

THE ZION HILL



Zion Hill Baptist Church – Reverend Aaron L. Parker, Ph.D., Pastor

MUTUAL CARE

First, I want to thank those brothers and sisters who have consistently reached out to members of the Zion Hill family who have undergone some of the more serious challenges of life – sickness, financial difficulty, family turmoil, bereavement and the like. Your concern expressed through contacts, prayers and other forms of assistance have made a significant difference in the on-going survival and recovery of our fellow followers of the faith. Operating in this manner demonstrates your commitment to the ways of Jesus the Christ, who spent his earthy ministry serving the needs of others in distress. We, indeed, look a lot more like him when we act like this.

And we need to act like this – show mutual care – because all of us, at some point, need help when we encounter various hardships. Each of us experiences turbulent seasons of hurt, sorrow, frustration, setback, or complication that seem greater than our capacity to handle alone. Therefore, I am urging those who have not yet shouldered the responsibility of showing care and concern for another to do so, and to do so regularly. For those who have already made such a commitment, I say by all means continue. Remember, the word that you speak may be the one that saves someone from falling over the cliff of despair. The aid that you provide may come just in time to prevent a major disaster. On some occasions, your mere presence can supply the necessary strength to travel through a terrible storm of chaos and confusion. We may not always realize how one small, sincerely offered gesture can go a long way in the deliverance of a troubled sister or brother.

This is the kind of atmosphere we want to maintain and spread more generously here at Zion Hill. Hence, let us do all we can to make every family member feel like a family member. In doing so, we adhere to the admonition that the Apostle Paul issued to the believers in first century Rome, which says: "Love should be shown without pretending.... Love each other like the members of your family. Be the best at showing honor to each other.... Contribute to the needs of God's people.... Be happy with those who are happy, and cry with those who are crying. Consider everyone as equal..." (12:9-16, Common English Bible).

We might also get a sense of this mutually caring atmosphere in the third stanza of John Fawcett's 18th century hymn entitled "Blest Be the Tie That Binds". It asserts:

We share each other's woes
Each other's burdens bear
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear

Be blessed, brothers and sisters.

Pastor Parker

2017 Rites of Passage

OUKUMO

“When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult I put an end to childish ways.” 1 Corinthians 13:11

**Sunday, November 12, 2017
5:00 pm**

Please join us for this celebratory ceremony marking the official acceptance of the transformation of the youth (ages 13-18 years old) from childhood to young adulthood. This celebration marks the culmination of the 2017 Rites of Passage program for females (KENTAKE) and males (ADIGUN NKOSI). With this ceremony, the graduates' journey as young adults begins!

Join us in recognizing their diligence and commitment to completing the Rites of Passage 2017 twelve-week program. Bring your family and friends to witness this outstanding memorable ceremony.

Afro-Centric attire welcomed!

**2017 OUKUMO
Ministry Leader Participation Request**

This year, 2017, Zion Hill will honor 51 graduates of the Rites of Passage Program at OUKUMO, the closing celebration, on Sunday, November 12, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. We request the honor of your ministry's participation in the "Prayer for Confirmation" during the OUKUMO Rituals. Please call or drop by the church office to leave the name of the person who will represent your organization by Sunday, November 5, 2017.

ZION HILL BAPTIST CHURCH
PRESENTS...

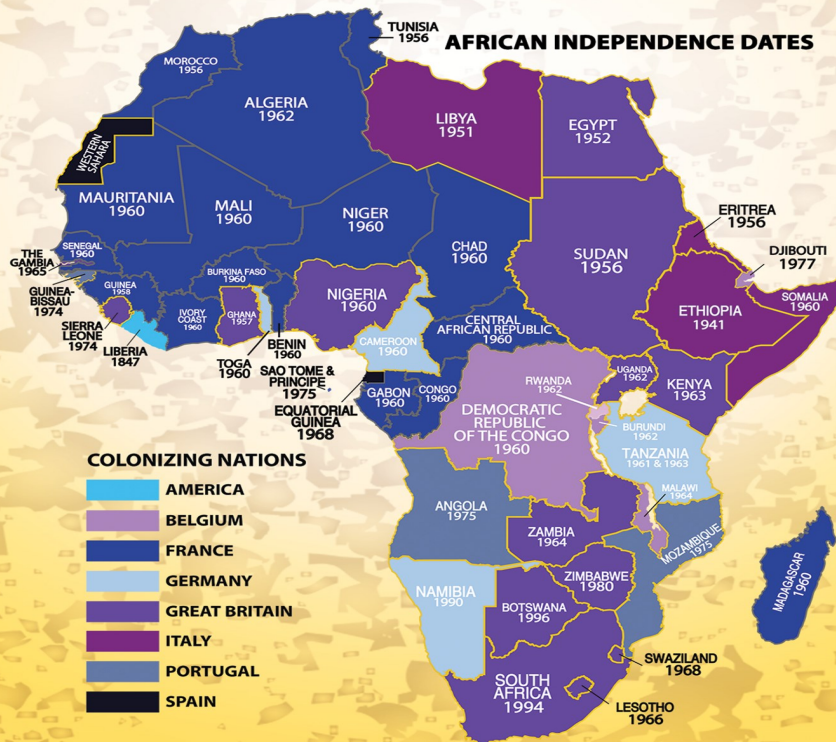
OUKUMO

RISES OF PASSAGE CLOSING PROGRAM



SOAR

Stories Of African Redemption



NOVEMBER 12, 2017 • 5PM

Karamu - The Village Feast

To follow in Fellowship Hall

AFRICAN ATTIRE ENCOURAGED

“...we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have **fellowship** with us; and truly our **fellowship** is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.” I John 1:3



“Coming Together in Love and Fellowship”

That was the theme of this year’s Senior, Sick and Shut-In occasion that was held on Saturday September 30, 2017. As hosts of the annual event, members of the Deaconess and Matrons Ministries gathered a little before the 1:00 pm start time to address and/or complete any last-minute details in anticipation of the glorious time to come.

Each year generates a certain degree of excitement among those who work hard to bring it all together. This year however was just a little more special. This year’s celebration was the first one to be held in the brand-new Love Center at Zion Hill. It hearkened back to ‘the good old days’ when the fellowship was held on Saturday instead of Sunday; when the atmosphere was more conducive to personal interaction not afforded the senior, sick and shut-in attendees during a Sunday service; the days when the occasion included a nice sit-down dinner, perhaps some nice gospel music, an opportunity to testify to God’s goodness and of course an inspired and inspiring message. (Not since we left the Lynhurst location, had we provided this format.)

The afternoon has always been planned to recognize and honor those seniors and physically or medically challenged members who are unable to attend service on a regular basis or as often as they

would like to. As the invited guests arrived, they were signed in, presented with their name badges and directed to the simply yet beautifully decorated Fellowship Hall to take their seats.

Following the Call to Worship by Deaconess Jettie Wilkes, spirits were lifted during a rousing devotion led by our dynamic Deacons. After Deaconess Marilyn Carter delivered a warm welcome, Sis. Wanda Cooley and her mother Sis. Maria Cooley blessed our souls as they ministered a foot



stomping rendition of an old favorite “By and By”. Grateful believers shared testimonies of how God can, God will and God did! The inspirational message was given by our own illustrious Pastor Parker, the text was from the 27th Psalm, verse 5 and titled “Hiding Place” after which we partook of The Lord’s Supper. Everyone was encouraged in God’s Word having been assured of His Love for us and that He daily watches over us! Once the benediction was given, the Zion Hill Culinary Ministry did what they do best! Having taken full advantage of our new state-of-the art kitchen facilities, the almost 200 guests that came out were served a feast definitely fit for the occasion.

Everyone departed spiritually and physically satisfied. Food, Fellowship and Fun in the Lord was the goal. That goal was attained and as before,

we’ll start looking towards next year as we continue to reach out and share God’s love with our brothers and sisters.

Special thanks to Pastor Parker for his Leadership and support for the occasion; Sis. Aretha Ragland and the Beautification Ministry for the decorations; Chef Jacques and the Culinary Ministry for the delicious meal; Bro. Joseph Sims and the Mighty Men Ushers Ministry for their assistance with moving the disabled members; Bro. Keverth Carmichael of the Bus Ministry; Bro. Ron Coleman of the Photography Ministry for capturing it all in pictures and the Office Staff and Facilities Staff for their support. And of course, the Deacons, Deaconess and Matrons are commended for their continued Leadership in this special event this year and in years past.

Deaconess Sandra Baylis
“Living to Love and Loving to Serve”.





ZHBC HAGAR MINISTRY

Single Mom's Messenger



Greetings Sisters—

Hopefully you've already marked your calendar for **Saturday, November 18th at 12 noon** and plan to be a part of the wonderful fellowship planned for you in **The Love Center!** It's the Saturday before Thanksgiving and we are excited about seeing you. We've planned on purpose to help you prepare for a day of giving thanks to our God for his abundant blessings. Of course, In Christ, everyday is indeed a day of Thanksgiving for women of God.

Look forward to receiving something delicious to add to your holiday meal! And, we'll share the plans already in process for 2018 that you won't want to miss!




NEW SHOES FOR MOM!



You can never have too many pairs of shoes, right? If you wear size 7 1/2 and have an interest in checking out the selection, come to the November 18th Gathering and choose from several pairs of shoes that were received from a very generous donor for our ministry. The shoes are new and may be a good holiday addition to your wardrobe or for one of your daughters.

If you know of any single moms who are new to ZHBC, invite them to join us, as well. The second page of this message is actually a Hagar Ministry Profile. Feel free to share it. Let's get more of our young, single moms involved.

When you see these sisters, 



Marie Richo - November 1
Jocelyn Ingram—November 17
Cheryl King-Green-November 27

Grace, Peace, and Love,
Jane & Doris

SIS Women's Ministry "Night of Hope"

Focuses on Faith and Healing

Evening Kicks off Cancer Awareness Weekend

SISter Felecia Church and Sandi Abbo

The Zion Hill Sisters in Sync (SIS) Women's Ministry "Night of Hope" began with a show of solidarity among cancer survivors and SISter who have been praying for the healing of those who are still on their journey through cancer. SIS Ministry members opened the evening with prayer, praise and celebration with a "Procession of Crowns of Hope" featuring the colors of cancer most often found among African American women and men. The annual evening adhered to Pastor Aaron L. Parker Sr.'s admonition that we Tell Our Sacred Stories (T.O.S.S.).

The evening's featured speaker, Deacon Pat Smith, recalled her "Sacred Story" as a cancer survivor who relied on her faith in God along with the encouragement, support and prayers of her fellow members of ZHBC. Before telling the story of her battle with cancer, Deacon Smith cited three scriptures that helped her to persevere through a difficult and challenging journey, **Psalm 61:2**, **Isaiah 26:3:4** and **Psalm 46:1**.

Deacon Smith prefaced her story with a declaration that she is "strong and strong-willed and if you are going into a battle, you probably want to take me with you" She described herself as strong, however, she added, but Cancer. She described Cancer's similarities to Satan. They included':

- Satan comes to steal, kill and destroy, so does cancer
- Satan is sneaky and shows up when you least expect or want him, so does cancer
- Satan will change you into someone you're not used to being, so does cancer
- Satan will steal your joy and peace, **but we have a God who is greater than Satan is.**

Deacon Smith described her diagnosis of an aggressive breast cancer (Ductal Carcinoma Insitu) in 2016 as the result of a routine mammogram that ended in a life-threatening diagnosis. During her compelling presentation, Deacon Smith warned that many of us live with ill-conceived and false notions of the origins of cancers. They include:

I won't get cancer if it doesn't run in my family.

She emphasized that "good" genes won't determine whether you will battle cancer.

Cancer doesn't happen quickly. Deacon Smith compared her clean mammogram in 2015 to a diagnosis of an aggressive Stage 3 cancer in 2016.

I'm post-menopausal, so my chances of getting cancer are reduced. Deacon Smith quoted facts that demonstrate that older women are more at risk, and African American women are at even greater risk with cancer diagnosis rates at almost double the rate of Caucasian women.

Deacon Smith described her yearlong journey as one of challenge and encouragement. She illustrated the outpouring of love and support from friends, family, extended family and her fellow ZHBC members as "tremendous" and that a strong support system and an advocate are needed for any individual enduring the challenges of cancer and treatment.

However, when she was alone, Deacon Smith says she wrestled with the questions of: "Where does my faith fit into all of this in the face of this life threatening challenge? Have I established the personal relationship with God that I previously claimed in light of my cancer diagnosis? She admitted that in the midnight hour, the answers were not so easy. To overcome those ques-

tions, Deacon Smith recalled 2 Timothy 1:7; God does not give us the spirit of fear but of power, love, and a sound mind.

Deacon Smith also remembered reading encouraging words urging a spirit of gratefulness. She affirmed, "Gratefulness energizes you and gives you stamina. Gratefulness fights depression," and she professed that gratefulness helped her through Chemotherapy, 30 radiation treatments, and 3 additional months of a drug called Herceptin, all of which brought her into remission.

As she continues to move forward, Deacon Smith advised all of us to "step into challenging situations and look for God's Will." Most of all, she reminded us, "with God, we can face anything."

During her cancer challenge, Deacon Smith says God told her to serve and to share. Although she could not get out of the house because of her weakened immune system, she says He told her to pick up the phone in spite of bad days to encourage someone, to express her love to somebody, and do something in spite of her health challenges.

If you want to know more about Deacon Smith's journey through cancer and her life, she invites you to ask. She says, "my life is an open book." As she prepared to close, Deacon Smith admitted that her cancer diagnosis "set her back on her heels" at the thought of a disease that could be terminal. However, the experience taught her that life is terminal and we are all on that road. What we should remember is that God's grace and mercy keep us.

At the end of their journey fighting cancer, Deacon Smith recalled that Emory patients must select a favorite song, ring a bell and "bust a move" to encourage patients still undergoing difficult treatments. Well, she did not "bust a move," but Deacon Smith chose Victory Is Mine, but revised it slightly to tell the story of her victory over cancer through God's grace and mercy.

On Saturday, October 7, 2017 The SIS Women's Ministry hosted the Walk of Hope and Workshops of Hope. Members of ZHBC and the surrounding community came out and walked the ZHBC campus in support of the fight against all cancer in our entire community. We are offering a heartfelt thank you to every participant. We also extend a very special thank you to ZHBC Brother Joshua Menifee who came as a representative of the American Cancer Society with current cancer information, free t-shirts for all participants and much more.

SIS Women's Ministry also hosted the 2017 Workshops of Hope led by our very own Dr. Nanette Cook who shared current cancer medical information. Dr. Cook's high energy and spot on presentation also dispelled many myths in our community surrounding cancer. She also answered many questions that were personal to participants.

Sister Nyasha Bonner-Shakir from Grady Hospital led a workshop, which highlighted the positive connection of faith, believers and healing. We must keep God in the midst of our battle for victory over cancer. Science now supports this truth. Participants left the 2017 Workshops of Hope informed, uplifted, encouraged and energized.

Again, we want to offer a heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in the 2017 Weekend of Hope in any way. ZHBC Family, we must share the words of truth, love and encouragement. Cancer affects each of us. We are all in the fight for the cure of all cancers. Please mark your calendars to join us in our observance of Weekend of Hope 2018.

Remember, if you are a woman and a member of Zion Hill, you are automatically a member of SIS.



Affordable Care Act (Obamacare)

Annual Enrollment Period

November 1, – December 15, 2017

Licensed certified marketplace brokers from the CAB Ministry will be taking applications for enrollment in affordable healthcare plans in the Love Center after each Sunday service. Take advantage of this **free** service beginning Nov. 5th and December 10th.

These professionals are here to help you get the best affordable healthcare plan and prevent you from paying a penalty for not having coverage. Stop by the table after Sunday services to get more information.

Medicare Open Enrollment Period

Just a reminder for Medicare recipients: The Open Enrollment Period began October 15, 2017 and continues through December 7, 2017.

BIBLE FOR LIFE

Join Pastor Parker on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

In the FELLOWSHIP HALL

Series Title:

Telling Our Sacred Story (TOSS)

Prayer and Praise @ 6:30 pm

Telling Our Sacred Story (T.O.S.S.)

Calendar of Events – November through December 2017

NOVEMBER

- | | | |
|----|-----------|---|
| 12 | Sunday | Oukumo – Rites of Passage Closing Program (5:00 pm) |
| 14 | Tuesday | Revival—West Hunter Street Church |
| 22 | Wednesday | Noon Day Bible Class & Bible for Life (Recess) |

DECEMBER

- | | | |
|----|-----------|---|
| 9 | Saturday | Annual Church Conference – Vision 2018 |
| 17 | Sunday | Annual Christmas Program (8:00 am) |
| 17 | Sunday | The Message & the Music (10:30 am Service) |
| 19 | Tuesday | The School of Love, Learning & Service (Recess) |
| 20 | Wednesday | Noon Day Bible Class & Bible for Life (Recess) |
| 23 | Saturday | The School of Love, Learning & Service (Recess) |
| 24 | Sunday | Unity (Worship) Service (8:00 am service only) |
| 27 | Wednesday | Noon Day Bible Class & Bible for Life (Recess) |
| 30 | Saturday | The School of Love, Learning & Service (Recess) |
| 31 | Sunday | Unity (Worship) Service (9:30 am service only) |
| 31 | Sunday | Kwanzaa Celebration (8:00 pm) |
| 31 | Sunday | Liberation Eve Service (10:00 pm) |

PRAYER SERVICE

Sunday Mornings, Following 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM Services
in the Chapel

New Members

Welcome

Brown, Tilethia J. (Tracy)
Collins, Patrice Garrett
Famber Sr., Wayne Eric
Garth, Gerome

Garth, Kimberly Dansby
Golden, Nicci D.
Hall, Theola Michelle
Harvey, Vanessa M.
Jackson, Andre Dushon

Jackson, Menecia
Jackson, Trinity Kelis
Jones, Gabriella F.
Jones, Natalia S.

McKinney, Aniajia Ne'shae
Person, Jeven
Price, Jared Antoni
Richards, Conchata

Ricketts, Chorine A. (Chorine)
Robinson, Albert R. (Al)
Robinson, Tamara
Shields, Bennette Yvonne
Stevens, Patience

Terry II, Darryl James (D. J.)
Woodhouse, Curtis
Woodhouse, Tiffany

We want YOUR contributions!

If your ministry has an event or news that you want mentioned, please leave your information on a flash drive or other media in the Liu mailbox in the office or email to the church's email address. We welcome all contributions: writing, story ideas, suggestions, digital photographs, artwork, letters, responses to our columns, reviews, etc. and look forward to hearing from you.

All material is subject to approval and editing. ALL contributions must be in by the second Sunday of each month. The Liu will be distributed once a month. If you do not see your contribution in the current issue, it will appear in upcoming issues.

CORRECTIONS

We attempt to be accurate and balanced. We apologize for any errors that occur and when notified we will print appropriate corrections..



6175 Campbellton Road SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30331
www.zionhill.org
zhbc@zionhill.org
Phone: 404-691-8025

Rev. Aaron L. Parker, Ph.D.
Pastor

Thank You!

To each contributor to this edition of the Liu

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THANK YOU!!