



## Mt. Zion Celebrates 30 Years of Faithful Leadership by Pastor Addis & First Lady Gwendolyn Moore

By Sis. Patsy Moore

In 1995, God stirred a divine whirlwind at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, touching not only the congregation but the entire city and community of Kalamazoo. Thirty years later, that whirlwind—symbolic of divine movement, transformation, and revival—has not ceased. This past May, the Mt. Zion family paused to honor and give God praise for His infinite wisdom in sending Rev. Addis Moore and First Lady Gwendolyn Moore to lead the congregation into the new millennium.

Whirlwinds, by their nature, are powerful and transformative. They signal change, spiritual awakening, and divine intervention. Though disruptive, they carry purpose—breaking through the status quo to bring renewal and growth.



A whirlwind is also a biblical symbol of God's voice and presence, a perfect metaphor for the ministry of Pastor Moore, which has been marked by consistent energy, vision, and forward motion.

This spirit of movement and purpose inspired the 30th Anniversary theme, "A Faithful Servant" (Matthew 25:21), acknowledging Pastor Moore's unwavering leadership and calling.

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# Mt. Zion Celebrates 30 Years of Faithful Leadership Con't

The celebration began with a formal gala on Friday, May 16, 2025, at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in downtown Kalamazoo. More than 300 Mt. Zion members, community leaders, and out-of-town guests gathered to reflect, give thanks, and enjoy an evening of praise, fellowship, and fine dining.

The atmosphere was filled with joy and elegance as attendees arrived in glamorous semi-formal and formal attire. First Lady Gwendolyn Moore graced the evening in a stunning floor-length champagne and gold gown, complemented by sparkling jewelry. She was escorted by Pastor Moore, who looked distinguished in a classic black tuxedo with paisley vest, tie, and kerchief.

The evening was skillfully guided by Deacon Roscoe and Deaconess Nicole Wallace, who served as Master and Mistress of Ceremonies. Heartfelt reflections were shared by Bro. Ollie Barnes III of Mt. Zion, Kalamazoo Public Safety Chief, David Boysen, Deacon and Deaconess Howard and Deborah McCullough, and Pastor Harry Moore, Sr., brother of Pastor Moore.

Attorney and Mt. Zion member Dorphine Payne delivered a moving tribute to First Lady Gwendolyn Moore, highlighting her spiritual grace, commitment to the community, and steadfast support of her husband's ministry.

The keynote message was delivered by Dr. James Moore, Sr., pastor of Second Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Philadelphia and brother of Pastor Addis Moore. His powerful message lifted the Word of God and affirmed the divine anointing on Pastor Moore's life and ministry.

The celebration continued on Sunday, May 18, with two dynamic worship services led by pastors who were raised and released into ministry under Pastor Moore's leadership.

At the 8:00 a.m. service, Bishop G. Andrew Beresford—Senior Pastor and Founder of Serve City Church in Toronto, Canada—preached a spirited sermon that energized the congregation. Bishop Beresford, Mt. Zion's first spiritual son sent out to pastor under Pastor Moore, set a tone of honor and joy for the day. The 11:00 a.m. service featured Rev. Timothy Troxler, pastor of Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in Battle Creek, Michigan, and the first minister licensed by Pastor Moore. Affectionately known as the "firstborn son of the house," Pastor Troxler reflected on Pastor Moore's legacy, celebrating three decades of progress, service, and kingdom impact.

The weekend culminated with a presentation from Deacon De Vanne Burch and Trustee Kimberly Babineaux on behalf of the congregation. In recognition of their 30 years of service, Pastor and First Lady Moore were gifted an all-expense-paid vacation to a destination of their choosing—complete with first-class travel, luxury accommodations, fine dining, concierge services, and a little money for souvenirs.

We give God praise for the faithful service of Pastor Addis and First Lady Gwendolyn Moore. Their obedience, vision, and love have left an indelible mark on the church and community. May God continue to bless their journey and multiply the fruit of their labor.



# Talon's Out Honor Flight Mission 26: Thomas Jones

By Sis. Lucinda M. Stinson

On May 17, 2025, Talons Out Honor Flight transported 86 veterans from Kalamazoo, Michigan, to Washington, D.C., to honor their service and sacrifices. Many, especially Vietnam veterans, never received a proper welcome home. Among them was U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Tommy Jones, who faced hostility upon returning from Vietnam and later donated his uniform to the Kalamazoo NAACP. This trip brought long-overdue recognition.



The veterans received a heartfelt send-off at Kalamazoo-Battle Creek International Airport and were welcomed in D.C. by grateful supporters. They visited key memorials, including the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Iwo Jima Memorial, and Arlington National Cemetery, where they took part in an emotional wreath-laying ceremony.

Throughout the day, veterans shared stories, formed bonds, and found healing. For many, it was a meaningful step toward closure and acknowledgment of their service.

Talons Out Honor Flight, a volunteer-run nonprofit, has flown over 1,085 veterans from southwest Michigan since 2013, all at no cost to them. They partner with Lending Hands of Michigan Inc. to provide wheelchairs for each trip. To learn more or support the mission, visit Talons Out Honor Flight. Their work reminds us of the enduring gratitude owed to those who served.



# Resurrection Sunday Recap & Senior Season

By Sis. Talandra Ollie

## ***Resurrection Sunday***

Resurrection Sunday this year was truly unforgettable with the powerful, dynamic presentations our youth put on... bringing the story of Jesus to life! This year's collective was called, "Risen". Through music, drama, humor, and creative expression, our youth inspired hearts and stirred souls as they shared the message of hope, victory, and new life in Christ. It was an energetic, engaging, and emotional celebration of our risen Lord and Savior!



## ***Senior Prayer Service***

Graduating high school is more than just a milestone—it's a powerful moment of transformation. It marks the end of one chapter filled with growth, friendships, challenges, and triumphs, and the beginning of a journey into an open world full of endless possibilities. For our 11 seniors, this moment is not only a celebration of their resilience and accomplishments, but also the foundation that has been built on Christ. It's a time to reflect on how far they've come, to honor the support of those who walked beside them, and to look ahead with courage, faith, and hope as they enter the next phase God has planned for them. We had a few opportunities to come together as a church family to publicly celebrate our graduating seniors and this rite of passage they each get to experience. First was our Senior Prayer Service, which is an evening where we exclusively pray for them before they cross the stage at their ceremonies. Love was shown, laughs were shared, and tears were shed while we covered our graduates in prayer, claiming God's promises for their futures.

# Senior Season Con't

## ***Senior Sunday Recognition***

Next up...Senior Recognition Sunday. We were able to hear directly from our graduates about their faith and their experiences that got them to this point. And there was not a dry eye in the sanctuary as parents and loved ones delivered heart-felt messages to their soon-to-be college students and presented them with personalized Bibles. We also were able to give out \$11,500 in scholarships because of the generous giving here at Mt. Zion. Once church concluded, we gathered with one another for a collective open house held in our Rev. Dr. Otha Gilyard Fellowship Hall for all of our graduates. Members were able to personally interact, bless, and encourage each of them. We are so blessed to not only witness their journeys thus far, but to also be a part of the village that pours into them. As they turn the page, may they carry the lessons learned, the love given, and the Word of God with them... knowing that their story is just beginning and the best is yet to come.



# In the Business World



## Trinity Prep Center & Labor of Love Scrubs

By Bro. Sayani Jones



Sis. Adiah Jones is a devoted mother of five, active Mt. Zion member, and dynamic entrepreneur committed to faith, hospitality, and community empowerment. In 2014, she co-founded Trinity Prep Center with Sis. Carmilla Little and Min. Courtney Wrenn, rooted in the foundational scripture Matthew 28:20: "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you..." Trinity Prep's mission is to use positive influence to help youth reach their maximum potential, and its vision is youth walking in God's plan for their lives.

Driven by her faith and a desire for flexibility, Sis. Jones left her full-time job after encountering repeated poor customer service experiences. In 2022 Sis. Adiah launched Labor of Love Scrubs LLC, a Black-owned retail store offering quality medical uniforms and accessories. With strong family support and a deep trust in God, she continues to thrive in entrepreneurship. Inspired by Hebrews 13:2 and Proverbs 3:5–6, she believes in showing hospitality to strangers and views mistakes as growth opportunities.

Through her work, Sis. Jones is reshaping the narrative of Black-owned businesses while empowering others to live out their purpose.



The Owners and Operators of TPC Pictured from left to right:

Ms. Carmilla: Hip Hop and Acro Instructor  
Ms. Courtney: Ballet, Tap, and Jazz Instructor  
**Ms. Adiah: Business Administrator**

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6018 E. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49048  
269.430.3171

Labor of Love Scrubs  
1020 E. Cork St., Kalamazoo, MI 49001  
269.488.2420

# Did You Know?

Did you know Mt. Zion's Men's Connection Ministry has been mentoring young male students at Lincoln School for over 10 years?

Each Thursday, the school provides a room where Mt. Zion men meet with students for 30 minutes during lunch. After the students finish eating, the lesson begins. These sessions help children set goals, build confidence, develop social skills, and explore their dreams and interests. In addition to school meetings, students broaden their horizons through field trips. The ministry is led by Bro. John Davis and Bro. Carl Roberts, along with several other dedicated men. What's special about this program is that all the mentors are men of God, providing students with a strong, positive experience. We are truly grateful for this impactful male mentoring ministry.



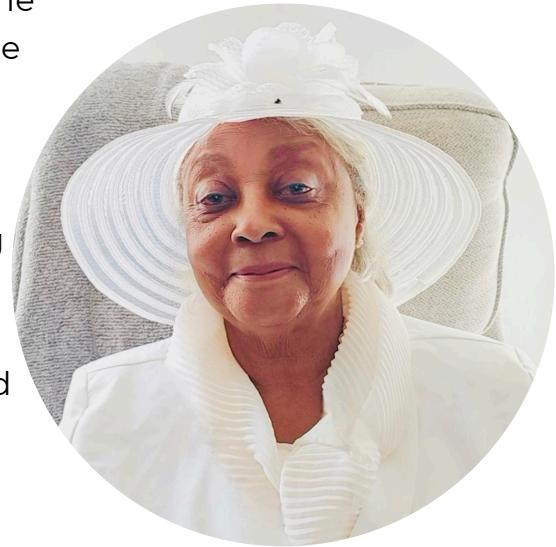
By Sis. Zinisea Watt

## MOTHER'S CORNER

By Sis. Ashlee Franklin

**Mother's Words of Wisdom.** Psalms 150:1-6 is a passage that is special to me. It tells us as believers how to honor and praise God and what we are praising God for like his acts of power and surpassing greatness. 1st John 4: 11, 16-17 is also special to me because it tells us about God's love, and how his love lives inside of all of us! It is important to know that since God loves everyone, we must follow him and love one another no matter the circumstance.

I love the direction that Mt. Zion is going, we are showing the young people how to keep not only themselves, but also the church and the community growing in a positive direction. Pastor Moore not only relates, but also invests into the people of this church. He as a leader teaches us what faith looks like, no matter the age. To me, faith looks like holding on to a great promise. You have to believe what the word says, and know that what God has promised will happen because God said so. As people, we must remember to hold on to our faith in God, and show love to one another unconditionally. When we do those things while also studying his word, we can be confident that we will be alright.



**Mother Marie Jackson**

# 2025 Goals

171 Days Remaining



Souls added to  
the Body

173



Annual Target  
500

34%

*Life is better  
together!*

Members in  
Life Group

413



Weekly Target  
600

71%

6AM PRAYER CALL



86



Weekly Target  
100

86%

Join us for 6 am Wednesday  
morning prayer.

Zoom Meeting ID  
832 0607 6105

Passcode: 21



## Upcoming Events

### JULY

**14th-17th**

Chain Lake District @  
Messiah Baptist Church of  
Grand Rapids

**21st - 24th**

Vacation Bible School @  
Mt. Zion  
Special Forces  
2 Timothy 2:1-4  
The Lord's Army

### AUGUST

**18th**

Nursing Home Visitation  
Park Place Assisted Living

**23rd**

NMA Anti-Violence  
Community Carnival

**27th**

Back to School Community  
Prayer Service

### SEPTEMBER

**1st**

Labor Day

**7th**

Grandparents Day

**11th**

CityLead @ Mt. Zion

**20th**

Mt. Zion Reboot

### MTZ VOICE MINISTRY

Sis. Cassandra Bridges  
Sis. Nancy Buchanan  
Sis. Deborah Jackson  
Bro. Sayani Jones  
Sis. Ashley Moorehead  
Dr. Wraegen Williams

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