

Zion United Methodist Church
 612 Locust Street
 Cambridge, MD 21613

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Riding Out the Storm into the New Reality

My prayer is that this issue of *The Beacon* finds you and your family safe and well. We have been in this storm of COVID-19 for several months now and I suspect we will be in it for a while longer. This pandemic is on a global scale. In the United States, over 3.5 million people have been infected with the disease with over 140,000 deaths. God has blessed us in Dorchester County with very few people being infected by the virus and for those that have been, very few deaths. My prayer is that the trend continues, but I do not have a magic crystal ball. I have faith that God is in charge and God will see us through this storm.

If you have food on the table, a roof over your heads, and clothes on your back, then you are better off than most people in the world. If you have a job or have sufficient funds for retirement, consider yourselves blessed by God. While the unemployment rate in the United States was the lowest that it had been in some time before the pandemic, now over 51 million Americans are without jobs. Many businesses have either closed or are on the brink of closing. A pastor in the Cambridge area asked me if I knew of anybody that was hiring. I told him that I did not as I had not put on my radar where to direct people looking for jobs. If you know of businesses that are hiring, please let me know. As I was writing this, my friend who owns a flooring company had his contract to redo the flooring in the Chesapeake College education building in Cambridge accepted. He is looking to hire someone to help remove the old carpeting. He is going to start the project in August. So, if you know of someone who is interested in a job for a few days, please let me know.

I was thinking about the storm of the Coronavirus. We have been doing online Vacation Bible School, since we could not safely have VBS in the building. One of our VBS Bible stories was about Noah and the flood. You probably know the story. After a period of time had passed when human beings were removed by God from the Garden of Eden, they ignored God and did all kinds of evil. God was saddened by all of this and God decided to destroy all that He had created. Noah and his family were the only ones

that stayed faithful to God. God told Noah that He was going to destroy all that He had created with a flood, but that God would protect Noah and his family by giving them guidance on how to construct a boat. Noah's occupation was as a wine maker, not a carpenter, but by trusting in God, Noah and his family were able to build a very large boat on land far from any large body of water. Once the boat was completed, God told Noah to call the animals into the boat and for Noah and his family to get in too. Noah knew very little how to care for these animals, but God gave Noah instructions on how to provide for all the needs of the animals in the boat. I mean how do you feed a rhinoceros, a lizard, a bat? More importantly, how do you clean up after all these animals? God also told Noah everything that Noah would need to care for all the animals, as well as his family.

The storms came. It rained for 40 days and 40 nights. The waters rose and covered the highest mountains. God continued to protect Noah, his family, and the animals inside the ark. Finally, the rains stopped, and God sent a wind to dry up the water. Noah waited 190 days and then sent out a raven. The raven did not return. Noah then sent out a dove, the dove returned. Noah waited another 7 days and sent out the dove again. This time the dove came back with an olive branch. Noah waited another 7 days and sent out the dove. This time the dove did not return. When God told Noah that it was time to leave the ark, Noah opened the door of the ark. Then the animals and he and his family all left the ark. When they left the ark, everything was different.

The church, not the building but the people, have been described as an ark. I do not know when this storm of the coronavirus will pass us and will not return. This storm is still raging on. We have to start planning for a new church. A church that will be different from the past. You cannot go through a storm of this magnitude and not be changed. Those of you who live locally should have received a survey that will provide us information on how we need to move forward into this new church. It (Cont'd on Page 2)

Please return your Reopening Task Force Survey no later than July 31.

Each Sunday, weather permitting, Zion will hold a drive-in service at 10:00 a.m. in our Glasgow Street parking lot. The drive-in services are held within the guidelines issued by the Governor's Office. If you wish to bring lawn chairs and sit outside of your vehicle, it is permitted provided social distancing guidelines are followed (Six feet apart unless same household/family group) There may be no physical interaction with clergy, staff, or participants in any other vehicles. Masks are recommended. Please follow the parking attendants' directions.

If you remain in your vehicle, either roll your windows down to hear the service, or you can tune your car's radio to 93.1 FM and listen to the service in your car. (Please note that the FM radio transmission only works in the parking lot.) If it is hot, you may want to run your car's air conditioning and listen on the car radio.

You can also watch the service online. Visit www.zionumccambridge.org and click on the YouTube link. The drive-in service will also be available on Facebook Live.



is crucial that we hear from everyone.

God is still the same. The world has changed. Our country has changed. I hope that God has changed all of us to be more loving and to think of others before thinking of ourselves as we moved into this new reality.

God bless you al,
Pastor Dave Kelley

PS: In my last article, I said that I was looking at books to read to gain a greater awareness on social justice issues in regards to our African American sisters and brothers. Two books that are worth reading are *Letters Across the Divide* and *Gracism: The Art of Inclusion*, both written by Dr. David Anderson.

2020 - Zion's 240th Anniversary Year

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

- Aug 1 Sweden issued a *Declaration of Armed Neutrality* that became the basic doctrine of maritime law regarding neutral rights at sea during war.
- Aug 16 The British decisively defeat Americans in the Battle of Camden, South Carolina.
- Aug 22 The HMS Resolution returns to England without Captain James Cook.

July News of the 1800s

Trustees of Zion Chapel—August 6, 1800—This Indenture made the sixth day of August in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred by and between Robert Muir of Dorchester County and State of Maryland of the one part & Ezekiel Vickers, Charles K. Bryan, James Trippe, Jr., Joseph Dodson, Edward White, Henry Ennals, and George Ward of the County and State aforesaid of the other part - Witnesseth that the said Robert Muir for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred and forty five dollars and one third of a dollar to him in hand paid by the said Ezekiel Vickers, etc. (This was the purchase of land at the corner of Mill and Church Streets for our congregation's first church building. Ed.)

The Chronicle—August 30, 1845—The ceremony of laying the corner stone of a new M. E. Church in this town took place yesterday according to previous announcement. Though the weather was very unfavorable for a large gathering, still the friends of religion in general and of Methodism collected from various parts of the county to a considerable number, and by two o'clock our town presented a very likely appearance, making a beautiful contrast with the dullness of the weather around us and over us. Arrangements having been previously made, by procuring the use of the lot and seating ground, at a few minutes past 2 o'clock the meeting assembled on the beautiful lawn of Doct. J. Muse, in front of his dwelling. Several clergymen beside the stated Pastors of the Church in Cambridge were present and participated in the exercises. The Rev. J. Kenneday, D.D. of Wilmington, Del. opened the meeting by reading a very beautiful and appropriate hymn which was sung by the audience and followed by a prayer by Rev. J. Hazzard of Salisbury. The Rev. Mr. Kenneday then arose and read as the foundation of his remarks the 28 Chap. and 16 verse of Isaiah, "Behold I lay in Zion for a foundation, a stone, etc." From these words he gave a very sensible, appropriate and eloquent sermon which so far as appearances were indicative gave universal satisfaction.

The corner stone being on the spot when the sermon was preached, was carried by the trustees, seven in number, to the lot where the church is being erected. These were preceded by the clergymen present, and followed by the Building Committee, the official and private members of the church, citizens of the town and county, with all others in attendance. When the large concourse present had reached the spot, the large stone was placed at the corner, and in it was deposited the following articles, viz:

Holy Bible, The Methodist Hymn Book and Discipline, the *Report of the Missionary Society of the M. E. Church*, the *General Minutes*, The *Proceedings of the General Conference of 1840 & 44*, the *Address of The American Protestant Association*, The *Register of Dickinson College for 1844-45*, the *Christian Advocate and Journal*, The *Christian Repository*, the *female Student*, the *Cambridge Chronicle*, The *Baltimore Sun*, containing the illness and death of Ex. President Jackson and the *Baltimore Republican*. (This was the cornerstone laying for the stone church on Race Street. Ed.)

**Looking for a personal Bible Study or a daily Bible reading?
Well, Proverbs has 31 chapters and August has 31 days. Coincidence? I think not.**

Adam
and
Eve
Word
Search

R	P	N	I	A	C	O	S	E	R	P	E	N	T	K
O	C	Q	G	S	N	N	U	A	C	T	S	P	H	N
K	X	A	I	H	D	A	T	I	U	R	F	F	E	O
B	D	R	F	U	H	D	Y	U	T	M	V	Q	S	W
U	W	Z	J	M	T	U	X	G	E	I	S	N	V	L
R	C	F	P	A	O	G	F	A	R	A	D	A	M	E
O	H	Z	K	N	Z	Q	A	M	E	S	Z	N	J	D
V	A	I	P	K	A	M	P	R	J	F	L	P	D	G
W	V	N	O	I	N	I	M	O	D	E	D	K	Q	E
P	H	I	D	N	K	L	V	O	A	E	D	L	T	V
G	H	M	I	D	Y	T	C	V	L	A	N	H	B	I
B	S	A	E	U	J	Q	E	B	J	W	N	T	X	L
Y	I	G	I	G	N	S	A	H	T	C	R	I	Z	J
E	V	E	Z	D	O	O	G	F	Y	E	O	Y	U	S
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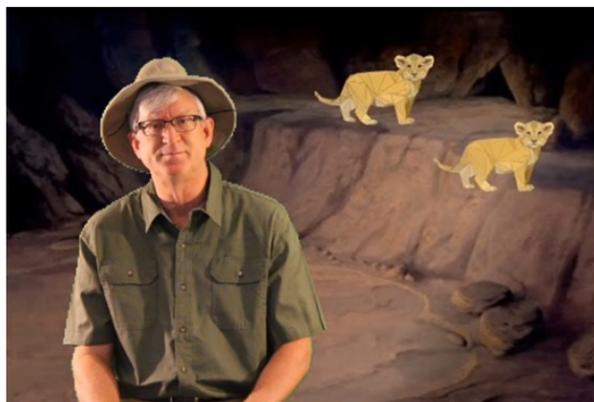
Adam	Image	Good	Garden	Fig	Die
Eve	Dominion	Evil	Serpent	Leaves	Cain
Humankind	Knowledge	Tree	Fruit	Hid	Able

Vacation Bible School

By Aston Mooday

During the month of July and the first week of August, Safari Dave and Adventure Ashton led Zion UMC's 2020 online Vacation Bible School, titled "Wild About Jesus." Each week, Safari Dave taught a story from the Bible that consisted of animals and different messages. Adventure Ashton led the participants in the weekly craft. Participation was through the roof! There were hundreds of views on the videos posted throughout the weeks, and representation from multiple states and churches! While nothing beats an in-person VBS, Safari Dave and Adventure Ashton worked really hard to make sure it was just as educational and fun! While they were the ones in front of the camera, there are many other people who helped to make VBS happen. Thank you to JoAnn Kelley for being the videographer. Thank you to Zion's Praise Team, Katelyn Masden, and JoAnn for helping with singing and playing the songs. Thank you to Karla Wilkins for running sound for the praise team during the recordings. Thank you to Craig Duerling for the use of the green screen that made it possible to have the fun backgrounds! Thank you to Janel Parke for her continued contact with families and members of the church. Most importantly, thank you to those who watched and interacted with the videos at home. Without all of these people, VBS would not have happened. We hope you enjoyed our 2020 online Vacation Bible School and remember:

"Wild About Jesus
GROWL
Jesus is Wild About Me!"



Safari Dave teaching Week Two's lesson, "Daniel and the Lion's Den: God is Our Friend."



Adventure Ashton teaching Week One's craft, the snake.



Zion's praise team singing the theme song for "Wild About Jesus" Vacation Bible School, "All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir."



Katelyn and Ashton getting ready to sing "Arky Arky," a song from Week Three.

More Recent History

The Second Phase of the reconstruction of the church involving the Sanctuary began on March 6, 1956 with a Loyalty Dinner at the Rescue Fire Company Arena at the corner of Cedar Street and Perrimore Avenue to launch the financial goal of \$175,000.

On April 22, 1959, another three-year pledging program was launched to retire our Rebuilding Debt of \$160,000. The 150 week period began on Sunday, May 3, 1959 with Charles D. Linthicum as General Chairman.

The third drive in Zion's Crusade was launched on March 26, 1962 at a Worker's Dinner attended by 75 of the Crusade leaders and workers to complete the remaining \$140,000 on our debt. Calvin H. Webster, Crusade General Chairman and his committee operated under the direction of the Rev. Harold Bryant, of the National Board of Missions, and announced that the first 53 pledges turned in by the Advance Gifts Committee totaled \$35,159.

In March 1965 the final step to liquidate the debt was included in a unified budget campaign under the leadership of Calvin H. Webster. More than 480 families were contacted and requested to join in a three year pledge period in support of debt elimination and establishment of a pipe organ fund.

On Sunday, December 15, 1963 the new Moeller Organ was consecrated. Mr. William Harrison Barnes, an organ architect and musician, presented a recital.

A very important occasion was the Mortgage Burning Ceremony on Sunday, October 29, 1967, which was a great day in the life and history of Zion Methodist Church and will be a day to be remembered through the years.

On April 23, 1968, Zion Methodist Church was officially renamed "Zion United Methodist Church" when the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church were merged into "The United Methodist Church." This merger was completed at the Special Sessions of the General Conference in April 1970, in St. Louis, Missouri, where our Senior Pastor, Dr. Howard M. Amoss, was a delegate.

The 190th Anniversary of Zion was observed November 15-18, 1970. The highlight of this anniversary was the presentation of a drama, written and directed by Dr. Amoss, entitled, "Methodist Witness on Locust Street" (based on Freeborn Garrettson's prison experience in Cambridge in 1780).

In 1972, an Endowment Fund was initiated in Zion, which will become a living memorial, since it is an on-going fund and only the income from the principal can be used.

On Sunday, December 16, 1973 the congregation was invited to see the Historical Room newly decorated and given to the Church by Mr. and Mrs. Granville Hooper. The card reads - Sunday, December 16, 1973 This Historical and Records Room was decorated, furnished and most of the Historical Material given by Anna and Granville Hooper



ANNIVERSARIES

in August

6 Tom & Wendy Wilson
 7 Matthew & Angela Meekins
 8 Gene & Carolyn Williams
 10 David & JoAnn Kelley
 10 Leslie & Olivia Schunick

14 Spicer & Judi Leaming
 16 Bobby & Judy Willey
 18 Edward & Christine Pridgen
 19 Laird & Danielle Creighton

BIRTHDAYS

in August

2 Faith Marshall
 4 Seth Mackert
 5 Jessica Green
 5 Eddie Howard
 5 Spicer Leaming
 5 Charlotte Weber
 7 James Welsch, III
 8 Bruce Collins
 10 Barbara Price

14 Sue Ann Brenchley
 14 Carl Dunnock
 14 Caroline Hudson
 14 Bruce Rindfuss
 14 Brooke Windsor
 16 Brittany Atkinson
 19 Laird Creighton
 19 Daniel McGinnis
 19 Signe Patterson

21 Logan Dukes
 21 Diane Hoge
 24 Kathe Scanlon
 25 Jonathan Brittingham
 25 Andrew Counts
 28 Mark Eberspacher
 29 Marci Schuyler
 29 Colin Mace Webster

Baptized in August:

1987 Lauren Zacharko
 2001 Christopher Harp
 2001 Hannah Harp
 2003 Megan Harp

2004 Tucker Stevens
 2005 Austin Windsor
 2010 Tina Blades
 2010 Shelby Blades

2010 Tristan Blades
 2010 Debbie Yost
 2010 Richard Meritt

Mission Minute - Being Thankful

by JoAnn Kelley

Our involvement with the Salvation Army Shelter began shortly after the stay at home order was given by Governor Hogan. We learned that the Salvation Army was providing shelter for 25 people and needed help providing three meals a day for them. The H.B. Skinner Circle and The Eunice Sluyter Circle each purchased meals from a local restaurant to provide a dinner, as well as to help a local business during this time. After the initial two weeks a generous donation was received, and we continued to support both the Salvation Army and local businesses by ordering meals and taking them to the shelter about once a week under the auspices of the Good Samaritan Fund. Some weeks we were told that there was not a need that week (because others had stepped up and been generous), but most weeks the need was there. We are currently signed up to provide dinner each Wednesday evening through the month of July. The number of people fed each week varies, from a low of 6 to as many as 25. We continue to patronize local restaurants whenever possible to also contribute to the local economy during this time.



Fourth of July Young Disciples Gifts

Vaughn Brooks celebrated the Fourth of July with a flag and "God Bless America" craft he and other young disciples received from Zion. The patriotic themed gifts included a flag, craft, bubbles and Tootsie Roll Pop®. The items were donated to Zion to remind our young disciples and their families, that although we can't be together the way we would like, they are still in our thoughts and prayers.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

by JoAnn Kelley



Prayer shawls are made to give to those who may be facing a serious illness, are in the hospital, or are facing a difficult time in their life. As they are made, the maker prays for the unknown recipient. They are then blessed before being made available to any member of the congregation to take or send to someone who they feel is in need. (I have given them to people in the hospital, students going away to college for the first time, those diagnosed with cancer or other serious illnesses, a bride on her wedding day with a prayer for the marriage)

During this time that the building is closed we will have these shawls available at the parsonage for those who would like to share one with someone in need. Please call and make arrangements to get a shawl.

If anyone would like to participate in the prayer shawl ministry by making shawls, they can contact me at (410) 708-0906 or by email jkelly9911@gmail.com.

When This Is Over

by Laura Kelly Fanucci

*When this is over,
 may we never again
 take for granted
 A handshake with a stranger
 Full shelves at the store
 Conversations with neighbors
 A crowded theater
 Friday night out
 The taste of communion
 A routine checkup
 The school rush each morning
 Coffee with a friend
 The stadium roaring
 Each deep breath
 A boring Tuesday
 Life itself.*

*When this ends,
 may we find
 that we have become
 more like the people
 we wanted to be
 we were called to be
 we hoped to be
 and may we stay
 that way — better
 for each other
 because of the worst.*