THE REPORTER VOLUME 22 . ISSUE 10

# OC BERS

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24-25

# When Was the War of 1812?

If you don't know that answer, perhaps you will know who is buried in Grant's tomb?

Do you enjoy trivia? You are invited to the 1st ever Mt. Zion Trivia Night! Come to the church on Saturday, October 11th, at 6p. We will have a fellowship pitch-in first - bring a finger food to share. Drinks will be provided.

After eating, we will put together trivia teams and test your knowledge in brain buster questions like the ones above and many more! This is a family event welcome for all ages.

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### Men's Breakfast

All men (ages 12 and older) are invited to breakfast, fellowship, and spiritual growth on Saturday, October 11th, from 8-9:30a. Sign up on the bulletin board.

### Ladies Book Club

The September/October selection is "Night Falls on Predicament Avenue" by Jaime Jo Wright. Obtain a copy and get reading. We will meet on Monday, October 20th, at 6p for a discussion.

# We are working on a Directory!

You may have had your picture taken in the past for a church directory. We are doing something different than

traditionally done!
We are creating
the directory in
house and need
your help!

More details to come in your October bulletins.



### **Attendance Last Month**

	<u>9/7</u>	<u>9/14</u>	<u>9/21</u>	9/28
Sunday School	46	49	39	199
Worship	166	188	166	232



### **MISSIONS NEWS**

### September Missions Giving

**Global Partners** 

Faith Promise	\$750
JESUS Film	\$100
Shunem Ministries	\$200
The Hot Dog Club	\$400
He Sapa New Life Ministries	\$200
Jon Acton (mums)	\$613.50



### Thank You's

Thank you to those 23 adults/kids who walked for the Henry County Pregnancy Care Center and to the sponsors of our walkers. We raised \$837! Pastor is excited about next year's walk. Mt. Zion had the 3rd largest church group walking, and he wants to take the trophy next year!

Thank you to those who are supplying cookies/sweet treats for the Cadiz and Sulphur Springs Volunteer Firefighters who would be the first responders at our church if needed. We appreciate their willingness and service.

### Missionary Updates

Two of our missionary families that were in the States this summer have safely returned to their missions fields. Pray for them as they pick up their ministries again and pray for needed financial faith promise support.

Our young missionary family in Home Country did not have to be evacuated during a recent government upheaval. A new prime minister was appointed and true elections will be held on March 5th. The children stayed calm and seemed oblivious to the chaos around them. They ask for prayers for peace, for the elections in March, and for the nation to find true comfort in the One who made them.

### **KIDS MINISTRY**

### The Gospel Project in Kids Church

This month in Kids Church, we will learn about King Solomon. Yes, God granted him much wisdom. Like Solomon, the kids will learn that their own wisdom has limits. Yet, they can choose to serve a God whose wisdom goes beyond any human's.

October's Big Picture Questions:

**Elementary - What does God know?** God knows everything about the past, present, and future.

Nursery through K - What does God know? God knows everything.

Key Verse: Proverbs 3:7

### Save the Dates:

November 2nd will be a Pumpkin and Praise Day in Kids Church! We will have different pumpkin and Thanksgiving-themed activities to start the month. We could definitely use extra hands on this day, so if you want to help with an activity or two, reach out to Karyn Rogers by October 19th so she can plan according to help available.

December 7th will be our Christmas Party. More details will be coming soon.

### **Help Needed!**

You have heard it many times now, because it's true. We are growing rapidly! We need more volunteers to help support this growth. There are roles for both teens and adults. There are roles that require little to no prep or a moderate amount of prep. Honestly, we just need more people willing to at least listen and see if there is a spot for them. God wouldn't bless us with this many kids if the people to step in and help weren't at Mt. Zion. *Is that person you?* 

### **Kids Sunday School**

There is Kids Sunday School! We have a lot of hands-on activities planned for October and November for ages 2-5th grade. 6th graders may join the teen class, but please speak with Karyn first to make sure that's the right fit.

If you're a parent of a 2-K kid, it would be appreciated if you also reach out to Karyn as we are limited on help during the 9:15a hour and want to make sure we are prepared for all your kiddos.

## **TEEN MINISTRY**

September held both laughs and challenges. The challenges weren't bad things, but rather what we experienced in God's word. We looked into what the Bible had to say about astrology and even entertaining that means we have created an idol in our lives. We learned that the Greek for "It is finished" should challenge us to keep taking steps daily towards Christ and growth. We talked about how a child of God should be recognized in today's world. It was a proud and honest moment when a few shared they weren't sure if they could be recognized as one. It was a reminder that they need a safe space to be honest about where they are in Christ.

We also laughed over blind dodgeball, including Levi's throwing with gusto. We laughed over banana games and banana people. We laughed over many things because this time together was fun and a blessing.

### **Sunday Night Teen Group**

October 19th . Blackout Night is back from 5-8p We'll have a glow games and a round or two of Grogg. Bring a flashlight, a finger food to share, and some friends.

### October 26th - 5-7p

The teens and their families are invited to join us for a campfire and yard games. Hot dogs and fixings, s'more supplies, and drinks will be provided. There will be a sign up sheet for supplies down by the gym if you want to help contribute.

### **Sunday School**

Sunday School is taking on a new look for a few months. There will still be a moment of opening God's word together, but we are also adding in some service opportunities. Some weeks, the teens may learn about what goes on behind the scenes in planning a ministry. Other weeks, they may be helping organize a storage space or help plan crafts for the kids. It will look different each week and we hope they'll also find times of connection with each other. Nothing we have them do will be too strenuous. We want to give them opportunities to see how a little bit of effort can help the church in big ways.

# MT ZION VOICES

We've added a feature to our monthly newsletters - writings from our congregation. If you would like to write something for the newsletter, please contact the church office.

### Go and Do Likewise!

Preparing for Kids Church lately has taken me deeper into Israel in the time of the Judges and both King Saul and King David. What a time of deep turmoil, but also of God's consistent deliverance, mercy, and grace! You see, when David became king, the kingdom was split. He wasn't king over all of Israel for quite a few years.

The very lesson that taught this to the kids fell on a Sunday where many in our country felt grief, pressure to think or experience the world in certain ways, or an overall frustration over opposing views. I couldn't deny the timing of this study and current events.

It's easy to think the world has never been worse. But we forget, in the midst of division in Israel, God's kingdom still prevailed, because he reigned over all. We can forget that the early church grew daily by the 1000s in a time when their leaders were being flogged, jailed, or killed, because the gospel still spilled from their lips. We forget that many books of the New Testament were written from a man imprisoned for his own beliefs, because he knew the message of Jesus surpassed his suffering.

So what does this mean for us? We mourn with those who mourn, because Jesus asked us too. We meet across tables to provide comfort and truth, because Jesus did. We stand up to sin with truth AND love, because God sent the gift of the Holy Spirit to enable any believer to do so.

Being a follower of Christ means we live in this tension. We can rejoice and open our eyes to how God is moving, while also experiencing sorrow over those who are lost. We continually learn how to share truth in love, because it isn't enough to be right. For you can be right in the wrong way.

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Two portions of scripture come to mind lately. One, is Jesus's encounter with the adulterous woman in John 8. He showed mercy to her in her sin, but he did call it sin and commanded her to "go and sin no more." The second scripture is in John 2. It's where Jesus flipped tables in the temple courtyard. But did you know this wasn't a burst of rage? If you read it, you'll also see that he surveyed the scene for quite some time as he wove a whip together. He was methodical in his words and actions. What he did was to reclaim the sacredness of God's presence AND to clear the way for Gentiles to worship.

Let's go and do likewise!

Karyn Rogers

