



Happy New Year!

I can hardly believe that the year 2019 has ended and the new year of 2020 has begun.

The past year was a year marked by pleasant and unpleasant events, challenges that were overcome and challenges that still need to be addressed, changes that occurred and unchanging situations. It was a year that some people would say was good for them and others would say was not. All in all, it was a year like every other year. Please allow me to list some of the events that I observed in just the six months since I have been here.

First off, you said goodbye to a wonderful and caring ministry couple, Rev. Mike and Ann Hurley. Rev. Mike and Ann had been here for two years. You were richly blessed by their caring and love that they had for each one of you. Rev. Mike's sermons drew you closer to God. They left part of themselves with each one of you.

Then, you welcomed my wife, JoAnn, and me into your family in July. We have been blessed by each one of you. You provided us with a beautiful parsonage with an updated kitchen. You have allowed us to participate in the various activities and ministries of this congregation. We are grateful to God and each one of you to say that Zion is our church.

During this year, you have said goodbye to loved ones who entered into the church eternal, said hello to others, and you have welcomed back old friends. Zion's first car show was a great success. School supplies were collected for our schools in Cambridge. We joined with the other United Methodist Churches in Cambridge for World Communion Sunday, Trunk or Treat, and a community Thanksgiving Service. We packed 103 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child and 52 Angel Tree gifts for The Salvation Army. There was the participation of the float, "The World Needs a Stable Influence," in the Cambridge Christmas parade. The adult and handbell choirs presented the cantata, "Come and Behold Him". The Good Sam fund was actively giving out food and personal hygiene supplies. We participated in two

Bible studies, "Moses" and "The Gift of the Nutcracker."

Our leaders worked in various committees to keep the ministry of Jesus Christ moving forward. Our Finance and Endowment Committees worked very hard to pay all the bills and made sure that our investments were stable and growing. The apportionments were paid off by the end of September. The Trustees did an excellent job staying on top of repairs and maintenance, as well as updates on the church and parsonage. The Worship Committee has been diligently planning enriching and spirit-filled services. The Church Council has been busy making decisions and looking at various ministry opportunities. The Staff-Parish Relations Committee has been meeting with and evaluating each person that is employed by Zion. The Mission and Outreach Committee has been earnestly working to reach those who need to know the love of Jesus. I am sure that I missed a person or committee, but let me say that what I have discovered is that everyone of you are at work in some way to the best of your ability to complete the work that God and Jesus have called us: to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

What will 2020 bring? The answer is I do not know. I can tell you that we will be celebrating our 240 years of ministry here at Zion. I would like for all of you to be a part of that. We will have a section in "The Beacon" each month about Zion's history. We are looking for funny or unusual stories that happened here or events in history.

We will also have a meeting on Monday, January 20 at 7p.m. Everyone is invited. Our society is changing rapidly. We need to make sure that we are keeping up with the changes in order that Zion continues to be a witness for Jesus to our community, and especially the next generation.

In closing, I am reminded of the hymn, "Through It All." "Through it all, through it all, I've learned to trust in Jesus, I've learned to trust in God; through it all, through it all, I've learned to depend upon God's word."

Happy New Year from Pastor Dave and JoAnn Kelley!

Navigating the Changing Ministry Landscape All Are Invited

The world seems to be changing at an ever increasing pace. Is Zion keeping up with these changes, and is it important that we do? Are we turning away younger generations who are immersed in technology by not using these tools to reach out to them to make disciples? Will using technology turn off some of the existing membership? What kinds of technology are available and what of that is appropriate to use in worship and outreach? These are some of the questions that will be discussed at a gathering at **7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 20** in the Phillips Roszelle Room. You do not need to be an elected official of the church or even a member to attend. If you know of a younger person who might be interested, please invite them. We want to understand the societal shifts that are requiring pastors, leaders, and members to reach out in non-traditional ways. We want to answer the question, "How can Zion be more effective at making Disciples?"



We would like to thank everyone for all of their help and presence in celebrating the birth of Christ this season. We are grateful for you and all of those who came together to celebrate Him! A special thank you to Irene Howard, Christy Lednum, Karla Wilkins, The Handbell Choir, The Worship Choir, The Sound Crew : Brandon Crawford, Ryan Hubbard and Craig Duerling, The

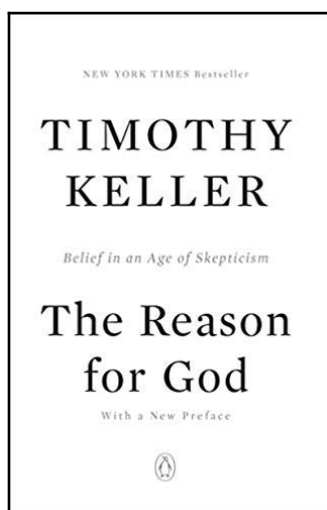
Bulletin Crew: Janel Parke and Craig Duerling, Lighting: Bruce McWilliams, and Our Narrators: Ham Brake, JoAnn Kelley, Olivia Schunick, Paul Lewis, Joe Turner, Dan Hubbard, Sonny Dodson, and Pastor Dave Kelley. Additionally, we would like to thank Mid-Shore Graphics for sponsoring our Christmas Eve Sign.

Auditions for 2019 Worship Choir

The Worship Choir (*formerly know as the Chancel Choir*) is excited to begin preparing for our upcoming season! We are looking for additional voices : Alto, Bass, Tenor and Soprano. We will be holding Open Auditions during the month of January and February. If you are interested, or know someone who is, they must be 12 years to 112 years of age and able to attend Wednesday rehearsals and worship services. Previous choir experience is not required.

For more information, please contact Karla Wilkins, Choir Director

by Pastor Dave



Have you ever wanted to tell someone about Jesus, but just did not know the right words to say or were afraid that what you said may be interpreted in the wrong way? You might have even been afraid to speak about Jesus, because you were afraid that you would have to answer questions such as, "Why does God allow bad things to happen to good people?", or, "Aren't all religions the same?", or "Hasn't science disproven the Bible?" I know. I have been there. We do not want to get into an argument with people, but it would be nice if we have some information so that we can articulate our love and understanding of God and His Son Jesus. This might give us the confidence to tell others about Jesus. We will start this study the week of January 19. The schedule is Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. and Wednesday afternoon at 2 p.m. The cost of the book is \$12. Please call or email the office before January 10, so that we can place the order.

2020 - Zion's 240th Anniversary Year

Zion Church, first known as Garrettson Chapel, has a rich heritage dating back to 1780, just twenty years after the first Methodist Societies were formed in America in 1760 and four years before the first General Conference, the 1784 Christmas Conference at Lovely Lane Chapel in Baltimore, at which the Methodist Episcopal Church was founded. At that conference Francis Asbury and Freeborn Garrettson among others were ordained elder, and Francis Asbury and Thomas Coke were appointed Superintendents, an office later to be known as Bishop.

Zion claims Freeborn Garrettson as one of its founders. In fact, the three stained glass windows in the side of our current sanctuary depict (l-r) John Wesley, Francis Asbury, and Freeborn Garrettson. Garrettson hall is also named after Freeborn Garrettson.

Up until 1800, the congregation of Garrettson Chapel was a Methodist Society likely meeting in people's homes. In 1800, a lot on the west corner of Mill and Church Streets was purchased and Garrettson Chapel was erected. On April 18, 1802, Bishops Asbury and Whatcoat visited the new Chapel. By 1845 the congregation had outgrown this building, so a new church was built on Race Street. More about that later.

What Was Happening The Year Zion Was Formed? 240 Years Ago - January 1780

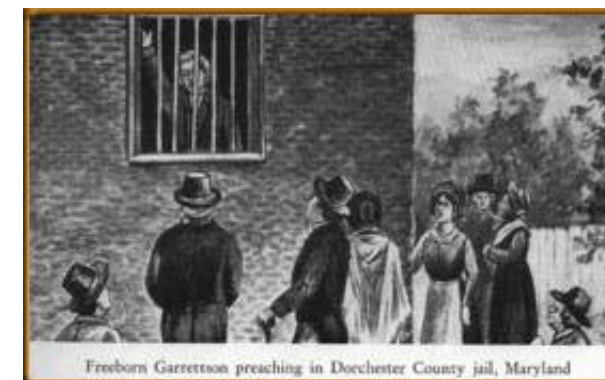
In January, 1780, for the only time in recorded history, all of the saltwater inlets, harbors and sounds of the Atlantic coastal plain, from North Carolina northeastward, froze over and remained closed to navigation for a period of a month or more. During January in Philadelphia, temperatures only topped freezing one day.

The weather took an especially harsh toll on the 7,460 patriot troops holed up with General George Washington in Morristown, N.J., a strategic site 30 miles west of the British command in New York City. The encampment was engulfed by "one of the most tremendous snowstorms ever remembered," army surgeon James Thacher wrote in his journal. "No man could endure its violence many minutes without danger of his life." When tents blew off, soldiers were "buried like sheep under the snow...almost smothered in the storm." The weather made it impossible to get supplies to the men, many of whom had no coats, shirts, or shoes and were on the verge of starvation. "For a Fortnight past the Troops both Officers and Men, have been almost perishing for want," George Washington wrote in a letter to civilian officials dated January 8. (Extracted from historynet.com)

January 15 — American Continental Congress establishes court of appeals
January 29 — 12-gun brigantine Baltimore lost off Cape Henry, Virginia

Freeborn Garrettson in Jail!

The first Methodist sermon in Dorchester County was preached by Rev. Freeborn Garrettson in 1779 at the home of Squire Airey, near Salem, Maryland. There was so much excitement caused by the preaching of Wesley's Methodist doctrine, that in 1780, Garrettson was arrested at the home of Mr. Airey for preaching without a Maryland license and imprisoned for 16 days in the old Cambridge Jail, which stood on Locust Street directly



across the street from the present Zion Church parsonage. The town's people fed Garrettson through the jail window where he daily held church services. Through the efforts of Francis Asbury, Governor Thomas S. Lee of Maryland, President Caesar Rodney of Delaware, and with his bail paid by Mr. Airey, Garrettson was released from jail. Dorchester County remained a "hotbed of Methodism!"

An Invitation to All

by Joe Turner, Zion Church Council Chair

We experienced a wonderful worship service on December 15 which included the Bells of Praise and the Worship Choir cantata. The gathering of the congregation included families and friends that had been invited by our members to worship with us on this day of music and song.

With that in mind, I thought that I would continue with that idea, to invite all of the members of Zion, to come and worship with us. We miss you! Our worship service is not the same without YOU, for I consider all of you a part of my family, and I would love to see you here in the congregation.

My wish is that all of you had a beautiful Christmas, and I want to invite you personally, to come and be with us in the New Year. May God's love, grace, and mercy, be upon your lives...this day and all the days of your life.

Inclement Weather Policy

Worship Services: If a scheduled worship service needs to be cancelled due to the weather, notices will be posted on our web site (<http://ZionUMCCambridge.org/>), our Facebook page (Zion UMC Cambridge), and on WBOC, WCEM, and WMDT.

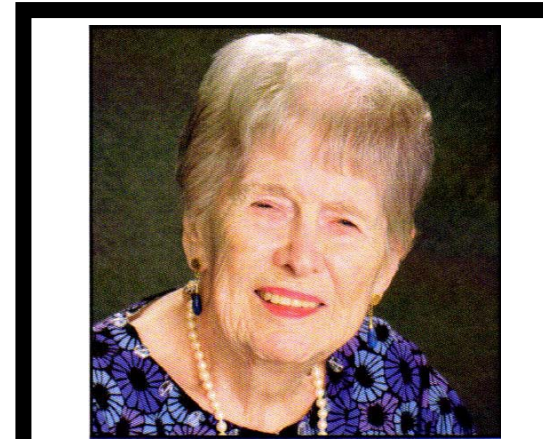
Meetings: If Dorchester County Public Schools are closed or close early, evening meetings are cancelled.



Epiphany Word Search

H	S	S	V	K	K	W	A	J	Z	C	H	A	L	Z
L	O	U	A	T	N	E	I	R	O	Q	X	J	M	V
Y	A	M	K	M	D	Z	R	T	G	X	K	E	V	Z
E	N	I	A	U	M	L	S	U	M	X	S	G	Z	Z
M	S	V	J	G	A	A	I	E	S	S	M	O	D	U
K	I	N	G	T	E	R	C	H	I	A	R	L	E	V
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Q	M	L	C	U	V	F	W	K	M	I	F	Y	J	R

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| King | Myrrh | Herod | Orient | East | Ruler |
| Gold | Magi | Homage | Judea | Messiah | Child |
| Frankincense | Bethlehem | Star | Wise | Shepherd | Treasure |



We mourn with her family and friends while celebrating the life of faithful servant Annette Atkinson, who went to be with the LORD on December 11, 2019. Her church family will host a celebration of her life on Sunday, January 12 at the end of the 11:00 service with a reception afterward.



February Fellowship

Candy & Cookie Exchange
Sun, February 9 immediately after the 11:00 service
Hosted by the Hattie B. Skinner Circle

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the cards, calls, visits and especially, the prayers. I appreciate them so much!

Thank you

Wishing you a very blessed and happy new year,
Norma Reed

Zion's Advent and Christmas 2019 in Pictures

