



APRIL 2021

# ZION INFORMER

## From Your Pastor



### "We Win"

Beloved, during April 2020 a documentary entitled "The Last Dance" was released to the public to watch. The documentary was about the Chicago Bulls and Michael Jordan's last year playing together as a team. The film consisted of an interview with Michael Jordan retelling his journey with the Chicago Bulls. Sports analysts and sports fans often say that Michael is the G.O.A.T. Which is to say, "The Greatest of All Time." The film exposed how the Bulls encountered opposition and obstacles as a team. However, the Bulls and everyone knew that Michael would lead his team to victory because of his greatness. As a result, the Bulls were able to say "We Win" during the last dance season. The Bulls won 6 NBA championships.

Zion, we have encountered many battle tests. Within the last year we have experienced a pandemic, racism, and political mistreatment. Yet the Resurrection reminds us that "We Win." Matthew 28:5-6 reads "But the angel said to the women, Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay."

The empty tomb reminds the believers that death cannot defeat Jesus or the believers of Jesus. The real G.O.A.T is Jesus the Christ who overcame death and the grave by rising on the third day with all power in His hands. Jesus has Risen! Therefore, those who are believers in Jesus the Christ are a part of a winning team. **"We Win!"**

Peace & Blessings,  
Dr. M. Andrew Davis

#### *Vision Statement "Victorious People"*

*The vision is to minister to people by Remembering our History, Rendering Help while Reaching forward with Hope to be victorious in our future demonstrating an unwavering love, steadfast faith and effective witness.*

*Remembering our History  
Rendering Help  
Reaching forward with Hope*

## **April Birthdays**

Dea. Robert McDuffie  
Tonja P. Knightner  
Camille Williams  
Randy Brown  
Ethel Walters  
India Walters  
Kathy Javis  
Nathaniel Abraham III  
Sarah Harper  
Merrick Phillips  
Nicole Banyan  
Shenika Waring  
Margaret Tucker  
Eva M. Gordon  
Cherelle M. Dantzler  
Linda Richardson  
Patricia Ann Kearney  
Charlie Mae Gunn  
Harold Summers  
Gail Settles  
Judge Jasper Cureton  
Nathaniel Abraham Sr.  
John Turnipseed  
Nate Dawson

## **May Birthdays**

Alvin Long  
Evelyn Stearns  
Helen Brewton  
Lakisha Z. Phillips  
Mary P. Miles  
LaKetsha Thompson

## **May Anniversaries**

Kenzil & Allison  
Summey

## **Richland County Aid to Renters**

Richland County renters seeking relief from past due and unpaid rent and utilities could qualify for a COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) that opens Monday, April 5.

The program will provide up to 12 months of rental and utility assistance for eligible households, plus an additional three months if funds are available and the County determines the extra months are needed to ensure housing stability. Funding must be used to reduce the household's rental and utility arrears before future rent and utility payments can be made. Once rental and utility arrears are reduced, future rent and utility payments for up to three months at a time can be considered.

ERAP will not provide assistance that duplicates any other federally funded rental and utility assistance provided for the same time period.

**To be eligible, a household must be renting or have rented during the COVID-19 pandemic and include at least one individual who fits each of the following criteria:**

- Qualifies for unemployment or has seen a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs or experienced financial hardship because of COVID-19
- Demonstrates a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability
- Has an annual household income at or below 80 percent of Richland County's area median income (AMI).

**Households with incomes at or below 50 percent of AMI will be prioritized. Priority will also be given to eligible households that include at least one person who has been unemployed for 90 days before they apply for assistance. Information on AMI and household income limits for Richland County is available online.**

**Beginning April 5, applications will be accepted from eligible renters or from owners/landlords and/or utility providers on behalf of renters. Funds generally will be paid directly to landlords and/or utility providers unless the landlord/utility provider does not want to participate.**

**To ensure they can quickly provide all required information at the time of their program application, applicants should be prepared to provide the following information:**

- Name and contact information.
- Address – Household applicants must reside in a rental property within Richland County.
- Status – renter or landlord?
- Copy of an applicable lease agreement or self-attestation in the absence of a lease agreement.
- Household Income – must be below 80 percent AMI.
- Rental/utility payment status
- In arrears or prospective?
- Impact of COVID-19
- Is there economic hardship? How?
- Is there a risk of homelessness or housing instability? How?

## **Upcoming Events**

**April 2**—Good Friday

**April 4**—Easter

**April 4**—Last Day of Passover

**April 7**—World Health Day

**April 10**—SC Baptist Congress  
of Christian Education Winter

Workshop, 9:30 a.m.

**May 9**—Mother's Day

**May 17**—Tax Day, State Tax  
and Federal Tax

**May 31**—Memorial Day

**June 19**—Juneteenth

**June 20**—Father's Day

## **Scripture**

"When He had said this, He went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. And it came to pass, when He drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mountain called Olivet, that He sent two of His disciples,"

**Luke 19:28-29**

## **REMINDER**

Our ZBC Worship Service broadcast is every Sunday morning from 7:30 to 8:00 a.m. on the Big DM (WWDM 101.3 FM)

**BLACK  
LIVES  
MATTER**

## **Sunday School Lessons**

**APRIL 4**

"Salvation is Sealed"  
Luke 24:13-16, 22-35

**APRIL 11**

"Ezra: Faith and Action  
Preacher"  
Ezra 10:1-12

**APRIL 18**

"Nehemiah: The Captive  
Cupbearer Rebuilds  
Nehemiah a Nation"  
Nehemiah 2:11-20

**APRIL 25**

"A Plea for Restoration"  
Lamentations 5



## **2021 ZBC Woman Of the Year**



The Zion 2021 Woman of the Year is Sister Renee Martin. She is the mother of three and the grandmother of six whom she nurtures and spends quality time with. Sister Renee is described as a quiet spirit. Our woman of the year was raised by her grandmother along with her one sibling and cousins in Florence, SC. Prior to the pandemic, she shared her love of singing as a member of the Mass choir and the praise team. She graduated from SC State University where she earned a Bachelor degree in education and became a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. She continued her educational journey by earning a master degree from

Cambridge College.

Although retired, her coworkers describe her as a great team leader, who is dedicated to the children. They stated although most see her as a quiet person, she has a sense of humor like no other. In her spare time, she enjoys walking for exercise, watching movies, and traveling with her girlfriends.

Zion members describe her as a faithful and loyal member who is well respected and admired by others. They also describe her as a hard worker that works behind the scenes and is dedicated and committed to the children and the Sunday school. Sister Renee is very active in the church serving on numerous Ministries such as WOW and the Board of Christian Education, and the summer enrichment program. She is also the Sunday School Superintendent.

**Congratulations Sister Renee Martin !!!**

## ***ZBC Sick and Shut-in***

Reverend Israel Gist

Sister Daisy Amaker

Judge Jasper Cureton

Sister Tonja Knightner

Sister Leatha Osborne

Brother John Turnipseed

Brother Jeremiah Washington

Sister Thelma Whitney

Sister Artless Williams

Sister Annette Hill

Sister Shirley Bookhart

Brother William Hope

Brother Julius Marshall

Sister Elnora Robinson

Sister Clannie Washington

Sister Marilyn West

Brother Archie P. Williams III

## ***Deacon Assignment by Zip Code***

**Zone One - 29063, 29072, 29169, 29210, 29212**

**Zone Two - 29033, 29073, 29127, 29170, 29172**

Herbert Barnette, **Chairperson, Coordinator**

James Franklin Moore

King Ross

Malcolm Walters, Sr.

**Zone Three - 29044, 29053, 29061, 29201, 29205, 29208, 29209**

Gregory Brown, **Coordinator**

Donnie Mack

Wilson Mack

Melvin Pearson

**Zone Four - 28091, 29009, 29016, 29045, 29223, 29229**

Isaac Washington, Sr., **Assistant Chairperson, Coordinator**

Robert Mack

**Zone Five - 29204, 29206, 29207**

Samuel Littlejohn, **Coordinator**

John Bookhart

Robert McDuffie

**Zone Six - 29113, 29203**

Derrick Brown, **Secretary, Coordinator**

Cleveland Etheredge, Sr.

George Fogle, Jr.

## ***National Minority Health Month (NMHM)***

April is a time to raise awareness about health disparities that continue to affect racial and ethnic minority populations and encourage action through health education, early detection, and control of disease complications.

The 2021 NMHM theme is #VaccineReady. As recognized by the [HHS Office of Minority Health](#), the COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted racial and ethnic minority communities and underscores the need for these vulnerable communities to get vaccinated as more vaccines become available. COVID-19 vaccination is an important tool to help us get back together with our families, communities, schools, and workplaces by preventing the spread of COVID-19 and bringing an end to the pandemic.

## ***ZION CAN BE REACHED @ .....***

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Thursday Morning Prayer / 7:00-7:15 a.m. / 1-605-313-4912 / AC 511288#