

ZION HERALD NEWS

ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

The Church that Serves God and Community
225 Byrne Street ~ Petersburg, VA 23803

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April ~ June 2026AX

In This Issue...

First Lady's Corner	Page 2
Decades of Service	Page 3
Deacons Ordination	Pages 4-5
The Voice of Mission	Page 5
Health & Wellness	Page 6
Lifetime of Service	Page 6
Single's Ministry	Page 7
Heavenly Zionites	Page 7
Youth Recognition	Page 8-9
The Carriage House	Page 9
2026 Graduates.....	Pages 10-11
Zion High Schoolers.....	Page 12
Celebrating 45 Years	Page 13
Mother of the Year	Page 14
Pulpit Aid Ministry	Page 14
Father of the Year	Page 15

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 discussions, 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!

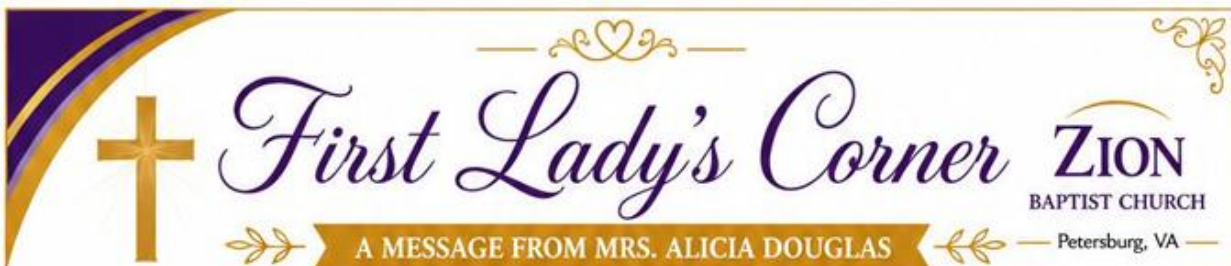
Stay for Worship at 10:00 a.m.!

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 #



First Lady's Corner

ZION
BAPTIST CHURCH
Petersburg, VA

A MESSAGE FROM MRS. ALICIA DOUGLAS

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding."

— Proverbs 3:5 (KJV)

Dear Zion Family,

It is a blessing and an honor to serve alongside Rev. Dr. Delano Douglas, Pastor of Zion Baptist Church, as your First Lady. I am grateful for the love and kindness you have shown me, and I continue to pray that God will guide us as we seek to serve Zion in ways that reflect His will and meet the needs of this church family. Thank you for your prayers, your encouragement, and your warm welcome.



Enjoy this special Zion Word Search created just for you as we celebrate the ministries, fellowship, and memories that make Zion Baptist Church so special.

With gratitude and prayers,

Mrs. Alicia Douglas

First Lady

ZION BAPTIST CHURCH WORD SEARCH

M O T H E R O F T H E Y E A R M Y V E K S T E J O L L K
E R S E T I H W W E R D N A V E R A Q T M L W I K A E T
C Z I O N H E R A L D N E W S B Y S D L A C P R V S T J
B G M T D R G R A C I E W H I T E A C S F Q W I X N Y H
F N O I T A N I D R O S N O C A E D D K R A V L O C E M
Q S U F A T H E R O F T H E Y E A R C S O E V F H A C P
G E S M S I H C E T A C S N O C A E D O R A H H L N T Z
Q T L T H E G O O D F R I D A Y F I V E N E D T X U E G
A A P C O P R E M O T H E R S D A Y L U N C H E O N T Y
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K G F X W J B B R O W N M E M O R I A L C H O I R W X S

FIND THESE WORDS:

Baptist Center of Virginia
Deacons Catechism
Deacons Ordination
Dr. Gracie White
Easter
Father's Day
Father of the Year
Flute

Graduates
Hat Fashion Show
Health Fair
J.B. Brown Memorial Choir
Concert
Mother of the Year
Mother's Day
Pre-Mother's Day Luncheon

Rev. Andrew White, Sr.
Revival
Smart Phones for Seniors
The Good Friday Five
Yard Sale
Youth Appreciation Sunday
Zion Herald News

HONORING DECADES OF DEVOTED SERVICE



On Sunday, May 31, 2026, Rev, Dr., Andrew J. White, Sr. and Dr. Grace J. White were honored with a Room Dedication and Reception for their outstanding dedication and support of The Baptist Center of Virginia (formerly known as The Children's Home of Virginia Baptists). Through their dedication to ministry, education, civic engagement, and community service, they have inspired and impacted countless lives throughout Virginia.

Rev. Andrew J. White, Sr. faithfully served as a member of the Board of Trustees, helping to guide this organization's mission and future, and for more than 25 years, Dr. Gracie White has strongly supported this organization through her fundraising efforts, that supported the Founder's Day activities and celebrations. Her fundraising work increased, enhanced, and secured resources that helped sustain its operations, enhanced its programming, strengthened its organizational

capacity, and supported critical facility improvements. This year, 2026, she raised over \$60,000 in funds to support replacing the roof for the Ritchie Multipurpose Building. For over 50 years, Rev. Dr. Andrew J. White, Sr. and Dr. Gracie White have been steadfast advocates whose faith, leadership, generosity, and commitment have strengthened the work of The Baptist Center of Virginia and have generated a huge impact on generations of children, youth and families.

The program for the afternoon, was full of participants and guests connected to The Virginia Baptist Center of Virginia who were eager to pay homage and offer accolades to the Whites for all they've done over the past 50 years of service for The Baptist Center of Virginia. Rev. White was escorted in by Rev., Dr. J. Delano Douglas, Pastor of Zion Baptist Church, Petersburg, VA, and Dr. Gracie J. White was introduced by Mrs. Lynn White-Saul, Esquire, and daughter of Drs. Andrew and Gracie White.

Trustee Yvette Robinson offered the Welcome and served as Mistress of Ceremony; The Invocation was led by Rev. Dr. Ricardo A. Brown, Vice Chairman; The Greetings offered on behalf of the Center came from Mrs. Candice Carter-Cooper, Interim Executive Director; The Occasion was delivered by Chairman, Rev. Dr. Rodney D. Waller; Musical Selections were offered by Mr. Kevin Puller of the Fifth Baptist Church; Family, friends, and guests, in attendance, also gave their Reflections and Expressions of Love; the Plaque Unveilings and the Room Dedication came from Rev. Dr. Griselda A. Bayton. Afterwards, Rev. Dr. Andrew J. White, Sr., offered Responses; and following him, Trustee Yvette Robinson gave the Closing Remarks and Acknowledgements. The Closing Appeal and Benediction was given by Bishop Kevin White.

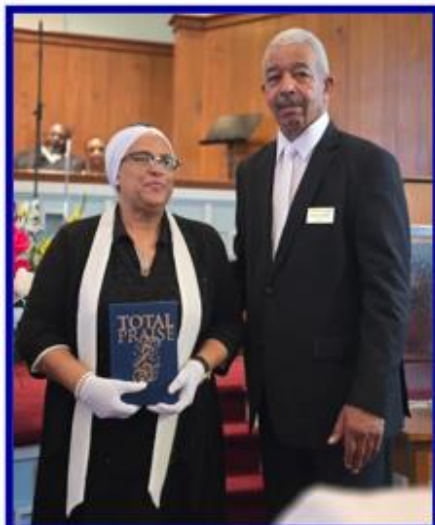
May the work they've done speak for them. Zion, and the Baptist Center of Virginia, are so very proud for them and the work they have done and continue to do.

Submitted by Deacon Cathy Robinson



ZION BAPTIST CHURCH HOLDS DEACON ORDINATION SERVICE

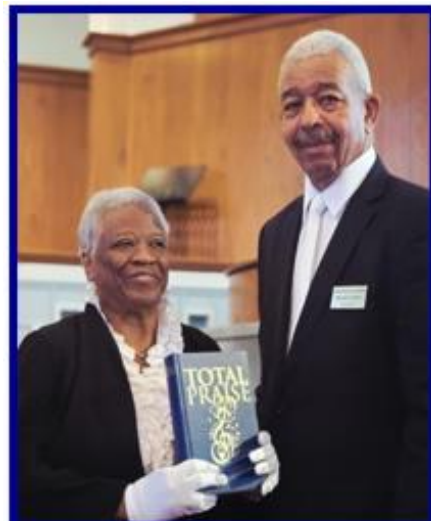
Deacons in the Christian church, as referenced in 1 Timothy 3: 8-13, are chosen to serve the Lord. They are faithful and devoted to His church and His people. Deacons promote harmony and love and are willing to witness for the Lord and help in the building of God's Kingdom!



**Deacon Sonora Wiggins-Brown
and Deacon Michael Piercy, Sr.**

After study and dedication to the task, Deacon Sonora Wiggins-Brown and Deacon Deloris Gregory Jordan, chosen as ones of "good report, full of the Spirit and wisdom," and capable of using the office well, were set apart publicly to the office and work of deacons.

The Ordination Service for Deacon Sonora Wiggins-Brown and Deacon Deloris Gregory Jordan were held on Sunday, May 31, 2026, during Zion's 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship Service, with many of their family and friends, church members and community leaders in attendance to witness this glorious, Spirit-filled service.



**Deacon Deloris Gregory Jordan
and Deacon Michael Piercy, Sr.**

Rev. Dr. J. Delano Douglas, Pastor of Zion Baptist Church, presided over the service and opened with the Invocation and Prayer. The Scripture Acts 6:1-8 was read by Deacon Roosevelt Dilliard of Metropolitan Baptist Church. Rev. Percy Everson of Zion Baptist Church led the Morning Prayer, and the Presentation of the Offering. Zion's Ushers assisted with the Offering. The Congregation was greeted with a Welcome from Mrs. Patricia Miller of Zion Baptist Church, and she followed with the Church Announcements.

The Melodious hymns and chants rendered by the J.B. Brown Memorial Choir of Zion Baptist Church were "We're Marching to Zion", "I Really Love the Lord", "Sign Me Up", "Great Is Thy Faithfulness", and "Come to Jesus".

Rev. Odis Walker, Pastor of Good Hope Baptist Church, Jetersville, VA, delivered the Ordination Service Message. It was entitled "Serving Jesus" and his Scripture choice was Philippians 2:1-13, CSB. Some key highlights from his message were: It's important to be a servant; serve with a good attitude; God has called you to serve; serve the Lord and take on His Spirit; promote Christian love, humility, and kindness; adopt the mindset of the Lord; and study His word daily.

Following the Sermon, Deacon William James of Zion Baptist Church, presented the Deacons' Elect being ordained. Deacon Cathy Robinson of Zion Baptist Church followed with the Report of the Council.

The Act of Ordination was called by Rev. J. Delano Douglas of Zion Baptist Church, and the Ordination Prayer was led by Deacon Maynard Skelton of Zion Baptist Church. Deacon Michael Mahan of Friendship Baptist Church gave "The Charge to the Candidates" and Deacon Earl Thweatt of Union Branch Baptist Church, gave "The Charge to the Church". "The Right Hand of Fellowship" was led by Deacon Raymond Everett of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church.

THE VOICE OF MISSION

Our Missionary Association has been and is quite busy. This Ministry makes an effort to carry out its mission statement. Therefore, we regularly invite new members to share our goals, activities, and objectives. We recently participated in our Area A May Fellowship. It was held at the office building in Richmond, VA, which was a real treat to some of the members attending.

It is a day of honor for individuals and groups who have made significant mission contributions. It provides opportunities for members, families, and friends of Area A to encourage and support one another as we grow in Christ together. Our 2026 New Life Member, Mrs. Pauline Gore, was honored among quite a few others.

These are perilous times we are living in and surviving. We thank God for his many blessings and as we participate in prayer, we strongly encourage others to be in prayer. Two prayer opportunities are available to all of us. Please be a part of them, but if you can't participate in both, certainly choose one:

- The BGC Women's Ministry offers prayer each third Monday of each month [@ 7:00 am]. Dial in and be strengthened: number is 1.605.313.5566; code 7306996#
- The Women's Ministry (WISE) of Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention provides prayer the first day of each month. The dial-in number is 1.267.807.9611; code is 172051#

Zion offers prayers each Wednesday at 6:00 pm. As we walk our life's journey, fast or slow; rocky or smooth, know that the blessings of Heaven will reap.

The Baptist General Convention's Annual Session convened from June 29th through July 1st, at the Good Shepherd Baptist Church in Petersburg, VA. This was a great opportunity to get involved in a few good sessions over this three-day period and a great opportunity to learn, share, and grow. Zion Baptist represented well.

SEED THOUGHT: Sin is destructive. Not only does it affect the individual, it also affects others, sometimes on a large scale.

Submitted by Canzata B. Turner



DEACONS *cont'd from page 4*

Presentations were presented to the Deacons' Elect. Deacon Michael Piercy, Sr., Chairman of the Deacon Board of Zion Baptist Church presented the certificates and Deacon Cathy Robinson presented the hymnal, Total Praise.

During their closing remarks, the Deacons' Elect both responded to this service held in their honor and they both indicated that they were ready to serve God, our church, and the community through this great Ministry, serving as Deacons. Zion Baptist Church is so elated to have them.

How Great is our God!

Submitted by Deacon Deloris Jordan

HEALTH & WELLNESS HEALTH FAIR

On Saturday, April 25, the Petersburg Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. proudly transformed Zion's Della Bannister Fellowship Hall into a hub of health, wellness, and community impact during our annual Community *Impact* Health Fair, supported by the Zion's Health & Wellness Ministry.

With more than 25 community partners on site, attendees had access to valuable health information, screenings, wellness resources, and services for individuals and families of all ages. The event also featured exciting activities, including a lively Double Dutch demonstration, line dancing, and a build-your-own trail mix station that encouraged healthy snacking in a fun and interactive way.

Outside on the Parking Lot, guests enjoyed shopping at a community yard sale, sponsored by Zion's Trustee Ministry, while supporting a young entrepreneur selling delicious homemade sweets. There truly was something for everyone, making it a day filled with education, engagement, and fellowship.

The Della Bannister Fellowship Hall was fully active when the Delta Sigma Theta took over in the spirit of service and community empowerment! The Petersburg Alumnae Chapter extends its sincere appreciation to Zion Baptist Church for partnering with us and graciously allowing us to use your facility for this year's Health Fair. Your support helped make this event a success!

Thank you to everyone who attended, volunteered, and partnered with us. Together, we continue to make a lasting impact in our community. Stay tuned for more opportunities to serve, engage, and make a difference!

Submitted by LaShawn Claiborne



Lifetime Achievement
TRANSFORMER

A LEGACY OF HEALING. A LIFETIME OF SERVICE!

We proudly recognize **Dr. Sandra L. Bell** as our 2026 Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient!

For more than 45 years, Dr. Bell has dedicated her life to improving the health and well-being of children and families throughout Central Virginia.

A respected pediatrician, educator, and mentor, she has cared for generations of patients, trained future physicians, and served in numerous leadership roles advancing healthcare across the Commonwealth. Dr. Bell has been recognized as one of Richmond's Best Doctors and honored for excellence in pediatrics. Her legacy of healing, leadership, and mentorship continues to inspire generations.

THE SINGLES MINISTRY

The Singles Ministry promoted a friendly beginner's class, Technology 101, to help participants learn how better to use smartphones (iPhone and Android); create an email account, send and receive messages, attach photos or documents; recognize common online and phone scams and how to log into Zoom calls.

Newest member, Victoria Wallace Williams, welcomed twenty-six participants, Monday May 4, 2026 with an overview of Technology 101 Workshop. Alicia Douglas and Victoria provided handouts, visuals and one-on-one guidance as requested.

Make a note of your questions and interests for Technology 201. Participants expressed the need to have another season in the future that could be virtual.



The workshop ended with light-healthy food fare of fruit, vegetables, cheeses, crackers, deviled eggs and yes “Wing Dings”.

Carmencita Stewart, Writer

Janette Greene, President

ENTERED INTO GLORY



YOUTH RECOGNITION DAY 2026

A CELEBRATION OF FAITH, ACHIEVEMENT, AND BRIGHT FUTURES

On Sunday, June 28th, Zion Baptist Church was filled with joy, pride, and heartfelt gratitude as our congregation gathered for the annual **Youth Recognition Day**, a cherished tradition where we honor the accomplishments, growth, and spiritual commitment of our young people throughout the school year. This year's celebration was nothing short of inspiring as our youth led the morning service with confidence, reverence, and a spirit of excellence.



The morning began with a powerful prayer offered by **Malik Piercy**, setting a tone of gratitude and reflection. His words reminded us of God's guidance over our youth and the importance of keeping Him at the center of their lives.



A highlight of the morning was the recognition of our **2026 High School Graduate, McKenzie Saul**. McKenzie, a proud graduate of **Cosby High School in Chesterfield, VA**, delivered a thoughtful and heartfelt graduate speech that reflected her journey, her faith, and her hopes for the future. This fall, McKenzie will attend **George Washington University in Washington, D.C.**, where she plans to major in **biology**. Her accomplishments and aspirations filled the sanctuary with excitement for what God has in store for her.

Following McKenzie's speech, the youth ministry leaders presented each high school student with a special token of recognition. This year's honored high school students were (pictured left to right):



Malik Piercy, Amari Lawson, Skylar Harris, Paul Gore, Cameron Claiborne, Sydney Harris (not pictured - Ava Smith)

Their dedication, both academically and spiritually, continues to be a blessing to our church family.

We then celebrated our **2026 College Graduate, Clarence "CJ" Claiborne Jr.**, who recently completed his studies at **Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in Albany, NY**. CJ is now pursuing a **Master of Public Health**, and his perseverance and commitment to service were applauded by all in attendance.

YOUTH RECOGNITION DAY 2026 (cont'd on page 9)

YOUTH RECOGNITION DAY 2026 (*cont'd from page 8*)

The youth ministry leaders also awarded scholarships to our college students, recognizing their hard work and supporting their continued educational journeys. Scholarship recipients included, **L to R:** Jayla Taliaferro, Christopher Taliaferro, Gabriel Gore, Madisyn Hurtt, Keith Melton; (not pictured: Kelvin Melton, McKenzie Saul)

The service continued with a beautiful descriptive reading of **Ecclesiastes 12:1-14**, shared by Cameron Claiborne, Paul Gore and Sydney Harris. Their delivery brought the scripture to life, reminding us all to remember our Creator in every season of life.

After a brief and uplifting message from **Reverend Doctor Delano Douglas**, he and CJ Claiborne engaged in a “podcast-style” reflection, discussing CJ’s experiences throughout college, his challenges, his growth, and the faith that carried him through. Their conversation offered wisdom and encouragement to students of all ages.

As the morning concluded, one thing was clear: **a time was truly had in the house of the Lord**. Zion Baptist Church rejoiced in seeing our youth participate in worship, share their gifts, and reflect on their academic journeys. Their accomplishments remind us that God is continually shaping, guiding, and preparing them for great things. We celebrate them. We support them. And we thank God for each of their lives.

Nikki Harris, Reporter



ZION SUPPORTS THE CARRIAGE HOUSE

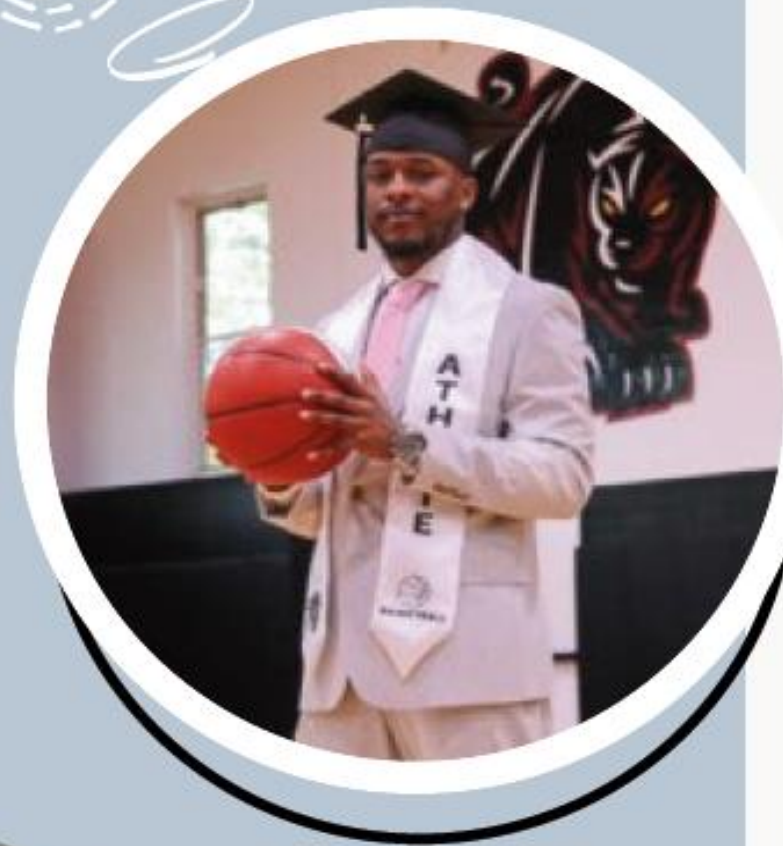
Zion continues to support God and the Community by donating to the Residents of the Carriage House during the untimely dismissal from the building due to needed repairs. Residents have since returned to the building and it was discovered that in their transition, there were various supplies and care items the residents desperately needed. When we asked for donations from our congregation, Zion abundantly provided the requested items with love, care, and support.

On Wednesday, July 1, 2026, Ms. Tomara Byrd and Dorothy Cartwright from The Petersburg Department of Social Services came to Zion Baptist and collected the donated items. Ms. Byrd delivered the items directly to the Carriage House. Deacon Deloris Jordan, Ruth Hairston, Stephanie McNeil, Jaylah Taliaferro, and Pastor Delano Douglas led this community activity. Thank you to all Zion members for your generosity; our efforts continue to benefit the community.



Submitted by Stephanie McNeil

2026 COLLEGE GRADUATE



Clarence Claiborne Jr. is a Petersburg, Virginia native and a 2022 graduate of Petersburg High School. In the same year, he earned an Associate of Science degree from Richard Bland College. He is a recent graduate of Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and is currently pursuing a Master of Public Health degree at the University at Albany, both located in Albany, New York.

A former collegiate basketball player, Clarence currently serves as an Assistant Program Manager Intern for the City of Petersburg's Summer Youth Internship Program. He remains actively involved in the sport he loves as a certified basketball official through the International Association of Approved Basketball Officials (IAABO) and as an AAU basketball coach, where he mentors and develops young athletes both on and off the court.

Passionate about youth development, mentorship, leadership, and community service, Clarence is dedicated to helping young people recognize their potential and pursue their goals with confidence. Through his work in public health, local government, athletics, and community engagement, he strives to inspire the next generation to lead with faith, purpose, discipline, and integrity. He is committed to creating opportunities that empower youth to succeed and make a positive impact in their communities.

2026 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE



McKenzie Gracelyn Saul is a 2026 Governor's Health Science Academy graduate of Cosby High School in Chesterfield, Virginia. McKenzie completed her secondary academic studies with a 4.7 grade point average and already has earned several college credits from her successful completion of advanced placement courses.

At Cosby, McKenzie was a member of the school's debate team, winning or placing in several regional and state competitions, and serving as the team's captain during her senior year. In connection with her enrollment in an advanced biotechnology course, McKenzie, along with three teammates, was awarded first place in an international competition sponsored by NASA's Plant the Moon Challenge – a global research initiative that challenges high school students, undergraduates, and professional scientists to develop and test methods to grow nutrient rich, sustainable food sources on the lunar surface of the moon to enable future space exploration.

McKenzie has been recognized several times for academic achievement while at Cosby, including Most Outstanding Student in both Chemistry and Spanish her sophomore year, Most Outstanding Student in Advanced Placement Language and Composition her junior year, and earning the Principal's Award for Academic Excellence her Senior Year.

She is the daughter of Philip Saul and Andrea Lynn White, and the granddaughter of Drs. Andrew Jackson and Gracie Jeter White. McKenzie will attend George Washington University in Washinton, DC this fall, where she will major in biology.

Starting with her participation in AWANA at the tender age of 3 years old, McKenzie is forever grateful to the Zion Baptist Church family for sowing and cultivating her strong faith and enabling her to experience its ability to transform fear into courage and doubt into daring. She strives to demonstrate what it means to be a young Christian woman in her demeanor, deportment, and decisioning and steadily proclaims "the joy of the Lord as her strength." (Nehemiah 8:10)

HIGH SCHOOL YEAR 2026



Cameron Claiborne
Petersburg High
Rising Senior



Paul Gore
Hopewell High
Rising Senior



Skylar Harris
Thomas Dale High
Rising Freshman



Sydney Harris
Thomas Dale High
Rising Senior



Amari Lawson
Matoaca High
Rising Senior



Malik Piercy
Thomas Dale High
Rising Junior



Ava Smith
Petersburg High
Rising Sophomore



✨ CELEBRATING 45 YEARS OF FAITHFUL MINISTRY ✨



With hearts full of gratitude and joy, we celebrate 45 years of dedicated service through the Andrew J. White Adult Ministry, a vibrant ministry that began on November 16, 1981. Mrs. Luberta Caldwell and Mrs. Beatrice Blue decided to write a letter and send it out to 80 young members of the church. Thirty responded and attended the initial meeting which was held at the home of Rev. and Mrs. White, Sr. From that heartfelt beginning, the ministry quickly grew into a powerful force for fellowship, service, and spiritual connection. The early years were marked by strong leadership and enthusiastic participation. Officers such as President Franklin Perry, Vice President Paula Harris,

Secretary Barbara Madison, Assistant Secretary Patricia Miller, Treasurer Delaney Freeman, Historical Reporter Anna Thweatt, and Chaplain Varonda Hopkins helped lay a foundation of unity and purpose. Their very first project held on December 5, 1981, a yard sale, was “a great success,” setting the tone for decades of impactful outreach.

Over the years, the ministry has continued to shine through generous acts of service: donations to food banks and cancer centers, support for the Petersburg Symphony, enriching trips including the African American Museum and island cruises, and the continuation of beloved traditions. Two of the most meaningful are the Ring Check, where members faithfully connect with those on the sick and shut-in list through weekly calls, cards, and visits and several of the Church Directories. The ministry also proudly nominates a Father of the Year, sponsors the Post Father’s Day Luncheon, and honors its namesake with joyful birthday celebrations for Rev. Dr. Andrew and Mrs. Gracie White.

We also pause to remember and honor the many devoted officers who have served over the years, including our beloved Iris Brown, who held the office of president for more than a decade until her passing. Today, we celebrate the leadership of our current officers—President Lilton Sykes, Vice President Deacon Maynard Skelton, Secretary Janette Greene, Assistant Secretary Wanda Smith, Treasurer Susie Brown, Reporter Thelma Brown, and Chaplain Deacon Deloris Jordan—who carry the ministry forward with renewed energy and unwavering commitment.

“We are so excited to keep the Legacy of our Pastor Emeritus and look forward to serving our church and community for years to come.” With joy in our hearts and faith in our future, we celebrate this remarkable 45-year journey and look ahead with hope, purpose, and gratitude through this ministry.

Submitted by Susie Brown

BE STILL AND KNOW THAT:

Jesus wept, Jesus felt pain, Jesus felt hunger, Jesus felt exhausted, Jesus was rejected, Jesus was betrayed, Jesus was tempted... Yet, He overcame it all. God sees you, God hears you, and God will carry you through!

Submitted by Deacon Deloris G. Jordan

A MESSAGE FROM THE 2026 MOTHER OF THE YEAR



I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Missionary Ministry and the Zion Baptist Church congregation for selecting me as the **2026 Mother of the Year**. This honor truly humbles me, and I am grateful for every opportunity God has given me to serve our church family.

Over the years, Zion has been my home and my joy. I've been blessed to serve on the **Usher Board** and the **Program Committee**, and to work closely with our young people, first apprenticing under Reverend Walker in the **Youth Ministry**, and later stepping into the leadership role after his departure. My love for guiding and supporting youth also continues through my work as a **Girl Scout Troop Leader** for the troop affiliated with Zion.

I have cherished every moment spent coordinating and teaching **Vacation Bible School**, as well as serving as a teacher in our **AWANA program**. Each ministry has shaped me, strengthened me, and connected me more deeply to this wonderful congregation.

Thank you for this beautiful recognition. I am honored, grateful, and committed to continuing the work God has entrusted to me at Zion Baptist Church.

With love and appreciation, Nikki

PULPIT AID SOCIETY

Greetings Zion from the Pulpit Aid Society!

Dr. and Mrs. J. Delano Douglas will celebrate their first wedding anniversary on August 31, 2026. We will have a basket available if you would like to share a congratulatory card on Sunday, August 30, 2026.

We are busy planning our annual Diamond dinner, and we are excited to have each of you join us. It will be held on Sunday, October 18, 2026, at the Baptist Center of Virginia. Tickets will go on sale beginning the first Sunday in September. As always, current Diamonds will get a complimentary ticket. All other adult tickets (age 12 and up) will be \$25. Children (ages 4-11) will be \$15, and children under 4 will be free. Everyone in attendance will need a ticket. Mark your calendars and prepare yourselves for a fabulous afternoon of celebration of Zion's Diamonds.

Special congratulations to our Chaplain, Deacon Sonora Wiggins-Brown who was ordained in June. Dr. Gracie J. White was honored on Sunday, May 31, 2026, at the Baptist Center of Virginia for 50 years of service.

As always, if you are interested in joining us, we would love to have you! We meet virtually on the second Monday of each month. Please see one of our members for details.

Galatians 6:10: "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers".

Respectfully submitted by Valendez Gore
Pauline J. Gore, President

2026 FATHER OF THE YEAR



Zion's 2026 Father of Year is the much deserving Fred Harris. He is a true family man married to Nikki Harris. This devoted couple have two delightful children, Skylar and Sydney Harris who both belong to our Girl Scout Troop 3310. It is evident that this couple is a true team raising their children in a Godly manner.

This is only one characteristic among many of why Fred Harris is an excellent selection. During the presentation, many of his wonderful qualities were shared. Among these attributes are his poetic gift with words and as a DJ, he delivers arrangements of music played at church and community events. Furthermore, he leads by ministering weekly on social media through Facebook and Instagram segments that include Mindset Monday, Fellowship Friday, and Savior Saturdays which are inspirational to the community. A scripture that reflects Fred's life of service is **Galatians 6:9-10**, which encourages believers to *"not grow weary in*

doing good," and to *"do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."*

It was rather comical regarding the manner that his family kept this award a secret. Even during the service, Mr. Harris shared that he thought his father-in-law, Mr. Williams, was the honoree. This family is blessed that Mr. Harris had to ponder this plausible possibility.

During his acceptance speech, Mr. Harris commented that we each should, *"Let your light shine in the world. True service is outside the church. Spread the word, spread the gospel, let people see your light."* Fred is a living example of Zion's motto, *"The church that serves God and the Community."* Whether he is rolling up his sleeves to fry fish, helping to prepare meals for church events, or stepping in wherever help is needed, Fred serves with a willing heart and a joyful spirit.

Pastor Douglas eloquently weaved "Father of the Year" into his message titled, "On Chasing Time." Pastor Douglas stated, *"The spirit teaches us to live in the now. One of the greatest gifts a father can give is presence. Every season has an assignment and our wise father understands."* This is the gift God has given us, and this is the gift Fred Harris has given his wife, children, and our church - **presence**. Mr. Harris is not just physically present, but more importantly spiritually present. As one who often sat in the pew behind this remarkable family, I can truly give this testimonial that Mr. Harris well deserves to be Zion's 2026 Father of the Year!

Submitted by Deborah Green

LET GOD POUR INTO YOU!

Monday – Peace... Psalm 23

Friday – Strength... Isaiah 41

Tuesday – Protection... Psalm 91

Saturday – Calm... Philippians

Wednesday – Wisdom... Proverbs 3

Sunday -- Renewal...Romans 12

Thursday -- Trust... Matthew 6

Submitted by Deacon Deloris G. Jordan

THE ZION HERALD-NEWS**PASTOR** -Rev. Dr. Delano Douglas**PASTOR EMERITUS** – Rev. Dr. A.J. White, Sr.**EDITORIAL STAFF**

Deacon Cathy Robinson	Karen Eldridge-Reed
Debbie Jefferson	Deborah Green
Judy Cherry	Crystal Johnson

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THANK YOU ALL

Dear Zion family, with these hot, hazy summer days settling in, you may find yourself spending more time indoors. It's the perfect season to refresh your spirit and your mind with some uplifting reads. Here are a few suggested books to enjoy during your quiet moments of rest and reflection.



Finding Fullness Again: What The Book of Ruth Teaches About Starting Over *by Rev.Dr. Ralph Douglas West*

Enjoy Your Prayer Life, *Michael Reeves*

Then Sings My Soul, *pastor Robert J. Morgan*

From The Foster House to the White House,
Terrence Williams

Join the Baptist Convention – BGCVA Women's Ministry prayer
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