



# Zion Deacons Speak

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

### SUMMER 2022 EDITION



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We continue to pray for you and your family's well-being during this pandemic. While this has truly been a trying time, it has also been a time of great blessings. This pandemic has provided us with many opportunities to reach out and meet the needs of our members and their extended families.

Again, during Father's Day weekend, Zion Deacons provided assistance to displaced men and individuals just as we did last year. We offered a mobile shower, mobile laundry facilities, haircuts, clothing, health screenings, and a meal. I leave you with these words: "Let brotherly love continue. Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby, some have entertained angels unawares." – Hebrews 13:1-2 (KJV)

**Deacon Lawrence McGregor, Chairman**  
Deacon Board, Zion Baptist Church Marietta

**Our Mission**

Love God.  
Love Others.  
Share Jesus.  
Make Disciples.

**Our Vision**

Connect,  
Grow, Serve  
and Go

**Our Community**

We invite and share Christ with unbelievers + active in and supportive of Christ's mission abroad + invested in ministry outside the walls of the church + an active advocate for social, political, and economic justice.

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### The Purpose and Mission of "Zion Deacons Speak" is to INFORM and ENCOURAGE members:



**INFORM** by CONSOLIDATING important church-wide information INCLUDING financial status in one source.



**ENCOURAGE** by: 1) CLEARLY STATING ACTIONS desired of members, 2) Reporting status of various CONNECTION opportunities, 3) Sharing TESTIMONIALS







## MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORS

Greetings Zion family!

Each edition of Zion Deacons Speak provides you and your family with another opportunity to share your successes, challenges, and concerns with the greater church family. The success and consistency of this newsletter depends on you and your engagement in submitting newsworthy information that can be shared with our readers. This newsletter is intended to be a beacon of hope and inspiration – won't you be a source of inspiration to someone?

Perhaps you are an aspiring poet or writer? We urge you to submit your work for consideration to be included in an upcoming edition. Help us to make this a newsletter that you look forward to receiving and reading.

*Communications Committee*

## 156th Anniversary Campaign Update

**2022 GOAL: \$95,500**

**Spirit of ZION 156**

**MORTGAGE PAYOFF CAMPAIGN**

Adults: \$156 / Children: \$15.60

GIVING OPTIONS:  
ZBCMARIETTA.ORG/GIVE

Anniversary donations will be used to help pay down Zion's mortgage (90%) and to continue Zion's Mission engagements (10%)

### WAYS TO GIVE

 <b>GIVE ONLINE</b> <small>Submit your gift Give on our online giving platform Realm and select "Birthday/Anniv"</small>	 <b>TEXT TO GIVE</b> <small>TEXT: 73256 Click on the link you receive to complete your gift. Then click on the link you receive to complete your gift.</small>	 <b>MAIL YOUR GIFT</b> <small>Mail your gift to: Zion Baptist Church 165 Lemon St. Marietta, GA 30060</small>
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## 156th Anniversary Donation Update

**Total Raised as of 8/11/22: \$41,709.11**

**Thanks for your support. Together, we can reach our goal.**

*Anniversary Committee Co-chairs,  
Deacon Sean J. Moore and Sister Sandra Snell*

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



### Brother M. Carlyle Kent

Zion is proud to announce the election of M. Carlyle Kent, who is married to **Joselyn Kent**, as Marietta's new Ward 5 Councilman. Kent grew up in South Boston, VA where he was reared by his parents, the late William Kent (a business owner and first elected African-American to the City Council and later mayor) and Marjorie Kent (a school teacher).

After a successful career with Westinghouse Electric, AT&T Bell Labs, and International Sales Canada, he has spent the past 17 years in Real Estate Sales. About his priorities, Kent said "are cleaning up Sope Creek, recognizing the history of the Baptist Town Community, improving walkability and increasing affordable housing. He also wants to work with schools to introduce students to city government – there may be a career day for middle schoolers to expose them to different departments and professions.





# Anniversaries / Weddings / Shoutouts!

## JUNE

Brother Don & Sister Vera Johnson  
June 25 (45 years)

## JULY

Dea. and Deac. James and Teresa Hargrett  
July 18 (16 years)

Pastor Eric and First Lady, Maritza Beckham  
July 13 (31 years)

## AUGUST

Kriss and Eugene Howard  
August 10 (54 years)

Dea. Thomas and Deac. Jacinta Bouvay  
August 18 (21 years)

Rev. Gerald & Mother Barbara Massey  
August 13 (45 years)

## SEPTEMBER

Rev. Arlen and Mother Myrtle Griffin  
September 4



## Special Shout Outs! Celebrate!



Zion's first Medical Doctor, **Dr. Frazier Keitt** (daughter of Deacon Thomas and Mother Bernadette Keitt), was named one of Atlanta Magazine's *Top Doctor* awardees in their July 2022 edition. She also served as one of the team doctors in Israel for the Maccabi Games this summer.



**Sister Ivey McCloud** (daughter of Deacon Mike and Deaconess Cecilia McCloud) was honored this year as one of Georgia State University's *Top 40 under 40* which recognizes the most influential and impactful GSU graduates who embody the values of the university.



**Sister Phylcia Fant** (daughter of Deacon Phillip and Sis. Margaree Fant) recently joined Amazon Music as head of Music Industry Partnerships, a newly created role.



**Sister Maya Beckham** (daughter of Pastor and First Lady Beckham) served on a missions trip in Budapest, Hungary with the UGA Navigators Ministry team in July.



**Sister Ceata Garrett** (wife of Deacon Garrett Lash) appeared on QVC and HSN this year as part of their Black-owned Small Business Spotlight!

The Puff Cuff team also represented at this year's Essence Music Festival in New Orleans.





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## MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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### JUNE - JULY - AUGUST - SEPTEMBER

Happy Birthday to all our members who celebrated (or will be celebrating) a birthday this quarter! A special happy milestone birthday goes out to **Brother Clet Ray** celebrated his 80th birthday on August 6.

A full list of member birthdays from June through September is available in the August 12 edition of our "Zion Connect" newsletter. GOD BLESS.

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## BEREAVEMENT

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Join us in lifting our Zion family and their loved ones in prayer. Please check with your home fellowship deacon or on Realm for member contact information. Some member profiles may be listed as private. Our God WILL see all of us through; He promised and He keeps His promises.



### SPECIAL PRAYER

*Dear Lord, once again death has invaded our ranks and taken our loved ones to rest in your presence eternally. Our lives have forever been changed by our losses, but we hold firm to our faith and trust in You. Father, we ask for comfort in the dark days ahead as we adjust our lives without them.*

*Help us to turn to your word as we fall into your strong arms that are able to sustain us at all times and in every situation. We pray that we find joy in every memory of our loved ones and a reminder that to be absent from the body, is to be present with the Lord. Keep us in your unfailing superintending care. Amen.*



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# BEREAVEMENT TO DATE

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*Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.*

—James 5:16 (NKJV)

## JANUARY

- Mother Carrie Wilson, Mother of Sister Angela McGuire
- Col.. Wilburn See, Father of Terry See
- Mrs. Katrina Hargrett, Mother of Deacon James Hargrett
- Mr. Alan Bables, Brother of Sister Shiree Howard
- Mr. Herbert Bonner, Brother of Mother Debra Prather
- Mr. Allan Jackson, Brother of Brother William Jackson
- Mr. Melvin R. Johnson, Brother of Deacon Don Johnson
- Mr. Lavon Hamilton, Brother of Sister Darlene George and Sister Deborah Wilcox.
- Mrs. Zellean Barrett, Mother of Brother Randolph Lewis
- Brother Richard Stewart, Brother-in-Law of Mother Jacqueline Davis
- Mrs. Cheryl Pharris, Mother of Brother Avery Pharris (Son-in-Law of Rev. & Mother Prather)
- Mr. Bernard Raiford, Brother of Mother Valerie Robinson
- Mrs. Mildred Moore, Mother of Sister Easter Beasley

## FEBRUARY

- Mrs. VerNessa Stoudermire, Daughter of Rev. Evelyn & Brother Clyde Taylor
- Brother Louis C. Walker, Husband of Mother Emerita Joretta Walker and Father of Sister Tricee Williams
- Ms. Towanda Jones, Daughter of Sis Doris Jones
- Mr. Andrew L. Jenkins, Father of Sister Andrea Jenkins
- Mr. Caesar C. Wright, Father of Rev. Antoine Wright
- Ms. Allison Gattis, relative of Minister Tiffiney Robinson
- Mrs. Sharon Oates, relative of Minister Cynthia Crawford

## MARCH

- Mother Emerita Gloria Merritt, Mother of Sister Mimi Merritt
- Mr. Bernard "Bernie" Wilson, Jr., Son of Brother Bernard Wilson

## APRIL

- Sister Clementine Durham, Zion Family
- Mrs. Barbara Norwood, Sister of Sister Doris Saulsberry
- Mr. J. W. Rencher, Father of Mother Brenda Jemison
- Bishop William Harris, First Lady Quetta Harris & ICF Family
- Mrs. Delorse Merriweather, Sister of Sister Bonnie Williams
- Mr. Jerome Perdum, Sr., Family of Deacon Charles Harris and Sister Carolyn McDaniel
- Mother Colista Allen, Mother of Brother Michael Allen

## MAY

- Ms. Janet Lynn Brown, Sister of Sister Lisa Barbara
- Mother Flora Johnson Mother of Dr. Flora Anders
- Victoria Thomas, Brother of Brother Mel and Sister Stephanie Clemons
- Mrs. Diane Hunter, Mother of Minister James Hunter
- Mr. Arnold Chapman, Sister of Elizabeth Grady Family
- Mr. Milton Levitt, relative of Brother Joe and Willie Family

## JUNE

- Mother Emerita Marie Hyatt, Mother of Hyatt and Zion Family
- Dr. Letha See, Mother of Terry See
- Mr. William T. Crawford, Father of Deacon Gary Crawford and Family
- Brother Nygil Cullins, relative of Rev. Quentin & Dr. Mya Cullins-Spiller
- Brother Ray Dennis Prather, Rev. Roy Prather Family
- Mrs. Georgianna Polite, Mother of Brother Bobby Kinloch
- Brother K. J. Scott, Brother Ernie & Sister Rakia Prude Family
- Mrs. Patsy W. Howard, Aunt of Brother Michael Radford
- Mrs. Jennie Bell, Mother of Deaconess Karla Moore
- Mr. Robert Walker, Sr., Father of Sister Jackie Collins
- Mrs. Bertha Anthony, Zion Family

## JULY

- Mother Brenda Jemison, Wife of Deacon Gregory Jemison and Family
- Bishop Robert S. Davis, Dr., Brother of First Lady Maritza Beckham







# QUARTERLY MESSAGE



**Rev. Barbara Curry**  
ZBC Associate Minister

**By Rev. Curry** (from May 2022)

*On Sunday, May 22, the Zion Baptist Church Family celebrated 14 high school seniors graduating from various Cobb County High Schools and getting ready to commence life as young-adults.*

Some will be leaving home to attend various colleges, which means for the first time in their lives, they will no longer be under the daily guidance of their parents. Although this is a very happy time for these graduating seniors, it can be a very stressful and difficult time for their parents. But all their parents can do is trust that what they have instilled in these young adults for the past 17 to 18 years, will serve to lead, guide, and protect them, and help them to continue to make intelligent, thoughtful, and Christ-like decisions as they embark upon this new phase in life.

These 14 graduates also grew up connected to the spiritual nourishment of the Zion Baptist Church Family, where they have been able to form a spiritual relationship with Jesus Christ, who has informed us in the Gospel of John, that He is "The True Vine" (Jn. 15:1). So now is the time when all that has been poured into these graduates is put to the test and the final advise I want to give them as they commence upon this next chapter in their lives is simply – "stay connected to Jesus Christ - The True Vine". He is the vine and you are the branches that bear fruit – and if you do not stay connected, then you do not bear fruit, and Jesus says, you will wither (Jn: 15:2).

We are living in some uncertain times where every day our young people are confronted with rising gas and food costs, the cost of attending college has exploded, mass shootings are happening in places that were once deemed to be safe houses, such as our churches, schools, grocery stores, shopping centers, movie theatres, to name a few. This adds to the stress that not only our young people face, but their parents face as they try to let go enough to allow them to grow and mature, while fighting back the desire to keep them as close as possible to protect them from these dangers. So today, I want to use Jesus' teaching found in the Gospel of John, Chapter 15 to encourage our young people and hopefully bring some comfort to the parents as well.

When we turn to The Gospel of John, Chapter 15, we find Jesus preparing His disciples for His departure. He wanted them to know that He would always be connected to them spiritually and would never, ever abandon them. However, for this connectiveness to continue, they would have to do their part by staying connected to Him and His teachings through constant prayer and worship. Jesus' disciples represented the fruit produced from His ministry while He was with them. What they did, how they behaved and the decisions they were to make after His departure would be representative of their continued connectiveness to Him. You see, all fruit separates from the vine once its time of ripeness and maturity arrives, and the condition of that fruit depends upon how well it has been nurtured when it was connected

to the vine. Jesus had nurtured His disciples very well through His teachings and examples – just as our young adults and graduates have been nurtured and taught at Zion.

As young adults of Zion, you have received the best spiritual nurturing possible. Now, it is up to you to remain connected to The True Vine – Jesus Christ, by executing all that has been instilled in you by your parents and your Zion Baptist Church family. In closing, I would like to share three simple actions you can take as you venture into adulthood to make sure you stay connected to your faith and spiritual teachings no matter where life is about to take you.

- 1.If you are leaving home and relocating to another city or state, immediately, find a strong bible-based Baptist church with a biblically sound preaching and teaching Pastor, who believes in a strong and vibrant youth ministry.**
- 2.Whether you are relocating or not, continue to attend worship services regularly; stay or get involved in the youth ministries, small groups, bible study, prayer services and Sunday School.**
- 3.Continue to allow the Holy Spirit to use you to produce the fruits of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23) so that you draw other young people around you to Christ, instead of allowing them to draw you away from Christ.**

Remember, Jesus told His disciples in John 15 that He is the True Vine and without Him they could do nothing. His words are still true today. So, stay connected to Jesus Christ -The True Vine so that you will continue to receive the spiritual nurturing you need to help you travel into full adulthood. Let nothing separate you from your faith and knowledge of Jesus – keep your relationship with Jesus strong and allow the Holy Spirit to always be your guide. Never forget what your parents and your Zion Family have instilled in you and you will make it through this next phase of life just fine!

*God Bless and Keep You Always,*  
**Rev. Barbara Curry**







# CLASS OF 2022 SPOTLIGHT

## ZION BAPTIST CHURCH 2022 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES



Drew Barber



Justin Bouvay



Neru J. Evans



Kory Gibbons



Roman Holder



Kennedi Lewis



Jocelyn Lumpkin



Jordan Mathis



Ryan McCrary



Maya Montague



Quenton Mullins Jr.



Kyla Ray



Camille Werts



Christine Werts

*Congratulations!*

## 2022 ZION COLLEGE GRADUATES

### UNDERGRADUATES

Morgan Beckham  
Chandler Black  
Kaitlyn Collins

Jordan Crawford  
Tyler Harper  
Ason Hunter  
Chandler Spaulding

### POST GRADUATES

Jackie Collins  
Terrence Norman  
Donovan Shipley

### GRADUATE VIDEO PRESENTATION:

<https://youtu.be/QnpPLzCsggM>



# Zion

## DEACON BOARD

ZION  
BAPTIST CHURCH



**Lawrence McGregor**  
*Chair*



**Gary Ludgood**  
*Co-chair*



**Thaddeus Allen**



**Thabo Bobape**



**Thomas Bouvay**  
*Communications*



**Dr. Carl Brown**



**Charles Byrd**



**Gary Crawford**



**H. Anthony Davis, Sr**



**Charles Edwards**



**Phillip E. Fant**



**Robert Glover**



**Sims W. Gordon, Jr.**



**Joe Green**



**Verdell Hall**  
*Emeritus*



**Robert Halsell, III**



**James Hargrett**



**Charles Harris**  
*Emeritus*



**Calvin Hill**



**William Howard**



**Hollis Howell**



**Will Jackson**



**Gregory Jemison**



**Thomas Keitt**

*Continued on next page.*







# Zion DEACON BOARD

ZION  
BAPTIST CHURCH

*Deacons cont'd.*



John Knighton



Garrett Lash



Albert Lovett



Eric Ludgood



Michael Mathis



Michael McCloud



Chesley McNeil



Sean J. Moore



Bill Pinkston



Robert Poe



Earnest Pringle



Mark Riggans



James Robinson



Alexander Shannon



Chester Simmons



Darren Spaulding



Robert Spencer  
*Emeritus*



Willie Winfrey

## Deacon Support

For prayer, help and resources, please refer to your home fellowship deacon. Groups and applicable deacon are listed by the first letter of your last name. The complete roster is listed on page 10 of this newsletter, or visit our website at [zbcmarietta.org/requests](http://zbcmarietta.org/requests) to reach out.

ZION BAPTIST CHURCH | CONNECT GROW SERVE GO

### CONNECT REQUESTS

MAKING CONNECTIONS THAT DEEPEN RELATIONSHIPS FOCUSED ON YOU.

- REALM Contact Updates
- Sick and Shut In
- Assistance and Prayer requests, etc.
- Important Life Events
- Special events: birthdays, graduations, etc.

Form is available on our website at [zbcmarietta.org/requests](http://zbcmarietta.org/requests).







**A,I,K**  
ASSIGNED DEACONS

- Deacon Thomas Keitt
- Michael Mathis

ASSIGNED MINISTERS:

- Rev. Vanessa Abidoye

**Ba-Bq**  
ASSIGNED DEACONS:

- Charles Byrd
- Calvin Hill

ASSIGNED MINISTERS:

- Rev. Kenneth Fernandez
- Rev. Gerald Massey
- Rev. Gary Montague

**Br-Bz**  
ASSIGNED DEACONS:

- Thabo Bopape
- Bill Pinkston
- Roy Richardson

ASSIGNED MINISTERS:

- Rev. Robert Brown

**C**  
ASSIGNED DEACONS:

- Will Jackson
- Thomas Bouvay
- Earnest Pringle

ASSIGNED MINISTERS:

Rev. Gloria Palmer

**D,U,V,X,Y,Z**  
ASSIGNED DEACONS:

- Anthony Davis
- Mark Riggans

ASSIGNED MINISTERS:

- Rev. Ramona Kerr
- Rev. Antoine Wright

**F&L**  
ASSIGNED DEACONS:

- George Thompson -
- Robert Glover
- Albert Lovett
- Sims Gordon -

ASSIGNED MINISTERS:

- Rev. Arlen Griffin
- Rev. Everleaner Grant
- Rev. R.B. Brown

**M**  
ASSIGNED DEACONS:

- Chesley McNeil
- Joe Green
- Michael McCloud
- Garrett Lash

ASSIGNED MINISTERS:

- Rev. Randy McClure
- Rev. Ruth Hodo

Phone numbers are available in church member directory.







# Zion HOME FELLOWSHIP CONTACTS



## G

**ASSIGNED DEACONS:**

- Don Johnson
- Gary Ludgood
- Eric Ludgood

**ASSIGNED MINISTERS:**

Rev. Jo Ludgood

## H

**ASSIGNED DEACONS:**

- James Robinson
- James Hargrett

**ASSIGNED MINISTERS:**

- Rev. Robert Spencer
- Min. James Hunter

## J

**ASSIGNED DEACONS:**

- John Knighton
- Greg Jemison

**ASSIGNED MINISTERS:**

- Rev. Barbara Curry

## O - P - Q

**ASSIGNED DEACONS:**

- William Howard
- Carl Brown

**ASSIGNED MINISTERS:**

- Rev. Kara Pringle
- Rev. Maria Harris

## R

**ASSIGNED DEACONS:**

- Thad Allen
- Rob Halsell
- Hollis Howell
- Verdell Hall

**ASSIGNED MINISTER:**

TBD

## S

**ASSIGNED DEACONS:**

- Robert Poe
- Chet Simmons
- Darren Spaulding
- Alexander Shannon

**ASSIGNED MINISTER:**

TBD

## W

**ASSIGNED DEACONS:**

- Charles Edwards
- Phillip Fant
- Willie Winfrey

**ASSIGNED MINISTER:**

- Rev. Roy Prather

## T-E-N

**ASSIGNED DEACONS:**

- Gary Crawford
- Lawrence McGregor
- J. Sean Moore

**ASSIGNED MINISTER:**

- Rev. Toni Ruffin

Phone numbers are available in church member directory.







Thank you for reading our newsletter. For submissions and requests, please contact your Zion home fellowship deacon. Have a blessed rest of your summer.! God bless. — **ZBC Deacon Board**

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# *Zion Deacons Speak*

## **QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**

**COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMITTEE**

**Deacon Carl Brown, *Chair***

**Deacon Gary Ludgood  
Deacon Charles Edwards**

**Deacon Gary Crawford  
Deacon Thomas Bouvay**



### **SPECIAL REQUESTS:**

#### **PRAYER:**

The ZBC Intercessory Prayer Ministry is here to serve you and respond to your prayer requests. The ministry is led by Rev. Benita White and Minister Bartley Gray. You can submit your requests via email to [ZBCprayerteam@zbcmarietta.org](mailto:ZBCprayerteam@zbcmarietta.org).

#### **WEEKLY PRAYER LIST SUBMISSIONS:**

Please contact Sister Bobbie Sims at [bobbiesims@zbcmarietta.org](mailto:bobbiesims@zbcmarietta.org).

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#### **CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please contact your home fellowship deacon(s) for family announcements. For church-wide submissions (news or special events), please complete an announcement request form on our website at [zbcmarietta.org/requests](http://zbcmarietta.org/requests).

**FOLLOW US**     

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**LIKE, SHARE, SUBSCRIBE AND FOLLOW!**  
[#stayconnected](https://www.facebook.com/zbcmarietta)

