April 27, 2022

**Philippians 3:12-16 (NKJV)** Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Therefore, let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind.

**Christian Community and Discipleship**

Jayson Bradley says **discipleship** is a journey of intentional decisions leading to maturity in your relationship with Jesus so that you become more like Him in your attitudes, focus and ultimately behavior. It requires a commitment from the potential disciple and the disciple-makers. It’s not something that happens by accident or overnight, and it can’t be completed in a six-week class. This is a **lifelong commitment** to follow God with your whole self and to both learn from and eventually teach others about how to follow Him.

In a letter to a group of Christians in a city called Ephesus, Paul, an early follower of Jesus who wrote much of the New Testament, explains that God gives His followers gifts to help them make **disciples**. He begins by encouraging them to do whatever they can to maintain the unity of the Spirit (Ephesians 4:3). This is critical because **discipleship** is intended to happen among a community of fellow **disciples**, which the Bible calls “the church” or “the body of Christ.”

**Pastor’s Corner**

Hello Mt. Zion! As I reflect on last week’s service, I am very optimistic about the direction and the future of our great church. The first week into my pastorate, we have seen souls added to our church family and already a candidate for baptism. This is great news and get ready more is to come. As we look to the month of May, I will be starting a 3-month sermon series on our mission: **D.E.W.** **D**iscipleship, **E**vangelism, and **W**orship. This will lay the groundwork as I begin my pastorate here at Mt. Zion.

Also, you will hear me say quite often that we are a church that is **Bible-Based, Christ-Centered, and Discipleship-Driven!** With Jesus Christ guiding our footsteps, this is what our church will be formally known for.

As I stated last Sunday, my contact information is listed below. Please **store** my phone number and email and shoot me a text or call me so I can save your number in my phone. I want to be able to provide you with the pastoral care that you need! Always, know that my wife and I are praying for you and your family! God bless and see you on Sunday! **Please remember to invite, invite and invite your family and friends to our worship service!** **~Pastor G**

**My Contact Info**

**Cell:513-642-1831**

**Email: mtzion.pastor16@gmail.com**.

**COVID Alert**

Bro. Lawrence Coleman has tested positive for COVID. It is highly recommended that you receive a COVID test just to be on the safe side. Let us keep him in our prayers!

**Did You Know?**

**Tuesday, May 3, 2022,** is **primary election day** in the state of Ohio. As you know voting rights are under attack in our nation. We encourage everyone that is registered to vote to please do so. It is only by voting that our voices are heard so please go and vote for the candidate of your choice who will truly represent you.

**Congratulations**

Congratulations to Jordan Wilson who will receive her **bachelor’s degree in engineering** from the University of Dayton on Sunday, May 8, 2022. Jordan is planning to continue her education by receiving her master’s degree. We pray God’s blessings as Jordan pursues her dream.

Congratulations to the Woodlawn team that won the **first Black History Trivia** contest held at the Woodlawn Recreation Center. This team consisted of all Mt. Zion Baptist Church members. The team members were Sister Patti Hogue, Sister Gina Ruffin-Moore, Brother Aaron Tillman and our newest member Brother David Livers. Their trophy is in the vestibule.

**Mass Mailings**

Reminder: All mass mailings to members should come from the office. This gives us the opportunity to ensure that the congregation receives information sanctioned by the Church.

**Prayer Requests**

Please keep the family of Sister Mary Burton lifted in prayer. Sister Burton passed away to be with the Lord, on Tuesday, April 26, 2022. Arrangements are incomplete at this time. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to her sons or her sister at the following addresses;

 Mr. Michael Burton or Mr. Sheldon Burton (sons)

 1386 Random Hill Rd.

 Cincinnati, OH 45231

 Or

 Brother Ronald and Sister Helen Watson (sister)

 11956 Brookway Dr.

 Cincinnati, OH 45240

Please keep Brother Eric Watford lifted in prayer as he prepares for the home going service for his mother, Sister Evelyn G. Watford. The arrangements are as follows:

 Visitation: Friday, April 29, 2022 @ 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

 Saturday, April 30, 2022 @ 10:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m.

 Celebration of Life: Saturday, April 30, 2022 @ 11:00 a.m.

 Location of Visitation and Celebration of Life:

 St. John Missionary Baptist Church

 34 W. Pleasant Street

 Springfield, OH 45506

Expressions of sympathy can be sent to Brother Eric at the following address:

 Brother Eric Watford

 8227 Sea Mist Ct.

 West Chester, OH 45069

**Scholarship Opportunity**

Members and Friends of the Prince Hall Masonic Family,

A reminder that the ***deadline to submit an application for a Scholarship Award from the Prince Hall Scholarship Foundation is June 1, 2022!***

1st Time Applications can be obtained from  the Grand Lodge website   "Scholarship Applications page".

The Continuing Application must be obtained from Ronald A. Ogletree, at Rtree2@msn.com.

**Help Wanted!** We need 10 people from 6:30 to 9:00 a.m. to unload the truck and pack the boxes and bags. In addition, we need 10 to 12 people to give out the food. Finally, we need about 7 or 8 people to clean up at 11:00 a.m. If you want to lend a helping hand, please contact Sis. Phyllis at (513) 319-7267 or by email at pjmckinley@fuse.net. The food pantry giveaway time and date are located below under upcoming events.

**Spring Cleaning!**

We are in the process of cleaning out the choir room. If you or a family member purchased a robe, please pick it up. The robes will be in the multi-purpose area from Sunday, April 24, 2022, through Sunday, May 8, 2022. If you do not pick up your robe, they will be disposed of by Wednesday, May 11, 2022. **Please note you will be unable to pick up robes on May 3 due to Election Day.**

**Upcoming Events**

Saturday, April 30, 2022, 12:30 pm: Children’s Church Zoom Fellowship

Please see the ZOOM link below:

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**https://us04web.zoom.us/j/4013601932?pwd=bHNLelVBRDdUanpLanE4M0xrVDRydz09**

**Meeting ID: 401 360 1932**

**Passcode: WRN82A**

Tuesday, May 3, 2022, from 6:30 am-7:30 pm Primary Election Day

Saturday, May 7, 2022, 9:00 a.m. Food Pantry (See Lincoln Heights Valley Booster Flyer) We need volunteers to have a successful Food Giveaway. The times needed are as follows:

10—volunteers between 6:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. to help unload the truck and pack bags

10—volunteers between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. to give out the food

8—volunteers to help with cleanup at 11:00 a.m.

Please contact Sister Phyllis McKinley if you are able to volunteer. Her contact information is:

Home phone: (513) 851-7146

Cell phone: (513) 319-7267

**Thank You**

Thank you for remembering to support your church financially. As a reminder you have a choice to stop by the church on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to drop off your tithes and offerings. You still have the ability to use Givelify and of course your checks are still welcomed and accepted. Place your check (no cash) in a secure envelop and mail to:

 Mt. Zion Baptist Church

 10180 Woodlawn Blvd.

 Woodlawn, OH 45215

If you are having trouble receiving Church Correspondence, please let us know and we will make every effort to ensure that you receive the correspondence. Also, **if you know of any member that is not receiving the correspondence, please have them to notify the church.**

Please continue to pray for those who are sick, shut-in and in nursing homes/care centers. I have attached a list of our sick and shut-in members as well as those that are in the nursing homes. Please check with the nursing home prior to your visit to ensure that they are allowing visitors. Please pray that all the residents will remain safe.

Please join us for the following weekly worship services/Bible Studies:

**Wednesday Noon Bible Study (Wednesdays at 12:15 p.m.)**

**Teacher: Deacon Sanford Kirksey**

**Study Scripture: I Thessalonians Chapter 4**

**Dial in Number: (470) 480-9361**

**Wednesday Evening Bible Study (Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m.)**

**Teacher: Pastor Christopher R. Graham, Sr.**

**Scripture: I Timothy Chapter 3**

**Dial in Number: (470) 480-9361**

**Saturday Morning Bible Study (Saturdays at 10:15 a.m.)**

**Teacher: Brother Steve McCullom**

**Study Scripture: John Chapter 3**

**Dial in Number: (470) 480-9361 Freeconferencecall.com**

**Please see the Zoom link listed above.**

**Sunday School (Sunday, May 1, 2022 at 9:15 a.m.)**

**Sunday’s Lesson: Freedom from Sin**

**Teacher: TBD**

**Study Scripture: Romans 6:1-14**

**Dial in Number: (470) 480-9361**

**Sunday Morning Worship Service (Sunday, May 1, 2022 at 10:45)**

**Morning Message: Pastor Christopher R. Graham, Sr.**

**Sermon: Contagious Christianity**

**Sermon Text: Matthew 28: 16-20 (NLT)**

**Dial in Number: (470) 480-9361**

**Facebook Live and YouTube is also available for this event: Mt. Zion Baptist Church Woodlawn; YouTube—Type in MtZionWoodlawn (It is case sensitive)**

**Saturday Evening Prayer**

**Receiving Prayer Request Every Saturday Evening at 4:15 p.m.**

**Evening Prayer: Deacons**

**Dial in Number: (470) 480-9361**

**Monday Morning Prayer**

**Receiving Prayer Request Every Monday Morning at 8:15 a.m.**

**Morning Prayer: Sister Deanna Kimbrough**

**Dial in Number: (470) 480-9361**

We encourage you to continue to reach out to each other to minister the Good News. Most importantly, our hope rests in the Lord Almighty, Emmanuel, God-with-Us. In the words of the Psalmist:

**If you make the Most High your dwelling—even the Lord who is my refuge—then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent. (Psalm 91:9-10 NIV)**

During this time of the pandemic, we are not alone! God is with us, and we have each other as members of the Body of Christ.

**In His Service,**

**Pastor Christopher R. Graham, Sr., M. Div**