

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

WHAT'S  LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?



EVERYTHING!

Mark 12: 28 - 31



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

REV. LARRY L. ROUNDTREE II, PASTOR

2511 E. Columbus Drive Tampa, FL 33605

(813) 248-8101=Office Website=nmztampa.com



Pastor delivers the Word at his 8th Anniversary Celebration.



THE PROGRESSOR

MAY 2021

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Thank you to everyone who made this edition of our church's news magazine possible.

May 9



June 20



FROM OUR PASTOR



“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” John 1:1-5 ESV

Thus begins the Gospel of Jesus Christ; as ascribed by John. For the vast majority of Sundays this year, we have been on a Holy Spirit led journey with Jesus.

I am so thankful that even in unique worship circumstances, the Word of God continues to prevail! Both members and the surrounding community have been blessed by our outdoor worship, which began on the 5th Sunday in January.

Although we will eventually go back to indoor worship, let us not get lulled back to our previous comfort zones, due to personal preferences. We were saved AND sent; brought in to go out; and won to witness for Christ.

I would like to offer a huge thank you to our staff, volunteers, ministerial staff, deacons and deaconess for their tireless labor to ensure weekly that attendees, watchers, and listeners, receive a quality corporate worship experience.

I solicit your prayers for God's guidance, protection, and wisdom as we prepare to transition back to indoor gathering.

Because He Lives,

Pastor Roundtree



As a means of communicating with our membership and non-members, New Mount Zion is blessed to have the following platforms:

CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU? If your answer is yes, then come by church on Wednesdays for **Drive Thru Prayer**. Now more than ever, the prayers of the righteous availeth much!

WHEN: Wednesdays from 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

WHERE: 2511 E. Columbus Drive Tampa, FL 33605

Our **VIRTUAL BIBLE STUDY and SUNDAY WORSHIP** is led by Pastor Larry L. Roundtree II. Expect the authentic truth with “An Exploration Through The Gospel of John” series designed to reinvigorate us with hope and encouragement during these uncertain times.

WHEN: Wednesdays at 7:00 PM

HOW CAN YOU WATCH?

- [Website homepage](#)
- [Facebook Live](#)
- [YouTube](#)
- Listen by dialing [\(805\) 706-4089](tel:8057064089) *(no access code needed)*

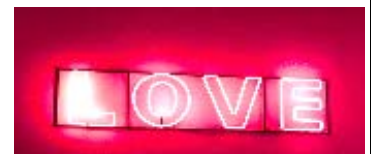
Join the **COMMUNITY PRAYER CALL**, as we seek His face for direction and strength these uncertain times. There is absolutely nothing that can stop a praying community.

WHEN: JOIN FRIDAYS BY PHONE [\(805\) 706-4089](tel:8057064089) *(no access code needed)*

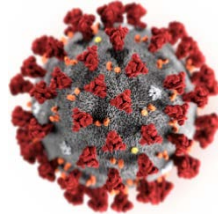
6:00 AM/12:00 Noon/6:00 PM



We must wait on God to tell us what to say and do. We must do the work God has told us to do. We must walk with God by doing what His Will tells us to do. When we speak, the Will of God should be speaking through us. Unless we are living and demonstrating the Will of God, we are not letting God's light shine so others can see God in us.



HEALTH NEWS



We Made it!

A Facebook Testimony From Sis. Crysandra Scott

(Posted January 22, 2021)

Two weeks and three days ago Ken & I were diagnosed with COVID-19. Ken was hospitalized a day for minor complications and had some miserable days during Week One. I started having a miserable time of it during Week Two (on my birthday). We had bad headaches, chills, fever, extreme fatigue, and loss of taste. I had brain fog, nausea, loss of smell, upper respiratory congestion, dizziness, earache, and ringing in the ear! I'm still recovering from an inner ear and sinus infection but projected to get back to normal soon. Ken went back to work today, and I go back Monday! Still not 100% but better. "Praise the Lord!" We learned that whatever health issue you have, COVID makes it worse. Thankfully we were working on our health (weight & high blood pressure) the year prior. So our case was not as bad as it could have been. However, it did kick me for several days. Please take this seriously and work on your health. We would not wish this misery on anyone! Special shout out to our children/grandchildren for all their help with grocery shopping, food, medication runs, and our family for all their prayers.



Covid is scary but **We Made it!** Thank you Jesus!!! 🙏



HEALTH AWARENESS MINISTRY

Reported By Sis. Mechelle Humbert

Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-March 30, 2021

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/safety-of-vaccines.html>

What you need to know:

- COVID-19 vaccines are **safe and effective**.
- Millions of people in the United States have received COVID-19 vaccines under the most intense safety monitoring in U.S. history.
- CDC recommends you get a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as you are eligible.

Millions of people have safely received a COVID-19 vaccine

Over 145 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine were administered in the United States from December 14, 2020, through March 29, 2021.

COVID-19 vaccines are **safe and effective**. COVID-19 vaccines were evaluated in tens of thousands of participants in clinical trials. The vaccines met FDA's rigorous scientific standards for safety, effectiveness, and manufacturing quality needed to support emergency use authorization (EUA). [Learn more about EUAs in this video external icon.](#)

Millions of people in the United States have received COVID-19 vaccines, and these vaccines will undergo the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history. This monitoring includes using both established and new safety monitoring systems to make sure that COVID-19 vaccines are safe.

Results from monitoring efforts are reassuring. Some people have no side effects. Others have reported common [side effects after COVID-19 vaccination](#) like:

- swelling, redness and pain at injection site,
- fever
- headache
- tiredness
- muscle pain
- chills
- and nausea

These reactions are common. A small number of people have had a [severe allergic reaction](#) (called "anaphylaxis") after vaccination, but this is extremely **rare**. If this occurs, vaccination providers have medicines available to effectively and immediately treat the reaction.

After you get a COVID-19 vaccine, you will be asked to stay for 15–30 minutes so you can be observed in case you have a severe allergic reaction and provided treatment in the rare case it is needed.



After their second dose of the vaccine at Greater Bethel Missionary Baptist Church on Jefferson Street in Downtown Tampa on February 14, some of New Mount Zion’s members are pictured sitting and waiting to be released.

COVID-19 vaccination and following [CDC recommendations on wearing masks and social distancing](#) are the best ways to protect against COVID-19 illness. CDC recommends you get vaccinated for COVID-19 as soon as you are eligible.

CDC, FDA, and other federal partners will continue to monitor the safety of COVID-19 vaccines as they continue to become more broadly used in the population.

Have you experienced a side effect following COVID-19 vaccination?

You can [report it to VAERSexternal icon](#).

Anaphylaxis (an acute allergic reaction to an antigen to which the body has become hypersensitive) **after COVID-19 vaccination is rare**. If this occurs, vaccination providers can effectively and immediately treat the reaction.

To date, VAERS has not detected patterns in cause of death that would indicate a safety problem with COVID-19 vaccines.

Have You Been Fully Vaccinated?

Per the CDC, people are considered fully vaccinated:

- 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, like the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or
- 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, like Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine

If it has been less than 2 weeks since your shot, or if you still need to get your second dose, you are NOT fully protected. Keep taking all prevention steps until you are fully vaccinated.

When You've Been Fully Vaccinated for now, [here's what's changed and what hasn't changed according to the CDC](#). Want to learn more about these recommendations? Read

the CDC's expanded [Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#), corresponding [Science Brief](#), and recommendations for healthcare providers.

Guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Food & Drug Administration

Many vaccines are being developed and tested, but some might be ready before others, according to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#). The federal agency is working with partners at all levels, including health care associations, on flexible [COVID-19 vaccination programs](#) that can accommodate different vaccines and scenarios. According to the CDC, being vaccinated [provides numerous benefits](#). It is also important to know that the [U.S. Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#) ensures vaccine quality, safety, and effectiveness.

Vaccine Approval Process

The FDA is responsible for [approving the vaccines](#) for use in the United States. The agency is expected to expedite distribution under a process known as [Emergency Use Authorization](#). Learn the [facts about the COVID-19 vaccines](#) and the federal government's efforts to [accelerate the development, manufacturing, and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics](#).

Finding Credible Vaccine Information

Before going online to search for vaccine information, make sure that you have identified credible sources that regularly update their information. [The CDC offers guidance](#) on how to find credible information. In addition, the Immunization Action Coalition offers valuable advice on [evaluating online health information](#). The University of California San Francisco's Evaluating Health Information page lists [red flags](#) every consumer needs to know.

Effective Monday, April 5, 2021 all Florida residents were eligible to receive any COVID-19 vaccine as prescribed by the Food and Drug Administration. The Pfizer vaccine is authorized for persons 16 and up. The Moderna and Janssen (Johnson and Johnson) vaccines are authorized for ages 18 and up.

Information about Vaccine in Hillsborough County



Wear your mask, wash your hands, and keep your distance.

NOTE: After the publication of this content, some of the directives have changed. Before you make any decisions, please contact your healthcare provider.



**Submitted By Sis. Jeanene Robinson Kyles
Licensed Clinical Psychologist**



Times have been difficult for many of us, and a negative emotional reaction can be expected. However, there are some red flags to look out for that may indicate that a bigger issue is occurring. Listed below are some red flags indicating that professional help may be needed:

- Anger outbursts/irritability
- Child disobedience/disrespect
- Moodiness
- Excessive or inefficient sleeping or eating habits
- Low motivation or failing grades

Red flags can be indicators of a diagnosable condition. Depression (low energy, low motivation, hopelessness) and Anxiety (racing thoughts, excessive worries, sleeping difficulties) are common mental health diagnoses that are treatable when accurately detected. These diagnoses are often triggered by the following:

- Unfulfilling relationships or not feeling valued/heard in relationships
- Grief or Trauma: Any significant change can trigger adjustment difficulties (moving, death, assault, a new baby, etc.)
- Genetic predisposition=A mental health diagnosis indicates that the symptoms cannot be simply “shaken-off” or easily disappear on its own without treatment.

Disorders and Intellectual Disabilities are typically genetically caused diagnoses that can be revealed if someone’s school grades are significantly lower than the average person. These diagnoses are often hidden but could be the cause of:

- behavioral problems
- low motivation
- school avoidance (a desire to skip school or misbehave to be suspended from school).

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder can often be the genetically caused diagnosis if the following is noticed:

- Difficulty concentrating
- Impatience/impulsivity

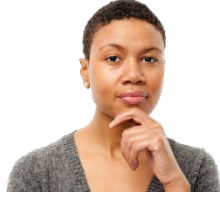
**Can be a misdiagnosis if an improper diet or insufficient exercise is not rectified first.

Mental Health Testing for Benefits! Mental Health testing can determine your diagnosis and help you gain the benefits and treatment you deserve! Medications-Can be very helpful to reduce symptoms if you work with your doctor to find the right medication and dosage. School Accommodations Assistance is available from Pre-K through professional education! With a diagnosis you can obtain:

- Additional time to complete assignments and tests
- Low distraction seating
- A specialized curriculum
- Tutoring

Work Accommodations with a diagnosis you can gain extended time off work or an adjusted work schedule with specialized duties. Social Security Benefits with a diagnosis you can gain monetary assistance from the government if you are unable to work or pay for the treatment you need.

Don’t miss out on God’s blessings! Matthew 7:7 Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. James 4:2 ...You do not have, because you do not ask.



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT...

“GOD’S LOVE IS FOREVER”

Submitted By Sis. Marilyn Washington



“I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from his love. Death can’t, and life can’t. The angels won’t, and all the powers of hell itself cannot keep God’s love away. Our fears for today, our worries about tomorrow, or where we are—high above the sky, or in the deepest ocean—nothing will ever be able to separate us from the love of God demonstrated by our Lord Jesus Christ when he died for us.”
Romans 8:38-39 (TLB)

No matter how bad life gets, you can rest in one important truth: God won’t stop loving you. You’ll have things go right. You’ll have things go wrong. But God’s love will never end—you can count on that.

That truth should be one of the most important sources of joy in your life!

The Bible says it like this in Romans 8:38-39: “I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from his love. Death can’t, and life can’t. The angels won’t, and all the powers of hell itself cannot keep God’s love away. Our fears for today, our worries about tomorrow, or where we are — high above the sky, or in the deepest ocean — nothing will ever be able to separate us from the love of God demonstrated by our Lord Jesus Christ when he died for us” (TLB). That’s good news.

When you put your hand in God’s hand, he grabs it and won’t let go. God holds on to you with all he has. When my kids were little, we went to the Grand Canyon. When we walked up to the edge, I grabbed the hands of my two youngest children, Josh and Matthew. Of course, they wanted to get closer to the edge than I wanted them to get. They tried to squirm and shake free, but I wouldn’t let go. I was their father, and I loved them.

You’ll have times in your life when you’ll want to let go of God’s hand. You’ll want to give up your commitment to Christ when times get tough.

But God won’t let go of you—ever. Once you put your hand in his, it’s there to stay. If you could earn your salvation by working for it, you could lose it the moment you stopped working for it. But you didn’t earn your relationship with God. It was a free gift. Once it has been given, it can’t be taken back. That’s an unimaginable source of joy for any believer.

Talk It Over

- God’s love will never end. In what ways does this truth bring you joy?
- When have you been tempted to let go of God’s hand? How did he show his faithfulness to you during that time?
- What worry or fear do you need to entrust to God in light of his great love for you?

Have you put your hand in God's?

Romans 3:39 promises: "Nothing will ever be able to separate us from the love of God demonstrated by our Lord Jesus Christ when he died for us" (TLB). Have you put your hand in God's by trusting Jesus as your Savior. This post appeared first on [Pastor Rick's Daily Hope](#).

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The Evaluation of Stewardship

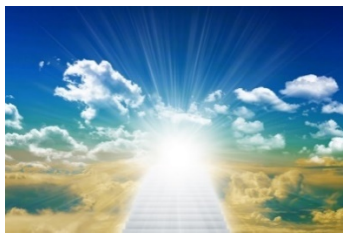
1 Corinthians 3:11-15

Each Christian will one day come before the judgment seat of [Christ](#) and will be evaluated for their Christian walk. This is when God will look at our stewardship, at our use of time, talents, and treasures. He will evaluate us not to determine our entrance to heaven—that has already been given through Christ's finished work on [the cross](#)—but to determine our reward in heaven.

As we reconsider the parable of the three stewards in [Matthew 25](#), let us first remember the issue of responsibility in stewardship. The three servants did not own the possessions they took care of; those things belonged to the master. None of the slaves could claim ownership of anything they had. In the same way, everything we have, are, or ever will be belongs to God.

We must also remember the issue of accountability. After time had passed, the master came back to see what the slaves had done with his money. We will all one-day answer for the use of our resources. To the servants who invested wisely, the master gave public praise and more treasures (vv. 21, 23), but to the servant who buried his talent in the ground, he gave a tongue-lashing (v. 26). Each one got the reward he was due.

How can we prepare for the day when we will answer for the use of our time, talents, and treasures? Start rewriting our obituaries now! We can't change the past, but we can change tomorrow. Begin reorganizing your life to reflect your changed priorities. (Christianity.com---Alternative View--Dr. Tony Evans)



"A Dream Of Going To Heaven"

Submitted By Sis. Mary Priester

(Author Unknown)

I dreamt that I went to Heaven and an angel was showing me around. We walked side-by-side inside a large workroom filled with angels. My angel guide stopped in front of the first section and said, 'This is the Receiving Section. Here, all petitions to God said in prayer are received. I looked around in this area, and it was terribly busy with so many angels sorting out petitions written on voluminous paper sheets and scraps from people all over the world. Then we moved on down a long corridor until we reached the second section.

The angel then said to me, "This is the Packaging and Delivery Section. Here, the graces and blessings the people asked for are processed and delivered to the living persons who asked for them." I noticed again how busy it was there. There were many angels working hard at that station, since so many blessings had been requested and were being packaged for delivery to Earth.

Finally at the farthest end of the long corridor we stopped at the door of a very small station. To my great surprise, only one angel was seated there, idly doing nothing. "This is the Acknowledgment Section, my angel friend quietly admitted to me. He seemed embarrassed. "How is it that there is no work going on here? I asked."

"So sad," the angel sighed. "After people receive the blessings that they asked for, very few send back acknowledgments."

"How does one acknowledge God's blessings? "I asked.

"Simple," the angel answered. Just say, "Thank you, Lord."

"What blessings should they acknowledge?" I asked.

"If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy, and if you get this on your own computer, you are part of the 1% in the world who has that opportunity." "If you woke up this morning with more health than illness. You are more blessed than the many who will not even survive this day."

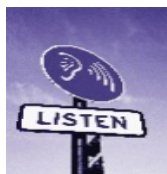
"If you have never experienced the fear in battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation... You are ahead of 700 million people in the world."

"If you can attend a church without the fear of harassment, arrest, torture or death you are envied by, and more blessed than, three billion people in the world."

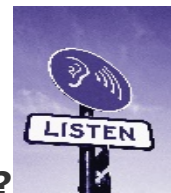
"If your parents are still alive and still married.... you are very rare."

"If you can hold your head up and smile, you are not the norm, you're unique to all those in doubt and despair....." "Ok," I said. "What now? How can I start?"

The Angel said, "If you can read this message, you just received a double blessing in that someone was thinking of you as very special and you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world who cannot read at all." Don't take your blessings for granted.



WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?



Meditation upon the Word is a holy habit that is not much employed today. Most mature Christians will spend time reading the Word, speaking the Word, and applying it to their lives, but few meditate upon the passages they read. This often involves memorization. Take time to let the Word speak to you. Ask the Holy Spirit to make it come alive and apply it to your daily situations. The quantity of Scripture read is not as important as seeing the application to our lives. Look for God's eternal truth in each passage you read.

(Through The Bible Daily Devotional 04/16/21)



Reported By Sis. Alfredia Mulkey
Church Administrator

It has been a year since the start of the pandemic, and the challenge has been unprecedented. It has caused everything in our lives to literally change, and corporate worship as we know appears to have been significantly altered. The temporary closing of the church has forced us to 'do' church differently and to re-imagine the future. The new landscape calls for both resilience and adaptation, embracing new ways of doing things. We have technology and equipment that allows us to connect with our NMZ community from anywhere in the world. Our Worship Service and Bible Study are live streamed on Facebook and YouTube, and we are also on the radio on Sundays at 1:00pm on WTMP 1150AM. Most recently we have added "Parking Lot Worship" where members can come and experience corporate fellowship while sitting in the comfort of their cars or outside on the grounds. Speaking of grounds, God has expanded our territory and the vacant lot at 2412 E. 15th Street was donated as a gift to the church. This lot will give us more space for parking and future building projects, and we are so thankful.

Our mission is to change the world through the love of Christ; one soul at a time. During these difficult times NMZ is making a difference in our community by partnering with the East Tampa Business and Civic Association to host a community food distribution bank to help those in need. The food bank is open Monday – Thursday from 9am – 2pm, and provides fresh fruit, vegetables, non-perishable items, meats, and dairy products. This program has served approximately 500 families a day and has been a blessing to so many hungry families during this pandemic. It is also important to us to ensure that our NMZ community is vaccinated to ensure the health and safety of our members. We have been diligently working with local and state government to help with the distribution of vaccines. To date we have hosted 3 vaccine distributions at our church and helped over 600 people get vaccinated.

As you can see, our church leadership across the board has had to remain nimble in this time of uncertainty. We have been responding to shifting CDC guidelines and perceptions while also considering the physical, economic, and emotional impact the crisis has had on our NMZ community.

Amid this crisis, we were blessed to have Brother Devyn Freeland join our staff as our new Comptroller. Brother Freeland is member of NMZ and a graduate of the University of South Florida with a degree in Finance. He brings a wealth of financial expertise to the team, and we are excited about the positive impact he will make in this position. We give thanks to God for all He has done!

MINISTRIES & OTHERS SHARE...



PASTOR'S AIDE MINISTREEMENTS

Reported By Sis. Gwen Hayes

Celebrating Our Pastor And His Family's 8th Anniversary

Zionites! Can you believe it has been 8 years since we welcomed Reverend Larry L. Roundtree, II, his wife, Sameya and their family to our family. He has always said, it was not of his doing, "God did it!" And, we know that to be true.

It was the first Sunday in March, 2013, that he stood before us as Pastor.

Today, we're still thankful for what God did!

For the past year, Pastor Roundtree has found a way to make sure his congregants received the Word. We've had prayer services, Bible Study, Sunday School and Worship – even special programs. The COVID-19 pandemic brought the City to a halt in March, 2020. But, we have not missed a beat – thank you Jesus! Our last worship as a family was March 15, 2020.

The 7th Anniversary for our Pastor and his family was a bit different. A group of ladies came together and put on a drive-by event on the 2nd Sunday in April, the usual anniversary Sunday. It was a drive-by celebration, but Pastor and his family loved it. Later in the year, the Pastor's Aide Ministry coordinated an anniversary celebration so that all of the ministries of the church could participate.

The 8th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, April 11th, was an outdoor, well planned event with the participation of so, so many Zionites, including coordinating dinner for those who participated in the drive-by parade. Many in the parade had their cars decorated to wish the family 'Happy Anniversary.' There was a congratulatory billboard with several messages for the pastor and his family. The colors for this year were denim and white with pearls. The theme for 2021 was "Honoring Our Pastor's Spiritual Knowledge and Earthly Understanding," Jeremiah 3:15. PAM (Pastor's Aide Ministry) debuted their new polo shirts for the anniversary. They've been on hold for a year.

The threat of inclement weather had many on edge, but God showed favor and held the rain back. Although it was his anniversary, there was no special guest speaker. Pastor Roundtree preached the Anniversary Sermon, "Highway To Heaven," from John 6.

Among the guests in attendance were: Pastor Voltaire Charitable of Haiti who thanked us for contributing to his ministry. Also, Atty. Benjamin Crump, accompanied by Atty. Sean Shaw, talked with the parishioners about a lead poisoning plant in the area causing health problems for many of its employees.

Even though the church building has been closed for meetings, the Pastor's Aide Ministry (PAM) like other ministries has held Conference Call meetings to get things done.

It is often said that "many hands make little work." As we celebrated Pastor Roundtree and his Family's 8th Anniversary on Sunday, April 11, 2021, we saw "hands" at work. Our sincere gratitude, appreciation, and thank you are extended to the entire NMZ Family for ALL of your assistance. For those who were present via Facebook, YouTube, or were able to be in attendance, we could not spell success without "You." We are grateful to all of you who helped to make our Pastor and his family's 8th Anniversary a successful event. What's Love Got To Do With It? EVERYTHING!

"For God is not unrighteous to forget your work." Hebrews 6:10
Sis. Brenda Holley is President of the Pastor's Aide Ministry.



8 YEARS STRONG with Pastor's Family.



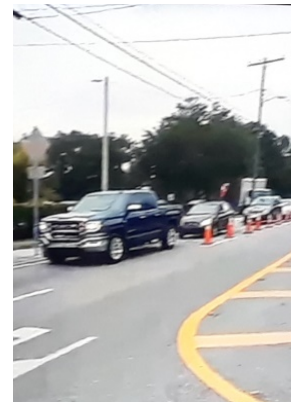
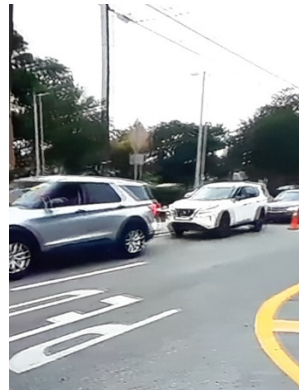
Members enjoying Pastor delivering an inspiring message on his 8th Anniversary.



**PASTOR'S AIDE MINISTRY PRESENTS APPRECIATION GIFTS
TO PASTOR AND SIS. ROUNDTREE
FOLLOWED BY THEIR REMARKS**



PASTOR'S ANNIVERSARY PARADE



In and out of season, regardless of the circumstances, you all find a way to show my family just how much you love and appreciate our entire family. Thank you for being an example of not only what love is but what love does. The heartfelt prayers, the hugs, the smiles, the well wishes, the cards, the gifts, the posts, the photos/videos...each of these acts of kindness never go unnoticed and we are sincerely grateful to be apart of the NMZ Tampa family.

Pastor Roundtree and Family (Facebook Post)



Reported By Minister Willie Kimbrough

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Greeting to you my Brothers and Sisters in Christ. It has been a while since we communicated with each other. In times like these, we need an anchor and we need to make sure our anchor holds. Thanks be to God we can know that our anchor surely holds. In light of the things we are dealing with the Covid-19, not to mention the hatred directed at us as a people, we can be sure that our God has everything under control. It is just good to know that God knows everything about us, He knows our ups and downs our ins and outs. He knows just what we need to sustain us during these times. Let us stay faithful unto Him and he will certainly direct our paths. We would like to thank the new members who have united with New Mt. Zion even during these times. I would encourage these New Members to visit our website; click on the New Members section and fill out the requested forms. Also, someone from the New Members Department will contact you as soon as possible. We would like to thank Pastor Larry Roundtree, II for all he has done to keep us and the Church together and moving forward. We pray his strength in the Lord. These are unprecedented times that we are enduring and as such we need to stay focused and vigilant. Truly the Lord has been good to us for this past year and has seen our lives turned every which way it could; but through it all, we can say "we're still here." Some may say I have had some heartaches and some pains; I have been through storms and rain; but I'm still here. Thank you Jesus for saving me. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the works of the Lord, for as ye know your work is not in vain in the Lord. (1st Cor. 15:58). We would like to encourage everyone to get the vaccine when your time comes; it will help all of us. We thank all of our New Members here at New Mt. Zion and we really appreciate you for considering us. There will be ORIENTATION classes coming up in the future. Mt. Zion, here are your recent New Members:

Margaret Fountain-Brown, Daryl DeGraff, Claude Brooks, Ty Keria

Kimberly Smith, Gregory Brown, Evelyn Crittenden

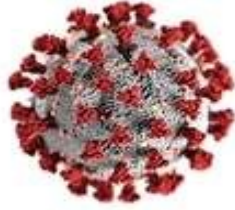
Cameia Manning, Ash Cross, Melvin Johnson

Brenda Nelson, Ernest Nelson, Nina Eliacin

Alton Jacobs, George Cyrus Washington, Cheryl Foy

Reginald Lawrence, Nahanic Thompson





A YOUTH'S VIEWPOINT

Reported By Timothy (TJ) Jones, II

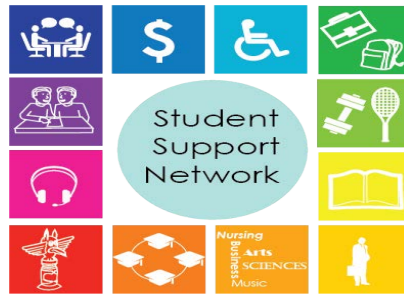
A year later and COVID-19 is still around. For us teens, much has not changed. Some of us choose to go to physical school while others do E-Learning. I, personally, attend school in person because I need direct instruction. Aside from school, socially it is still different, especially when trying to interact with new people. Honestly, though, we are getting used to living in this pandemic. We are adapting and finding new ways to enjoy ourselves. A lot of us are using social media websites like Tiktok to make our own fun. Establishments will be open this summer for us to go, so this should restore some type of normalcy. With that being said, I think us teens, as a collective group, are doing much better than this time last year.

>>>>>>>>>>

10 Tips for Emotional Wellness

<p>REFLECT  Take time out of each day to rest, relax, and reflect. Journaling or making art are great ways to reflect.</p> <p>THINK THANKFUL THOUGHTS  Notice things that you are thankful for in your everyday life and practice gratitude daily.</p> <p>TALK TO SOMEONE  Talking about your feelings is a great way to process them. Talk to a family member or friend when you have a problem or something is concerning you.</p> <p>KEEP A SLEEPING SCHEDULE  Ample sleep - at least 8 hours - can improve your overall mood and emotional well-being.</p> <p>BE MINDFUL  Mindfulness is being aware of the world around you and focusing on what you are experiencing. During your day, remind yourself to be fully present and to focus on the "now".</p> <p>REACH OUT FOR HELP  Sometimes we need the help of a professional to be at our best. If you would like help, reach out to a counselor, advisor, or your family doctor. Please see reverse side for additional resources.</p>	<p>EXERCISE  Exercise helps your body release mood-improving chemicals. Look for ways to incorporate physical activity into your daily routine.</p> <p>EAT HEALTHY  Research shows that eating certain foods such as fruits, vegetables, and fish can help fuel your body and mind.</p> <p>PRACTICE CALMING TECHNIQUES  We can all feel stressed, anxious, upset, or angry. Breathing, relaxing your body, and visualizing yourself in a peaceful setting can help you cope and relax.</p> <p>IMPROVE YOUR TIME MANAGEMENT  Use time wisely so you do not feel overwhelmed. Make lists, create routines, and plan your week to help you feel in control of your time.</p>
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The above information was shared by Middle School Educator Sis. Elise Odom. Parents, please share with your children.



STUDENT SERVICES MINISTRY
(Formerly Educational Ministry)
Reported By President Sis. Kenya Jones

Preparing Students Emotionally for Standardized Testing

During the past several years, standardized testing's place in public education has been a hotly debated topic. Although standardized testing has been around for some time, the stakes attached to tests were raised dramatically by the No Child Left Behind legislation that became law in the early 2000s. Former President Obama and Congress collaborated to remove the stakes attached to the tests, but some form of testing will remain present in each state to assess students' retention of classroom material taught.

Although we are in a pandemic, standardized testing will still occur. Whether or not testing will count for this school year is still unknown, but the tips mentioned below are still relevant, and can help prepare students emotionally for standardized tests:

Try Not to Stress

Stressing out over testing will not raise scores. Studying ahead of time, getting a good night's sleep, and eating a healthy breakfast will help to reduce the stress level. If educators want to improve scores, they must collaborate as a school team to form an improvement plan. Once the plan has been made, there is nothing else left to do but execute it. As a parent, stressing out about the test is likely to be observed by your child, and will likely make them feel stressed out as well.

Clarify Misconceptions

Some students believe that if they do not pass the standardized tests, they will not advance to the next grade level. This is an enormous amount of stress for students to feel. Remain in constant contact with your child's teacher to find out how they are performing throughout the school year, and if they are struggling in a particular subject area, then seek additional help from the teacher or another qualified source. Talk to your child's teacher about the possibility of retention if your child does not perform well on the test, and what other steps can be taken afterwards if the test results are not favorable.

Emphasize Effort Over Getting a High Score

Tell your child that the most important thing is for them to do is their absolute best. Try to discuss the importance of the test without making your child feel responsible for any outcome that may be attached to low test scores.

Keep Test Days Simple

Some schools hold pep rallies to encourage students and promote positive testing vibes. Non-testing grade levels may decide to make posters and artwork to show their support for those grade



VOICES OF PRAISE

Reported By President Sis. Juanita Burston

Bro. Carlton Brown facilitated a Zoom meeting on the 20th of February with the Sopranos. He held three individual section meetings; one with the sopranos, another with the altos, and the third with the tenors+. Everyone was given a chance to speak on what was going on with them. Bro. Carlton Brown is now over the choirs. Bro. Torrey Thomas (keyboardist) is now the VOPs musician. He is, also, over the musicians. We now have two drummers who will alternate.

PEARLS FOR CHRIST

(A Small Group for Bible Study)

Reported By President Sis. Patricia Strowbridge



The Pearls for Christ small group Bible study is composed of seasoned members with various pre-existing medical conditions. Since the pandemic, the community meeting place at the public library on Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd has been closed; thus, hindering the group's physical meetings.

However, upon closer inspection, one might notice that the majority of the Pearls for Christ members have recently transferred over to a Virtual Bible Study each Thursday morning. The no name virtual has gone through the books of Acts, Peter, and is presently studying 1 John. These are a few highlights of the study of the scriptures presented in no specific order. The book of ACTS tells of the origin to the Christian Church starting just after Jesus, the Son of God, loved the world enough to pay the price for our sins. We reviewed that the HOLY SPIRIT is the only power to live by. Even though full of Satan's temptations, we must follow Jesus' example of love ye one another. We know that love is an action word; for love requires self-sacrifice. We learned that the early Church suffered internal and external opposition. Some of

the external opposition came at the hands of the Jewish religious leaders and the ruling government. Most of the internal opposition was in the form of Christian believers in Christ's Saving action at Calvary. But they wanted to ADD man's requirements to the plan of Salvation; namely, Christian Believers had to go back and get a physical circumcision and follow Jewish eating practices to be truly SAVED. Man's opposition to hinder the Church's progress only worked to disperse the Disciples to other parts of the world. None of man's actions can hinder God's plans for His Church. Acts also explained the characteristics of Christ's life. Our goal is to be more like Jesus Christ day by day with the Power of the Holy Spirit. Satan is always about his business to place stumbling blocks in man's path even the path of Seasoned Christians. It was emphasized that the Christian must study the scriptures regularly in order to: distinguish false doctrines, learn the truth, get understanding, and recognize conflicting false doctrines.

After Acts, we studied Peter on his journeys and his letters of encouragement. Peter an eyewitness; Peter on this rock; Peter denied Christ three times before the chicken crowed. Peter repented of his lack of faith and strength to become one of the Major Prophets. He established churches, corrected churches, and kept the churches informed by writing regularly. Peter also emphasized the characteristic of Christian life. He strongly warned that Satan would offer temptations.

The book of I JOHN: We are learning about LOVE. We are reminded that through Christ's work on the Cross, we are to follow the Commandment to: LOVE YE ONE ANOTHER by living a life of sacrificial love for the brothers and sisters we see here on Earth. We read that if we can't love the brothers and sisters with the help of the Holy Spirit, we can't love God; then our Christianity is a LIE.

We had additional emphasis to STUDY the True Word of God because the antichrist will come with enticing words that will lead many away. Love is a choice, action word, and some attend church for the wrong reasons. We all must grow in grace and knowledge of the Holy Word.

The Thursday morning Virtual Bible Study is directed by the capable Deaconess Mary L Priester promptly at 8:00AM. You are welcome to join the conference call number 605.468.8004; Code #31041; then announce yourself. We are growing in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus the Christ.

**“A song on my mind recently has been; He didn't have to let me live.
I'm so glad to be in the Service one more time.”**



HOSPITALITY MINISTRY
Reported By President Monica Narain

The Hospitality, like most ministries, came to an abrupt stop in March 2020. By May, we were able to add a link on our church website. The visitors' link allows first time and returning visitors to submit a form and be contacted with a follow up phone call or email. Since the inception of the website link, we have welcomed at least 20 first time/returning visitors. To God Be the Glory!! We are extremely thankful we were still able to "Change the World (virtually) Through the Love of Christ One Soul at a Time." We will be happy to resume our regularly scheduled activity whenever it is safe to do so.

*When day comes we step out of the shade, aflame and unafraid
The new dawn blooms as we free it
For there is always light,
If only we're brave enough to see it
If only we're brave enough to be it
-Amanda Gorman*



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Reported By Superintendent Deacon Keith Powe

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction for instruction in righteousness:" 2 Timothy 3:16

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ...

Sunday school classes are still in session. During our time away from our normal gathering at the church, classes have been and are being conducted online. Sis. Joan Fraiser and Sis. Mary Priester are leading the Early Elementary students in a "ZOOM" class, training our children in the way of the Lord. The classes are held prior to the 10am Sunday worship service.

Rev. Berry and I have been creating Sunday school presentations for viewing on the church website (NMZ Community app) and on YouTube (NMZ Tampa-channel). These classes are also available for viewing each week prior to the 10am Sunday worship service and anytime thereafter.

The online classes will continue beyond our regathering in order to reach our members that are not able to join us at the church.

Sunday School reassembly plans will be announced at a later date. Until that time, we encourage you to continue to support this ministry or join us as we share in the study of the Holy Scriptures. Our theme for the current quarter (March-May) is "Revive Us Again, O Lord! We are studying Prophets Faithful to God's Covenant.

We are thankful to God for the NMZ Sunday School teachers and their commitment of service to Christ. If you are interested in joining this ministry, please contact the church office at 813-248-8101 (ext.1) and leave a message for Deacon Powe.

"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen" (2Peter 3:18)



PURPLE LILY USHER BOARD
Reported By Sis. Linda Y. Sanders

BLESSED ARE YOU:

Looking at his Disciples, he said: Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when men hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in Heaven.
(Luke 6:20-23)

We come bringing you greetings once again from the New Mount Zion Purple Lily Usher Board Ministry. Our President is Sister Annie Robertson and our Vice-President is Sister Shirley James. I know that it has been over a year since we all have met with one another but with the grace of God, we shall meet once again.

Two of Sis. Mary Hardy's daughters had very serious illness. They both are now at home and are getting better. We hope that with God's help and blessings, they will make a speedy recovery. Also one of our members, Mr. Duncan Andrews has been sick. Let us all pray for him and his family. Brother Vincent Sinclair has also been sick; we want him to recover soon and remember that we are thinking about him.

To all of you who are well or have a love one that's not well; remember that we love you and that Jesus cares for you.

LONELINESS

As we go through this pandemic, I want to speak on this subject of loneliness.

Loneliness is a significant struggle. God created us to offer and receive the benefits of friendship and community. If you are feeling lonely, pray that God will help you form a meaningful connection with others. In the meantime, find encouragement in the reality that the believer is never truly alone because Jesus' Spirit is always with us.

We would like to give a shout out to our new member, Ms. Latonya Neal. Latonya joined the Purple Lily Ushers at our very last meeting. So welcome Latonya and we are happy that you chose to join us.

Sending out birthday greetings to each of our members who celebrated birthdays during the months of January, February, March, April, and May. Happy birthday to each of you.

Well! this is it for now. Until next time, may you all continue to be blessed in Jesus Christ and know that we are thinking of all of you.



COUPLES MINISTRY

Reported By Sis. Nell Kimbrough

GOD'S SMILE

A smile cost nothing but gives much. No one is so rich, mighty, as a Christian that they can't smile, or they can get along without a smile. No one is so poor, but they can be made so rich by a smile. It is **GOD'S** smile, who smiles on us. It is **GOD'S** smile, who brings rest to the weary. It is **GOD'S** smile, who cheers the discouraged. It is **GOD'S** smile, who brought sunshine to our sadness. It is **GOD'S** smile, who has the world's best antidote for this virus in His hand. But only **GOD'S smile** gives us faith and hope in Him to cure this virus. Yet, **GOD** stolen grace, cannot be brought, begged, or borrowed. **GOD** showed His grace to us by giving up His Son to die for the sins of this world.

ISAIAH 58:9

"Then you shall call, and the Lord shall answer; you shall cry, and he will say, Here I am!"

Until further notice, our yearly August workshop is on hold. During the past 12 months, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggested all indoor events with large crowds

should be cancelled. Truly, the Couple's Ministry decided to follow CDCs guideline. Please stay safe, keep the faith, hopefully you will get your COVID VACCINES, and stay in **GOD'S GRACE.**

Deacon Leroy Lane is our President.



CLYM'S CLOTHES CLOSET

Reported By Coordinator Sis. Yvonne Douglas

"When I was hungry you fed me and when I was naked you clothed me."

We had a Christmas distribution and an Easter distribution in our east and west parking lots. We wore our masks and the patrons had on their masks, too. Our patrons came out in great numbers and we had an ad in the Florida Sentinel. We are so glad to be of service to the East Tampa Community. Our team let our patrons shop as long as they wanted to and filled their bags with everything they wanted.

The Pandemic has kept our patrons from shopping inside the clothes closet. So we brought things outside. I knew we would find a way to give away the beautiful clothes, shoes, and other miscellaneous items that have been generously donated to Clym's Clothes Closet. The blessings just keep coming and we are indeed grateful.

EVERYTHING IS FREE

Thank you volunteers and thank you donors for your continued support. So keep an eye on the church marquee and the flyers so you will know when the distribution is happening again.

Please do not leave donations on the porch nor in the Family Life Center. When you have items to donate, you can call the church office at 813-248-8181 and the secretary will contact me or another volunteer; we will accept your clean clothes and shoes. Sorting day and receiving day is usually on Wednesday but please call first.

We always need toiletries like soap, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, shower gel, toothpaste, toilet paper and washcloths. These items can be purchased from the dollar store. Clym's Clothes Closet has an abundance of adult pullups, diapers, and sanitary supplies for ladies. So don't be shy about asking for them any time before the distribution day.

After each distribution, we always take a few bags of clothes and shoes to Metropolitan Ministries. We had distributions on April 12. The next one is scheduled for May 10.

God is blessing us and we want to be a blessing to others. Good things are always happening in Clym's Clothes Closet. New volunteers are always welcome.

STAY SAFE





- The Youth Ushers had Back-To-School Bags filled with school supplies and goodies prepared and delivered to each of their homes by their youth leaders.
- Our church's educators received cleaning supplies from the Generation Real Ministry.
- The Intermediate Mission requested donated funds to prepare and distribute Back-To-School Bags to our youth and the community's youth. Interested youth came by the church to receive the supplies.



GOLDEN GEMS MINISTRY

Reported by Sis. Casandra Leeks Howard, President

Happy 2021 from the Golden Gems Ministry of New Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church. It's once again a New Year and the Pandemic has not stopped us from learning Gods word through Zoom, as well as conference call.

The Golden Gems Ministry continues its weekly Bible Study. We are reading from the Old Testament with enjoyment and vigor. We have completed 1st King and started on 2nd King on March 16th with just as much excitement. Our gathering is every Tuesday from 11:00 a.m to 12:00 p.m. All are invited. Please feel free to call our church secretary, Sister Jackie Jones, or myself, Sister Casandra Leeks Howard for additional information.

As a Christmas gift to the Gems from the Gems, we had masks made. This was suggested by our own Deacon Tommy Robinson. The mask was designed by the President with our Golden

Gems' emblem on the left side of the mask, our NMZ logo on the right, with a cross next to the logo. We chose black and gold as our colors. Our masks are truly noticeable when worn.



Thank you, Deacon Robinson and Elizabeth Carson Racker, for an excellent creation. We, the Golden Gems Ministry family, are striving and thriving through this pandemic with the Lord on our SIDE. Our next project is working with two rehabilitation centers. Deacon Robinson and Deacon Banks are in charge. An open invitation is given to everyone.



DEACONESS MINISTRY

Reported By Sister Mary Priester, President

The Deaconess and Ministers' Wives Ministry have adapted to the new normal of social distancing and wearing masks. We meet virtually via conference calls on Tuesday after the first Sunday of the month. Calls are made to our sick and shut in members to stay in touch and let them know they are in our thoughts and prayers. Our Deaconess continue to prepare communion supplies for distribution. We testify that God is still in charge and He expects us to continue to praise and thank Him. We continue to pray for our Pastor and Church. It is exciting to see other members when we gather for Sunday Parking Lot service.

Our ministry was represented during the January session of Congress Number 4. We represented New Mt. Zion during the Deaconess session and shared with the newly elected president, Dr. Julius Wynn, during his hour.



During the month of March, several of our members attended the Progressive M&E State Convention Deaconess virtual session. The virtual meetings were successful and we enjoyed the fellowship with our Sisters-in-Christ. We met together while staying in our homes. You can access the sessions through our Facebook page, Deaconess Council of Progressive M&E State Convention.

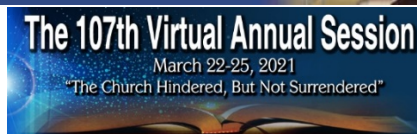
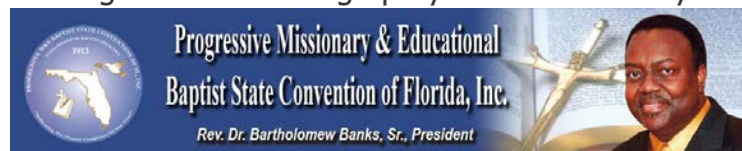
THE BROTHERHOOD



Reported By Dea. Bobby Priester, President

Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! Psalm 133:1

The Brotherhood Ministry is still uplifting the name of Jesus Christ during the challenges of the current pandemic. Although we have slowed down to remain safe, we have not stopped. Some of our brothers have been assisting with parking during the vaccine distribution and with our Parking Lot Sunday services. The Brotherhood Ministry is also represented during the drive through prayer on Wednesdays.



The Brotherhood Ministry was represented during the Florida Progressive M&E State Convention. Several brothers gathered at the home of Deacon Priester and conducted virtual devotion via Zoom during the opening session and during Deacon Herring's President's Hour.

We are looking forward to sharing information regarding hosting our first golf tournament in 2022. Keep the golf clubs ready because we are expecting a great fellowship along with much needed exercise.

Until we begin meeting in person, stay safe and follow the CDCs guidelines.



BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

Reported By President Sister Jean Collins

*Those who have lived in our hearts are never really gone.
As long as we keep them with us, in our hearts and our thoughts,
they will be with us always. For love, which is timeless,
never ceases to exist. By S. E. MacNaughton*

Family, the COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically altered everyone's daily lives, including the Church. Since we last assembled in the Sanctuary in March 2020, our Church has gone through situations that have been challenging, threatening, and uncertain. This has brought about anxiety, doubt, and fear of returning during the pandemic.

The pandemic has created new circumstances for the world as well as our Church Family. To understand the challenges with COVID-19, so many people are dying at "alarming" rates. We all know that the death of a loved one is extremely painful because we have all experienced it at one time or another. Here at New Mt. Zion our Pastor, Rev. Roundtree, has continued to connect with our Bereavement Ministry in prayer to make a difference by reaching out in love and support as we follow the current guidelines and restrictions of CDC.

Last year for instance, we had COVID-19 to interfere with our Ministry's ability to function and fellowship with families. Every month we were confronted with reminders of someone's loved one's death. We were saddened that we could not gather, attend funeral services, visit with friends nor loved ones just to connect with others.

As we continue to reflex on 2020s grief, it is still present. However, we will always cherish in our hearts the fond memories. We pause for we know that the heartache will

never go away. The path grows easier as we take time to lean in together as a family and remember these beautiful Anchored Soldiers of the Lord:

DECEASED ANCHORED SOLDIERS (FAMILY MEMBER)

Sister Deloris Evelyn Brown Wheeler (Mother of Billy Wheeler)
Rev. Dr. Lawrence Anthony Johnson (Father of Larenz Johnson)
Sister Franchon S. Woodard (Daughter of Nora Woodard)
Sister Marissa Golbolt (Sister of Kathy Campbell and Alfredia Mulkey)
Little Miss Jada Faith Gooding – Butts (Daughter of Javaris and Ashley Gooding-Butts)
Deacon David R. Lewis (Husband of Bonnie Lewis)
Sister Daisy Mae Jenkins (Wife of Ernest G. Jenkins)
Sister Linda W. Hart (Mother of Sharia Niles)
Brother Reginald Isaiah Beard (Son of Marie Beard)
Sister Beautie Mae Carter (Mother of Tiffanie Cole and Anthony Nicholson)
Deaconess Mae “Pearl” McHellen Merritt (Mother of Annie Williams, Brenda Burney,
and Jimmy Merritt)

Minister Arnold “Eddie” Rolle (Husband of Lavone Rolle)
Brother Johnnie Washington, Sr. (Husband of Lavern Washington &
Father of Angie Matthews)

Mother Essie Mae Griffith (Mother of Nelson Griffith and Linda Baker)
Deaconess Ethel Cole (Mother of Jeff, Carl, Brenford & Grandmother of Vontrece Cole)

We, also, **reached out to the following members (shown in parenthesis)** who reported their loved ones being deceased:

DECEASED FAMILY MEMBER (FAMILY MEMBER)

Olivia Collins (Mother of Wesley Collins)
Amy Eileen Narain (Grandmother of Edwin Narain)
Willie C. Wright (Father of Beverly Brinson)
William “Bill” Goodvine (Father of Laurell Jones)
Joyce Wiggins Smith (Sister of Clara Wardlow)
Matthias Mathurin (Father of Cynthia Brown)
Shenell Cooper (Niece of Carol Jarrett)
Dorothy Carter (Sister of Mary Ellis)
Isabel Contrera-Waterman (Mother of Michael Wayne, Jr.)
Beverly Bowden (Sister of Ernest Williams)
Carl Judie (Son-in-law of Oscar & Yvonne Douglas)
Earlene Poole (Sister of Rev. Walter J. Williams)
George Wright (Brother of Rudolph Wright)
Dontae Freeman (Nephew of Clara Wardlow)
James Porter (Brother-in-law of Mary Priester)
Ruthel Wayne (Grandmother of Michael Wayne)
Linda Louise McCarty (Sister of Irene Stewart)
Tyler Ladanian Bradford (Nephew of Gloria Thomas)
Freddie Lawrence (Brother of Barbara Jones and Linda Hicks)
Onzlo Robinson (Sister of Jennifer Wright/Aunt of Deon McCoy)
Victoria Lewis (Grandmother of Trinika Lewis)

Curtis Pittman (Father of Ron Pittman)

Still now, this year 2021, grieving the loss of NMZ loved ones appears even more difficult under COVID 19 pandemic or any other circumstances. That's why our Bereavement Ministry still has to continue to pray to be a light in the darkness of someone's unhappiness. We know we can't offer our services and fellowship face-to-face like we use to, but we can certainly pray for hope.

Zionites, we salute and show appreciation and love to our Pastor, Rev. Larry L. Roundtree, who has served since the Pandemic (2020 into a New Year- 2021) a new end-of-Life normal for funerals. These are extraordinary times and our Pastor has risen to every occasion for our NMZ Church Family. Pastor is always a blessing to Zionites Families. This year, the Celebration of Life Services have been held for two our loving and precious Anchors, Mother Essie Griffith and Deaconess Ethel Cole. These Prayer Warriors and Committed Anchored Soldiers in the Lord blessed our church with their Christian love and the giving of their loving service.

Lastly, these are unusual times, and we all acknowledged this. But grief will always happen because we love, and because we care for the love one that we have lost. In any walk of life, there will be times of great blessing and times of great difficulty. There will be times when you feel full of joy, and there will be times when you feel alone.

The Bible tells us that hope endures "No matter how dark or depressing our circumstances may appear, we always can hope in God!"

_ 1 Corinthians 13:13

This is our prayer;

Father, we thank You that we can hope in You in every situation and every problem we are going through. We rejoice in the hope that we have in You. We trust you with our lives. In Jesus' name. Amen

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"HOLD ON, GOD WILL SEE US THROUGH!"

This testimony begins with a young man who faced the heart-breaking dilemma of having his mother admitted to the hospital with Covid-19. Initially, the medical staff thought his mother's difficulty in breathing was pneumonia. However, as she told them she was still having a hard time breathing, they discovered it was Covid-19. Therefore, each day he kept his loving and praying family informed as to what the nurse shared with him in the morning and what the doctor shared with him each evening.

Praying and believing for God's healing, they never gave up. With his mother going through Covid-19 isolation, there could be no contact with her by family. Her closeness to her children

and her family brought isolated loneliness. Because his mother was on the ventilator, she was not able to talk. However, prayer for his mother's healing fervently continued. Then, the young man got a call that his adult daughter wasn't feeling well. Therefore, her husband took her to the hospital. She was admitted with a milder case of Covid-19. His daughter was added to the prayers of the family believing God would heal and bring her through this Pandemic. Wait!! there is more to his testimony. He informed the family that his wife wasn't feeling well and had a persistent cough. He took her to the hospital and the doctors admitted her with Covid-19. Yes!!! This young man's mother, wife, and adult daughter were all in the same hospital, and they could not have any contact. He kept the family informed and they asked the Savior to heal all three of them.

Prayers continued day by day as the young man kept the family informed on the status of their three hospitalized family members. Great news! His wife and daughter were improving. The family praised and thank God for their improvement and eventually their healing. They knew they could go to God in prayer anytime, remembering His Will shall be done. His mother was receiving different treatments to bring about her recovery. His mother's isolated loneliness was not helping her to recovery. The medical team did not give up but they continued to try different procedures. The family continued in prayer and ministering to each other for the young man's mother, wife, and daughter. They knew something about God's grace and asked the Savior to help their family members.

(Hold on! God will see us through)!

As he continued twice daily informing the family of the progress, he told of the miraculous improvement of his wife and daughter. One by one his daughter and his wife were healed and released from the hospital. The young man's mother continued her fight of faith. He continued to share the medical team's report to the praying and believing family. The family never lost their hope even when the doctors said they had done all they could for his mother. They believed that God's Will was always right. **(Hold on! God will see us through)!**

Eventually, he was able to FaceTime a picture of his mother. She was on the ventilator, eyes open, trying to talk to them. They saw how uncomfortable she looked and the pain she was having. The doctor said she had to be at a certain breathing percentage on her own before she could be removed from the ventilator. Removing her from the ventilator would lead to her demise. From being on the ventilator for over five weeks, he was told his mother's vital organs had shut down. Even with that diagnosis, the family continued in prayer and never gave up hope. Within their hearts, the praying family knew that his mother was a prayer warrior and she was anchored in the Lord. They knew that his mother, in her thoughts, was having a talk with God saying,

Though Covid-19 keeps on raging in my life, sometimes it's hard for me to tell the night from day. Still that hope that lies within me is reassuring. As I keep my eyes upon the distant shore, I know you are leading me safely to that blessed place You have prepared. But if this Covid-19 doesn't cease, and if this pain keeps on covering me, I know my soul has been anchored in You, Lord. This Covid-19 and its control over my body is fierce. But I believe without seeing that in You, Lord, I've got an anchor, and it keeps me steadfast and unmovable knowing I will see You on that distant shore.

His mother was ready to go to the place God had prepared for those who die in Him and are ready to rest from their labor. He, also, believed his mother was sharing with God: *I have*

lived this life just to live again, and with You, Lord, I know that I shall reign; I shall not stray because with You I'll stay. You are welcoming me home. Like a thief in the night You have returned for me; I know I am about to go away with You, Jesus. You are now welcoming me home. I am about to see You for myself.

HOLD ON! GOD WILL SEE US THROUGH!

The family knew whatever the situation God always has it in control. Early one evening, the young man and his siblings received the call from the hospital that their mother had made her Earthly Departure to her Heavenly Entrance. Yes! the family shed tears and felt heartbreak, but they knew God would give them comfort and strength. He and his family knew his mother would now be free from this pain and suffering overpowering her body with Covid-19. His mother's legacy of trusting in God's power would now see them through her being absent from her body to be present with the Lord. They knew that God's calling her home, to live an eternal life with Him, allowed his mother to be free from the suffering and pain she was going through with Covid-19. His mother was now safe in the arms of Jesus. God's Will had been done. Even though the isolated loneliness of not being able to spend time with her family, she knew God was there with her in the hospital and she could say: *I have reached my home, beyond the sky, this City is so bright and fair; I am being welcomed by all my friends and loved ones; I have put on my long white robe; I have laid down my heavy load of Covid-19; I am free from suffering and pain. I am where I see Jesus face to face.*

True enough, his mother's Earthly Departure and Heavenly Entrance took place. Yes! The tears of sadness and emptiness overpowered them. However, each of them knew, God's Will is always the right Will. His believing in the Word of God allowed him to do the Eulogy at his mother's Celebration Of Life Service. By the power of the Holy Spirit, he rose to do his mother's eulogy, with the singing of...

I pray we'll all be ready, I pray we'll all be ready for his return, I pray that we'll get our business straight; so we can all meet at the gate. I pray we'll all be ready for His return.

The young man and his family knew that his mother was prepared to live eternally in Heaven. They knew that the Word of God; the Way of God; the Work of God guided his mother's daily living. His mother had now gone away to a place prepared for all of God's children. She was now having a good time fellowshiping with their loved ones and many others who had gone to live with Jesus.

As the young man and his family go from day to day, they know God's strength is carrying them through the Earthly Departure and Heavenly Entrance of his mother. They believe and are looking to *the lifter of their head; they know there is no other help that can comfort them; all of the strength they will need can only come from Him; they know Jesus is the lifter and He will see them through the tears and the heartbreak they face day by day.* They know they must trust and depend on the Savior to comfort, strengthen, and keep them. The family knows that the fervent prayers of God's children are effective as others do intercessory prayer to the only wise God and Savior for them. All of their help through the Earthly Departure and the Heavenly Entrance of his mother is coming to his family from the Lord. The young man's family continues to echo: **HOLD ON! GOD WILL SEE US THROUGH!**

God promised in His Word that those who receive Jesus as Savior share in His Resurrection. When a believer dies, the Heavenly Gates open and the believer has the same triumph over death that Jesus did. The believer doesn't stop worshipping here on earth; the believer gives an everlasting worship and praise in Heaven with other Saints.



This young man's testimony will continue in the next edition.



FAITHFULLY YOURS-- THIS TOO SHALL PASS

Reported By Sis. Trellis Cooper

When the pandemic became prevalent and changed our way of living, we never would have thought we would still be in the same predicament over a year later. When the first cases of COVID-19 were reported, we all assumed it was an issue that would not reach or touch us as it has.

Whether you have been personally affected by this disease or not, the lasting impression of its destruction will be felt for years to come. While most adults struggle to understand our new way of living, it is proving to be particularly hard on the younger generation. Talk to your family (including young children) and keep the lines of communication open. We all are confused, scared, and frustrated. Sadly, our mental health is being compromised as well.

You may be working and worshipping from home for the first time, just as our children are attending school via the internet. Even the jobs and schools that are slowly allowing us back on-site is not as we remember. Wearing masks, social distancing, and being aware of what you touch and do is daunting.

Even during these trying times, we have so much to be thankful for. Our devoted leader, Pastor Roundtree (as well as many others), has been available and serving throughout this ordeal. We are blessed to worship together, although virtually. Utilize everything that is being offered. We cannot be together right now, but we can still communicate with each other. We have many means of staying connected (phone calls, text messages, Facebook, Zoom, etc.)

As we go through each day, be encouraged. God is still in control. Keep praying and keep the faith. Do what you must do to protect your well-being. There are a lot of sources and activities to help: stay connected spiritually, practice mindfulness, enjoy

nature, love yourself, spend quality time with family (the ones that live in your home), seek counseling, exercise, do charitable deeds virtually (send letters, flowers, and other tokens of love), and protect your inner peace.

Let us keep praying for each other and praying for the day that we can meet again, face to face. Love on your family unconditionally. Stay in the word. Stay connected. Most of all, know that God loves us, and He will see us through.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)

This Too Shall Pass

[Yolanda Adams](#)

In the middle of the turbulence surrounding you
These trying times that are so hard to endure
In the middle of what seems to be your darkest hour
Hold fast your heart and be assured
This too shall pass
Like every night that's come before it
He'll never give you more than you can bear
This too shall pass
So in this thought be comforted, It's in His Hands
This too shall pass

UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY



Women and Men Community Prayer on Saturday, October 3, 2020.

Some people believe [Christianity](#) is self-service only, but we can't just take in the gospel and not share it with others. God wants to empty us of ourselves so He can fill us with something new. Then we can give of what He has given us. This is accomplished through ministry, or as the [Bible](#) calls it, good works. A good work is always done to benefit someone else so that God publicly gets the glory. [Matthew 5:16](#) says: "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven." Our good works give the world a glimpse of God. [Hebrews 10:24](#) says that the church should "stimulate one another to love and good deeds."

What constitutes a good deed? Jesus said that anyone who gives a cup of cold water in His name will not be forgotten ([Matthew 10:42](#)). We do good works in the name of Jesus to give Him the credit and the proper due.

Ministry is for the benefit of several groups of people. We are to minister to those who minister to us, our preachers and congregational leaders ([Galatians 6:6](#)). We are to minister to the poor. [Deuteronomy 15:11](#) says: "Freely open your hand to your brother, to your needy and poor in your land." And we are to minister to the unsaved by sharing the gospel and fulfilling the Great Commission. Men can recover from earthly circumstances, but there is no eternal solution outside of Jesus. OUR CHURCHES SHOULD BE PLACES OF MINISTRY, NOT MERELY PLACES OF GATHERING. (Christianity.com Alternative View by Dr. Tony Evans March 21, 2021)



GOD IS IN CONTROL—PERIOD!!!

On Tuesday, November 3, 2020 at 1:00PM, Pastor Roundtree gave leadership to Christian solidarity prayer on Election Day. This took place in Gaslight Park in Downtown Tampa. Several ministers and pastors gathered for this non-partisan and non-political prayer time. Also, at 7PM on Election Day (after the polls closed), our membership was asked to assemble for prayer in our church’s parking lot.



On November 21, 2020, the East Tampa Business and Civic Association provided its Annual Thanksgiving Food Distribution, with Carry-out Dinners, here at New Mount Zion. Because of the Pandemic, no one was able to dine in our Family Life Center. The need for food was definitely displayed as cars were lined up from our church as far back as 21st Street.



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS

Even though the Pandemic hindered the church's traditional Angel Community Christmas Tree Project, the community's need was more visible this year than ever. This year, many more people had difficulty receiving the basic necessities of life. Therefore, they did not have funds to purchase Christmas gifts for their children.

In times like these, our church's Administrative Staff wanted to continue our tradition of the Annual Community Christmas Tree Project. Before the shut-down due to the Pandemic, a listing of community members in need had begun to be compiled. The appeal was made for members of our church to donate gift cards from Walmart, Target, Amazon, etc. As New Mount Zion always does, the generosity of our members is a blessing to many. Our membership dropped their donated cards off at the church. After contacting the names of those in need, the contacted parent/guardian came by the church on Monday, December 21 and Tuesday, December 22 to receive the gift cards. These cards made Christmas a little more pleasant for those families in need. Even though we are not functioning in the traditional way, those receiving the gift cards were visibly overjoyed to see that our church still cares for them. Parents/Guardians were able to use these gift cards to purchase Christmas gifts for their children and/or even buy food for their tables. Lacking the necessities and some of the comforts of life is more prevalent in this time of the Pandemic. During this challenging time, New Mount Zion continues "Changing The World Through The Love Of Christ One Soul At A Time."



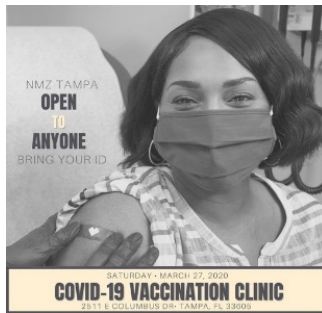
COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

A special thank you is extended to County Commissioner Gwen Myers for her teamwork with the County Health Department, Hillsborough County Government, the City of Tampa, etc. in coordinating the administration of vaccines at local churches. Our church served as a site, also.

Recognition is given to Pastor Roundtree, Church Administrator Alfredia Mulkey, Church Secretary Jackie Jones, and their team for providing and coordinating the opportunity for our membership to be vaccinated.



After taking their second vaccine on February 14 at Greater Bethel MB Church on Jefferson Street in Downtown Tampa, some of our members fellowshiped while waiting to be released. If it had not been for the leadership given to this endeavor, many of us would still be on a waiting list or even waiting in extremely long lines. Unity in the COMMUNITY is truly a focal point at New Mount Zion.



At the time of this article, New Mount Zion has hosted the Covid-19 Vaccination on two occasions. These following scenes are from March 27:

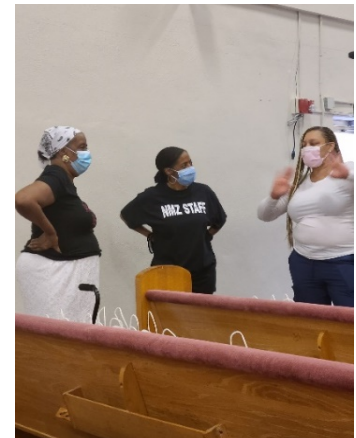


The Jones Sisters Greet



Completing paperwork and receiving vaccine

>>>>>>>>



Gift Bags are given at the Exit

Drive-Thru Food Pantry



The East Tampa Business and Civic Association provides a Drive-Thru Food Pantry at New Mount Zion on Mondays through Thursdays from 10AM-1PM.



Please check our social media and our church's marquee for upcoming distribution give-away days.



DONATIONS TO HAITI

Pastor Voltaire Charitable of First Missionary Baptist Church of Sion in Cap-Haitian, Haiti visited us on Pastor's 8th Anniversary, April 11. He thanked New Mount Zion for contributing to their needed causes. On last year, NMZ donated a generator to their school. At this year's visit, Pastor Roundtree presented him with a \$1,000 check from our congregation.



CIVIL RIGHTS LAWYER BENJAMIN CRUMP

At Pastor's 8th Anniversary Celebration, Civil Rights Attorney, Benjamin Crump visited to share information about the lead poisoning coming from an East Tampa plant. As a result of parents working at the plant, children are being exposed to the lead. Please see detailed article in the "Tampa Bay Times" archives.

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CONGRATULATIONS!!!

YOUTH ELAINA NARAIN (8 years old) was called to the stage by Rapper Common to rap with him his song "Glory" at a local Get Out and Vote Rally prior to the November 3 elections.

BRO. DEVYN FREELAND graduated with his Bachelor's Degree.

BRO. DARIUS CANTY graduated with his Bachelor's Degree.

BRO. GEORGE SHANNON received his PHD from the University of South Florida.

BRO. ED NARAIN was promoted to Vice President of External and Legislative Affairs with AT&T. Also, on December 10, he received recognition by being awarded the H. L. Culbreath, Jr. Profile in Leadership Award from the Tampa Bay Chamber.

BRO. AARON and SIS. TIFFANY BERRY have a new addition to their family of a baby boy.

BRO. RODERICK WASHINGTON and SIS. TWANDA COLE were married on Saturday, October 24.

SIS. SHAMARIE ENGRAM received her PHD from the University of South Florida in Computer Science and Engineering. She is the first Black to receive this degree at USF. Sis. Engram has accepted a job at MIT Lincoln Laboratory in Massachusetts.

DEA. LESLEY "LES" MILLER retired on November 13 from County Government. People's Community Park and Life Center was RENAMED Lesley "Les" Miller, Jr. People's Community Park and Life Center. It is located at 6105 E. Sligh Avenue. He has now joined Shumaker Advisors Florida, LLC, where he will continue advocating for clients in the region.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DIANNE HART and the EAST TAMPA BUSINESS AND CIVIC ASSOCIATION held another fulfilling Annual Thanksgiving Food and Dinner Give Away held at New Mount Zion on November 21.

SIS. TONYA M. LEWIS, founder of "Children With A Vision," had another successful year hosting her 18th Annual Pre-Thanksgiving Blessings to the Community on November 21 at the Open Air Market on 29th Street.

YOUNG ADULT ANTONIO HENDRICKS, a senior at Florida Polytechnic University, will earn his bachelor's degree in computer engineering this spring. He was featured in a recent article **reprinted from Feb 23, 2021 by Erica Johnson** for Florida Polytechnical University in Lakeland, Florida. Please see the detailed article.

SIS. KALADIA CHANEY has published her book, "An Even Balance." This book and her other published works can be purchased through Amazon.

SIS. ROBBIN NELL KIMBROUGH has published her book, "Prince Kipee and the Magical Circus Animals." This book can be purchased through Amazon.

SIS. ESTRELLITA "LO" BERRY is this year's recipient of the Chiles Advocacy Award as owner of REACHUP, which advocates for the reduction in Black infant deaths. Please read the detailed article in March 30s Tampa Bay Times.

NMZs **FRONTLINERS** have made it possible for us to receive God's Word and other communications. We thank ALL of them and congratulate ALL of them for their well-done work.



During February (Black History Month) special Facebook recognition was given to **DEA. CLARENCE FORT, SIS. GERALDINE TWINE, DEA. RON WARDLOW, and SIS. COSETTE WHITMORE** for being trailblazers in their professions. Please read their detailed contributions on our church's Facebook page.

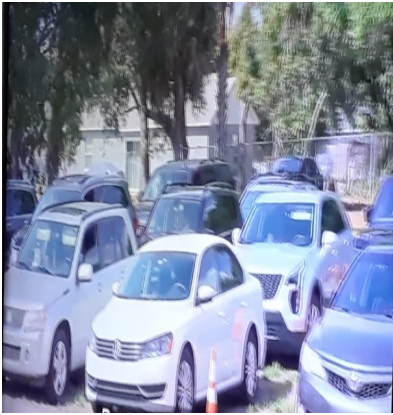
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

The month of March brought Facebook recognition to **SIS. BARBARA WRIGHT and SIS. SHERRYL CUSSEAU** for their Women's Achievements. Please read their detailed contributions on our church's Facebook page.



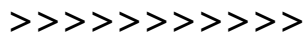
SCENES FROM WORSHIP EXPERIENCES





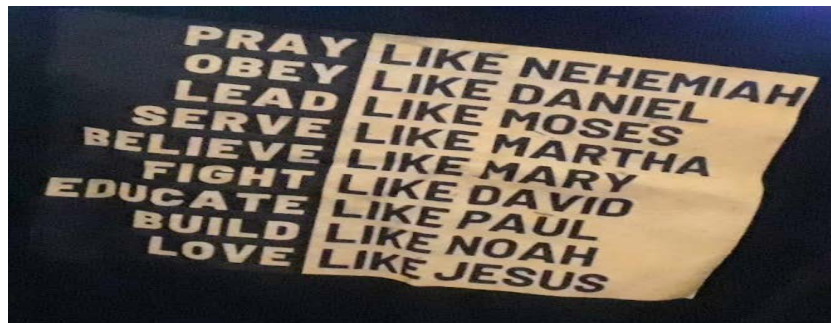
RESURRECTION SUNDAY
 WITH NMZ TAMPA

SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 2021
6:30 AM SONRISE CELEBRATION
10:00 AM PARKING LOT WORSHIP EXPERIENCE
 2511 E COLUMBUS DR TAMPA, FL 33605
REV. LARRY L. ROUNDTREE, II
 SENIOR PASTOR





EVEN THOUGH WE ARE NOT IN THE SANCTUARY, WE MUST CONTINUE TO:



WORD SEARCH ON THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

CHK KKL TMR NNX BDQWK DZB WYKB ZNL
 KWN RBEC JHL LYZYD QKYGQCRRQFDL
 WFTDXAXEFGANNASQMKBTD E SJLNS
 KIKMFNDSDLJTWXRDDNKRAPNRLVC
 NVL TMANUPZMCNFBZBRMDXCOMLTO
 MEJCSHASNERZBGRKTTOBBWIFBLU
 JLR CUTHCMKTGR CNWNFYNETSPKNR
 JOGRMATLGAKEYTKYHKLHWKNKPBG
 KACUENREGTNRRCBETYTAVMAPXKE
 XVT CDDAATLGATXATRDSWCKMPBRD
 YEWIONMNHZNQTVKEEHKFPTFY LZA
 MSDFCADSLTIWEPYVIJTKQHOTNWN
 SADIIPNEFPLNJAONDDCFHWEWTRD
 ONJENIASDWAFLRGOKDIK GKSBMCM
 RDPDDL YTKHEPOFYXLNLSFTUTKCA
 RTQANIRHKLHSEM WVPOZRCNOQHKR
 OWHTAHAELFDEENBFMNF FOIHKGVK
 WOTGHPMTLOTHYVMQGR OBFWPJVTE
 TFR OPHYEGVPLMPQQKVKIEJELXMD
 OIULEOGMWSLCNJJLTDJZSTKHEKP
 JSEGSGNPAKMHRLDMMKNDVIHLTSL
 OHVAONZLNMKVCMKRMJYMTLVEJRH
 YEITJIBEPZQFEILEBSIDKKCISWT
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www.WordSearchMaker.com

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|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Annas | Five Loaves and Two Fishes | Peter |
| Betrayal | God So Loved The World | Prayer |
| Blasphemy | Healing | Samaritan Woman At Well |
| Bread of Heaven | House of Mansions | Scourged and Marked |
| Calling of Philip and Nathanael | Jesus Cleanses the Temple | Sorrow to Joy |
| Crucified at Golgatha | Joseph and Nicodemus | The World |
| Disbelief | Lazarus | True Vine |
| Disciples | Man At Pool of Bethesda | Washing Feet |
| Division | Mary and Martha | |

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

