

SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026



# MT. ZION CELEBRATES 105 YEARS!

# MT. ZION VOICE

BY SIS. DIANE JONES

REV. RYAN JACKSON

What a wonderful day of joy and excitement as we celebrated Mt. Zion Baptist Church's 105th Anniversary. Our very own Rev. Ryan Jackson, who is now Senior Pastor of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Evansville, Indiana, delivered the message at both services. His sermon, "Leaving a Godly Legacy," spoke on 'Continuation of Faith, Consideration of God's Work, and Celebration of God's Goodness.' Between the two services, we had a wonderful Celebratory Breakfast, with over 400 in attendance in the Otha Gilyard Fellowship Hall, here at Mt. Zion. The joy of praying, dining, and singing in fellowship with one another reminds us that we have so much to be thankful for as a congregation of believers. God has sustained us for 105 Years, passing the torch down through the ages, from one generation to another, "Leaving a Godly Legacy."

When we think of "Our Vision—A Vibrant Community Living By Faith" and "Our Mission—Empowering People to Transform Themselves and the Community," and looking at the growth and the sustainability of Mt. Zion, we can surely proclaim, "To God Be The Glory" for all that He has done! In looking at the photos displayed in our foyer, showing our past, and the banner hanging behind them showing the future "Legacy Senior Living Center," which is very close to being completed, you can see that as a dynamic church, we are **"Rooted, Ready, and Resilient"** to carry the torch forward.





## ORATORICAL CONTEST

BY SIS. DIANE JONES

On Wednesday, March 18, 2026, we held our annual Oratorical Contest. This is a nationwide contest in which the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education releases a theme for each year. Graduating seniors have the opportunity to receive recognition for their public speaking skills, which can lead to additional scholarship funding toward higher education. Participants begin with a contest held at their church. We had three seniors competing this year: Sis. Aniyah Johnson, Sis. Carissa Myles, and Bro. Nathan Flevaris. The theme this year was "Choosing Your Foundation Wisely." The students were judged on a set of criteria such as quality of their speech, biblical principles, sincerity, and delivery, to name a few. Although all three candidates delivered outstanding speeches, the panel of judges chose, as our winner for this year, Sis. Aniyah Johnson. She will be moving on to represent Mt. Zion at the Chain Lake District Oratorical Contest on April 17th in Lansing.



**Sis. Aniyah  
Johnson**

# INTRODUCING LUCRETIA JANE STINSON: A LIFE SHAPED BY MUSIC

BY SIS. MICHELLE HARRISON

Let me tell you about my beautiful friend, Lucretia Jane Stinson, also known as Cre. Lucretia's journey with music began almost as soon as she could reach the keys. She started playing piano at just four years old, and some of her most meaningful memories come from sitting in her grandmother's lap, listening as she played. Those quiet moments planted the seeds of something extraordinary. Her grandmother didn't just teach her music—she inspired a lifelong passion. Her mother, Sis. Lucinda Stinson, once shared a story that perfectly captures Lucretia's gift. One evening, they were watching a movie featuring a song. The next day, during Sunday dinner at her grandmother's house, both her mother and grandmother were amazed to hear Lucretia playing that same song on the piano—without practice, entirely from memory.

Lucretia has perfect pitch, a rare gift that allows her to hear and understand music in a way most people can't. But what makes her truly special isn't just natural ability. It's her dedication year after year. Her musical journey continued through school, where she played in her high school band and later the WMU Marching Band. She has also been part of the Mt. Zion Music Ministry for 15 years and is a member of the Kalamazoo Philharmonic.

Beyond music, Lucretia's life is just as beautiful. She is engaged to her fiancé, Zach Yoder, and they are planning to marry in 2027. Watching her step into this next chapter is as exciting as seeing her grow musically. If I had to describe Lucretia in one sentence, I'd say this: she turned a childhood moment at a piano into a lifetime of purpose, joy, and connection—and I'm grateful to call her my friend.



# IN THE BUSINESS WORLD

## FRAMING THE STORY: JOSHUA GIPSON OF PRECISION PRODUCTIONS TURNING CREATIVITY, FAITH, AND VISION INTO A GROWING MEDIA BUSINESS

BY SIS. KAMILLE GLEAVES

### Their Story

At Mt. Zion, many members use their talents not only to build careers but also to serve others. This month, The Voice highlights Joshua Gipson, owner of **Precision Productions**, a digital media company focused on helping people share their stories through video, photography, and creative media. Joshua describes himself as a Christian, husband, father, business owner, and creative. From a young age, he found joy in storytelling and sports, interests that eventually shaped his career. Today, he is grateful to support his family while doing work he genuinely loves.

### Building the Vision

**Precision Productions** provides digital marketing services including commercial video production, photography, 2D animation, social media management, and web design. Through these tools, Joshua helps businesses and organizations communicate their stories in ways that connect with audiences. His journey began in 2009 when he purchased his first camera and started creating comedic videos and music videos. As others saw his work, people began asking him to film weddings and events. What started as a creative outlet gradually grew into a business. In 2016, while working at a bank, Joshua decided to take a leap of faith and pursue his business full-time. Nearly a decade later, he continues to look back on that decision without regret.

### Passion for Storytelling

What Joshua enjoys most about his work is helping people communicate their stories in compelling ways. “Everyone has their own unique story,” he shared, “but not everyone knows how to tell it in a way that will intrigue others.” Through video and digital media, he helps clients present their message in ways that draw audiences in and leave a lasting impression.

### Faith & Impact

Faith plays a central role in Joshua’s journey as an entrepreneur. Through both busy seasons and slower ones, he has learned to trust God with the outcome. While hard work is important, he believes that ultimately God is the one who provides growth and direction. That perspective continues to guide both his business and his approach to life.

### Moments of Growth

A major milestone came in 2022, when Joshua hired a team to help expand **Precision Productions**. One of his favorite projects involved directing sports content that combined athletic highlights with hip-hop music soundtracks, a creative blend that matched his personal interests.

### Advice for Future Creatives

Joshua encourages aspiring creatives not to wait for the “perfect” moment to begin. “You’ll never be ready,” he says. Instead, he advises continuing to learn, develop skills, and trust God through the process.

### How to Connect

**Precision Productions** works with businesses and organizations looking for marketing support through video, photography, and digital media. To learn more, visit [ThePrecisionProductions.com](https://ThePrecisionProductions.com) or call 269-349-7082.



# SERVING HANDS: A CAREGIVER'S STORY

## CAREGIVERS: DAUGHTER & SON-IN-LAW, CHERYL OWENS-NEBEDUM & WALTER NEBEDUM

**BY SIS. MONICA BANKS**

Caregiving is not easy at all. We cannot do this, but with God, we are able to do it. Philippians 4:13 says, We can do all things through Christ that strengthens us. We have experienced this Scripture over and over again. When we get weary, the Lord gives us a shot of “keep going.”

Serving our Dad, Bro. Renaford Owens (“Bish”), is fulfilling and rewarding. We know we are doing what we are supposed to do. It is all part of honoring our father, which is a command. We have had our own challenges, and it would be easy to give up. When our mother was transitioning, one of her wishes was that we would care for Dad in the manner he deserves. Thinking back on all he has done for us as a father, provider and teacher, it is an easy choice.

The most rewarding part is seeing the smile on his face when he wakes up and realizes he is in a home where he is loved and cared for. It is also rewarding when he tells us how grateful he is for all that we do for him. We see that the foundation of faith he has is not lost, which is gratifying to see in spite of his challenges.

Thank you Mt. Zion, for supporting us as we support him. Your outreach, concern, and support help us on this journey because they bring him such joy that his church family loves him.



# FAMILY MINISTRIES

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

BY DR. BETTY DENNIS



With so much snow, summer activities like Vacation Bible School (VBS) may seem like it's a long way off, but here in Family Ministries, VBS is right around the corner. The team is excited and preparing! We are already working hard to get ready for this fun event. Our kids are eager and enthusiastic. This year, the children had the opportunity to choose the theme for VBS from three creative options: Light League, Glow Squad, and Made To Shine.

**Drumroll, please!** After much anticipation, our kids selected GLOW SQUAD, inspired by 1 Peter 2:9, which encourages believers to see themselves as God sees them, a chosen people, a royal priesthood, holy, and special. Glow Squad is more than just a catchy name—it's a call to action for the children to shine like Christ by being a positive influence in the world. Since we are rooted in God's word, we are ready to let our lights shine. Watch our resilience as we plan for VBS 2026.

## PARENT TIPS

BY SIS. DANIELLE J. MOORE

Recently, both of my boys brought home their report cards. Our youngest is in kindergarten, and our oldest is in sixth grade. As I reflected with my husband, I realized something: although they grew up in the same home, parenting can look completely different from one season to the next.

Twelve years ago, I was in a different stage of life. Today I am working full-time and taking five college classes online. Yet one thing has not changed—God's presence. As Hebrews 13:8 reminds us, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

No matter your season of life—diapers, teenage years, praying for adult children, or encouraging the youth here at Mt. Zion—God is with you. Celebrate the progress you and your children are making. Growth may be gradual, but with God's help, we remain **Rooted, Ready, and Resilient** for the journey ahead.

# MOTHER'S CORNER

## INTERVIEW WITH MOTHER ROXIE PERKINS

BY SIS. ASHLEE FRANKLIN



Mother Roxie Perkins believes that faith is the confidence and assurance that whatever we hope for will happen. Faith is the only way to get to heaven, and it is the only doorway to get to eternal life. Mother Perkins states that faith is not just an act of the mind, but it taps us directly into God so that we have the power to live in an entirely new way. She advises that the key is to never give up on our faith, and to always ask if our lives will move us closer to God or further away from Him. It is her hope that we, as followers of Christ, continue to minister to others wherever we go, no matter the environment. Jesus is the only way; without him, we are nothing, but with him, all things are possible. Mother Perkins encourages everyone to tell others their story and what God has done for them. By sharing your own story, it will impact others and bring them closer to God, which is our mission as his followers.

### MINISTRY PUZZLE

BY SIS. SHAYLA SHELTON

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 D P F O U G I E T K B R Y T U A E B B R  
 Q Z C K F Y H N K M E F T Y B Y D B P B  
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AFFLICTED  
 INTIMIDATION  
 PROMISE  
 TRUST

BEAUTY  
 INTERVENE  
 READY

FRUITFUL  
 MULTIPLIED  
 RESILIENT

# 2026 GOALS

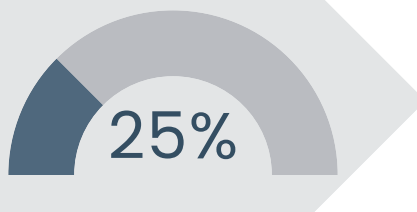


Souls added to the Body

123



Annual Target  
500



**LIFE IS BETTER TOGETHER!**

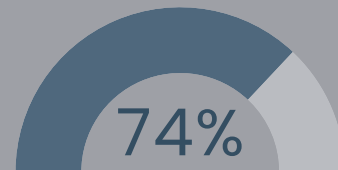


Members in Life Group

446



Weekly Target  
600



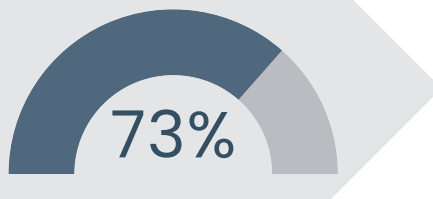
6 AM Prayer Call



109



Weekly Target  
150



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



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### APRIL

APRIL 5 - RESURRECTION SUNDAY

APRIL 17- 18 - CHAIN LAKE INSPIRATIONAL SESSION, FRIENDSHIP HOUSE OF PRAYER, LANSING, MI

APRIL 20 - NURSING HOME VISIT

### MAY

MAY 17th - 31<sup>st</sup> PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY

MAY 30 - BIKERS BLESSING

### JUNE

JUNE 14 - HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR RECOGNITION SUNDAY

JUNE 22- 26 - NATIONAL BAPTIST CONGRESS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

#### MT. ZION VOICE MINISTRY

Sis. Cassandra Bridges  
Sis. Monica Banks  
Sis. Nancy Buchanan  
Dr. Betty Dennis  
Sis. Ashlee Franklin  
Sis. Trish Gelbaugh  
Sis. Kamille Gleaves  
Sis. Deborah Jackson  
Sis. Diane Jones  
Sis. Danielle Moore  
Sis. Ashley Moorehead

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