



ZION HERALD NEWS

ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

The Church that Serves God and the Community

225 Byrne Street ~ Petersburg, VA 23803

Volume 66 Issue 4

October ~ December 2025

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Mission Statement

"Serve God, Love People, Spread the Gospel Message and Minister to Each Other's Needs as Disciples of Christ."

Join Us for Sunday School!

Start your Sunday with inspiration, good conversation, and great fellowship! Our engaging Sunday School meets each week from 9:00 am to 9:45 am in the second-floor classroom. It's a wonderful time for meaningful lessons, open discussion, and warm community connection as we grow together in faith. We invite you to come as you are and grow in faith and friendship with us!



Stay for Worship at 10:00 a.m.!

After Sunday School, we'd love for you to join us for worship service at 10:00 am for a joyful time of praise, prayer, and encouragement. Come experience uplifting music, heartfelt fellowship, and solid, Bible-based preaching with a message for all ages. You'll leave refreshed, inspired, and reminded of God's unfailing love. Come and be part of our church family in-person or, on YouTube (Zion Baptist Church of the City of Petersburg, VA)!



Join Us for Midweek Bible Study!

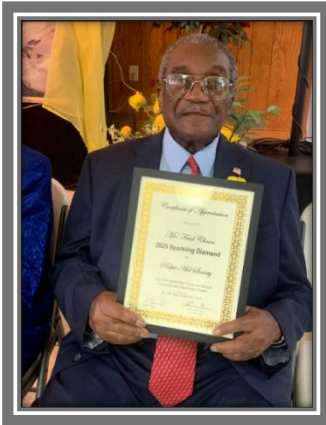
Our weekly Bible study meets every Wednesday evening at 6:00 pm via teleconference. It's a warm, welcoming space to explore God's Word together from the comfort of your home. All are invited—just dial in and join the conversation!

Dial-in #: 1-605-313-5462 Access Code: 756734 #

THE PULPIT AID SOCIETY

The members of the Pulpit Aid Society continue to stand strong in keeping with the goals and responsibilities of its ministry. Each month seems to bring on another joyous occasion to celebrate. The Pulpit Aid supports the pulpit and its ministry. Here are examples of what we've been busy doing, during 2025:

- *Pastor's graduation
- *Pastor and Mrs. Douglas's Wedding
- *Dr. Andrew and Dr. Gracie White's birthdays
- *Pastor Douglas's birthday
- *Hosting the Diamond Celebration
- *Visiting and/or remembering members
- *Supporting other ministries' activities



The 2025 Diamond Celebration was hosted on Sunday, October 19th in the Della Bannister Fellowship Hall following the morning Worship Service. Four new Diamonds were honored: Ms. Nancye Champ, Mrs. Eunice Griffin, Ms. Annie Parham, and Ms. Shirley Peterson (because Shirley was unable to attend, she was represented by her daughter, Adele). Our new Sparkling Diamond is Deacon Fred D. Choice. Each honoree received an engraved diamond, certificate, and a special gift bag. All guests were welcomed and invited to be photographed with their honored loved one.

Each table was beautifully decorated with bright yellow tablecloths and embellished with beautiful floral arrangements. Mr. Fred Harris and his musical partner, Wayne, serenaded the room with beautiful dinner music. Mr. Harris also shared his original poem dedicated to the Diamonds and gifted each honoree with a framed copy. Ms. Ruth Morgan-Hairston served extraordinarily well as the Mistress of Ceremonies. Very special thanks to all who served to make this celebration such a memorable occasion.



Special plans are underway for a Christmas social to be held at Joe's Steak and Seafood Restaurant. We close this year with a HALLELUJAH! We charge our physical batteries as we continue to be "In His Service." Thanks to all for continued encouragement and support.

Submitted by Pauline Gore, President

MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY 2025

On Sunday, November 16, 2025, Zion Baptist Church honored its military veterans with an outstanding program conducted by the Petersburg High School Junior ROTC Battalion, under the capable leadership of US Army Colonel (Retired) Joyce Junior. This program was conducted during the regular Sunday morning worship service. Colonel Junior served as Worship Leader and the cadets, donned in their dress uniforms, filled the administrative positions including ushering, scripture reading, morning prayer and introduction of the guest speaker.

This year, the distinguished guest speaker was Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Forrest L. Black, Executive Director for Distance Education and Professional Studies at Virginia State University. LTC Black is a native of Hampton, Virginia and a graduate of Norfolk State University. He retired with 26 years of distinguished service, highlighted by service as the 27th Professor of Military Service at Virginia State University. He holds a Master's Degree from the American Military University and is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College. His Military Decorations included the Army Commendation Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal and the coveted Bronze Star medal (w/1 oak leaf cluster). Immediately following the guest speaker's presentation, photos were taken and the congregation was treated to a delectable meal.

Zion Baptist Church is deeply indebted to Colonel Junior, Lieutenant Colonel Black and the JUNIOR ROTC Cadets of Petersburg High School for their outstanding contributions to its 25th Military Appreciation Day celebration.

Submitted by Deacon Fred Choice



REV. DR.
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. *Day*

Celebrating American Freedom

MONDAY JANUARY 19

Come & Join Us for our Annual Day of Service!

9:30AM Mini Concert:
Rev. Cora Harvey Armstrong

Guest Speaker:
Rev. Dr. Waddell G. Jones, Jr.
President, The Virginia Baptist State Convention

Music By:
Wendell Givens & Community Choir

LOCATION
Tabernacle Baptist Church
448 Halifax Street
Petersburg, VA 23803
www.thcptg.org

IOAM
LET'S CELEBRATE
MLK DAY

TABERNACLE BAPTIST CHURCH
448 HALIFAX STREET
PETERSBURG, VA 23803
Pastor: DR. ROBERT A. DICKER, JR.

United Healthcare
Community Plan

PRESENTS
REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Day of Service
HEALTH EQUITY & ACCESS FAIR

"Injustice in health is the most shocking and inhuman..." MLK JR.

JANUARY 19
12 - 3PM

VENDORS & HEALTH
SCREENINGS/CHECKS
OPEN TO ALL!

COMMUNITY
EQUITY & IMPACT INNOVATORS

I AM
PETERSBURG
RECREATION

TABERNACLE BAPTIST CHURCH
Petersburg, VA

Location: Tabernacle Baptist Church, 444 Halifax Street, Petersburg, VA 23803
For more information or to become a vendor: www.thcptg.org

2025 WHITE POTATO DISTRIBUTION

Again, this year, Zion Baptist Church received more than 2,000 pounds of white potatoes from the Highland and Wesley United Methodist Churches in Colonial Heights, VA. Zion members spent a cool, rainy Saturday morning packing the potatoes into 5-pound bags. Rev. Dr. Delano Douglas and Mrs. Alecia Douglas led the charge in distributing the potatoes to local community citizens and Zion church members. See pictures below.



Submitted by Walking Deacon Deloris G. Jordan



DIACONATE MINISTRY DELIVERS CHRISTMAS CHEER



Deacon Roland Christian, along with Walking Deacon Deloris Jordan prepared and delivered 104 Christmas bags containing toiletries and socks to the Battlefield Park Nursing Home, Flank Road, Petersburg, VA, on Tuesday, December 23rd. Chips and other goodies were also included. The recreation supervisor was gleefully excited to receive these gifts for the residents!!!!

Submitted by Walking Deacon Deloris Jordan

JUST BE KIND

Ephesian 4:32 encourages us to: “Be kind and compassionate to one another and forgive each other, just as Christ Jesus forgave us”! Think positive and anchor yourself in God’s thoughts; Good people; Patience; Empathy; Healing; Hope; an Open mind; Kind words; Self-Belief; Acceptance and Love!

Speak positive words into your life every single morning. Think big. Think healing. Think success. Think peace. Think happiness. Think with a good mindset. And, always start the day with positive energy, for you deserve it!!!

Be kind to one another and tenderhearted. Never let loyalty and kindness leave you. God encourages us to be kind by embodying qualities like compassion, humility and forgiveness. Kindness is one of the valued Fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:23).

So, my Christian friends, “Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; For His lovingkindness and graciousness, mercy and compassion endure forever”, Psalms 136:1.

Just me, “Randomly Thinking”

Submitted by Walking Deacon Deloris Gregory Jordan



Save the Date: February 28, 2026

EVENT: BLACK AUTHOR EXPO 2026

Hear Unique Stories! Meet Authors! Buy More Books!

Virginia's Largest Free Black Author-Centered Event Draws Hundreds to the Petersburg Public Library



1pm - 4pm • Inside our Conference & Event Center

804-733-2387  www.ppls.org

**PANAFRICA CHAMBER
SEEKS VOLUNTEERS FOR
TASTE OF AFRICA EVENT**

In Honor Joseph Jenkins Roberts,
First President of Liberia

Meetings: Tuesdays 5-7 PM
237 North Sycamore Street, Suite C

THE LORD'S LOVE LIFE A LIVING SERMON ON LOVE

On the Sunday before Christmas, we received a sermon none of us will soon forget - and not only because of Rev. Douglas' message from Romans 1:1-7 entitled "The Lord's Love Life," it was unforgettable because God chose to *show* us His love in real time, right in the middle of the service.

As Rev. Douglas was preaching, a man kind of sauntered into the sanctuary. His clothes were worn - his face and demeanor carried the unmistakable weight of a hard life. He first sat behind the choir. Then he moved toward the back, where he opened a beer and made a few comments during the sermon - enough to draw the attention of nearly everyone in the room.

Trustee Willis Brown, positioned himself near the man when he pulled out the beer, leaned over and spoke a few words that persuaded him to put it away. Meanwhile, Kelvin Melton, a young adult who grew up in Zion (and a championship wrestler, by the way), came and sat behind Mr. Brown as he continued talking with the gentleman. After a very short time, the man left, only to return a little while later. Given the kind of events we have all seen in the news these days, you could feel a wave of uncertainty rise among us. Some shifted in their seats. A few glanced around. Most of us simply didn't know what to do - most, but not all.

The Pastor did.



Rev. Douglas was nearing the end of his demonstration on the eight Greek words for different types of love, the final one being *agape*. He had invited the youth and several church members to the front, each holding a card with one of the Greek words. One by one, they called out their word, and he explained the meaning behind each type of love. In true husband fashion, he had strategically placed Mrs. Douglas with the word *pragma*, representing enduring love. MacKenzie Saul held the final word, *Agape*,

which Rev. Douglas moved to the front of the line as he explained that when we achieve *agape*' love, all the other forms will naturally follow. It was at this moment in the service that the man moved to the second pew - practically right in front of the Pastor, continuing his loud feedback and commentary.

Without missing a beat, Rev. Douglas segued from explaining *agape*' love, to showing *agape*' love. As the man was talking out loud, Rev. Douglas walked up to him and said, "So let me get you to come on up here." The church applauded as he joined Rev. Douglas who welcomed him with a hug that spoke louder than any sermon.

What happened next felt like holy ground.



(Continued on Page 5 'Lord's Love')

(‘Lord’s Love,’ continued from Page 4)



Pastor whispered a line into the man’s ear - simple truths about how we can be an encouragement and show God’s love to others - and asked the man to repeat each line aloud to the congregation. Every line spoke to how Christians are to treat strangers – a man like our guest. It was as if the Lord Himself was reminding us that love is not a theory to be studied but a life to be lived.

The final line Pastor whispered was, “Pray for people by their name.”

Rev. Douglas paused, looked at the man, and asked gently, “What is your name?” After he answered, Pastor invited the entire church to bow our heads. And then he prayed, calling that man’s name out to the Lord with tenderness and sincerity.

By the time he said “Amen,” tears were streaming down the man’s face. And he wasn’t alone. Many of us were crying too, not out of sadness, but out of the overwhelming realization that we had just witnessed the love of God in action.

It wasn’t a polished moment. It wasn’t planned. It wasn’t comfortable.

It was better. It was the gospel.

And it reminded us that the love Paul wrote about in Romans is not confined to ancient letters or Sunday sermons. It walks into our sanctuaries, sits in our pews, interrupts our routines, and calls us to respond with the heart of Christ.

May we never forget what we saw that morning. And may we be ready - *always* - to love our neighbors in the name of Jesus. Amen

Submitted by Crystal Johnson



In Loving Memory

Daisy Allen Hill - November 7, 2025

Laureta V. Matthews - December 30, 2025



USHERS UPDATE

So much of what the Ushers accomplished in 2025 was made possible because of the huge support we received from our Zionites. You joined us at the Pre-Mother's Day Luncheon we sponsored in early May. Also in May, you joined us on a trip we sponsored to the Museum of the Bible in Washington, DC. You also joined us at the celebration of our Joint Usher Board's 59th Anniversary this past July. We can't forget your company at the Christmas Potluck Social and Fellowship, the Ushers hosted on December 14, 2025. Due to inclement weather, we might have changed the date a time or two and even on this day, there was a forecast of cold, wet, inclement weather but Zion showed up to fellowship with us anyway. Everything was so very delectable and included a hearty menu of all sorts of pastas, vegetables, meats, cakes, pies and desserts that were mostly prepared from so many hearts and made in our own individual kitchens. It might have been cold outside, but Zion's Activity Center was warm and full of laughter, eating, great conversation, and good cheer! Zion, on each occasion, we had a great time, and the Ushers dearly enjoyed you. We are always so grateful for your support in all we set out to do.

In the new year, we plan to have many of these same events, and we are also planning an overnight trip to the Sight & Sound Studios, Pennsylvania, to see the play, JOSHUA. More about our plans for 2026 will be announced later.

Thank you so very much for your support, Zion! We could not have done any of this with your support and your presence. Please know that should the need arise, we are available to assist you in our best possible way. If you need us...Call us.

HAPPY NEW YEAR, ZION! We hope that 2025 served you all well and that you are looking forward to a blessed New Year 2026.

Submitted by Deacon Cathy Robinson



A Thought for the New Year

Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old.

Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it?

I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.

Isaiah 43:18-19

NEW LAWS COMING TO VIRGINIA IN 2026

WASHINGTON - With the new year comes new laws for Virginians. Here's what to expect when January 1, 2026 arrives.

Agriculture: Under the [Baby Food Protection Act, HB 1844](#), manufacturers will be required to regularly test their infant formula to ensure it does not exceed levels of toxic heavy metals established by the [U.S. Food and Drug Administration](#). They must also include that information on product labels and their website. Consumers that suspect high levels of metal in the baby food product they purchased are required to report their findings to Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Commerce: Recipients of unwanted telemarketing notifications will be able to halt those texts by replying to unwanted messages with "STOP" or "UNSUBSCRIBE." When the [Virginia Telephone Privacy Protection Act, SB 1339](#), goes into effect, telephone solicitors must honor the request for at least 10 years.

Consumer Protections: Social media platforms will have to use neutral age screen mechanisms to determine whether users are under the age of 16 and, if they are a minor, limit their usage to one hour per day. This will all take place under the [Consumer Data Protection Act, SB 854](#), where parents can consent to increase or decrease their child's daily time limit.

Criminal Procedure: If a defendant is convicted of a crime or violation and has to pay fines, they will be able to submit a written or electronic request to the court clerk for a clear breakdown, as required by [HB 1665](#). As time goes on, defendants will be able to continue asking for updated statements of their outstanding balance.

Insurance: [Virginia's HB 1828/SB 1436](#) will require health insurance companies to no longer charge patients extra for breast examinations like mammograms, MRIs and ultrasounds. Patients ordered to undergo those screenings will not have to pay out-of-pocket for them. Instead, insurance providers will have to cover those costs.

As mandated by [HB 2097/SB1314](#), prostate cancer screenings such as blood tests and rectal exams will be covered by insurance carriers as well in the new year. This law requires exams to be up-to-date and reflect [American Cancer Society](#) guidelines and findings.

Labor & Employment: Minimum wage will have a minor increase from 12 dollars and 41 cents to 12 dollars and 77 cents per hour, according to the [Department of Labor and Industry](#).

Workers that lose their jobs will receive a larger weekly benefit to provide more financial stability during unemployment. [Virginia's HB 2401/SB 1056](#) will add 52 dollars to the current weekly compensation amount.

Provided by Treska Wilson-Smith

THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Fruit of the Holy Spirit is a biblical term that sums up nine attributes of a person or community living in accord with the Holy Spirit according to the Epistle of the Galatians chapter 5. The fruit of the Spirit is: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

The Fruit of the Spirit is the outcome and expression of a relationship with Christ and the Holy Spirit which dwells within us. The nine Fruit of the Spirit result from true repentance, turning away from our sinful ways toward love for God and neighbor.

Love: This is the foundational and greatest fruit. God gives agape love – the perfect love. It is a spirit that compels Christians to exude self-sacrificial love, compassion, kindness, forgiveness and mercy. This love is rooted in a spiritual connection that helps us find meaning and purpose in our lives. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 says, “Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things and endures all things”.

Joy: Joy gives a deep sense of contentment and gladness that comes from a relationship with God. James 1:1-2, says, “Consider it pure joy my brothers and sisters when you face trials of many kinds because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance”.

Peace: The work of the Holy Spirit is in your heart and mind. John 16:33 states, “I have told you these things that you will have trouble but take heart – I have overcome the world”.

Patience: “Be slow to anger and show forbearance toward others – even in challenging situations”, Galatians 5:22-23. The Holy Spirit empowers Christians to withstand challenging situations with perseverance and endurance, 1 Timothy 1:16.

Kindness: Kindness is the quality of being friendly, generous and considerate toward others – putting the needs of others before your own. Roman 2:4 states “God’s mercy and grace should lead us to repentance, not judgement”.

Goodness: This quality signifies moral excellence and integrity in character and action. 2 Thessalonians 1:11, “With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that God may make you worthy of His calling, and that by His power He may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith”.

Faithfulness: This virtue relates to loyalty, reliability and trustworthiness in one’s commitments and relationship. Faithfulness means unfailingly remaining loyal to someone or something and putting that loyalty into consistent practice regardless of extenuating circumstances. John 1:9 says, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness”.

Gentleness: This virtue shows meekness, humility and compassion toward others. Gentleness is powerful because it is Godly. He tells us to “take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls”, Matthew 11:29. Be completely humble and gentle, be patient, bearing with one another in love. In your hearts, set apart Christ as Lord.

(Continued on Page 11 ‘Fruit of the Holy Spirit’)

(‘Fruit of the Holy Spirit’ continued from Page 10)

Self-Control: This last virtue helps us to resist temptation and avoid conforming to the things of the world. It guides our decisions and correlates with how we show the other fruits in our lives. Proverbs 25:28 says, “A man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls”. This verse illustrates the vulnerability and chaos that can result from a lack of self-control. Self-control allows us to keep our minds focused on God while avoiding the temptation of our desires.

So, let the Holy Spirit lead you and make a conscious effort to walk in God’s love each and every day!

Submitted by Walking Deacon Deloris Gregory Jordan



A THOUGHT TO PONDER!

Sin killed Jesus

Fear Kills Faith

Doubt Kills Calling

Lies kill Truth

Darkness kills Light

Revenge kills Forgiveness

Bitterness kills Love.....

Now, read this backward and be Blessed!!!

Submitted by Walking Deacon Deloris Gregory Jordan

THE ZION HERALD-NEWS

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THANK YOU ALL

*Peace & Blessings
in the
New Year*



THE NEXT ZION HERALD NEWS EDITION

1st QUARTER: JAN, FEB, MAR 2026

*Ministries and Reporters, please submit articles by
MARCH 15, 2026*

SUBMIT TO
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