

# † The Zion Bell †

Zion Church of Kurten

Kurten, Texas

January, February, and March 2016

Volume 4, Issue 1

## Pastor's Corner

It has been a joy to minister to the congregation of Zion for these past seven weeks. Everyone has made us feel very much at home. We appreciate all the work that many accomplished in the parsonage for our comfort.

My goals are twofold for the time Linda and I will be here with you. First, to continue pastoral ministry in every area in which there is need, and second, to help in the transition process of finding a new senior pastor of Zion.

It has been my privilege to help five other churches in their pastoral transition, and I trust the experience I have gained will be beneficial to our search over the next few months. To facilitate this process I am working with the elders and other leaders to ascertain what the needs and values are for Zion's present congregation. Also we are beginning to evaluate how well we are doing presently and what areas will enhance our vision and ministry for the future.

A key part of the transition process is to match the church's identity, ministry, and vision with that of a potential candidate. Further in our assessment we will explore such needs that a potential candidate should help address.

To accomplish these goals we will be asking you for your input and suggestions and thoughts. We will be making available some tools that will help in the evaluation and planning for the future as we seek to minister more fully to you and to the community in which the Lord has placed Zion Church.

As we begin this process I ask for your prayers and support for our leaders as we move into this most critical and yet potentially blessed time of transition.

Pastor Tom Burris

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**MEN**  
of ZION

**Upcoming Men's Breakfast Dates**

February 6th - 7 am



Equipping all women to become disciple-makers as they live, share, and show the Gospel.

"By this all men will know you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:35

We encourage you to take a few minutes to read over the 2015 Zion annual report for more information about this past year and the vision of Women's Ministry. It is our prayer that this ministry reaches and serves all women of Zion and our community.

Here is a look at some upcoming events in early 2016:

### **Women's Fellowship**

We will have craft nights this Spring, more details and dates to come soon. One of the evenings we will do a service project and prepare memory boxes together for women at local hospitals who have lost a baby. This is an opportunity to share God's love with women during a very challenging time.

### **Women in Service**

Meals of love is an opportunity to provide outreach and service to our Zion shut-ins. Preparation of the meals is on the third Wednesday morning of the month at Zion.

### **Women of the Word**

Our next women's Bible study will be Chase: chasing after the heart of God by Jennie Allen. The large group Kickoff evening will be January 26th at 7pm in the new Ministry Center. Small groups start meeting in homes the week of February 8th. If you would like to join us for this study please contact Ashley Ward so we can get you plugged into a group this January.

If you have any questions or need to contact us please feel free to call, text, or email.

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## *Annual Meeting Information*

2016 Annual Report was handed out Jan. 10 and copies are available at the Welcome Center.

Budget and Bylaw Review Meetings were held Jan. 10 and 12. Annual Congregational

Meeting is scheduled for Jan. 24 following the service.



Zion Awana 2016

Well, here it is already 2016 and our 11<sup>th</sup> Awana Year is half over. We are very blessed to have so many caring volunteers and prayers and support from our church family that make our Awana Program successful. Thank you so much!

The first half of our year was exciting as well as productive with about 125 clubbers registered. We had a successful canned food drive and sent almost 200 "gift" boxes to kids all over the world through Operation Christmas Child, a part of the Franklin Graham Samaritans Purse program. Thank you to everyone in the church who contributed. The kiddos also participated in two pacer parties and had a store night right before Christmas break. They were able to use their Awana shares to purchase gifts for family and friends and, of course, a few things for themselves.

The second half of our year will be just as much fun. In January we will begin collection for Adopt-a-Club where we raise funds for Awana programs in Paraguay and celebrate Awana Sunday, on January 31<sup>st</sup>. Please be sure to join us for that during the worship service followed by a potluck afterward. February 27 will bring us to our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Grand Prix. Everyone can participate in this fun event by obtaining a car kit from the Awana office. Registered clubbers kits are free and only \$5 for leaders and everyone else. Just know that the competition is fierce!

There are so many fun nights planned that they are too numerous to list. Closing ceremonies are set for April 27. We invite you to check it out on our Awana home page at <http://kurtenchurch.org/family-connect/awana>.

Thank you again for your prayers and support for our program. God is definitely working on so many hearts and His servants' hands and hearts are evident.

In His service,

Albert and Carol Jean Rhodes

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Plans are being made for the annual Easter Egg Hunt at Zion on Saturday, March 26 at 10 a.m. Please contact Betty Cotton ([cottonbetty@hotmail.com](mailto:cottonbetty@hotmail.com) or text 979-218-9575) and get plugged in to help. Everyone is needed, our group is growing larger and larger every year. The more help we have, the more opportunities we will have to pour our Father's Love on our community!

## Adult Sunday School Update

Mission Statement of Adult Sunday School:

*To grow together in unity in Christ as we seek to imitate one another as we each imitate Christ. Teaching with wisdom to grow one another in maturity in our Lord.*

*Guiding passages: 1 Cor. 11:1; Eph. 4:13; Col. 1:28*

Thank you to all who participate in Adult Sunday School. I am appreciative of all of your input and especially to all who have graced us with their teaching. Over the fall semester we conducted a survey of the Old Testament in order to see how Christ could show the Old Testament to be about Him (see the road to Emmaus Luke 24:13-35). We sought to make the Old Testament pertinent to today as we increased our understanding of God's plan across the ages with a brief review of creation, Old Testament stories, the Psalms, and a Major and Minor Prophet. Looking toward next year we plan to dive back into the New Testament with Sunday School being once again divided into Women's and Men's classes. We hope you will join us in growing in Him.

In His service,

Matt Ward

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## Council Update

2015 was another year in which the council was able to balance the budget and serve the Zion Church of Kurten. We kept the doors open and the lights on as we served God's children another year. We worked through budget requests, growing church body needs, expansion of facilities and ministries, not to mention looking at a search for a new Senior Pastor. Through the congregation's generosity we have been able to keep things going as planned and pay towards the new worship center.

We thank everyone for their help and dedication to the financial aspect of doing God's work. A special thank you goes out to our retiring council members Glenda Kurten and Doug Sinclair. We thank Glenda for her hard work and dedication over the last six years and Doug for the last three years. I would also like to thank the various ministry leaders for working to keep their departments' budgets in line and returned to the council in a timely manner. Thank you for the opportunity to serve and please provide any feedback so that we can more efficiently serve God's people.

Sincerely,

Pat Shields

Zion Church Council President

## Meals of Love Celebrates 100th Meeting

When our Meals of Love crew met December 16, 2015 they did so for the 100th time! As a refresher for those who see Meals of Love listed in the bulletin calendar and wonder what that means here is a brief description.

On the 3rd Wednesday of each month about 4-8 Zion people meet at the Family Center and send out meals to shut-ins in our area. About half are Zion members and the others are Zion friends. We started out with no budget, just FAITH that it would work, and it did. Our freezer was filled with donated beef and the cooking began.

We now have a line item in the budget that keeps us going, as well as love offering donations. We send out a hot meal which usually consists of a meat, several veggies, bread and a home-made dessert. Then along with that, three individual small sized casseroles are sent out to each friend we serve. Right now we are sending out 7 baskets feeding 11 friends.

Thank you to all of our chefs and delivery crew as well as past council members and Elders that understand and support this outreach. We serve a mighty God who reminds us in His word to go out, serve and spread His love to others. Meals of Love does that and to HIM we give all the GLORY!

Di Kurten

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### ***Upcoming Events:***

Jan. 23—ZYM Parent's Night Out 6pm

Jan. 24—Annual Congregational Meeting following the service

Jan. 26—Women's Bible Study Kick-off 7pm

Feb. 21—Children's Choir Rehearsals Begin 4:30pm

Feb 27—AWANA Grand Prix 9:30am

Mar. 24—Maundy Thursday

Mar. 26—Easter Egg Hunt 10am

Mar. 27—Easter Sunday

**January Birthdays:**

3 Jase Cotton  
 4 Regina McDonald  
 7 Kim Mathis  
 Lee Mitchell  
 9 Jerry Swoboda  
 10 Dave Erlandson  
 Shellie Stasny  
 12 Laura King  
 14 Bill Conrad  
 15 Leah Shields  
 17 Jim Anderson  
 Kevin Caffey  
 18 Brandi Anderson  
 Derrick Williams  
 22 Mahlet Dozier  
 Tamerat Dozier  
 23 Reese Jones  
 27 Tracy Schieffer  
 Jamie Wells  
 29 Rachel Boaz  
 30 Gail Little

**February Birthdays:**

1 Chad Houston  
 3 Scott Cronauer  
 Sam McDonald  
 6 Casey Mitchell  
 7 Margaret Gibson  
 10 Foster Brunson  
 Drake Josey  
 11 Davis Carroll  
 13 Millicent Tausch  
 14 Meaghan Anderson  
 R.T. Brown  
 Matt Schieffer  
 15 Olivia King  
 16 Jaxson Shaddox  
 17 Travis Tausch  
 19 Keith Jones  
 20 Jennifer Mundine  
 23 Blake Dubec  
 Chad Eixmann  
 Brooke Fraley  
 Ralph Record  
 25 Kay Hale  
 26 Scott Fraley  
 28 Colten Stasny

**March Birthdays:**

5 Karen Dittfurth  
 7 Cassandra Cotton  
 Bill Wickersham  
 8 Stacy Cravey  
 Nancy Sinclair  
 10 Shelby Astle  
 Melanie Estes  
 Madison Januse  
 11 Rick Dubec  
 12 Melissa Williams  
 14 B.J. Ewell  
 15 Johnny Smith  
 16 Makenzie Anderson  
 19 Ada Gustavus  
 21 Buck Mitchell  
 Hannah Whitwell  
 22 Colton Shields  
 23 Wasey Ewell  
 Nancy M. Weiman  
 25 Hattie Nash  
 28 Evan Bendiksen  
 Julie Shaddox  
 30 Glen Bond  
 31 April Smith

**January Anniversaries:**

3 Jim & Meaghan Anderson  
 5 Greg & Shauna Cox  
 11 Danny & Karen Alewine

**February Anniversaries:**

2 Sam & Regina McDonald  
 12 Mel & Laura Sargeant  
 14 Travis & Millicent Tausch  
 Derrick & Melissa Williams  
 28 Bubba & Kim Mathis

**March Anniversaries:**

16 Robert & Brenda Whitwell  
 18 Chad & Kristen Eixmann  
 20 Ricky & Glenda Hail  
 Albert & Carol Jean Rhodes  
 21 Gerry & Carole Dunlap  
 27 David & April Smith  
 Larry & Janie West

**Please be in prayer for:**

Denise Burch  
Buddy Weatherly  
Marie Henderson  
Peggy Kindt  
Janie West  
Sherry Fikes  
Allison Ellis  
Bea Heartfield  
Elizabeth Castillo  
Louise Woodard  
Judy Irick Greer  
Everett Martin  
Dawn Bratton  
Dennis Fraley  
Richard Tedder  
Doris Marek  
Mike Welch  
Aaron Staab  
Regina McDonald's Parents  
Fran Leifheit  
James Stasny  
Elo Mertz  
Don Estes  
Jim Bailey  
Nancy Weiman  
Ellis Burch  
Melissa Ruffino  
Jordan & Brock DeWald  
Charlotte Bobbitt  
Angela Britton  
Dean and Diane Laumen  
Schuler Family  
James and Darlene Moon  
Ben Miller  
Larry King  
Megan Graff  
Will Faust  
Tammy Vaca  
Lisa Kean's Mother  
and our Servicemen and Women

*Contact Monty Dozier  
bullrattler@gmail.com if you have a  
prayer request*

**Condolences:**

Our condolences and prayers go out to **Jamie Wells** and her family following the passing of her grandmother **Barbara Ann Wilson Cannon**.

**Praises:**

We celebrate the calling of Dr. Tom Burris to serve as our Interim Pastor during this time of transition.

**Announcements:**

Web-based Calendar

With the Zion Bell's transition to quarterly publication, we will no longer include a calendar. To keep everyone up-to-date we have added a Calendar of Events to our web-site. Please stop by <http://www.kurtenchurch.org/calendar-of-events> or look under the Tools tab on the web-site for a listing of events. Please email Kristen at [info.zionchurch@gmail.com](mailto:info.zionchurch@gmail.com) with corrections or additions.