

## **UNIQUE FACTS ABOUT ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

- It is the oldest predominately African American Baptist Church in Saginaw, founded in 1868. Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church being founded a year earlier (1867)
- There were five families who founded Zion Missionary Baptist Church. This location was chosen because the land was the only place they could afford. The building was shaped like a small barn.
- The address was and sometimes still is referred to as 2<sup>nd</sup> and Johnson. Zion has remained at this same location for 140 years.

***Zion has 30 ministries which foster Christian education, fellowship and spiritual growth for members of all ages. These are a few that we would like to highlight that reach not only the members of Zion, but the total Saginaw community:***

- **Christian Education Advisory Ministry** – A ministry that enhances the unity of the body, the vision of the pastor and the needs of the congregation. This is an extension of the education arm of the pastor’s office. The Education Arm: Sunday School, Bible Study, Seminar/retreats and New Member Orientations.
- **Zion Puppet Ministry and Mime Team** was organized in 1991 and has continued to be a strong avenue for our youth to witness to their peers about the love of Christ. They have traveled around the state and also have attended various conferences in Illinois. In 1998 they were invited to perform at the 1998 World Baptist Youth Conference in Houston, Texas.
- **Zion Tutoring Program** – For ten years, this program has been free of charge and open to all youth of the Saginaw community. It meets every Wednesday from 4:00-6:00 p.m.
- **Quality of Life Support Group** – Serves as a support system for members and the community by providing information that relates to such issues as Social Security, Health, Prearranged Funerals and other services of interest to our senior members, retirees, caregivers, financial planning, etc. An annual health is held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in March of each year since 2002.
- **Zion’s Feed the Hungry**—For over a decade, Zion has provided a nutritious meal the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month to people of the community. Participants are given toiletry items, and the opportunity to choose from our clothing bank. Every ministry of the church is assigned a month throughout the year to serve and fellowship with individuals from our community who attend our Church Mission Ministry.

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- **Diabetes Support Group** – Meets the first Monday of each month in the Austin Fellowship Hall. For over five years, participants have met to learn about the types of food to consume and the importance of exercise and diet. They also are provided with information and resources to help them maintain a healthy lifestyle.
- **Zion's Food Pantry** – The Caring Hands ministry maintains this pantry which has been in existence since the 1960's. The pantry houses non-perishable items for the needy.

***Zion has not only been a spiritual center for 140 years for this community, but it has also been a supporter of community stability and growth. Several organizations received their beginnings by having the support of Zion Missionary Baptist Church.***

- The former **Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC)** metropolitan Saginaw was located in the basement of Zion until they were able to obtain a meeting place of their own. Pastor Emeritus Roosevelt Austin Sr. also served on the board of OIC.
- **Good Neighbors Mission** was founded by one of Zion's former members, Hazel Wilson, and was located in the basement of Zion until they were able to find a facility.
- The **Gamma Kappa Kudo's of Phi Delta Kappa Sorority, Inc.**, was formally organized at Zion in 1992 under the supervision of one of our members, Mary Currie.
- **Saginaw Branch of the NAACP** has primarily held its meetings at Zion for some 50 years. Many of Zion's members have served on the executive board and are actively involved in the NAACP and the NAACP ACT-SO Program.
- Since its inception, Zion has been involved with the financial and volunteer support of **Habitat for Humanity**. One of Zion's members, Leola Wilson, is a charter member of the organizing of Saginaw Habitat for Humanity and she currently serves as chair of the Family Selection committee.
- Zion has served as the primary meeting place for **Saginaw NAACP ACT-SO** program for a number of years. Zion plays a big role in the financial and mentor support of the program.