



NEW ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

The Well Life Church

WELCOME TO THE WELL

CELEBRATING **100** YEARS

OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

1926-2026



— PSALM 89:1 (KJV) —

*I will sing of the mercies of the LORD for ever:
with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations.*



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ANNIVERSARY THEME AND SCRIPTURE

Celebrating
100 YEARS
of God's Faithfulness

PSALM 89:1 (KJV)

*I will sing of the mercies of the Lord for ever:
with my mouth will I make known thy
faithfulness to all generations.*

100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2026

2:30 PM



Welcome to our Centennial Celebration

Celebrating One Hundred Years of Faith, Fellowship, and Service



A Welcome from the Pastor

Dear Church Family, Friends, and Honored Guests,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It is my great joy to welcome you as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of our beloved church. Today, we pause with grateful hearts to remember a century of worship, discipleship, fellowship, and service—and to give God all the glory for sustaining this ministry from generation to generation.

We honor the faithful saints whose prayers, sacrifices, courage, and steadfast devotion laid the foundation upon which we stand. Through seasons of joy and challenge, this congregation has remained a place where the Gospel is proclaimed, lives are transformed, families are strengthened, and neighbors are served with compassion.

To every member, former member, ministry partner, guest, and friend who has joined this celebration: Thank you. Your presence gives this historic occasion meaning, and your love for this church helps carry its legacy forward.

As we cherish our history, we also look ahead with renewed faith. May this centennial celebration be more than a remembrance; may it be a recommitment to loving God, welcoming all people, nurturing every generation, and serving our community with humility and boldness. The same God who guided us through the first hundred years will lead us into the next chapter of ministry.

Welcome, and may this celebration fill you with gratitude for all God has done, joy in the fellowship we share, and hope for all that is yet to come.

With gratitude and great expectation,

Dr. Draper S. Wright, Pastor



REACHING • RESTORING • REFRESHING LIVES

*"I will sing of the mercies of the LORD forever:
with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness
to all generations." – Psalm 89:1 (KJV)*



New Zion Baptist Church — The Well Life Church

100th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, November 1, 2026 | 2:30 PM

Program

Order of Service

Call to Order

Scripture Jaelyn Black
Psalm 89:1 (KJV)

Prayer Branden Johnson

Welcome Taylor Johnson

Praise & Worship *New Voices of Praise*

Words of Encouragement for Future Generations

Rev. Lane Moore

Director of Missions / Associational Mission Strategist

Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association

Mime Dance William Moore
New Greenwood Baptist Church

Selection(s) *New Voices of Praise*

Spoken Word *Dr. Draper S. Wright*

Invitation to Discipleship

Closing Remarks

Benediction

Dinner will be served following the service.



CHURCH HISTORY

1926-2026 | *A Century of Faith, Service, and Mission*

A Ministry Is Born: 1926-1931

In 1926, the New Zion Baptist Church (New Zion) was founded. A 45-year-old, business-minded preacher named Squire Simms answered the call of the Almighty God to become the founding pastor of a small congregation of believers who would begin this great church's ministry. Little is known about New Zion's founding pastor, except that he was born in 1881 in a small southern town in Natchitoches Parish. Shortly thereafter, he and his family moved to Shreveport. Pastor Squire Simms led New Zion until 1931, when he and his family left Shreveport and settled in California. The next 21 years of New Zion's history and its undershepherds have been lost to time. It is unclear where the congregants worshiped; however, official documents prove that the New Zion ministry continued.

A Home on Looney Street: 1939-1951

In 1939, thirteen years after its founding, New Zion rented what would become its first permanent house of worship, a small building at 1745 Looney Street in the Allendale community. Although they had only a rented building, New Zion members were grateful to have a place to worship and serve God that they could, to some extent, call their own. Bertha Brenner Florshiem, owner and president of Alphonse Brenner Furniture Co., owned the building.

In 1947, Mrs. Florshiem sold the property to Emma Lee Mitchell for \$850. Mrs. Mitchell was also a local storeowner and a prominent member of the New Zion family. On December 14, 1950, Mrs. Mitchell sold the property to New Zion for \$2,000, payable in \$20 monthly installments. For the first time in its history, New Zion began purchasing a building to serve as its place of worship.

Revival and Growth Under Pastor Angus Webber: 1952-1983

Unfortunately, over the next year, the church appeared to exist in name only. By the beginning of 1952, New Zion had no pastor, no deacons, and only a few congregants. New Zion seemed destined to fade into history. However, because God was with this ministry, He would not allow His voice through New Zion to be extinguished.

In that same year, God saw fit to revive New Zion through the calling of Rev. Angus Webber. Around mid-1952, New Zion experienced her rebirth under the leadership of Pastor Webber, a barber by trade and a man of humble spirit. He strongly desired that the church body praise and give thanks to God for continued blessings. Pastor Webber stood on Psalm 67:3.

Every Sunday morning, the congregation could be heard repeating after Pastor Webber, "Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee." Upon his calling, Pastor Webber began his evangelism efforts. Among the first members to join were Sis. Alvesta Evans, Sis. Mary Hardy (later to become Sis. Mary Webber), Sis. Thelma Wilson, Sis. Annie B. Johnson, Sis. Annie Hardy (later to become Sis. Annie Gray), and a host of others.

Under Pastor Webber's leadership, the church began

fundraising. The church was fully purchased for approximately \$2,800, and an additional \$4,700 was used for renovations. By August 1956, New Zion held its first note-burning service. A second renovation took place in 1958, and the second note-burning took place in 1959.

During Pastor Webber's 31-year tenure, blessings abounded. After a brief illness in 1983, the Lord called Pastor Webber home and put him to rest from his labor.

A Vision for Relocation Under Rev. Richard Smith: 1983-1985

In November 1983, Rev. Richard Smith was called to pastor the New Zion family. At the time of Pastor Smith's calling, New Zion was making monthly payments on a \$32,000 note for its third renovation project. Unfortunately, the renovation work was substandard and too expensive. These factors, along with the congregation outgrowing its Looney Street home, prompted Pastor Smith to introduce the vision to relocate the church.

By October 1984, the decision had been made, the funds were in place, and the church began its exodus from its familiar home to a much larger building at 5804 Southern Avenue. In July 1985, Rev. Richard Smith resigned as pastor of New Zion. For the next year, the church continued without pastoral leadership.

Growth Under Pastor Richard Richmond Nash: 1986-1989

Rev. Richmond Nash was called to the pastorate in August 1986 and officially installed on November 9th of the same year. The church experienced significant membership growth under Pastor Nash's leadership. Many members joined the church through Christian experience, baptism, or by letter. In November 1989, Rev. Nash resigned as New Zion's pastor to pursue his calling to begin a new ministry.



CHURCH HISTORY

1926-2026 | *A Century of Faith, Service, and Mission*

Renewed Growth Under Pastor Gregory Kirby: 1990-1996

After Pastor Nash's resignation, New Zion's membership declined. Nevertheless, for the next five months, the church continued without a pastor. In June 1990, Rev. Gregory Kirby was called to pastor the New Zion family and was officially installed on the 24th of that month. Under Pastor Kirby's leadership, New Zion's membership began to increase again.

Pastor Kirby proved to be an anointed teacher, orator, and great spiritual leader. In 1992, New Zion became part of the Mt. Herman District Baptist Association. The church flourished under Pastor Kirby's leadership and achieved several important goals. During this time, New Zion added numerous auxiliaries, purchased vans to support ministry transportation, and sponsored many out-of-town mission trips to advance God's kingdom.

In February 1995, New Zion was blessed with an Assistant Pastor, Rev. Philip Williamson, and a Christian Education Director, Sis. Prescola Williamson, who contributed to the church's spiritual development. In August 1996, Rev. Gregory Kirby resigned as Pastor of New Zion.

A Mission-Minded and Kingdom-Focused Church: 1997-2012

Although New Zion was again without a pastor, it was still blessed to have leadership. There was a "ram in the bush" in the form of Assistant Pastor Philip Williamson. Rev. Williamson served as interim pastor while New Zion sought God's choice of an undershepherd for this body of believers. In January 1997, with God's approval and a unanimous vote from the congregation, Rev. Philip Williamson was called to the pastorate of New Zion.

Growing up in a God-fearing family on a small island in the Bahamas, along with his accounting background, gave him spiritual insight and business acumen. This combination proved to be what New Zion needed to continue its mission of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Under Pastor Williamson's leadership, New Zion drafted a handbook of bylaws for the church's daily operations.

In May 1997, New Zion formed the NZBC Urban Corporation and was granted 501(c)(3) certification for non-profit organizations by the state of Louisiana. Through the newly formed corporation, New Zion expanded its ministry by undertaking various community-based projects supported by state and federal funding. In 1998, New Zion became an active member of the Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association through its African American Fellowship.

In 1999, the church paid the note in full, and the note-burning ceremony was held on November 12, 2000. As a mission-minded church, New Zion made her first mission trip to the Bahamas in June 2000. As blessings continued, New Zion began to realize that the best was still to come. Over the next five years, God allowed New Zion to continue her mission through various community projects and innovative ways of spreading the Gospel to those

who were lost.

Through the NZBC Urban Corporation, New Zion continued to build lasting relationships with Cedar Grove and surrounding communities by focusing on families and youth. The Good News of Jesus Christ was shared effectively, bringing many in the community to Christ. The year 2005 brought the Acts 1:8 Challenge, in which God allowed us to be witnesses in Jerusalem (our community), Judea (Start, LA), Samaria (New York, NY), and the Ends of the Earth (Brazil).

The Acts 1:8 Challenge spawned not only a mission-minded church but also a kingdom-focused church. By embodying His name, embracing His mission, and obeying His word, New Zion became an interwoven part of the Southern Baptist Convention. As God would have it, the vision for this body of believers once again brought an opportunity to purchase a larger facility in Bossier City, La., just across the Red River.

God orchestrated a sale and cash purchase of \$400,000, of which the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) gave \$75,000. In December 2006, the congregation moved to the facility at 2535 Barbara Street, which included three large structures housing over 30 classrooms, several offices, a fellowship hall with a large kitchen, and a beautiful sanctuary.

Keeping the Acts 1:8 Challenge in mind, New Zion transitioned into a kingdom-focused church, ushering in a new era of missions. As a mission church incubator, the church housed Mission Bautista Puerto Hermosa (Beautiful Gates Ministries) - a Hispanic mission; Grace Baptist Mission - an Anglican mission; Deaf Café - a deaf ministry; and Omega Ministries - an African American ministry, at this facility.

Our associate ministers, Larry Black (Faith Baptist Fellowship) and Joseph A. Johnson (Living Waters Fellowship), became church planters and pastors.



CHURCH HISTORY

1926-2026 | *A Century of Faith, Service, and Mission*

Continuing the Journey: 2012-2016

In September 2011, Pastor Philip Williamson resigned to serve as Church Strategist for the New Orleans area, as appointed by the SBC. He remained as interim pastor until Rev. Elijah Teh-Teh, one of the associate ministers, was elected and installed as pastor in April 2012.

Under Pastor Teh-Teh's leadership, the church expanded with new members added through the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), evangelism outreach groups, and additional study groups through WMU for girls, boys, and teens.

In April 2015, Pastor Teh-Teh resigned to pursue Baptist Collegiate Ministry, leaving New Zion without a pastor once again. With Christ as the head, the Deacon Board and the Trustee Board formed a structured leadership team that moved the church forward for six months.

In obedience to the Lord's leading, on October 18th, the leadership team presented Rev. Alexander Squire to the congregation and called him to serve as interim pastor while the search for a permanent pastor continued.

Continuing the Mission Under Dr. Draper S. Wright: 2016-2026

Following Rev. Alexander Squire's interim leadership, New Zion entered another important chapter in its history. On July 17, 2016, after prayerful discernment and guidance from the Holy Spirit, the congregation unanimously voted to call Dr. Draper Wright to serve as pastor of New Zion.

The congregation formally installed him as pastor on September 25, 2016, with Bishop Fred Caldwell, Sr., and the Greenwood Acres Full Gospel Church family presiding over the installation service. Dr. Wright came to New Zion with a deep love for God, His Word, biblical teaching, and family. His professional background in accounting complemented his spiritual gifts, providing practical insight into stewardship, administration, and sound decision-making.

Together, these qualities prepared him to lead New Zion while remaining firmly rooted in the church's longstanding mission to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In 2017, Dr. Wright extended New Zion's Acts 1:8 mission beyond the church's walls by holding worship services in nursing homes, ensuring that elderly residents could hear the Word of God and experience Christian fellowship.

This outreach reflected his belief that everyone deserves the opportunity to be encouraged by Scripture, regardless of who they are or where they are. Dr. Wright also rebranded several in-house small groups, including Loving Well for couples; Fresh Fire for singles and young adults; MENded Men for young boys and men; Women of Hope for women; and Go Light Our World Kidz for children.

In 2018 and 2019, the church welcomed new believers through professions of faith in Jesus Christ and baptism, reflecting a congregation committed to evangelism, discipleship, and spiritual growth.

Dr. Wright also guided the church through the challenging COVID-19 pandemic. The congregation suspended in-person services from March 2020 to July 2021. During that time, he led efforts to obtain cameras and electronic equipment to record, stream, and publish messages online.

From 2022 through this centennial year, 2026, New Zion has blossomed, adapted, and evolved in ministry. Its identity has expanded from New Zion Baptist Church to New Zion - The Well Life Church, with a purpose firmly grounded in Christ. The church remains dedicated to reaching, restoring, and refreshing lives, and it extends a heartfelt invitation to the community: "Welcome to the Well."

The church facility has also seen several meaningful improvements over the years. The sanctuary was remodeled, the multipurpose room was renovated, the hallway and bathrooms were refreshed, and a conference room was designed to provide a warm, functional space for ministry and fellowship. These improvements have helped equip the church to serve its members, guests, and community more effectively.

New Zion remains active in the Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association and in cooperative ministry across the region. The church also supports God's broader kingdom work by opening its facilities to other congregations and ministries, including City of Truth Worship Center.

As the church enters its second century, its commitment remains unchanged: to proclaim the Gospel, teach the Word of God, strengthen families, serve others, and welcome all who seek faith, restoration, and hope. With gratitude for the past and anticipation for the future, New Zion - The Well Life Church moves forward under the leadership of Dr. Draper Wright.



HONORING THE PASTORS OF NEW ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

*From Looney Street to New Zion Baptist Church on Southern Ave
to New Zion Baptist Church on Barbara Street in Bossier City, LA.*



Pastor
Squire Simms

1926-1931

*No Photo
Available*



Pastor
Angus Webber

1952-1983



Rev. Richard Smith

1983-1985



Pastor Richard
Richmond Nash

1986-1989



Pastor
Gregory Kirby

1990-1996



Dr. Philip
Williamson Sr.

1997-2012



Pastor
Elijah Teh-Teh

2012-2015



A Word from Rev. Dr. R. LaMont Smith II

Former Pastor of New Zion Baptist Church • 1983–1985



Rev. Dr. R. LaMont Smith II

*Pastor, Chapel Hill Missionary
Baptist Church
Detroit, Michigan*

*"I will sing of the mercies of the
LORD forever: with my mouth
will I make known thy faithfulness
to all generations."*

— Psalm 89:1 (KJV)

To Pastor Dr. Draper S. Wright and the New Zion Church Family

It is my honor and privilege to be included in the 100th Church Anniversary commemorative souvenir booklet for New Zion Baptist Church. This milestone is worthy of celebration and recognition of accomplishment. I'm sure you and I are on one accord when I say give God all the glory and the praise for the leadership, the membership, and the community which worked together in order to make this 100th year possible.

I often reflect on my time at New Zion as pastor. I fondly remember the support of the membership and spiritual guidance from the clergy. I wholeheartedly believe that the knowledge and wisdom imparted to me while at New Zion contributed greatly to my ministry and pastorship throughout the years. God has allowed me to celebrate and be grateful for 50 years of preaching ministry and 30 years as Pastor of Chapel Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Detroit, Michigan. My experiences while working with the New Zion family are definitely a foundational part of that rich journey.

Pastor Dr. Wright, it is my prayer that God gives you strength, courage, grace and mercy to guide you through the challenges of keeping your flock on the path of righteousness, obedience, and divine guidance as you enter the next centennial. Although today's world is different on several fronts, you must continue your quest to do as Acts 20:28 says: *"Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood"* (NIV).

New Zion leaders and members, it is my prayer that you recognize that the next 100 years will hold different trials for the church than the previous 100. Hold firm for Christ. Continue to do those things that will keep New Zion strong: attend regularly (Hebrews 10:24–25), pray consistently (Romans 12:12), live communally (Romans 12:4–5), submit to your leadership humbly (Hebrews 13:17), preserve unity (Colossians 3:14), give generously (2 Corinthians 9:7), serve faithfully (Romans 12:1), and pursue holiness (Romans 12:2).

Congratulations to everyone involved in the fruition of this 100th year milestone. May God continue to bless you and give you peace.

Touch of Love

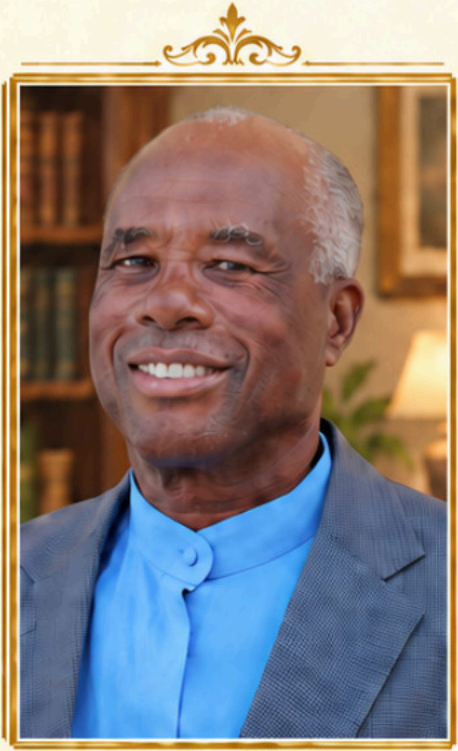
One of the Whosoever

Rev. Dr. R. LaMont Smith II



A Word from Dr. Philip Williamson Sr.

Former Pastor of New Zion Baptist Church • 1997–2012



*Pastor, New Hope Baptist Church
Pine Field, Acklins, Bahamas*

I am delighted and excited to have been invited to participate in the 100th Anniversary Celebration of New Zion Baptist Church. I was welcomed into this august body as Assistant Pastor by Pastor Gregory Kirby in 1995, and I later became Pastor in 1997, serving until 2012.

While preparing for ministry, Isaiah 6:8 was the Scripture that challenged me to go wherever the Lord would lead me. And so it was that, coming from the Bahamas, the Lord sent me to Shreveport, Louisiana—a place I had never heard of—to serve a wonderful group of people I did not yet know. The surprising part was that when I arrived, those beautiful people could hardly understand my Bahamian accent.

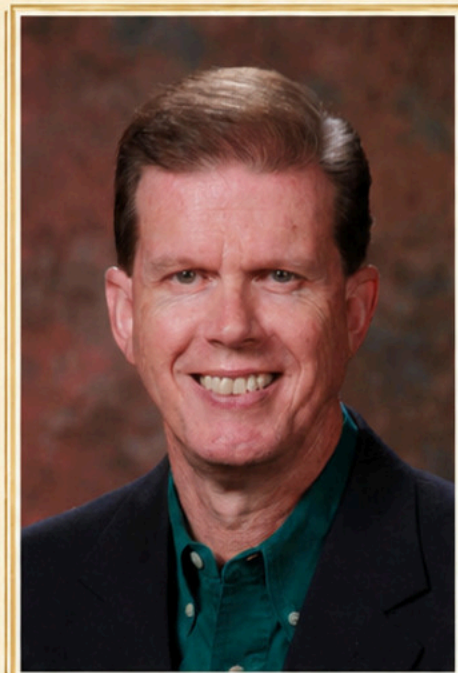
In my honest opinion, those seventeen years working with the New Zion Saints—and that is truly who they are—were the highlight of ministry for me. Though I was still fresh in ministry, they were patient with me and gave me tremendous support. As I sought to feed them the Word of God, the mothers of the church made sure my family and I were well cared for. They often invited us over to eat because, as they lovingly saw it, we needed a few more pounds.

I salute those who laid the foundation for the establishment of New Zion Baptist Church. From a small one-room building to a much larger place of worship with many rooms, New Zion has faithfully impacted lives every step of the way. The New Zion I know is a church that believes and follows the Word of God. We respected and cherished our elders, and we nurtured our children.

While we enjoyed powerful worship within the four walls of the church, we also took time to go beyond them and serve the world outside. There were prayer walks in the community, the Men's Department traveling to New Orleans to help after a hurricane, young adults going to New York to paint school buildings, pastors and leaders serving on mission trips to Africa and Brazil, and even the Music Ministry going to Paradise in the Bahamas on a "kinda" mission trip. One of my greatest joys was seeing our trained ministers go on to become leaders in their own right.

Through our various ministries, we touched many lives through early childhood education, an after-school program, a summer feeding and enrichment program, substance abuse treatment, transitional housing, and a first-time homebuyers' program—all of which made a meaningful impact.

We have now closed the chapter on the first 100 years. Pastor Wright, you and your fine congregation must now begin writing the next chapter—and may it be the best one yet.



GREETINGS FROM
REV. LANE MOORE

*Director of Missions / Associational Mission Strategist
Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association*

Dear New Zion Baptist Church of Bossier City,

God's richest blessings on your 100th anniversary celebration.

I have been honored to partner with your church in my two decades of ministry at the Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association. New Zion has been a faithful and dedicated church in our family of churches. What a rich history your church has provided in the communities of Shreveport and Bossier City.

I remember well when New Zion relocated from Shreveport to Bossier City under the leadership of Dr. Philip Williamson. Those days were challenging indeed in bringing many families of your church across the river to a new house of worship, but with God's hand of blessing and the partnership with the Louisiana Baptist Convention and the Northwest Association, you were able to accomplish great things.

I believe the years to come will offer great rewards from our Lord as Dr. Draper Wright is faithful to preach God's Word to a lost generation. I look forward to many more years of cooperative service together for Kingdom ministry.

Looking Upward to Christ,

Rev. Lane Moore

Northwest Louisiana Baptist Association
5875 W. 70th Street
Shreveport, Louisiana 71129
318-686-5736

Standing on a Century of Faithfulness

A Reflection from Rev. Dr. Joseph Allen Johnson Jr.

Ordained into the Gospel Ministry at New Zion Baptist Church • January 28, 2007



**Rev. Dr. Joseph
Allen Johnson Jr.**

MINISTER NURTURED
THROUGH NEW ZION
BAPTIST CHURCH

*"The best chapters
of New Zion's
testimony are still
being written."*

Psalm 89:1 (KJV)

*I will sing of the mercies of
the LORD for ever: with my
mouth will I make known
thy faithfulness to all
generations.*

It is a profound honor to celebrate the centennial anniversary of New Zion Baptist Church - The Well Life Church. For one hundred years, New Zion has been more than a building or an institution. It has been a spiritual well from which generations have drawn faith, strength, wisdom, and hope.

New Zion holds a sacred place in my life and ministry. It was within this church family that my calling was nurtured, examined, and affirmed. On January 28, 2007, New Zion ordained me into the gospel ministry. I remain deeply grateful for the ministers and members who prayed for me, encouraged me, challenged me, and trusted the work God was doing in my life. Their investment helped prepare me to preach the gospel, serve God's people, and carry the love of Christ beyond the walls of the church.

Wherever ministry has taken me, I have carried something of New Zion with me. I carry its reverence for God, its commitment to Scripture, its love for people, and its belief that God still calls ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary Kingdom work. The seeds planted at New Zion continue to bear fruit through every sermon preached, lesson taught, person encouraged, and community served.

To the young people and future ministers growing within New Zion: never underestimate what God can develop in you through the life of your local church. Remain teachable, stay rooted in the Word, honor those who have labored before you, and courageously follow wherever Christ leads.

As New Zion enters its second century, my prayer is that it will remain a faithful well - deep enough to preserve its heritage, fresh enough to reach a changing world, and overflowing enough to refresh generations yet unborn. May the same God who sustained New Zion from 1926 to 2026 lead the church forward with renewed vision, holy courage, and unwavering faithfulness.

Congratulations on one hundred years of ministry. The Lord has indeed done great things, and the best chapters of New Zion's testimony are still being written.

NEW ZION BAPTIST CHURCH - THE WELL LIFE CHURCH

Celebrating 100 Years of God's Faithfulness
1926 - 2026



33 Years of Reflection

A Reflection from Pastor James W. Chavis



Pastor James W. Chavis

Encouragement Ministries

*“This is why I will always
call New Zion Baptist
Church home.”*

Thirty-three years ago, when I was eight years old, New Zion Baptist Church opened her arms, welcoming and accepting me as I received the call to minister the gospel.

Throughout the years, the people of New Zion nurtured and encouraged me as I cried and stumbled my way through sermons. The pastors and leadership of the church have always given me grace to learn and grow as I journeyed through childhood, my teenage years, and young adulthood. This is why I will always call New Zion Baptist Church home.

This church has stood the test of time through depressions, recessions, times of great harvest, and lean years—all because she has never stopped searching for and following the voice of God.

My prayer and encouragement for New Zion and her people are that you never cease listening to the voice of God and that you never forget the importance of God’s people and of nurturing their relationship with Him. Growing up in a church that held these things at its core has helped shape my love for discipleship and my belief in the cultivation of every member’s relationship with Christ through programs and activities.

My prayer is that the hunger to please God and to connect more souls to Him never fades from the DNA of this church. As you press toward the future, never forget the building blocks that helped form the bedrock of this church.

Prayerfully,

Pastor James W. Chavis
Encouragement Ministries

NEW ZION BAPTIST CHURCH • THE WELL LIFE CHURCH

Celebrating 100 Years of God’s Faithfulness • 1926–2026

SECTION ONE

New Zion Early Years



*In the beginning, faith was planted,
hope took root, and a loving community
came together to build a church that
would stand for generations.*



NEW ZION
BAPTIST CHURCH
— THE WELL LIFE CHURCH —

New Zion Early Years



New Zion Early Years



New Zion Early Years



New Zion Early Years



New Zion Early Years



New Zion Early Years



New Zion Early Years



New Zion Early Years



New Zion Early Years



SECTION TWO

Faith, Family & Fellowship

— *New Zion Through the Years* —

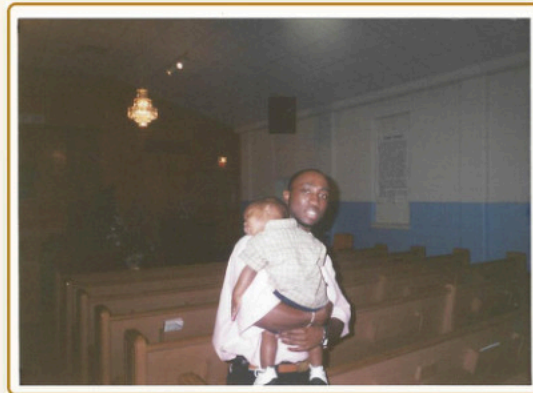
Building upon the foundation laid before them,
generations of New Zion members continued
growing together through worship, ministry,
family, and fellowship.



NEW ZION
BAPTIST CHURCH
— THE WELL LIFE CHURCH —

FAITH, FAMILY & FELLOWSHIP

New Zion Through the Years



FAITH, FAMILY & FELLOWSHIP

New Zion Through the Years



FAITH, FAMILY & FELLOWSHIP

New Zion Through the Years



FAITH, FAMILY & FELLOWSHIP

New Zion Through the Years



SECTION THREE

Note Burning Ceremony

A Vision Carried Forward

REV. RICHARD SMITH | REV. GREGORY KIRBY
PASTOR PHILLIP WILLIAMSON

New Zion's Note Burning Ceremony in 2000 fulfilled a vision carried through three pastoral seasons. Rev. Richard Smith led the congregation from Looney Street to its home on Southern Avenue, laying the foundation for a new chapter. Rev. Gregory Kirby faithfully shepherded New Zion, strengthening the ministry and carrying the work forward. Under Pastor Phillip Williamson's leadership, the congregation reached the long-awaited moment when the note was paid and burned.

This milestone belonged to all three pastors and to generations of members who prayed, gave, sacrificed, and served. One helped move the vision into place, another nurtured what had been built, and another was blessed to lead the celebration of its completion. Their shared legacy reminds us that God's work is fulfilled through many seasons and many faithful hands.

"I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase."

1 CORINTHIANS 3:6 (KJV)


NEW ZION
BAPTIST CHURCH
— THE WELL LIFE CHURCH —

NOTE BURNING CEREMONY

New Zion Baptist Church - 2000



A Legacy Fulfilled

REV. RICHARD SMITH | REV. GREGORY KIRBY
PASTOR PHILLIP WILLIAMSON

The burning of the note in 2000 was more than the retirement of a debt. It was a visible testimony to faithful leadership, sacrificial giving, and the prayers of the New Zion church family - a milestone made possible through the vision carried across three pastoral seasons.

2000

NEW ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

THE WELL LIFE CHURCH

SECTION FOUR

Youth and Young Adults



Under Pastor Phillip Williamson



*Investing in the next generation,
New Zion's youth and young adults
continued to grow through worship,
fellowship, service, and spiritual
encouragement.*



NEW ZION
BAPTIST CHURCH
— THE WELL LIFE CHURCH —

GRADUATES OF NEW ZION

Celebrating Faith, Growth, and Achievement



GRADUATES OF NEW ZION

Celebrating Faith, Growth, and Achievement



GRADUATES OF NEW ZION

Celebrating Faith, Growth, and Achievement



GRADUATES OF NEW ZION

Celebrating Faith, Growth, and Achievement



NEW ZION YOUTH

Growing in Worship, Fellowship, Service, and Faith



NEW ZION YOUTH

Growing in Worship, Fellowship, Service, and Faith



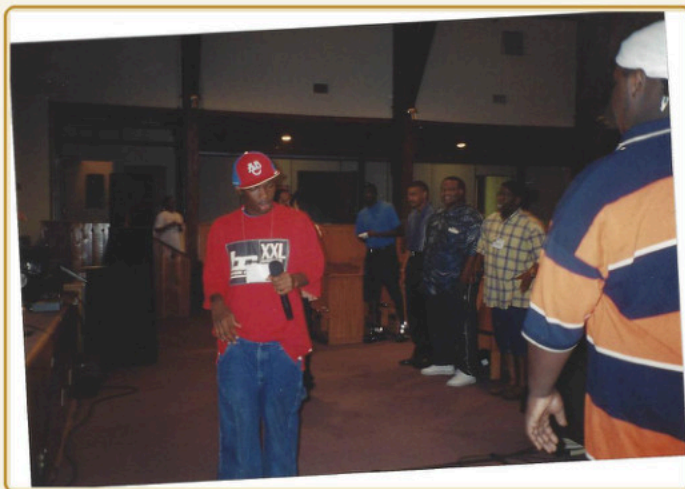
NEW ZION YOUTH

Growing in Worship, Fellowship, Service, and Faith



NEW ZION YOUTH

Growing in Worship, Fellowship, Service, and Faith



SECTION FIVE

Married Couples Ministry



*Celebrating the beauty of covenant
and companionship, this ministry
encouraged couples to grow together in
love, faith, unity, and purpose.*



NEW ZION
BAPTIST CHURCH
— THE WELL LIFE CHURCH —

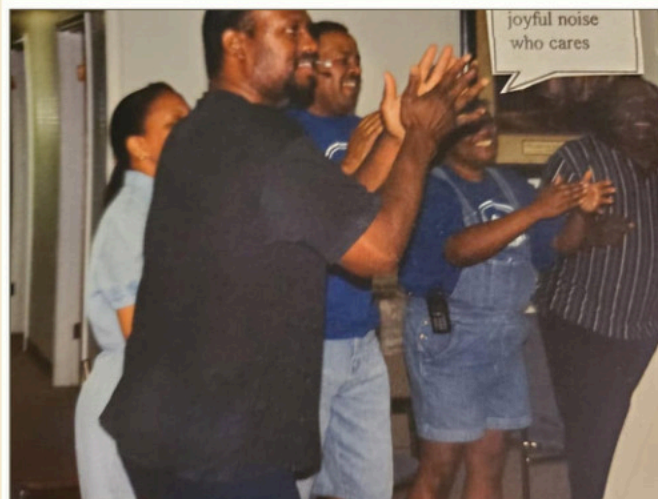
MARRIED COUPLES MINISTRY

Covenant, Companionship, and Fellowship



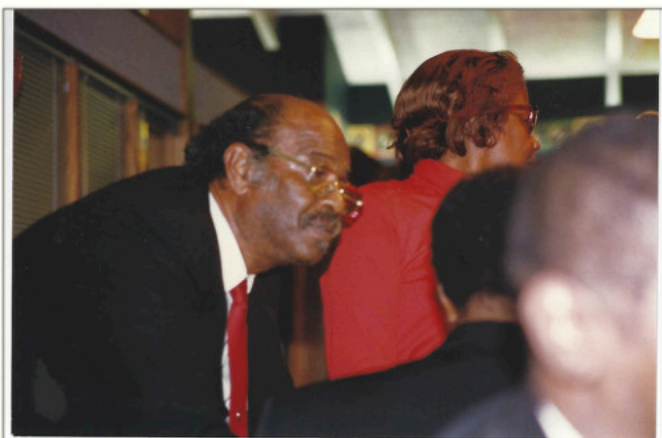
MARRIED COUPLES MINISTRY

Covenant, Companionship, and Fellowship



MARRIED COUPLES MINISTRY

Covenant, Companionship, and Fellowship



MARRIED COUPLES MINISTRY

Covenant, Companionship, and Fellowship



MARRIED COUPLES MINISTRY

Covenant, Companionship, and Fellowship



SECTION SIX

MINISTRIES

and

MINISTERS



*Through dedicated ministries and faithful ministers,
New Zion has served, nurtured, and strengthened
generations while advancing the work of the church
and glorifying God.*



NEW ZION

BAPTIST CHURCH

THE WELL LIFE CHURCH



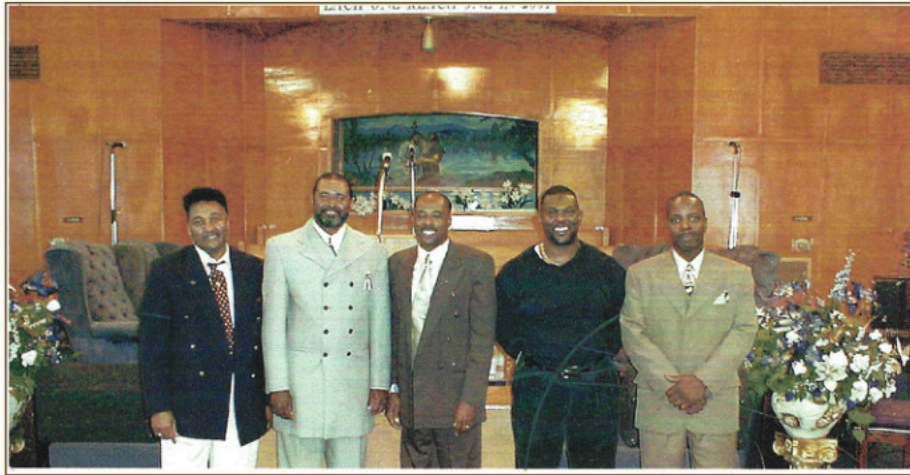
MINISTRIES

Serving Together in Faith



MINISTERS

Called to Serve and Lead





Section Seven

Building Transformation

*From Looney Street to Southern Avenue
to Barbara Street, God continued to guide
New Zion through every season of
growth and renewal.*





Building Transformation

From Looney Street to Southern Avenue

From humble beginnings on Looney Street, New Zion continued moving forward in faith. The move to Southern Avenue marked a new season of growth, and improvements to the building reflected the congregation's commitment to strengthen the house of worship for generations to come.

LOONEY STREET — WHERE WE STARTED



SOUTHERN AVENUE — A NEW SEASON OF GROWTH



IMPROVEMENTS AT SOUTHERN AVENUE





Building Transformation

Barbara Street — New Zion Baptist Church, The Well Life Church



At Barbara Street in Bossier City, New Zion continued its journey as New Zion Baptist Church, The Well Life Church. Renovations and improvements helped shape a refreshed worship space, reflecting a ministry still growing, serving, and preparing for the future.



Section Eight

A Century in Pictures

Moments, Memories & Milestones



Across generations, countless moments have become part of New Zion's story. These photographs preserve the fellowship, worship, service, celebrations, and cherished memories that have helped shape our church family.



100
Years

— 1926–2026 —



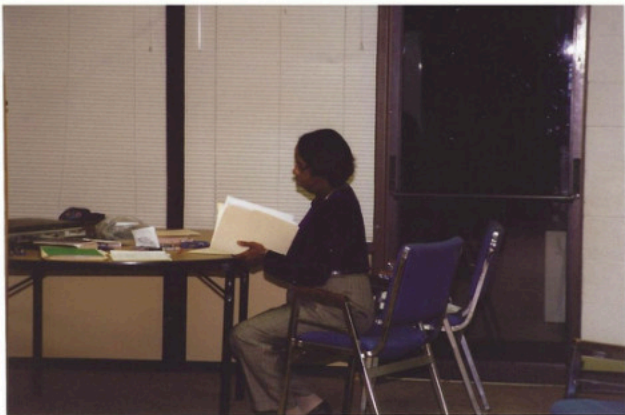
A Century in Pictures

Moments, Memories & Milestones



Section Eight • A Century in Pictures

Moments, Memories & Milestones



Section Eight • A Century in Pictures

Moments, Memories & Milestones



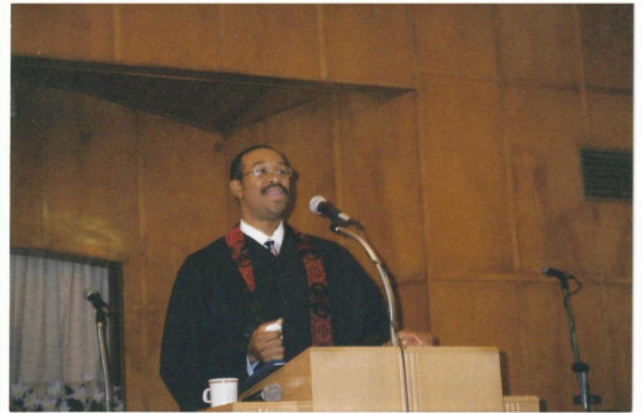
Section Eight • A Century in Pictures

Moments, Memories & Milestones



Section Eight • A Century in Pictures

Moments, Memories & Milestones



Section Eight • A Century in Pictures

Moments, Memories & Milestones



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Moments, Memories & Milestones



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Moments, Memories & Milestones



Section Eight • A Century in Pictures

Moments, Memories & Milestones



Memory Page

— Rest in Peace —



Geraldine Ashley
Gwen Autry
Sis. Opal Autry
Bro. Walter Autry Sr.
Bernadene Baker
Sis. Esterlene Beck
James Beck
Jerry Black
Sis Minda Black
Sis. Gloria Boles
Rory Bowman
Cora Callahan
Ardis Callahan
Annie Capers
Jontrell Carter
Patricia Carter
Rev. Almada Dalcort
Sallie Douglas
Joyce Douglas
Carrie Edwards
Alvesta Evans
Johnnie Gardner
Wilmer Gardner
Sis. Gussie Grant
Sis. Annie Gray
Bro. Silas Gray
Lelamae Griffin
Evelyn Harris
Susan Harrison
Evelyn Harrison
Thelma Hicks
Alfred Brown



Sis. Drucilla Ivy
Robbie Lee Jefferson
Ethel Johnson
Joyce Johnson
Rev. Gregory Kirby
Luke "Papa" Kirby
Kendrix Mangum
James Maxie Sr.
Dea. Louis Mayhorn
Sis. Mattie Mayhorn
Alice Faye McDuffey
Doris Moblin
Rev. Richmond Nash
Dea. Curtis Pennywell
Elizabeth Pennywell
Min. Michael Shivers
Rev. Squire Simms (*Founding Pastor, 1926*)
Jim Strickland
George Summers
Johnathan Swinney
Kea'Ona Swinney
Sis. Bennie Mae Taylor
Jeanette Triggs
Lorenzo Walker
JoAnne Walker
Corrine Walker
Jerry O'Neal
Tim Young
Deloris Buchannon
Doris Allen
Sis. Sarah Smith
Tina Thomas
Eric Peoples
Mark Peoples
Harold Patton
Wayne Thomas
Otis & Sis. West
Sis. Jennie Wilson



Anniversary Committee and Acknowledgements



As we celebrate 100 years of God's faithfulness, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who helped make this historic occasion possible.

We give special recognition to the women's ministry for prayerfully and faithfully putting this anniversary celebration together.

We also offer sincere appreciation to everyone who gathered photographs, researched the church history, contacted former pastors, designed materials, prepared food, decorated, and supported this special event in so many ways.

Your love, service, and dedication have helped make this centennial celebration a beautiful reflection of New Zion Baptist Church's legacy of faith, fellowship, and commitment to God's work.

May the Lord richly bless each person who contributed to this memorable occasion.



With Grateful Appreciation



NEW ZION BAPTIST CHURCH



Looking Toward the Future

The Next 100 Years: A Future of Promise

For one hundred years, New Zion Baptist Church has stood as a testimony to the faithfulness of God. Generations have worshiped, prayed, served, celebrated, and sacrificed so that those coming behind them would have a strong spiritual foundation upon which to build.

As we honor the legacy of those who came before us, we also recognize that the story of New Zion is not finished. The next chapter belongs to the generations who are coming behind us—our children, youth, young adults, families, future ministers, leaders, teachers, servants, and worshipers.

They will inherit more than a building or a century of memories. They will inherit a legacy of faith, perseverance, service, and love for God. Our prayer is that they will treasure that foundation while courageously answering the call of God for their own generation.

As New Zion Baptist Church enters its second century, may we never become so focused on where we have been that we lose sight of where God is leading us. With God before us, a strong foundation beneath us, and generations of promise ahead of us, New Zion moves forward with hope—believing that some of our greatest days of ministry are still to come.

A Century of Faith. A Legacy of Service. A Future of Promise.

 Jeremiah 29:11 (KJV) — “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD... to give you an expected end.”

100
Years

— 1926–2026 —

New Zion Baptist Church • The Well Life Church • Welcome to the Well • 1926–2026



NEW ZION BAPTIST CHURCH
THE WELL LIFE CHURCH
"WELCOME TO THE WELL"

Celebrating 100 Years of God's Faithfulness
1926-2026



Special Thanks

With heartfelt gratitude, we extend a special thank you to
BIG BILL BOUDIN BALLS & MORE
for graciously catering our Centennial Celebration and helping
make this day even more memorable.

Your generosity, delicious service, and commitment to excellence
have truly blessed our church family and guests.

Thank you for being a part of our celebration!



FOOD | FELLOWSHIP | FAMILY

*A Special Thank You for Helping
Make Our Celebration Complete!*

ON THE MENU

- Fried Catfish Filet
- Bake Chicken
- Green Beans
- Rolls
- Peach Cobbler
- Drinks
(Coke, Diet Coke,
Dr. Pepper, Sprite)

*"I will sing of the mercies of the LORD forever;
with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations."
Psalm 89:1 (KJV)*

One Century • One Church • One Faithful God

WITH GRATEFUL HEARTS



*One Century.
One Church.
One Faithful God.*

With gratitude for those who came before us,
love for those who stand beside us,
and faith for the generations still to come.



NEW ZION BAPTIST CHURCH
The Well Life Church

REACHING • RESTORING • REFRESHING LIVES



NEW ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

THE WELL LIFE CHURCH

Welcome to the Well



2535 Barbara Street
Bossier City, Louisiana



Email: thenewnzbc@gmail.com



100TH

ANNIVERSARY

REACHING • RESTORING • REFRESHING LIVES