



DECEMBER 2022

ZION INFORMER

From Your Pastor



Value Others

Zion, the American children's author Dr. Theodor Seuss Geisel stated, *"Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory."* I have found this statement to be true. Like many people, at times I have taken for granted people, places and things that are valuable not by deliberation but by recognition. Sometimes I did not recognize the value of a particular thing until it was gone. That which is valuable is not always common and plentiful, yet it is rare and uncommon.

Dr. Clifford Jones, Senior Pastor of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, provided a dynamic teaching to the Zion Church during the Goforth-Graham Leadership Institute and within the lesson he stated the significance of valuing people. Whenever a person realizes that they are valued, it creates a lasting impression. "To value" is to consider someone or something to be important or beneficial; have a high opinion of. The Bible teaches us to value others.

1 Thessalonians 5:12, 13 ESV reads **12** *"Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you."* **13** *"Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other."*

In the epistle of Thessalonians, the Apostle Paul teaches us to value those who work among us because of their work. Zion, thank you for your commitment to the Lord and to your church family. Your labor has not been in vain nor unseen.

As we value others consider the following tips:

- View others highly.
- Appreciate others.
- Love others.
- Vocally give thanks to others.
- Elevate others.

In conclusion, during this holiday season oppose to seeking another gift for Christmas be intentional about expressing gratitude for the value that has already been given to you! Think about what value surrounds you. From the companionship of a spouse, the excitement that children and grandchildren bring in your life, the coworker that works with you on the job, the church that loves you, the roof over your head.

Most of all do not ever undervalue Jesus the Christ, Our Lord and Savior.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 *"give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*

Peace & Blessings,
Dr. M. Andrew Davis

December Birthdays

Dea. Derrick Brown
Diane McRae
Ashley Etheredge
George D. Simmons
Tom Whitney
Joan Mobley
Kenneth Burkley
Malachi Davis
Anna Highsmith
Charles Brice
Anna Trapp Corley
Kenzil Summey
Tori Boyd
Nidiyah McDuffie
Dr. M. Andrew Davis
Xavier Miller
Dea. Wilson Mack
Jesus Christ **25**
Donald Counts
Jayna Martin
Joyce Flynn
Doris Brown

December Anniversaries

Dr. Lewis & Tara
Graham
James & Gwen
Richardson
Charles & Donna
Brice
Dea. Thomas & Shirley
Levy
Rev. Israel & Cynthia
Gist
Kingsley & Shenika
Waring
Dea. Frankie & Sherry
Moore

5th Pastoral Anniversary



Congratulations to Pastor M. Andrew Davis !!!

Protect Your Mental Health

Often the holidays bring unwanted guests known as depression, stress and anxiety. The holidays can be a time for celebration and a return to the faith, values or people that help provide support for us. But all of the increased demands on our time, energy, patience, and flexibility can take a toll. People greeting each other with the expression "Happy Holidays!" can even be perceived by someone with depression as a demand or an expectation they cannot meet. Over the years, the holidays have taken an emotional toll on many people. The feeling of isolation, facing the loss of a loved one for the first time during the holidays or just an unexplainable feeling of sadness can be overwhelming.

Listed below are a few things to consider that can help protect your mental health during the holidays:

Reach out and seek help from a close friend or family member, your pastor or seek professional help if needed. If you know someone who might be struggling as the holidays approach, call and check on them.

If you are feeling stressed, take a breather and make some time for yourself. Find an activity you enjoy, spend 15 minutes alone without distractions, read a daily devotional or your Bible.

Acknowledge your feelings. If someone close to you has recently passed or you can't be with a loved one for other reasons, it's normal to feel sadness and grief. It's ok to take time to cry or express your feelings. You can't force yourself to be happy just because it's the holiday season or someone feels you should or tells you to.

Set aside differences and accept family members and friends as they are. Be understanding if others get upset or distressed when something goes wrong. More than likely, they are also experiencing the effects of holiday stress.

Be realistic. The holidays don't have to be perfect. As families grow and change, so do traditions and rituals. Choose a few to hold on to and be open to making new ones.

Learn to say no. Saying yes when you know your plate is already full can leave you feeling overwhelmed and anxious.

Don't abandon healthy habits and let the holidays become a free-for-all. Overindulgence only adds to your stress level and can make you feel guilty.

These are just a few suggestions; however, they by no means take the place of establishing a realistic plan that works best for you. **(continued on page 4)**

Upcoming Events

December 21—First Day of Winter

December 24—Christmas Eve

December 25—Christmas Day

December 26—Kwanzaa

December 31—New Year's Eve

December 31—Watch Night Service, New Ebenezer Baptist Church, 7:00 p.m.

January 1—New Year's Day

January 16—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

The Newsletter Ministry would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you Happy Holidays !!!

Scripture

“Splendor and majesty are before HIM; strength and glory are in HIS Sanctuary. Ascribe to the LORD, O families of nations, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.”

Psalms 96:6

REMINDER

Our ZBC Worship Service broadcast is every Sunday morning from 7:30 to 8:00 a.m. on the Big DM (WWDM 101.3 FM)

**BLACK
LIVES
MATTER**

Sunday School Lessons

DECEMBER 4

“Spiritual Blessings in Jesus Christ”
Ephesians 1:3-14

DECEMBER 11

“One in Jesus Christ”
Ephesians 2:11-22

DECEMBER 18

“Unity in the Body of Christ”
Ephesians 4:1-16

DECEMBER 25

“According to the Promise”
Ephesians 5:21-6:4



Good News

On September 13, 2022, Sister Joy Flemming earned the degree of Master of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix. She graduated with Distinction.

Congratulations Sister Joy Flemming !!!

On December 1, 2022, Sister Cynthia Dantzler retired from Saluda River Academy after 28 years of loyal service as a cashier and manager.

Congratulations Sister Cynthia Dantzler !!!

On November 22, 2022, Sister Cynthia Gist retired from Lexington Medical Center after 11 years of loyal service as a Patient Access Liaison.

Congratulations Sister Cynthia Gist !!!

The Benedict College Marching Tiger Band of Distinction made history in the 2022 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City. The Band of Distinction was selected by the Macy's Parade Band Committee to perform alongside 9 additional bands in the largest televised celebration of the year.

Congratulations Benedict College !!!

Sydney Harper Walters was born on November 16 in Woodbridge, Virginia. She is the daughter of Brother Payton and Sister Sherica Walters, granddaughter of Brother Otis and Reverend Dr. Cynthia Walters.

Congratulations Brother Payton and Sister Sherica Walters !!!

Brother Jarryd Walters and Sister Katherine Rodriguez were wed on November 26 at 6 pm in a ceremony at Zion Baptist Church. The groom is the son of Brother Otis and Reverend Dr. Cynthia Walters. Both bride and groom are in the Navy stationed in San Diego, California.

Congratulations Brother Jarryd and Sister Katherine Walters !!!

ZBC Sick and Shut-in

Reverend Israel Gist
Judge Jasper Cureton
Brother William Hope
Brother Robert Kearney
Brother Julius Marshall
Brother John Turnipseed
Sister Clannie Washington
Sister Marilyn West
Brother Archie P. Williams III

Sister Annette Hill
Deacon Cleveland Etheredge
Sister Patricia Ann Kearney
Sister Tonja Knightner
Sister Leatha Osborne
Sister Luvenia Turnipseed
Brother Jeremiah Washington
Sister Thelma Whitney

Clente Flemming Post Honored

Clente Flemming was honored posthumously “The Equity Leadership Honor Roll Award” by the Columbia Urban League, Inc. on Tuesday, November 8, 2022 for promoting and showing equality and inclusion in empowering communities and changing lives. The award was accepted by his wife, Ojetta I. Flemming. ***CONGRATULATIONS Brother Flemming !!!***

Allen University Women's Basketball Team



The Allen University Women's Basketball team started this season with a bang. The team won their first home game against Erskine College with a score of 91 to 55.

Congratulations Ladies !!!

Protect Your Mental Health (cont.)

Surround yourself with family and friends who love and support you and won't dismiss how you are feeling. Give yourself credit for basic functioning, and try not to worry about meeting extra expectations simply because it is the holidays.

Vision Statement

“Victorious People”

The vision is to minister to people by Remembering our History, Rendering Help while Reaching forward with Hope to be victorious in our future demonstrating an unwavering love, steadfast faith and effective witness.

Remembering our History

Rendering Help

Reaching forward with Hope

ZION CAN BE REACHED @

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Thursday Morning Prayer / 7:00-7:15 a.m. / 1-605-313-4912 / AC 511288#