

"The Zionette" March, 2015 Edition
Zion Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
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Minister – Mr. Tommy Willcockson

From the Pastor's Desk

Minister Rev. Tommy Willcockson

On the same way, the Spirit also helps our weaknesses, for we don't know how to pray as we ought. But the Spirit himself makes intercession for us with groaning which can't be uttered. He who searches the hearts knows what is on the Spirit's mind, because he makes intercession for the saints according to God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose. For whom he foreknew, he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. Whom he predestined, those he also called. Whom he called, those he also justified. Whom he justified, those he also glorified. What then shall we say about these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? Romans 8:26-31 (New English Bible)

According to this Scripture, God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is taking our life circumstance and reshaping them into good for you and me.

I don't believe that God causes the troubles in our lives—I don't know about you but I can manage that for myself—yet he is working to use those troubles to mold us into what we can be—into the likeness of Christ. He is working to transform our failures into successes. As Paul says in this passage, "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

If God is for us—it must take a lot to really fail. Since it is hard to do, let me give you some simple guidelines to help make that happen. If you REALLY want to snatch defeat out of the jaws of God's victory, here's what you can do:

1. Begin with a spirit of pride. Cling tightly to any apparent success. Be smug. Put arrogance into independent action. King Saul is a good example of this—as was Peter when he swore, "Jesus

no matter who else deserts you and leaves you, I will die in your defense...you can count on me..." (Okay, that is a loose paraphrase, but you get the picture.) Jonah's downfall was also pride and independence—as well as selfishness. If he did go to Nineveh and preach repentance—then God might forgive them and ruin his reputation as a prophet.

2. Blame anyone or anything but yourself. If you want to be a total failure, you must never, never, never accept blame. Blame your parents, your society, your husband/wife, or your little brother. Blame God. Over and over again is the most effective. Point a finger and hold a grudge. Of course failure will be quicker if you also add in some bitterness. Saul blamed his men—"they fought hard so THEY thought it fair that they take some things...not my fault, I'm a victim here..." (Again a loose paraphrase.)
3. Don't learn—don't allow your failure to transform you, Moses killed the Egyptian and had to flee for his life. Everything changed for him. There are few details in Scripture, but apparently he was transformed over the next 40 or so years. Apparently his failure put into motion a transformation that molded Moses into someone God could use. If you want to genuinely fail, don't allow failure to transform you.

As you and I look over our lives, what do we see? By God's standards are we successes or failures? If we are failing, God wants to transform those failures. Paul says that he is working all things together for the good—and that if God is for us, Who can be against us?

The one we call the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32) is a good example to follow if we want to move from failure to success. When he "came to himself" he honestly surveyed his situation. He swallowed his pride. He accepted his own responsibility in the situation. He was willing to accept the consequences of his actions without bitterness. He was ultimately transformed into the son he should have been all along.

Tommy

ALLERT ALL TRAVELERS

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

Possible Appalachian Service Project Mission Trip in 2015

Anyone who may be interested and available to participate in an ASP mission trip to Benton, West Va. From Oct. 8-11, 2015, please plan to attend a brief meeting to learn more about this wonderful opportunity immediately after worship on Sunday, February 8th. Please contact David Koogler if you have questions.
David Koogler

Membership/Missions

Pamela Steele, Chair

Disciples' Women

We had our meeting on February 3rd. Our next meeting is scheduled for March 3rd, weather permitting. Come on out "Ladies" and join us.

Patsy Corker, Treasurer

Disciples' Men

Zion Disciple's Men's Group
David Benckert, Secretary

"THE HAPPY BEAVERS"

The "Happy Beavers" will meet at 11:00 am on Tuesday, March 10th. At the church. We will go to the restaurant at Bass Pro Shop. We haven't been there in a good while.

Joan Sasser -- (804)-883-5260

Worship/Education Committee

March News: Acolytes & greeters for March
March 1st-- Jane and Linda Holt
March 8th-- Davit B. and Tara
March 15th-- Lydia and Rickie

God's Minute
March 1st-- Margie Koogler
March 8th-- Vonna Willcockson
March 15th-- Kim Hall

March 22nd—Brianna and Donna
March 29th -- Tara and Anthony

March 22nd-- Jane Sasser
March 29th –David B. (Palm Sunday)

Worship Happenings: Lent and Easter is upon us

Easter Sunrise Service at the Ruritan Park is given this year by Zion at 7:00AM

The Liturgical color of the Cloths: 2/22 is the first Sunday of Lent. Cloths will be Violet through Palm Sunday which is 3/29.

April 5th Is Easter Sunday and the Cloths will be White.

The Service of Diminishing Lights
A Worship Ceremony for Lent to Easter Morning

Matthew 28:6 “He is not here for he is Risen as He Said!”

Like the Advent Wreath, the circle of gathering darkness created by the candles and the crown of thorns serves as a constant reminder of the role of human sin in bringing about the Crucifixion and the need for Resurrection.

By Diminishing a candle every Sunday during the Lent season will give everyone a chance to use this time to think about the meaning of Lent and Easter to your life. Please notice how each candle around the crown of thorns is used and different, each has a blemish and is not a perfect candle. These candles are like us with our impurities and sins. The only perfect candle is the Center White Candle that is the Christ Candle

I often think about how Jesus had to have felt leading up to this time in his life. He was one of us after all. He came as a baby and grew up in this world as you and I have. He came so that all people through his Life, Death and Resurrection would have an eternal life with him. What a gift that he gave each of us.

As the candles that are lit and are burning so bright and giving off light, when each candle goes out remember that we are now his lights. We are to be the Light of the world and show his love every day to everyone around us. Even when the candles go out it is a darkness that is felt but he left us all a light of life and a light that is brighter than any candle that can be diminished.

Please listen to the story that is read each Sunday. Use this time to make your light shine brighter with the Love of Jesus Christ our Savior. Take that light out into the darkening world and let everyone know that Jesus is not dead but alive in each of us as Believers. May your Lenten season lead you to an empty tomb and a chorus of Hallelujahs!!!

When God speaks Through Worship: Stories from our congregation:

As the Children of our Congregation have grown I would like for us to grow with them. By changing the name of the Children’s Message to “God’s Minute””” ... Everyone can stay in their

seats and listen to these life lessons. These lessons can come from life lessons, memories, experiences, or even a story from the bible. Anything that speaks to your heart. I want the children to have the opportunity to go with Kim or stay in the service and become a part of the worship experience.

I believe the most important way to show our devotion to God is through our everyday lives. Shirley Moss gave a story about her Grandmother's Apron. To this day I can see Shirley with that Red apron telling about how an apron and her Grandmother's love taught her so much. Those stories are precious and touch everyone.

Worship Chair, Karen Cuthrell

The Elementary classes are learning about the great object lessons of Jesus, the Master Teacher. We'll be demonstrating the light on a hill, the salt in our food, the heart that is found with our "treasure." We'll be looking at the log and the speck, the camel trying to go through the eye of the needle, and the wide and narrow gate.

In summary, we'll build a house on sand and a house on rock. This is the example Jesus used at the conclusion of the Sermon on the Mount.

Jane Sasser, Chair, Education Committee

EVANGELISM/OUTREACH

Outreach will be organizing an Easter Egg Roll (just like at the White House) On March 28, 12noon to 3pm. We have booked Jeff Beatman, a former Chesterfield County school principal, now children's musician and storyteller to perform two shows for us. One for preschoolers and one for elementary age children. We will also have the one and only Easter Bunny attending so the definitely don't want to miss this. We will have children's crafts, decorate real Easter eggs, make an Easter bonnet or headband.

We will have a special area for children 3 and younger – like pick up a duck for a prize, egg hunt, make bunny whiskers, make a chick plus more. For the older children we will have the Easter Egg Roll which is a race using real eggs and a long handled spoon to move the egg from the start line to the finish line, crafts, and more.

We will have free food for all, including hot dogs on the grill. This is not just an Easter egg hunt but a Kids Festival. We will be adding more activities as the time gets closer. If anyone would like to help please let Margie Koogler or any outreach member know. We are going to need lots of volunteers as well as supplies.

If you can donate any of the following items please do so for we appreciate all the help we can get.

We need: bags of Easter candy, snack size Ziploc's, glue, flowers, paper plates, ribbon, Easter grass, small plastic or paper eggs, lots and lots of boiled eggs (not colored) food color, stickers, white pipe cleaners pink cotton balls, white cotton balls, googly eyes, pastel sheets of craft

foam, tongue depressors, any other craft items you come across that you think we may can used would be appreciated. We can put anything to use! Please tell everyone you know that has children to plan on attending and make this spring event as successful as our Halloween Festival.

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

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

WEEKLY NEWS

We were so happy to have the Scouts and their families visit with us a Zion for Scout Sunday, Feb. 8th. We are proud to be a supporter of this troop. They presented the flags and spoke to us on behalf of the Scout Troop. Tommy had a wonderful sermon based on Ecclesiastes 9:10a; Colossians 3:23 and entitled "Do Your Best".

A number of men met on Sat. Feb. 14th. For breakfast at Hardees's in Midlothian to build wheelchair ramp modules. On Sat. Feb. 8th they built a ramp for a lady in Coatesville. A really good deed and great fellowship.

A number of people met after worship on Feb. 18th for additional information on the Appalachian Mission Team trip to Brenton, West Va. On October 8-11, 2015. David Koogler can provide information if you are interested in going, please let David Koogler know by March 1 so we can sign up and reserve our spaces.

Shirley Mills

Wheat News

Zion continues to collect breakfast foods for the WHEAT pantry on an ongoing basis. All donations are appreciated. Rickie reported that during a recent food drive 1,300 lbs of food and over \$900.00 in donations were collected for WHEAT. We continue to be proud of Rickie for being the "in charge" person at WHEAT with lots of wonderful support people.

Shirley Mills

Joe Exline
 Laura Frymier
 Frankie Gayle
 Shelby Gayle
 Ray Grayson
 Michael & Jennifer Grzunkowsk
 Baby Michael Grzunkowsk
 Nancy Hackney
 Gordon Hall family (fire)
 Mary Ann Hall
 Travis Hall
 Dora Harrington
 Katherine Henley Harris
 Nancy Harris
 Ronald Holt
 Linda Holt
 Daniel Holt
 Darnell Corker Jones
 Vernell Jones

April Samuels
 Craig Scott
 Elsa Stanley
 Brittany Smith
 John Smith
 Marilyn Sumski
 Gloria Stading
 Tommy Stanley
 Thomas Lee Lowry
 Conner Steele
 Lois Stanley
 Betty Wright
 Tracy Wright
 All unspoken concerns
 Our President, Nation, & World
 All of our Armed Forces & their families
 Zion Christian Church

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>God’s Minute:</u>
March. 1 st	Voices of Zion	Margie Koogler
March 8 th		Vonna Willcockson
March 15 th	Praise Team	Kim Hall
March 22 nd		Jane Sasser
March 28 th		David B. (Palm Sunday)

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Andrea Willcockson on her engagement to Michael! No Date has been set for the wedding.
 Congratulations to Stephanie Mills Swart who has been selected as “Teacher of the Year” at Kaechele Elementary School in Short Pump!

Article from Southern Journal

Lead Foot Edwina

When Grandmama gets behind the wheel—look out, South Alabama.

Some years ago, my grandmother Edwina (“Win” to her friends) bought a new silver car. Her cars are always the same color, always christened “Silver Bullet”; and always sport her infamous license plate, “GWTIN” (Gone With the Win). Curious, I phoned to ask what brand she’d bought.

“You know I don’t know those things,” she declared, “I just told them to send me a silver one.”

The car that replaced her Ford was silver DeVille, which she evidently mistook for a gussied up Taurus. Upon learning that her new ride was actually a Cadillac, Grandmother was mortified that she’d bought a vehicle that, in her mind only Presidents, potentates, and pop stars should drive.

Immediately, she began a campaign of subterfuge in an attempt to regain her automotive modesty, first by stealing my cousin’s trailer-hitch cover (a rubber mallard head) and then shoving it down over her Caddy’s proud hood ornament. Suitably disguised, her “Quackallac” was now free to travel the byways of South Alabama without pretension.

The duck even monitored my grandmother’s speeding. Edwina routinely drives at a speed equal to her age—which polite grandsons don’t mention in major magazines. Let’s just say it’s over any legal limit here in America. “I know I’m going too fast,” she declares, “when that duck turns around and looks at me.”

Curious to find out just what speed produced the glassy-eyed stare of a fake mallard, I took the Quackallac for a spin on the bypass one afternoon last summer. The duck looked straight ahead at 55, 65, and 75 m.p.h. Finally at 83 m.p.h., wind friction caused the head to turn around.

That evening, I confronted Grandmother with my discovery. Instead of shock, she replied, “If you go much faster, you can blow his head right off!”

Speeding is just one of Grandmother Edwina’s driving quirks. Sidewalk parking, off-road shortcuts, and causing general motoring mayhem have earned her quite a reputation in her hometown of Andalusia, Alabama.

In 1996, my Uncle Mark, a local attorney, was standing on the town square with an important client from Montgomery. Suddenly, from around the corner, screeched a huge silver car—bedecked with a rubber duck—headed against the one-way square traffic. The police pulled out behind the woman and cranked on the siren and lights. The driver put the hammer down and lost the cop in a cloud of dust. “My God!” gasped the client, “Who was that crazy woman?”

“I have no idea,” replied my uncle.

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Moments later, the police cruiser pulled up alongside the two men. “Mark,” said the police chief, “Will you please tell your mama that next time we pull out after her, she needs to stop?”

Most officers now know Grandmother’s schedule and do their best to clear a path for her. Woe be unto the rookie that pulls her over. (She recently called up the mother of a new recruit who had the audacity to ticker her).

My wife doubted the veracity of this oft-told family lore until a recent trip to South Alabama took us through the one-light town of McKenzie, where we were stopped by the local P.D. for going 40 M.P.H. in a 35 M.P.H. zone. As with all great Alabama police monologues, this one opened with, “Son, what’s your hurry?”

When I replied that we were going to see my grandmother, Win Murphy, the constable shrugged.

“Oh, go on,” he sighed, “She blew through here twice last week, I’ll just put it on her tab.”

MORGAN MURPHY