



BY SIS. DIANE JONES

The 6th Annual Northside Ministerial Alliance Anti-Gun Violence Carnival was held on Saturday, August 29, 2026, on the grounds of Lincoln International Studies School, right next to Mt. Zion Baptist Church. It seems that each year the attendance grows, as more people from all over the city and surrounding areas hear about this exciting event.

One thing that makes this event so wonderful is that everything is free—the rides, the exciting games, the petting zoo, the pony rides, and the various food choices, including the delicious 'Ryan's St. Lou-ish Fish.' All you needed to do when you entered the gates was to pick up your free tickets from the ticket booth. Where else can you go for a day of fun?

After roaming the carnival grounds for over three hours, stopping at the many attractions and booths spread out all over, I was truly amazed at the success of this event. A special shout out to Sis. Cassandra Bridges and Sis. Deborah Jackson for the part they played in organizing the volunteers for the carnival, as well as Pastor Addis Moore of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, and the many other Churches, Pastors, Community Partners and the many Organizations that contributed to the success of this wonderful, phenomenal event, as witnessed by your roaming photographer, Sis. Diane Jones.

VACATION Bible School



Youth Activities

Our youth were learning about how God calls us a royal priesthood. K-2nd and 3rd-5th grade classes crafted and decorated their own crowns in affiliation with the lesson. The middle school classes got in some exercise outside on a DIY obstacle course with Deacon Greg Wallace. The next night, middle schoolers heard from Deaconess Leslie McCullough and Miss Keyana Cooke about representing Christ at school and in daily life. Deaconess McCullough used a "mustard and

mints" analogy: mustard packets (representing Christians) are distinct from mints (non-believers), but when mixed together, the mustard absorbs the mint's smell. The lesson: Christians should remain set apart and act differently to represent Christ, rather than adopting the behaviors of those around them. Our youth also enjoyed decorating bandanas using tie dye.



This past July Mt. Zion Baptist Church hosted their annual summer Vacation Bible School. It lasted from July 20th through the 23rd. This year, Mt. Zion's very own youth picked the theme GOD'S GLOW SQUAD. Every night was a night of fun, worship, and learning focusing on the Scripture 1 Peter 2:9 where we learned about who God calls us to be.



Adult Sessions

Adult classes gathered in the sanctuary. Night one, Rev. Caressa Bryant taught about God choosing us and the joy that it brings, using Moses freeing the Israelites as an example. Night two, Rev. Doreen Gardner taught about God's identity for us as a royal priesthood and holy nation and how to embody that. On the third night, Rev. Dr. Addis Moore, Sr., our pastor, taught about acting according to who God called us to be. On the final night, Rev. Dr. Christopher Moore Sr. taught about living out our role as a holy nation, not just claiming the title.

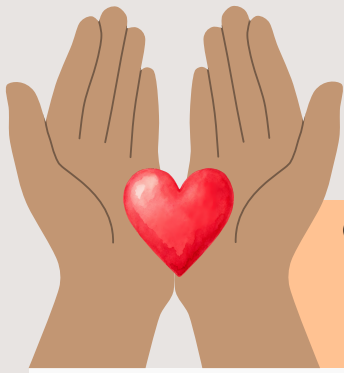


Pre & Post Activities:

Each night, our Music and Rap Ministry energized the service. Two people prayed and read Scripture, then our very own praise team led worship. After service, we gathered in the sanctuary to hear one adult and one youth share what they learned. Sis. Talanda Ollie organized volunteers to play games and win prizes.

Overall all four nights were a success, with fun, learning, and worship!

By: Sis. Lila McCullough



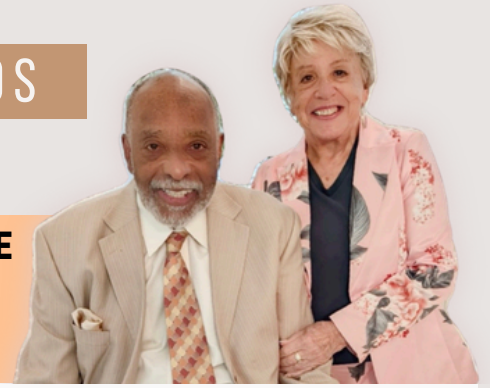
SERVING HANDS

A CAREGIVER'S STORY

CAREGIVING FOR A LOVED ONE

Bro. Donald and Sis. Lola Atkinson

Interview by Sis. Monica Banks



With being a wife, mother and involved in ministry, how do you find peace and gratitude within the caregiving role?

I have been married for 60 years, and hold deep the vows of in sickness and in health. Becoming a caregiver for my husband makes my self-care essential. Finding peace as a caregiver requires shrinking your focus to manageable moments and intentionally protecting your own physical and emotional well-being. By shifting my focus, I stop trying to fix everything or try to make things “good again.” I just focus on the present. I accept hard emotions. I allow myself to feel frustration, sadness or grief without guilt. I acknowledge the heavy feelings, so I can move past them. I protect basic health by prioritizing regular sleep, balanced meals and staying hydrated to keep my body strong. Sometimes, I just listen to a favorite song or take a short walk to reset my mind. I also connect with friends and others that are out of my caregiving network. In addition, I try to ask for help at times so I do not carry the load alone.

How has your faith helped you with this care taking journey?

Faith provides emotional comfort, inner strength and a clear sense or purpose that help me manage my stress. Prayer and meditation provide the quiet moments with God. Reading the Bible offers comforting words during hard days. I actually use prayer to share honest feelings of anger, fatigue or sadness and ask for peace. Viewing my caregiving as a divine assignment helps reframe difficult struggles into meaningful acts of love. My spiritual values have helped me see my husband that I care for with dignity and grace, rather than just seeing an illness or decline.

A caregiver has many benefits; what is most rewarding to you as a caregiver?

The most rewarding part of being a caregiver is forming a deep emotional bond while bringing comfort and joy to my husband. I have also built a special bond with him. I wake up knowing my daily actions directly help my husband. I have also learned patience, empathy and strength during difficult moments. Feeling appreciated like even a simple smile, “thank you, baby” or warm look from him brings deep happiness. I have gained practical life skills, medical knowledge and, crisis management abilities. I also experience joy in small moments, giving comfort and family unity.

How has being a caregiver played an important role in/with Christianity?

Caregiving is definitely a central expression of Christian Faith, rooted in the life, teachings, and sacrificial love of Jesus Christ. Jesus modeled physical and emotional caregiving by healing the sick, feeding the hungry and showing deep compassion to the outcast and suffering. The Law of Love is also expressed in Galatians 6:2 in the New Testament that tells their believers to “bear one another’s burdens” and views helping those in need—such as the sick—as a direct way of serving God. Finally, my Christian Faith has taught me that every person is made in the image of God, giving those who require care, inherent worth and dignity regardless of their physical or mental health.

family MINISTRIES



Hello Mt Zion Family,

We just want to take a moment to say thank you from the bottom of our hearts for welcoming the Williamson family with joy. From the moment we became a part of this church, we have felt embraced, supported, and encouraged, and we can honestly say it has changed not only our lives, but the lives of our children.

As parents, there is nothing more important to us than raising children who know and love God. Watching Sacred, Sabirah, Safiya, and Troy III grow in their relationship with Christ has been one of the greatest blessings in life, and Mt Zion has played a role in that growth.

Church isn't just something we do on Sundays anymore—it's a part of who we are every day. At home, we talk about God's plans for our lives. We talk about putting Him first in every decision we make. When one of our children gets out of line, we're not just correcting behavior anymore. We are able to remind them of what God's Word says about our actions, our attitudes, and how we are called to treat other people. Those conversations have become natural in our home because they are hearing those same biblical truths here at church.

One thing that has really touched our hearts is seeing them understand the importance of giving. They are learning that tithes and offerings aren't just about money—they're about trusting God, honoring Him with what He's already blessed us with, and believing His promises when we are faithful. Hearing our children talk about giving back to God lets me know these lessons are taking root in their hearts.

I've also watched our children come out of their shells. They have become more confident, built friendships with other children, and found a place where they truly belong. Now when we're out in the community, they recognize members of our church family, smile, speak, and make those connections. It reminds me that church isn't just a building—it's a family.

The biblical principles they are learning are becoming real to them. They are no longer just hearing Bible stories; they are beginning to understand how God's Word applies to their everyday lives. As parents, that's exactly what we pray for.

Thank you, Mt Zion, for loving on us and our children, for pouring into them, and for partnering with us in raising them to know Christ. Thank you for creating an environment where they are growing spiritually, building lasting relationships, and learning what it truly means to put God at the center of their lives. I truly believe God led us, the Williamson Family, here for a reason, and I am excited to see what He continues to do in each of our lives.

Thank you, and may God continue to bless our Mt Zion family.

Mrs. Essence Williamson



BUSINESS WORLD BEHIND THE VISION

Dea. Dr. Van Burch, Sr



At Mt. Zion, service can take many forms. For Dea. Dr. Van Burch, Sr., service is expressed through leadership, ministry, creativity, and helping others share their stories

Using Creativity,
Leadership and Faith
to Serve Others

HIS STORY

A Christian, husband, father, and business owner, Deacon Burch leads multiple ministries at Mt. Zion, including the Deacons as Chairman, Christian Education, Men's, Security, and Media Ministries. He works as an Operations Manager for a natural foods producer and owns Visual Technology, Ltd., a videography and graphic design business. He is President of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Kappa Psi Lambda Chapter, and a Life Member of the NAACP. This month, he and his wife, Dr. Janeé Steele, celebrate 10 years of marriage.

WHERE CREATIVITY MEETS TECHNOLOGY

Deacon Burch founded Visual Technology, Ltd. over 25 years ago, combining his passion for creativity and technology. The company specializes in videography, video production, graphic design, branding, and digital content creation.

While attending WMU, he discovered that visual storytelling could inspire, educate, and connect people. Visual Technology has since served clients including American Axle, Motus Integrated Technology, and Peterson Spring, creating everything from wedding videos and commercials to training videos and logo design. Today, the business continues evolving with content for platforms like TikTok and Meta.

A SERVANT'S HEART

Visual Technology's strength lies in its heart, not just its services. Deacon Burch combines technical skill with a servant's approach, working within clients' needs and budgets to create quality work.

He's especially passionate about serving churches, nonprofits, community groups, entrepreneurs, and small businesses — helping them communicate meaningful messages and reach the people they serve through visual media.

FAITH & IMPACT

Faith remains at the center of Deacon Burch's work and business practices. He operates with integrity, honesty, and a commitment to excellence, believing his faith shapes both what he creates and how he treats people.

Through ministry, teaching, leadership, videography, and design, Deacon Burch uses his gifts to encourage others and help them thrive—reflecting Colossians 3:23: "Work hard and cheerfully at whatever you do, as though you were working for the LORD rather than man."

A LEGACY OF SERVICE

One of Deacon Burch's greatest accomplishments is seeing his work positively impact others. Whether helping a church reach more people, supporting a business, or capturing an important life event, he finds purpose in knowing his work can help someone else succeed.

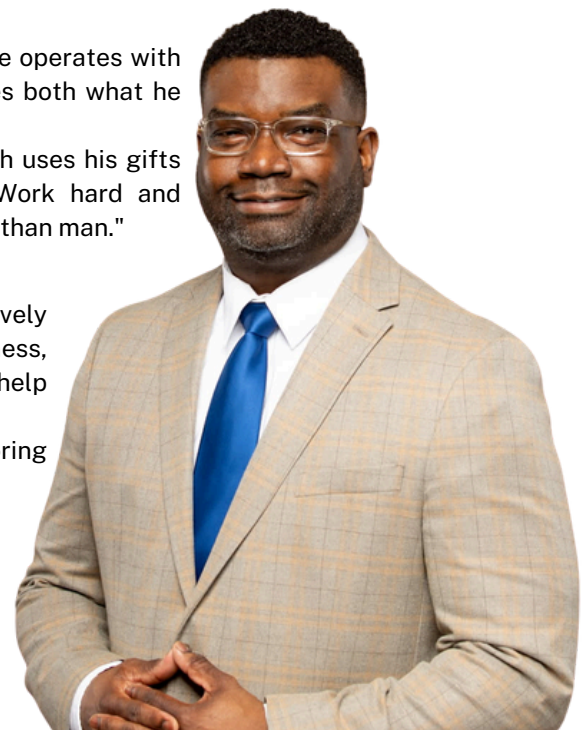
Looking toward the future, he hopes to expand his online content while mentoring others who want to develop their skills and create multiple sources of income.

WORDS FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

For young people interested in starting a business, Deacon Burch encourages them to begin with prayer and listen for God's direction. He also emphasizes learning from people who have already accomplished what you hope to accomplish. Develop your skills, stay consistent, build strong relationships, seek mentors, and do not allow setbacks to stop you.

“Operate in
your gift and
you'll never
work a day in
your life.”

—Dea. Burch, Sr



By Sis. Kamille Gleaves

TRUSTED TRUSTEE TIPS

BY SIS. ASHLEE FRANKLIN

INTERVIEW WITH

SIS. PASTY MOORE



With any organization, the members have an obligation to see to it that the organization has everything it needs in order to meet its goals and stated purposes, and Mt. Zion is no exception to that rule. Tithing is biblically sound, and the principle is easy because everyone can do it. It does not matter the amount of how much you give because it goes off the biblical 10% of whatever your increase may be. While that is a great starting point, at Mt. Zion we want to take it a step further. We teach the lesson that 10% is just the beginning! When we give, we want to think about John 3:16 and what it means to give out of love. God gave his only begotten son because he loves us! If we give out of love, there is no limit or constraint on what our heart says to give. If we give out of love, we know that our gift will bless individuals in and out of the church. If we give out of love, we can invest and pour into young people through our finances. If we give out of love, we can ensure that Mt. Zion will be around and will continue to be a beacon in our community. I am privileged to be a member of Mt. Zion so I want to see it thrive in the mission that God has given us. As a congregation, we have been given the task of ensuring the continuity of Mt. Zion. If anyone does not know how to give, we have individuals in the church who can help, and they are also equipped to help you figure out how to budget get out of debt. As the scripture dictates, God is going to always make sure you are covered, you just have to make it up in your mind to take that first step.

Culinary MINISTRY

RESPONDING WITH RADICAL HOSPITALITY

BY SIS. VANESSA MARZETTE, TRUSTEE

When the word hospitality comes to mind in the church, people immediately think of the greeters or the ushers at the door. How we respond to the community, believers, and the unchurched can set the tone before teaching and preaching have begun. This can also be said to be true with first contact with the Culinary Ministry. Believers in the Culinary Ministry understand that a transformed heart is the precursor to Radical Hospitality. "Key Truth: Radical Hospitality begins in the heart, grows through compassion and endures without weariness," (Rev. Dr. Addis Moore, March 18, 2026). With this understanding, every act of service- from the preparation and serving of a full breakfast every Sunday, Wednesday night dinner(youth), homegoing repasts, and meals for Vacation Bible School, City Lead, Chain Lake, NMA Anti-Gun Violence Community Carnival, and the NMA Prayer Breakfast is an opportunity for the Culinary Ministry to show Radical Hospitality. From the person who comes in just for breakfast, to the extended family at home goings, to the child dropped off at VBS, and to those who come out to enjoy the carnival, our service will not filter people out or come with conditions.

Acts chapter 10 tells the story of Cornelius' conversion in his home. Peter goes to Cornelius's home and is met by strangers- people he would not normally mix with. Peter eats with them and has conversations with them. After his own conversion, Peter understands that those people also needed God's redeeming love. "The power of conversion, or an invitation to change a person's life through Christ, must never be underestimated". The Culinary Ministry presents our body of believers with opportunities to have these conversations over a good meal.

References:

Radical Hospitality: It Starts With the Heart
Rev. Dr. Addis Moore, Senior Pastor. March 18, 2026
Schnase, Robert
Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations
Abingdon Press



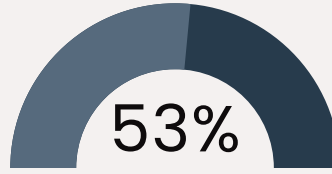


Souls added to
the Body

288



Annual Target
500



LIFE IS BETTER TOGETHER!

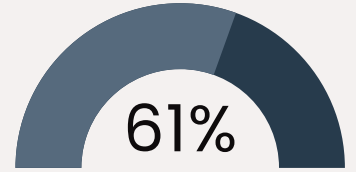


Members in
Life Group

371



Weekly Target
600



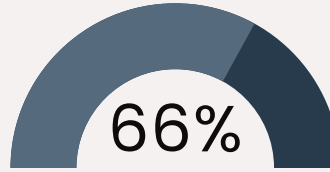
6 AM Prayer Call



100



Weekly Target
150



Join us for 6 am Wednesday
morning prayer.
Zoom Meeting ID
832 0607 6105
Passcode: 21



UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER

OCT. 3 - Church Reboot 9:00 am

OCT. 11 - Women's Sunday

OCT. 17 - Chain Lake Extended Session
(Lily Baptist Church, Jackson, MI)

OCT. 25 - Pick Your Fight Sunday
(Awareness Sunday)

OCT. 31 - Family Fall Fest

NOVEMBER

NOV. 3 - Election Day

NOV. 8 - Sacrificial Giving

NOV. 11 - Veteran's Day

NOV. 14 - Family Empowerment
& Career Fest

NOV. 26 - Thanksgiving

DECEMBER

DEC. 8 - Annual Family Meeting

DEC. 25 - Christmas

DEC. 31 - New Year's Eve

MT. ZION VOICE MINISTRY

Sis. Cassandra Bridges
Sis. Monica Banks
Sis. Nancy Buchanan
Dr. Betty Dennis
Sis. Ashlee Franklin
Sis. Kamille Gleaves
Sis. Tajané Hawkins
Sis. Deborah Jackson
Sis. Diane Jones
Sis. Lila McCullough
Sis. Danielle Moore
Sis. Ashley Moorehead

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