 Wesley & Autumn Clark



Zion Baptist Church Kids Camp Info

June 28th—July 2nd @Gardner Webb



We would love to have your child/children join us for CentriKid camp this summer at Gardner Webb. Camp will be from Monday—Friday and children are able to stay overnight or participate as day campers. The camp schedule is flexible if your child needs to leave early and is not able to participate each day. You may also want to check out www.centrikid.com—under the group leaders section for all the information regarding camp. They also have a detailed health and safety procedures document for parents to read.

Let us know if your child is interested in attending this camp, whether as an overnight camper or day participant. **Deadline for sign-ups is Sunday 6/13, however to guarantee you child's spot and ensure Zion has enough chaperones for the trip, please sign up as soon as possible.** You can let Matt or the church office know.

Children's Outing on June 23rd

The children will go to Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park at Golden Valley. Carol Martin has 30 tickets at this time (all the day passes they are currently offering). Please text Carol at 704-472-8135 if you want to go and tell her the number of passes you need.



S.N.A.C. (Sunday night after church)- on June 6th, 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Garden City Beach Camp - June 16th -- 21st. Money is due on June 6th.

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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
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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 - JUNE 7TH & 21ST

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING INFORMATION FOR
PUBLICATION IN THE JULY NEWSLETTER, JUNE 28TH**

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