



PRAISE GOD!!



"The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith." (Acts 6:7)

After the Resurrection and ascension of Christ, the apostles began to go into the world and spread the good news of Jesus Christ. While the task was not always easy, they remained faithful to their calling and as is described in the Book of Acts, many people began to join this new faith of Christianity. That is what we are called to do, be faithful, to share the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to be receptive to the work of the Holy Spirit and grow in our faith. When we are committed to living in that manner, then we will become a beacon of Light to others.

God continues to bless Zion with people who are interested and committed to growing in their faith and are wanting to serve. Over the past 10 years you would have seen evidence of this growth in the newsletter and would have read the good news of new members and increased activities and missions from our church. Maybe for some it feels like there is a boastful tone to that message. Others may begin to feel that we have heard this before and yet do not seem to notice it as clearly as the pastor. While on the one hand I can appreciate those feelings, on the other hand it is disappointing that the activities and the new faces that have now become a part of the church are not being recognized.

We are blessed to have new people continue to visit our church and some are deciding to make Zion their church home. We have members sharing how they are interested in becoming more involved in some of the work of the church, which is also exciting. We are witnessing more children coming forward during Children's time of the service to respond to questions and offer their wisdom to us all. All of this is reflecting how Christ is alive at Zion and how others are feeling that love of Christ through the warm reception when visiting the church.

Over the past couple of years, in various meetings and gatherings I have attended with my clergy colleagues, I have heard the disappointment in their voices of a lack of growth in their churches. Even from members of some of those same churches, the moaning of not having children or young families being active in their church is revealed. I used to share the good news about Zion, but then it got to the point where I felt that I was boasting and could appear as being insensitive to their frustrations. Now, I listen. If I am asked, then I share the wonderful experiences we are realizing here.



Let us celebrate this good news, but also let us look to it as a challenge to continue to grow and expand in our faith. We need to continue to seek new ways to serve our community and mission field around the world. We need to continue to be committed to being active in the various groups of the church in order to find ways we can grow in our faith and be more active. Our children are looking up to us and we need to model for them and others what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

We should give thanks to God for the many blessings in this Lenten Season, as we re-dedicate ourselves to the faith journey ahead as we approach the cross, leading to Easter.

In Christ,
Pastor David



FAMILY FEUD

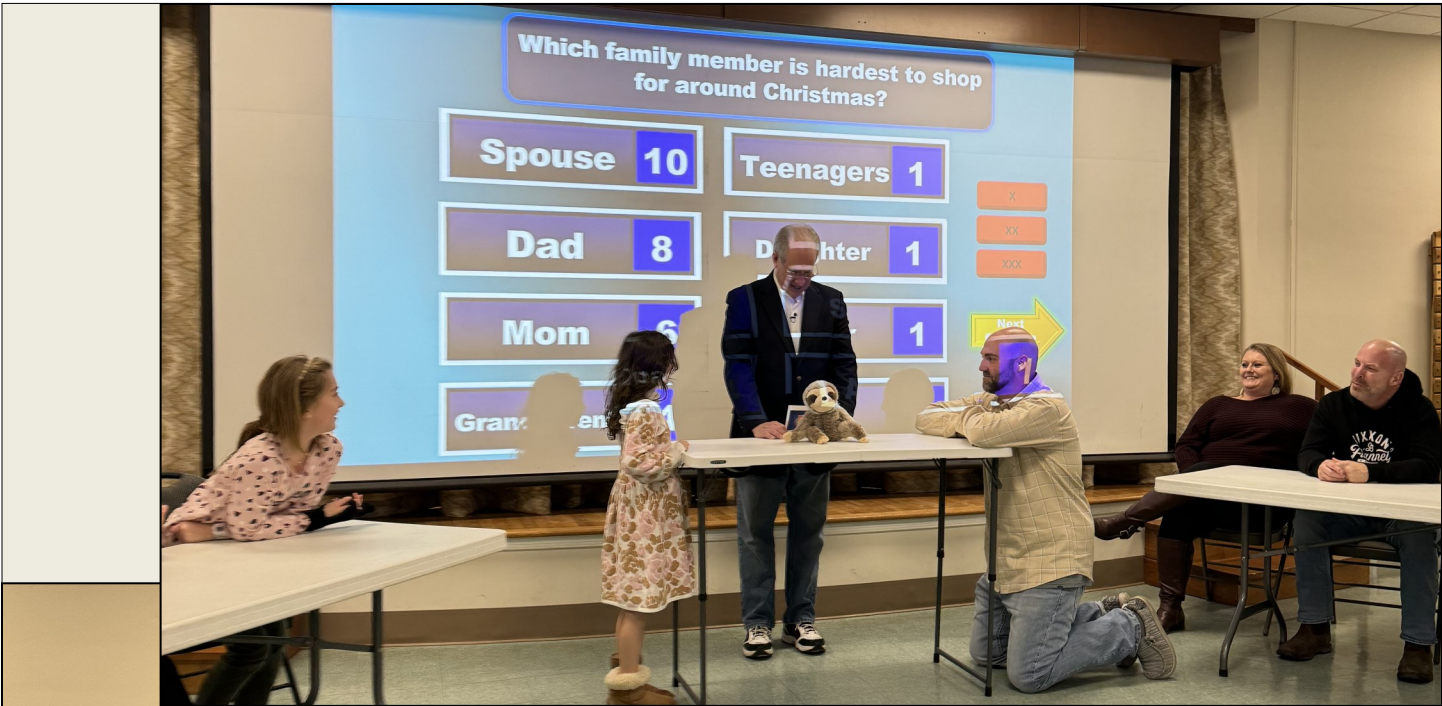


Family Feud - Zion Style - found a comfortable and enjoyable home at our Covered Dish Dinner on Sunday, February 4.

A total of eight teams, one was even made up of some of our children, battled it out for the bragging rights of being the champs for this special event.

Everyone had fun, including our audience, and we are having requests for a second Feud. Stay tuned for more information on our next adventure!!





Our brave young ones came up with their own team and were willing to take on the “giants”, which caused them to drop to their knees. It was truly a night that was enjoyed by all!

ZION RECOGNIZED FOR SUPPORT OF COUNSELING CENTER



Zion has been a supporting church for the Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center for close to a dozen years. The mental health services of these professionals have been vital for the community and for members of this church.

It is heartwarming to receive an appreciation from the director and board president for our commitment to the complete care of everyone.

Zion Represented in Richmond General Assembly

Delegate Chad Green, a member of Zion, was recently visited by several members of the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church during General Assembly Day for the Conference. Wes Wescott was also in the office, along with Pastor David.



Each year the Virginia Conference invites members of its churches to visit their representatives and share issues that concern the matters of the church and its ministry. A group also visited Senator Danny Diggs, our former sheriff.



Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson Visits Mission Rivers District



Bishop Sue is traveling throughout the Virginia Conference to listen to the joys and concerns of the members of the churches. In her visits she is also able to share her thoughts and vision for the future of the Virginia Conference and of The United Methodist Church.

She was on the Mission Rivers District from February 10-12. She began her trip in the northern section of the District and concluded with a laity visit at Crooks Memorial UMC in Yorktown.

On Monday, February 12, she was in Williamsburg UMC where she addressed the clergy of the district.





Thank you to everyone who supported our February Share the Love Mission Project by purchasing items to build Chemo Kits.

Doug Crockett delivered 26 kits to Virginia Oncology to be distributed to their patients on Valentine's Day.



Food Drive During Lent

Each Sunday during Lent everyone is encouraged to bring in non-perishable food to share with our neighbors being served through the York County Food Closet.

March 3 - Canned Veggies - Corn, Green Beans

March 10 - Canned Fruit - Pineapple, Peaches, Pears

March 17 - Mac & Cheese

March 24 - Cereal



FOOD DRIVE

Top photo is of Cole Foster & Connor Magruder showing the congregation food items we are collecting for the drive. Norman and Ben Rush are pictured with the leaders of the Food Closet after presenting a check and delivering the weekly food.





Handbells Heading to Ocean City, Maryland

Several members of our handbell choir will be attending the Handbell Musicians of America Area 3 Spring Festival in Ocean City on March 8 & 9. We will join ringers from all over Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, North Carolina, and Washington, DC to ring and perform together and take classes. We look forward to sharing with you what we learn.

CEMETERY NEWS

Please remove all Christmas decorations from the cemetery by March 17, as we prepare for Easter and spring decorations. If you have already placed your Easter/spring decorations, they will be preserved as is.

The Cemetery Committee continues to work on the project of re-aligning head stones and foot stones that were not properly installed with the proper concrete foundation. Adam Swale is working on this project and has completed seven medium / large head stones. This is a slow process so as not to damage the stones. Each headstone must be disassembled and set aside. A concrete base is then poured and must cure before returning the headstone base and then the headstone. Special equipment has been purchased to safely complete each job.

Should families view a headstone sitting close by to their loved one's grave site, we are in the process of repairing that headstone, and it should be back in place as soon as possible. Note: while Adam was repairing one headstone, another small flat headstone was uncovered which was below that stone. The cemetery committee researched the newfound stone, and it was reset on the proper grave.

Please remember if a family is having a new headstone/footstone placed on a grave to contact a member of the Cemetery Committee to discuss the current policy and to assure it is installed correctly. Also, the cemetery operates only on donations and has no other income. Please consider any tax-deductible donations to assist in maintaining the cemetery. Checks can be directed to Carol Westcott, Cemetery Treasurer, when donations are made that do not go to the church.



VDOT delivered some large stones recently to the ditch by the cemetery to help prevent further erosion.

We want to thank Scott Hartman for taking on this project and speaking to the people at VDOT to inform them of the situation. As a result of his conversation, the work has been completed.






Holy Week

MARCH 24-30



Maundy
Thursday
Worship Service
March 28 at 7:00 pm

"Do this in Memory of Me"



Good
Friday
March 29 - Noon - 8:30 pm
Stations of the Cross
Self-guided Tour
in the Sanctuary

by His wounds we are healed



EGGFEST '24
SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2024
10:00 AM - NOON

Egg Hunt, Bounce House,
Crafts & Activities, and a
Visit from the Easter Bunny

**EASTER SERVICE—10 AM
MARCH 31**

ASH

Wednesday



There was a good turnout of people who attended the Shrove Wednesday Pancake Dinner. Everyone seemed to enjoy the food and the fellowship.

Afterwards the service for Ash Wednesday was held in the sanctuary, with close to 50 people in attendance.

MOVIE NIGHT - A POPULAR ATTRACTION

The children and adults enjoyed the recent movie night where *Gnomeo and Juliet* was the attraction. About 13 children were in attendance with their parent and grandparents.

Thanks to our volunteers who prepared and served the food, cooked the popcorn and made the snowcones.





Welcome,

New Members

Carol Anne Davis

925 Dunhill Way

Newport News, VA 23602

757-570-8246

Joined: February 18, 2024

BAPTISM OF EMMA GRACE MAGRUDER



Pastor David was invited to perform the Baptism of their youngest grandchild, Emma Grace Magruder, at Grace Memorial UMC in Sedley, Virginia. Austin and Kelly Magruder are members of that church and the Rev. Darwin Edwards invited Pastor David to assist with the service. Grandsons Lane, Jackson, Connor and Cole also enjoyed the celebration.

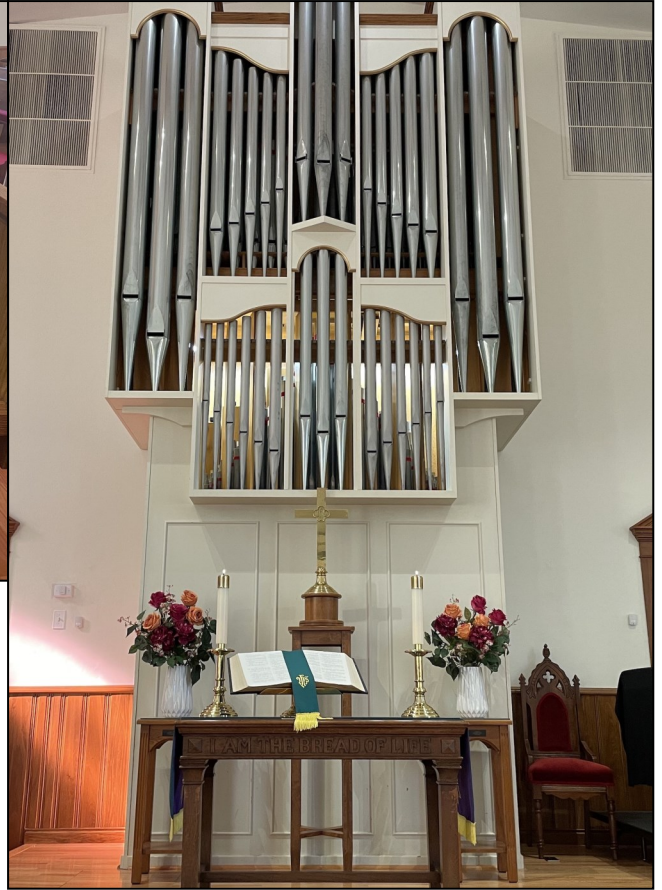


ORGAN FUND & REPAIR UPDATE



The fundraising campaign for the organ repair and update has been completed, thanks to the generosity of our church family, and now it is time for the updates to begin.

Originally planned for late fall and early winter, the company doing the upgrades was called to help complete the updates to the US Naval Academy's organ in its chapel. As a result of that work, Zion's is now slated to be done in the spring. We look forward to the new technology and advancements this required upgrade will bring to the organ at Zion.



Baby Announcement

William Malcolm Schuyler Ray Tyree

Born January 31 at 8:17 pm

Weighing 7lbs. 13 oz. and 21 inches long

Congratulations to parents Ben & Amanda Tyree,
and grandparents Dave & Beth Tyree

We will celebrate William's
Baptism here at Zion on
Sunday, March 10





Blessings this Holy Lenten Season. As Spring approaches, the Finance Committee wanted to update you on Zion's financial status.

We closed out 2023 in a good financial position, even though giving to our Tithes and Offerings, as well as our Building Mortgage Account, were below pledged and budgeted amounts. However, throughout this past year, we adjusted expenditures and used some of our designated and campaign ac-

counts to accomplish the necessary large capital improvements to the boiler for heat in the sanctuary and to begin the work on our organ. The organ fundraising campaign generated \$80,000 which allowed us to contract for the modernization earlier than originally planned. These gifts are a blessing that will keep our organ, and sanctuary, operational for many decades to come.

Our 2023 focus on mission was a wonderful success. Designated and General giving allowed us to meet our budgeted operational expenses and grow our missions activities like PORT, Food Closet, and a host of Children's programs, including a very successful VBS. For 2024, we have three capital improvement projects on our "wish list", but we have put those on hold while we evaluate congregational giving and the need for fundraising campaigns. We want to maintain our growth in mission work before we execute big campus capital improvements.

Overall, we are financially positioned well for 2024 and beyond, but we pray you reflect on your ability to grow your giving, not just in monetary terms, but also with your talent and time. May God continue to bless us so we can spread His word through Seaford and beyond.

Scott Dayton, Finance Committee Chair

Society of St. Andrew Lenten Devotions Available Now

The Society of St. Andrew Lenten Devotions and coin banks are available throughout the church. These are a great resource as we journey through this Lenten Season.

Coin Banks are to be returned starting Easter Sunday. All gifts will be sent to Society of St. Andrew to support their gleaning efforts.



Movie Nights Scheduled! Saturdays at 6:30 pm



MARCH 9 – 6:30 PM
IN SOCIAL HALL



APRIL 20 – 6:30 PM
IN SOCIAL HALL



MAY 18 – 6:30 PM
IN SOCIAL HALL



What Is Your Blood Type?

Hi, Everyone! I pray this newsletter reaches you in good health and spirit.

I want to address an important health issue, our blood types. Where can you get your blood typed? You can give blood during the Red Cross Blood Drives or ask your Primary Care Provider to type test your blood or by doing the blood type kit at home. Testing by the Red Cross is free. You will receive a donor card with your blood type on it. Blood type testing at your doctor's office will be covered by health insurance provided it is medically necessary or if one is pregnant. Home test kits are not covered by health insurances as the kit is considered "out of pocket" expense.

Why would you need to know your blood type? For Example, should there be a certain type blood crisis in the community, you would know that your blood is greatly needed.

Type "O negative" blood is considered the "universal donor". Unfortunately, people with type O negative can only be transfused with type O negative blood. Type O+ can be used universally for A+, B+, O+, and AB+, this with O+ blood can only receive transfusions from O+ or O- blood types.

Why can't the type A or B be universal donors, you ask? As each person has inherited their blood type from their parents, it may not be compatible with other blood types. The Rh factor is also taken into consideration whether the receiver of the transfusion is compatible with the donor's Rh factor.

What is the Rh factor? This is a protein on the surface of the red blood cells and is known as the "Rh Factor". When an Rh+ blood transfusion is introduced to a Rh-blood, that person's immune system produces antibodies to attack and destroy the "foreign blood cells" and causing great harm to the recipient.

Regardless of your blood type, please consider donating blood as a love offering to our community. It is always needed for different reasons and it's home is at the blood bank.

Thank you for your interest in our newsletters. We accept suggestions on any topic you would like to see in our future newsletter.

Maria Scallorn, RN

MARCH

APRIL

March 1 & 2 - Social Hall Reserved
March 3 - 2 pm - Memorial Service for JoAnn Rohde
March 5 - 2 pm OR 6:30 pm Lenten Book Study
March 8 & 9 – Handbell Festival in Ocean City, MD
March 9 – 6:30 pm Movie Night
March 10 - Daylight Saving Time Begins
Baptism of William Tyree
2 pm - Memorial Service for Geraldine Snapp
March 11 – 6:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting
March 12 - 2 pm OR 6:30 pm Lenten Book Study
March 20 - 10 am Cemetery Committee Meeting
6:30 pm Church Council Meeting
March 21 - 11:30 am Builders Class Lunch
At Poquoson Diner
March 23 - Social Hall Reserved
March 24 - Palm Sunday
March 28 - 7 pm Maundy Thursday Worship
March 29 - Noon - 8:30 pm Stations of the Cross
March 30 - 10 am EggFest '24
March 31 - Easter Sunday Worship

April 1 - Church Office Closed
April 8 - 6:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting
April 12 & 13 - Social Hall Reserved
April 17 - 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting
April 20 - 6:30 pm Movie Night
April 28 - 5:30 pm Fellowship Dinner
April 29 - 1 pm - 6 pm Red Cross Blood Drive



Monday, April 29

1:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Weekly Events

Monday's - 5:30 pm - Handbell Rehearsal
Tuesday's - 10 am - 2 pm - Bazaar Workshop



Thank You for Your Support!

Zion continues to receive the benefits of being a part of the Kroger Community Rewards program. So far we have received over \$1,600 from Kroger Community Rewards.

Thank you to everyone who continues to list Zion as its community reward partner. Signing up is easy through the app or on Kroger's website. If you need help signing up, please contact the church office.



March Birthdays

Edna DeChristopher	3/1
Kaye Robertson	3/1
Shawna Needy	3/2
Stacy German	3/3
Ethan McLawhorn	3/3
Aubrey Wroten	3/3
Bradley Hooten	3/5
Gibson Moon	3/5
Elizabeth Robinson	3/5
Sandra Hill	3/9
Beverly Palen	3/11
Patricia Binder	3/12
Bonnie Llewellyn	3/14
Ella Thomas	3/14
David Westcott Jr.	3/14
Blake Simpson	3/16
Rose Marie Hopkins	3/19
Lawrence Stippich III	3/22
Elizabeth Dillon	3/26
Saylor Stansberry	3/27
Kathryn Moore	3/28
Joshua Humphrey	3/29
Susan Shaw	3/30
Kathy Shields	3/30
Jackson Foster	3/31

April Birthdays

Garner Knutson	4/1
Barry Kopczynski	4/2
Albert Jones	4/4
Wyatt Thomas	4/5
Carol Harrison	4/7
David Ancarrow	4/9
Beverly Black	4/11
Thomas Foster	4/11
Benjamin Rush Jr.	4/12
James Grimmett	4/13
Scott Tyree	4/14
James Greenwood	4/15
Cynthia Taylor	4/16
Joseph Gibbs	4/18
Nancy Stippich	4/18
Florence Rush	4/18
Penny Drummond	4/20
Grace Thompson	4/22
Pamela Turk	4/22
Gail Williamson	4/24
John Beavers	4/26
Lisa Miller	4/26
Olivia German	4/27
Richie Moore	4/29

March Anniversaries

Tyler & Erica Goon	3/12
Charles & Sandra Phaneuf	3/22
Glen & Joyce Adams	3/23
David & Catherine Westcott	3/28
Ronald & Bonnie Bennett	3/31

April Anniversaries

Donald & Diane Teel	4/17
Kristina & John Beavers	4/23

Wi-Fi Access

Connect to: Zion Guest
Password: zion1822

OUR WEEKLY COUNTERS!

March: Beverly Black & Flo Rush

April: Leona Knutson & Chris Wolfe

If you do not see your birthday or anniversary listed throughout the year, please call the office or send an email to the church office at office@zionseaford.church so we can update our database.

Zion's email addresses:

Pastor David: pastor@zionseaford.church Office/Sherry: office@zionseaford.church



Zion United Methodist Church
PO BOX 240
Seaford, Virginia 23696

March - April 2024



NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
SEAFORD, VA 23696
PERMIT # 1



**Daylight
Saving Time
Begins
March 10!**

Zion's Staff

Pastor: Rev. David Magruder

Administrative Assistant: Sherry Wornom; Accompanist: Tara Thomas
757-898-7417, Fax: 757-898-9226 Email: office@zionseaford.church

Website: www.zionseaford.church or Like us on Facebook