



## A Message from Pastor Mathew

Three men were discussing their financial strategies as it pertained to giving offerings in church. The first one says, "I draw a circle on the ground and throw money up into the air. Whatever lands in the circle goes to God and the rest goes to me." The second said, "I do the same thing but whatever lands in the circle goes to me and the rest goes to God." The third one added, "I do the same except what lands on the ground belongs to me and what doesn't come back down goes to God."

\* \* \*

I remember my dentist sharing this one with me a few years back. You've got to admire the ambition of the third man, giving God every chance to miraculously snatch cash out of the air. However, I'm sure the odds were always against God. What would have been a bigger miracle would be if this man took even some of what landed on the ground and gave it to God anyway.

As Christians, we come up with so many strategies and methods not just for giving offerings but for any aspect of faith or church life. We like to give God every chance to perform a miracle. But, what would it look like if, instead of sitting idly by, we became part of the miracle? Every time we are looking for people to step up and serve or give, we automatically think, "oh, someone else will step up." We love someone else. But we can't depend on someone else.

As we begin this new year, what is a next step you can take on your discipleship path with Jesus? Would you take time to learn something new? To develop new relationships with your brothers and sisters in Christ? To serve more or in a new way? I encourage you to pray about this and instead of waiting for God do something miraculous for you, let God do something miraculous through you.

God's peace,

Pastor Mathew

### OUR MISSION: WHY WE EXIST

To bring people into a covenantal relationship with the Lord (Matthew 28:19-20), and to equip them for personal growth and impact (Ephesians 4:11-26).



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### Communications Team

*Cara Mittenzwey*

*Carolyn Giovannitti*

*Cheryl Squier*

## INTRODUCING THE 2023 COUNCIL OF ELDERS

Hal Donachy	President
Catey Gosnell	Vice President, Youth Ministry Liaison
Cindy Kriner	Secretary, Christian Life Ministry Liaison
Stephen Gilg	Member, Property Ministry Liaison
Laura Brodland	Member, Family Ministry Liaison
Steele Roberts	Member, Health & Safety Committee Liaison
Colin Neill	Member, Discipleship Liaison

Throughout 2023, please pray and support Zion's leaders and ministries that their work may be exemplary in all that they do and bring glory to God.

If you are interested in sharing your time or talent with any ministry or committee, please contact the church office, the COE liaison or the Ministry/Committee chair.

*"But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant."*  
Matthew 20:26

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## BRENTWOOD LIGHT UP NIGHT

Thanks to Zion's Angelus Ringers and other volunteers for braving the cold winds to share God's glory through their beautiful music and to the Quilters who worked with the music ministry to design the Angelus Ringer Banner.



## Prayer Concerns

Michael Capozzoli  
Marilyn Detwiler  
Corey Fischer  
George Langford  
Shirley Mosticone  
Curt Neill  
Ian Oeler  
Glenn & Phyllis Ribblett  
Ruth Rodkey  
Bill Savage  
Pat Sheridan  
Larry Shurtz  
Karen Stoddart

ZLC

## BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

### January

Laura A Thatcher	January 14, 2018
Liam M Haugh	January 8, 2012
Cassandra J Robinson	January 8, 2006
Timothy J Gruntz	January 7, 2017
Savanna J Lewis	January 13, 2007
Charles W Marsch	January 28, 2006
Alexandra E Gosnell	January 18, 2009
Benjamin J Grice	January 10, 2016

\*If we are missing your child's baptism date, please advise the church office.



## January Mission

### Mission of Mercy

Mission of Mercy Pittsburgh held a 2-day dental clinic that provided 7,210 free dental procedures to those in need in 2022. For more information go to:

[Home Page - Mission of Mercy Pittsburgh :Mission of Mercy Pittsburgh \(mompgh.org\)](#)

If you would like to share a prayer of praise or thanksgiving in a future newsletter, please notify the office.

*Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Jesus Christ.  
1 Thessalonians 5:18*

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Zion's annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 22nd following 10:30 a.m. worship. Please plan to attend.





**HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR!**

### **RALLY DAY WINTER CARNIVAL**

PRE-K—5th grade

January 8, 2023

RSVP by signing on  
poster or by texting

Rodlyn Checcio

412-445-9381 or

Laura Brodland

412-901-0188



## **PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR**

May God make your year a happy one!  
Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain,  
But by strengthening you to bear it as it comes;  
Not by making your path easy,  
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;  
Not by taking hardships from you,  
But by taking fear from your heart;  
Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,  
But by keeping your face bright even in the shadows;  
Not by making your life always pleasant,  
But by showing you  
when people and their causes need you most,  
And by making you anxious to be there to help.  
God's love, peace, hope and joy to you  
For the year ahead.

*Anonymous*

## **CHRISTMAS EVE AT ZION**



## Weekend Experience Team, Strategic Planning

*by Joe Robinson, Laura Brodland, Catey Gosnell*

It has been a great year with more people attending services in-person and more in-person opportunities. As part of the five-year strategic plan implemented by the Council of Elders in 2021, a team was formed to focus on improving the visitors' and members' experience from the moment they enter Zion through to exiting the parking lot. Our goal is to glorify God and share the love of Jesus in everything we do.

During 2022, we put thought and effort into the experience by working with the staff and ministries at Zion. We created welcoming areas in the Narthex and lower entrance near the stairs. When you enter the Narthex, there are items on the **"about us"** table on the right, such as pamphlets about Zion's ministries, information about Zion being a NALC congregation, and various other items that may help members and visitors discern how they may plug in and help glorify God through worship, ministry work and fellowship. Thank you to the ministry leaders who provided the great input for these brochures. The other **"want to learn more"** table on the left has items geared to members and items to help with hearing or seeing during worship. Coming soon to both welcoming areas will be a **Ministry Needs Cross** so that we can bear a little bit of the cross that Zion's ministries carry and provide a small amount of help through giving items, time, or donations. The concept will be similar to the Angel Tree during Advent and the Giving Cactus used to obtain donations for VBS.

Weekend Experience helped with the purchase of Zion's new keyboard to improve the worship experience by having a variety of music styles. We provided name tags for church leaders and ushers to help visitors feel more comfortable asking questions. Soon you will see English Standard Version (ESV) Bibles in the pews. The service readings and lessons will match the wording in the ESV Bible which is used by NALC.

Those who graciously donated the current pew Bibles will have an opportunity to receive one for their home. Most recently, the Weekend Experience team partnered with the Ministry of Property to purchase new carpeting for the lower entrance and elevator. We hope to have it installed during the first quarter of 2023. Again, a huge thanks to all who's donations and time helped in the above projects!

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## Communications Team, Strategic Planning

The communication's team focus is to enhance communications across Zion. We were pleased to publish Zion's newsletter during 2022 and look forward starting monthly publications in 2023. Please reach out to the Communication's Team chair to share your concerns and solutions related to improving communications.



Communication's Chair: Cheryl Squier [clsquier@comcast.net](mailto:clsquier@comcast.net)