

"The Zionette" December, 2014 Edition
Zion Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
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Minister – Mr. Tommy Willcockson

From the Pastor's Desk

Minister Rev. Tommy Willcockson

The holiday season—what a wonderful time of year for Christians. We celebrate family and friends and the coming New Year with all its possibilities. Most of all, our focus is on the gift of the Christ child during this season. Parties and dinners and gatherings for family and friends. Special church services. Shopping and giving gifts. Of course all this is supposed to be done with a smile on our faces and a spring in our steps.

The most of us, there is some ambivalence or even a bit of dread mixed in with the joy of spending time with family. Then there is the parking and the traffic and the crowds. Not to mention limited time and energy and money as we juggle schedules and budgets and effort.

Even the fun things shake up our routines and we often “take a break” from the more-healthy habits we practice the rest of the year. We may wind up eating and drinking too much, exercising too little, and forgoing healthy down time—even opportunities for prayer and meditation. It is great to give, but in an effort to please others or even buy happiness, we may spend more money than we should.

Wow, for a wonderful time of year, it seems there can be significant stress and pressure mixed in with the pure joy of the season, huh? No wonder some of us come off like the Grinch or Ebenezer Scrooge.

If you think the holidays can be tough for everyone else, for those of us already dealing with depression or loneliness—or having experienced the loss of a loved one this year—the holidays can be an especially difficult time.

There are some things we CAN do to increase our happiness and joy as we minimize the likelihood that our inner-Scrooge will take over.

This list was adapted from a list on the PBS homepage:

Take care of yourself. Just because you are going to parties and gatherings it doesn't mean that you have to throw all healthy behaviors out the window. Try to stay consistent with your exercise schedule and sleep patterns (assuming they are healthy ones!)

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Evaluate "obligations." Just because it is something you have always done or a place you have always gone to doesn't mean you have to do it this year. It is okay to say no. "No" can actually be a complete sentence. Consider it part of your personal health care plan.

Spirituality. Focus on the spiritual aspects of the holidays versus the commercial ones. What do the holidays mean to your faith and your relationship to God?

Family. There is a lot of pressure to spend time with family, gathered around a lovely table smiling, and sharing warm memories! Not everyone has those kinds of family experiences. Spend time with people you enjoy. Remember that friends can be the family you choose.

Create your own traditions that work for you! It may be going away during the holidays or spending time volunteering to help others. Volunteering at a shelter or hospital or other helping organization can be personally fulfilling and makes a great excuse for avoiding stressful gatherings.

In spite of their ultimate meaning, Christmas, Thanksgiving, and New Year are "just another day" and we have 365 opportunities in a year to make a day special and meaningful to ourselves, our families, our friends and our faith.

Tommy

Reminder: As you travel throughout the year, please remember to collect small hotel-sized toiletry items (especially shampoos, body wash and lotions) to support Zion's ministry with the Oak Ridge unit at the Beaumont Juvenile Correctional Center. These items are used as prizes when Zion visits and plays bingo with the teenage boys there a couple of times a year. The guys love getting these items because the toiletries they are rationed have no fragrance. Please forward any items you collect to David Koogler. Thanks, David Koogler

Membership/Missions

Well the holiday's are here!! I am so excited about **Dec 21st**, **MARK YOUR CALENDER NOW FOR** Homecoming and our annual Christmas Dinner. Ham will be provided and rolls, so bring a side dish to share and a dessert and join us for a wonderful time of fellowship and yummy food. Rumor has it Santa will be by for a visit during lunch to hear all the kids wishes for their stockings.

I would like to thank everyone who made the Operation Christmas child Shoebox a great success; I delivered 39 boxes to leave tomorrow on their way to the sorting and shipping center in Baltimore, MD, then on their way to a needy child.

Also we were able to help 10 children at Beaverdam Elem. With coats this year along with a little girl who had very few clothes and boots, along with hats and 2 pair of gloves each per child.

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Start watching out for good deals on hats, scarves and gloves along with any outerwear items as we will be doing the Mitten Tree starting the 1st week of January. They will go to WHEAT.

Thank You so much for all your support. You are truly God loving, generous people. I am so honored to be a part of this church family.

God Bless You and Happy Holidays.

Pam Steele, Chair for Membership and Mission

Disciples' Women

We had a total of 10 women in our group and are having a “wonderful time” sharing with others at Thanksgiving. We were able to furnish “Thanksgiving Dinner” for 3 families.

We made a donation to the Hanover Christmas Mother; donation to a family that the father has cancer.

We have adopted a family from the Beaverdam School—which is 2 girls, mother & father, and would appreciate any help from the Zion Congregation, to make this a wonderful Christmas for this family.

Wishing each and everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thanks again & God Bless. *Patsy Corker, Treasurer*

Disciples' Men

The Disciples Men's Group will be busy in December, On DAT. Dec. 6th we will be going to Beaumont Youth Detention Center to visit our Oak Ridge boys. We will be spending time and interacting with the young men. Later in the month we will deliver gifts to all of our Oakridge friends. We will also be supporting the Hanover Christmas Mother and a family for Christmas. We welcome all men who are not already active in our group to join us. Our next meeting will be our annual Christmas Wives breakfast at Debbie's on Sat. Dec 13th at 8am. Fellas treat your wife to breakfast and join us, see you there

Zion Disciple's Men's Group

David Benckert, Secretary

**Disciples Men of Zion Christian Church
2015 Schedule of Activities – UPDATED FINAL 11-19-14**

- **Second Saturday Breakfast Schedule**

Jan 10	Frank Gayle	July 11	Ron Holt
Feb 14	Project :Homes/Hardees	Aug 8	Hayden Cran
March 14	David Koogler	Sept 12	James Mills

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April 11	Sam Moss	Oct 10	Larry Steele
May 9	Paul Dickerson	Nov 14	David Benckert
June 13	George Poffenberger	Dec 12	Christmas Breakfast w/wives

- **Visit Residents in the Oak Ridge Unit** at the Beaumont Correctional Facility in Powhatan County and commit to provide Christmas gift bags (coordinator – David Koogler)
 - Easter visit (Sat, April 4)
 - 4th of July picnic (possibly Sat, June 27)
 - Christmas visit (Sat, Dec 5)
 - Prepare and Deliver Christmas gift bags for all boys, up to 40 residents
- **Easter Sunday Breakfast** at the Christian Center on April 5 at 8am, after the Sunrise Service at the Beaverdam Ruritan Park (coordinator – David Benckert).
- **Disciples Men of Virginia Retreat** - April 10 – 132, Black Mountain, North Carolina
- **Beaverdam 4th of July Parade – serve lemonade** (coordinator – Paul Dickerson)
- **Project: Homes** ramp and home repair projects (coordinator – David Koogler).
Sat, Feb 14, breakfast at Hardees at 8:15am then from 9am – noon, build modular wheelchair ramp at project: Homes warehouse at 88 Carnation St in south side Richmond.
Other projects may be scheduled
- **Gospel Brunch** – confirmed for Sunday, May 17, 2015 featuring Bubba Johnson – coordinate with Worship & Education, Membership & Mission, and Outreach committees.
- **Chicken BBQ fundraisers** on Saturday mornings (coordinator – George Poffenberger)
 - >> May 9
 - >> July 11
 - >> Sept 12
- **Old Fashioned Vehicle Cruise-in's** (partner with Outreach Committee) from 5-8pm on:
 - >> June 20
 - >> July 18
 - >> Aug 15
- **Appalachian Service Project (ASP)** – Disciples Men plan to organize and sponsor **mission** trip to Guyan Valley West Virginia in the fall, probably late September or early October timeframe.

- Other fundraising meals and projects to be scheduled

"The Happy Beavers" The "Happy Beavers" will meet at 11:00 am on **Tuesday, December 2nd**. At the church. We will go to Shoney's on Rt. 1. **Please note the earlier date**, as Frank & I will be out of town the usual time of our lunch.
Joan B Sasser, 883-5260

Worship/Education Committee

December News: Acolytes & greeters for **December**

Dec. 7th ----Brianna & Donna
 Dec. 14th ---Tara & Karen
 Dec. 21st - William & Leah Hartley
 Dec. 28th---David Cuthrell & Larry Steele

Children's Messages

Dec. 7th –Kim Hall
 Dec. 14th -Hayden
 Dec. 21st -Dr. Sasser
 Dec. 28th -David Benckert

Worship Happenings:

November 30th:

Advent Season Starts: We will have the lighting of the candles and Advent Readings.

I will be reaching out asking for some people to read. The theme for this year's readings is the way the Lord surprises us with good things, focusing each week on a different person or people who were surprised by God at the first Christmas.

The first reading tells about Zechariah and Elizabeth, John the Baptist's parents;

The second will focus on Mary and Joseph;

The third on the Shepherds;

And the last on Anna and Simeon, the older couple who were not surprised at all that the Lord answered their prayers, because they trusted his promise.

The Liturgical color of the Cloths will change from Green for the Pentecost season to Violet for Advent.

Poinsettia's in Memory of or in Honor of a special Loved one.

In the December 21st Service I would like to pay tribute to a loved one that you would like to present a Poinsettia for. I would like to have a picture of that special person with their Name and a little something written about them. I would like to have Power Point presentation and present you with the Poinsettia. Then you can place it in the church or take it home. The Poinsettia's will be \$15.00 plus Tax if we can order at least 10. They will also deliver them to the church.

I would like to have the form completed to get the order in by December 7th.

November 30th Sunday Hymn Sing:

November is the 5th Sunday Hymn Sing God is working in a Mighty way with this Hymn Sing. Zion will be hosting the First God's Squad's Group in the Hymn Sing. God has placed a group of teens and young

adults that are going to be an amazing group. The churches represented in the group so far are: Oak Grove, Elon, Mt. Carmel & Zion. These teens are going to be a true Joyful Noise unto the Lord.

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In our Worship/Education meeting I asked if it would be ok to have Dawn Barnes with week of Compassion come and speak. She will be In Richmond 1/11 through 1/18 week. She is going to work her schedule to come and speak with us on 1'14 which would be a Wednesday.

I invited her to join us for dinner as well.

Wanted to let everyone know to start planning for her to come. I would like to make plans for that recharge week to have notes sent home to let the parents know we will have a special speaker. Perhaps we can find someone for one night to teach them or prepare something for them during this event. Dawn is form Kansas I believe, she is speaking at 2 other churches that week, this will be a special event. I've added some links for you to review.

Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Sharing Resources. Changing Lives

www.weekofcompassion.org

[BUfacebook.com/weekofcompassion](https://www.facebook.com/weekofcompassion)

God Bless, *Karen Cuthrell*, Chairperson, Worship committee

Education: Please join us in Sunday School for the Christmas season! Our teachers, Patsy Corker, Linda Hall, Jane Sasser, and Donna Michael would love to see some new faces and some familiar faces we have missed among the young people!

On Sunday, December 21st, the children will present some Christmas songs during the 11:00am worship service. If you would like for your child to participate, please let Jane Sasser or Karen Cuthrell know. 804-389-4596 We hope to have participation from both our Sunday and Wednesday children's classes.

Following the worship service, we will have our annual Christmas lunch. Santa will be handing out presents to the children.

I want to thank everyone who has made the Wednesday evening program possible this fall.

A thank you goes to Kim Hall for greeting the children at 3:00pm. Also, we have had many delicious dishes from our generous cooks. Everyone who has volunteered to help with the young people on Wednesday has made a difference.

Jane Sasser, Chair, Education Committee

EVANGELISM/OUTREACH EVENT

Outreach would like to thank everyone, church family and the community, for a fantastic year.! We have had 4 coffeehouse concerts, 4 cruise ins, a booth at the Hanover sheriffs fall festival, the Halloween festival at the church, and a gospel brunch.

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We have been very busy planning, organizing, and putting forth these activities. It takes a lot of people besides the committee to make sure everything runs smoothly so thanks to everyone that had a role, large or small, to make it all a success! As our year winds down let us not forget this is the most important time of the year ahead. We count our many blessings for what God gives us especially our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. On behalf of the Outreach Committee, I want to wish you all a very special Christmas!

Margie Koogler, chair

The Zion web site is updated every Monday, please send info for her lindaholt@embarqmail.com or mail to:

Linda Holt
2216 Toms Rd.
Barboursville, Va. 22923

We will continue our tradition of having a Christmas season visit with the Oak Ridge residents on Sat. morning, Dec. 6th. We will meet at the Montpelier Center at 8:15am and caravan over to Beaumont. We should be there until 11:30 or so. We will again play bingo with the guys and have Christmas refreshments. Thanks to many in our congregation, we have accumulated quite a stockpile of hotel toiletry items to use as bingo gifts.

Please let me know when you are sure you will be able to join us. I need to sent Mr. Stewart a list of who is coming from Zion several days in advance. So far, I have the following confirmed:

James Mills
Paul Dickerson
Pastor Tommy
David K.
Margie
Joan Sasser
Frank Sasser

Thanks to all of you for continuing to support our wonderful ministry with the Oak Ridge unit at Beaumont!

David Koogler

PS – we will also again be preparing and delivering a Christmas gift bag for each Oak Ridge resident. As you will recall, this is the only Christmas gift that some of the guys will receive. I am waiting on Mr. Stewart to provide the list of acceptable items we can include. Frank and Shelby Gayle have agreed to shop for the items. And Donna Michael and her Wed. night teen group will put the gift bags together.

Finally, if Ron and Linda Holt are back from Florida in time (and the latest word is they will be), they will deliver the gift bags to the correctional center a couple of days before Christmas.

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Appalachian Service Project (ASP) Mission Trip

Thanks again to all who purchased items and made donations to support our ASP mission trip in September. We were only there long enough to make a small difference for one family, which left us all wishing we could do more. But as time passes the memory of the physical, emotional and spiritual experience grows richer. It was amazing to see God's children from many churches in several states coming together to help those in need in a region that is experiencing such hardship. If you were not in worship the Sunday we gave an update on our trip and showed some pictures of our experience, please check out the pictures on the Zion website or ask one of us to share them with you. Also, we wanted everyone to know that we have recently been in contact with the ASP Center in WV and are planning to put together a small box of Christmas gifts to send to Hannah, the sweet little 6 year old granddaughter of the couple whose home we were repairing.

We have started discussions about doing another ASP mission trip in the fall of 2015, probably in late September or early October. After covering the travel expenses for this year's trip there was \$266.15 left over from the "ASP Store" fundraiser. The Disciples Men have decided to set these funds aside as "seed money" to support next fall's ASP mission trip.

Anyone who may be interested in participating in an ASP mission trip to West Virginia next fall, please see David Koogler. We will likely do another four day trip, traveling there on Thursday, working Friday and Saturday, and returning on Sunday.

From the Publishers Desk

Please let me know if you don't want to continue getting this publication by mail or email.

E-Mail address: sassyrn1940@embarqmail.com

Phone: (804)883-5260 leave a message on the answering machine.

Joan B. Sasser

Wheat News

Zion continues to collect breakfast foods for the WHEAT pantry on an ongoing basis. All donations are appreciated. Correspondence from WHEAT stating that approximately 50 families are being helped each Tuesday, about 100 families a month at the pantry.

Thanks for your support. Shirley Mills

CHILDRENS CHURCH-

During worship

**NURSING/REHABILITATION
FACILITIES**

(3-10 yrs of age) Come join us for some Learning and fun!

Kim Hall

Betty Hall – Crump Manor, Room closer to desk
Mary “Grandma” Fencher – Crump Manor,
Room Moved closer to desk
Fred Dye – Shelton Arms Rehab

Josephine Goodman – Ashland
Convalescent
Susie Hall – Hanover Manor
Ellen Harris – Henrico Rehab Center
Dorothy Steele – Papp House
Elsie Waller – NH – in Fredericksburg

The Families of:

Dana Roy Ambrosen
Arthur Paul Frank
Alice Kitchen Moore

Shut In's

Emily Bishop
Nelson Carter
Louise Lowman



Collin Allison
Hank Bagby
James Bowline
Donna Bond
Junior Byers
Mary Carter
Mack & Linda Childress
Robert Coates
Marilyn Jean Corker
Patsy Corker
Dustin Dinsmore
Joe Exline
Ray Grayson
Michael & Jennifer Grzunkowsk
Baby Michael Grzunkowsk
Nancy Hackney
Linda Hall & Family
Mary Ann Hall
Travis Hall
Wyatt Hall
Katherine Harris
Linda Holt

Ivy Kitchen
Baby Labrador
Nickie Labrador
P. A. Lewis
Ray Martin
Ethel Moss
Wilbur Mills & Family
Don & Marie Newman
Peggy Orchid
Francis Rogers
Earl Richardson
Carley Sauer
April Samuels
Mary Ellen Schooler
Elsa Stanley
Brittany Smith
John Smith
Marilyn Sumski
Gloria Stading
Tommy Stanley
Pam Steele
Steve Totom

Ronald Holt
Erick Johnson
Vernell Jones
John Jones, Sr.
Roswell Jones, Sr.

Betty Wright
All unspoken concerns
Our President, Nation, & World
All of our Armed Forces & their families
Zion Christian Church

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I have taken a number of names off of the Prayer list as they have been there for several months. If you think that they should be left on or taken off, **Please let me know.** A lot of these folks I do not know. I do need your help. Thanks. Joan B. sassyrn1940@embarqmail.com or 804-883-5260

<<<<<<< SINGING – CHILDREN – MORE >>>>>>>>>

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SINGERS</u>	<u>Children's Sermon</u>
Dec. 7 th	Voices of Zion	Kim Hall
Dec. 14 th	David & Kathy Benckert	Hayden
Dec. 21 st	Children	Dr. Sasser
Dec. 28 th .		David Benckert

I realize that I'm a little late printing this, but I found it in the Times Dispatch on Veteran's Day or the day after, so here it is. **I pray that these brave men & women and all veterans everywhere will always feel the warmth of a grateful nation.**

And remember---

It is the Veteran, not the preacher who has given us freedom of religion.

It is the Veteran, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of press.

It is the Veteran, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech.

It is the Veteran, not the campus organizer, who has given us freedom to assemble.

It is the Veteran, not the lawyer, who has given us the right to a fair trial.

It is the Veteran, not the politician who has given us the right to vote.

It is the Veteran, who salutes the Flag.

It is the Veteran, who serves under the Flag,

To be buried by the Flag.

--Anon

