

# Burlington Zion Express

September 2015



## Living with the Questions

**Zion Church** is full of the most amazing people! I am routinely amazed by their passion for the vulnerable, their extravagant generosity of their time and treasure, and by their love for the Gospel lived out in love for their neighbors.

Some of my favorite people here describe themselves as being in “Recovery” from one or another religious tradition which left them feeling wounded and shamed rather than confident of the inescapable love of God. The best part about these saints of Zion is that they bring their doubts and uncertainties right up front. They are not afraid to put their questions on the table in front of God and everybody and challenge us to answer.

I grieve along with them as they struggle. I know something about that kind of pain when one must come to terms with the misinformation misery caused by well-meaning Church structures. For many, the damage is real, it is deep, and it has created an enormous roadblock in their search for ultimate Truths. I pray for the healing of their pain, and I rejoice to watch their journey; rejoice because I am confident that the loving Jesus who invites us to follow him will not abandon us until we have reached our goal.

*(Continued on following page)*

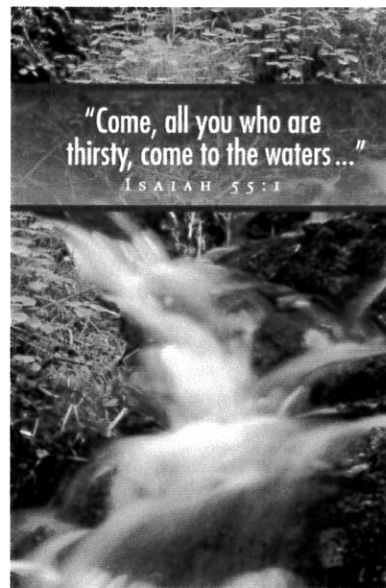
*(Pastor's Page continued)*

My favorite searchers reject the simplistic answers, insisting on deeper truths. So it would be foolish of me to offer trite answers to profound questions, but here is an image that helps me think about the larger questions.

Jesus makes reference to God's Holy Spirit as like 'living water.' If the goal of religion is to bathe people in living water, then the Church is the water pipe. The water pipe's job is to deliver the water reliably, adding as little contamination as possible. Religion is the delivery system; what is important is the living water it delivers.

Some of us have been injured by contamination from the pipe while we have been in search of the water that cleanses and refreshes us. Even so, I am confident that the refreshing stream of living water from God will overcome any contamination the Church has added. It is an honor to walk beside all of Zion's people as they seek the living water that restores us. To all of you who so boldly bring your doubts and questions, I say 'thank you.' Your honest searching is invaluable to us all.

Grace and peace,  
Brice





## Worship

### Sunday, September 6 - Communion

10:00 am: Worship

Scripture: James 2:1-10, 14-17

### Sunday, September 13

8:45 am: Adult Sunday School

10:00 am: Worship and Children's Church

Scripture: James 3:1-12; Mark 8:34-38

11:00 am: "Back to Church" Fellowship

### Sunday, September 20

8:45 am: Adult Sunday School

10:00 am: Worship and Children's Church

Scripture: James 3:13 - 4:3,7-8a;  
Mark 9:33-37

11:00 am: Coffee Hour

### Sunday, September 27

8:45 am: Adult Sunday School

10:00 am: Worship and Children's Church

Scripture: James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50

11:00 am: Coffee Hour

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## **"BACK TO CHURCH" SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13**

Please join us on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, as we start our fall programs! At 8:45 am will be the first session of our Adult Sunday School class downstairs in the library area. During the 10 am worship service, Children's Church will resume. Following the worship service there will be a Chuck Wagon BBQ provided by Board of Christian Education and the Fellowship Committee. Come to church on September 13<sup>th</sup>!!

## Worship Helpers

September audio/visual: Scott Wood

September church closer: Rodney & Barb Botts

### Sunday, September 6

Communion preparers: Sandy Deal and  
Martha Landstrom

Greeters: Joe and Sandy Deal, Marvin and  
Marcia Fraise

Reader: Sandy Levins

Tower bell: Paula Mehaffy

Valet: Bill Daws

### Sunday, September 13

Greeters: Rich and Deb Goble, Teresa and  
Matthew Heitmeier, Janet McCannon

Reader: Paula Renard

Tower bell: Will Neises

Valet: Rich Goble

### Sunday, September 20

Greeters: Jeanette Fisher, Matthew Patrick,  
Paula Renard, Judy Tomkins

Reader: Mike Collentine

Tower bell: Jakob Welch and Marlis Robberts

Valet: Marvin Fraise

### Sunday, September 27

Greeters: George and Velma Johnson, Lin  
Parks, Deb Ruble

Reader: Teresa Heitmeier

Tower bell: Abbi Eden

Valet: Tom Ralston



## Church School News

by Janice Gibson

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### Children's CHURCH



### Howdy Pardners! Time to saddle up for Children's church!

Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, will kick off another year of Children's Church, and the whole herd is headed West to the Circle G Ranch! *Rodeo Kids: The Adventure of the Open Door!* will be the theme for the month of September. The activities will center around "door" stories from the Bible - Jesus knocking at the door, accepting all at our church door, "knock and the door will be opened," and others - all within a rodeo/dude ranch/Wild West kind of theme. Sounds dad-burned crazy, but it will be bronco-bustin' fun!

**A special invitation to the entire church:** September 13<sup>th</sup> will be especially fun, as we'll have a Chuck Wagon BBQ immediately after the 10:00 am service. Everyone is invited to attend and wear your best Western duds! (Not your Best Western duds!) This would be a good time to invite neighbors and friends to visit and enjoy some grub on us!

Until then, I'll leave you with some sound cowboy advice: "Always drink upstream from the herd." -- Will Rogers.



Zion's Coffee Hour fellowship will resume on **Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>**. Please join us downstairs in the fellowship hall after church for our "Back to Church Sunday" time together.

#### September 13: Chuck Wagon BBQ

provided by the Board of Christian Education and the Fellowship Committee

**September 20:** Lisa Neises

**September 27:** Connie Ralston and Cathy Schnicker

**October 4:** Janet McCannon and Donna Norris

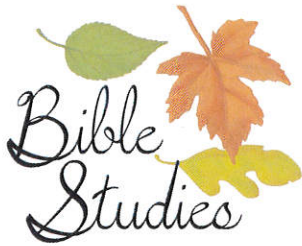
Please check the signup sheet on the bulletin board at the back of the sanctuary if you can help out this fall. Remember – you can make it as simple or as elaborate as you want.



### Stained Glass!

Zion is blessed with many large beautiful stained glass windows which greatly enhance our worship experience. The windows have reached an age where they will soon need some expensive maintenance work.

If you would be willing to serve on a committee that will create a phased in plan for dealing with the windows and raising the funds to finance the work, please contact the church office or Brice.



**Tuesdays**  
**7:30 am**  
**Diggers Rest**  
**Coffeehouse**

--- AND ---

**Wednesdays at the Church – 6pm**  
**Beginning September 2**

In ADDITION to the Tuesday morning Diggers Rest group, Pastor Brice will begin offering a Bible Study on **Wednesday nights before choir rehearsal**. The Wednesday evening Bible Study will cover the same lectionary texts (shown in the Worship section of the newsletter) as Tuesday mornings. Meet from **6:00–7:00 pm downstairs in the Adult Sunday School area**. This will begin on **September 2<sup>nd</sup>**.

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If you love to sing, you will love singing with the Zion choir! Please join us starting on Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 7:00 – 8:00 pm in the rehearsal area behind the sanctuary.

Any questions, feel free to contact me at 319-850-2181 or email at [gibbyjl@msn.com](mailto:gibbyjl@msn.com).

Janice Gibson  
Choir Director

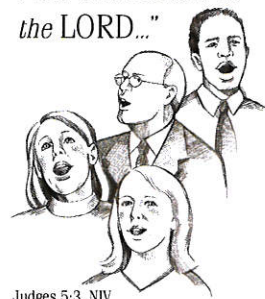


The **Adult Sunday School** class will resume on Sunday, September 13, **promptly at 8:45 am** in the downstairs library area. The curriculum being used is *The Present Word*, a popular adult quarterly Bible curriculum developed by The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). It is an ideal fit for UCC congregations.

Through the exploration of biblical text, adult study groups are invited into a deepened relationship with God. *The Present Word* engages participants in an experiential style of learning-connecting faith and life. Fall 2015 has three units. Theme: "The Christian Community Comes Alive."

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*"I will sing to the  
LORD, I will sing;  
I will make music to  
the LORD..."*



**Sing-along**  
**at**  
**Klein Center**

**Sunday,**  
**September 27**  
**2:00 p.m.**

We will also resume our monthly sing-alongs in September. Please join us at Great River Klein Center on Sunday afternoon, September 27, at 2:00, to sing with the residents there.

This is a very worthwhile ministry so please plan to participate if you can.



## Annual Paint-a-thon

Sept. 8 - 12

The annual community Paint-a-thon is scheduled for the week after Labor Day, with the final day being on Saturday, September 12.

The **signup sheet** is posted on the bulletin board. You are still encouraged to sign up. There are also waiver forms there that need to be completed before beginning.

Our house is located at 708 S. Leebrick, and we will be teaming up with St. Luke UCC and The Hawk Eye.

Pam Daws and Paula Renard will be co-chairs again this year, so feel free to contact either of them with any questions.

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## Great River Hospice House

Thursday, September 17

5:30 p.m.

Zion Church will be providing the **evening meal** at the Great River Hospice House on **Thursday, September 17**, for the visiting family members of the people who are patients there.

A **signup sheet** will soon be posted on the bulletin board for all those interested in **helping out** with this meal. You may also contact **Paula Renard** with any questions or for more details.



The late **C.D. (Tommy) Tomkins** (husband of Judy Tomkins) was selected as one of the two inductees this year into the **Iowa Aviation Hall of Fame**. The award is in recognition of his contributions to the field of aviation.

The induction reception and dinner is being held on **Saturday, August 29**, at the Iowa Aviation Museum in Greenfield, Iowa. The museum is the only place in Iowa which focuses on the state's aviation heritage.

You may visit the [www.flyingmuseum.com](http://www.flyingmuseum.com) website for more information about him and his career and the Iowa Aviation Museum.



Monday,  
September 14

1:00 – 6:00 pm

## First United Church of Christ Buescher Parlor

This year's **Downtown Burlington Churches Blood Drive** will be hosted by First UCC, located at 611 Columbia St. at the top of Snake Alley.

If someone would be willing, we need a volunteer to be the Blood Drive Coordinator for Zion to be responsible for getting Zion people signed up to give. The last date that donors could give and still be eligible to give in this drive is July 20.

## Bridging the Gap Update

During the month of August, our Bridging the Gap program assisted several families through our Love Fund and Food Pantry resources.

- We helped with 6 utility bills.
- We assisted 3 families with their rent.
- We provided 6 gas vouchers.
- We helped with 5 water bills.
- We provided 5 monthly bus passes.
- We also gave out food to 28 families from our food pantry.

Thank you for all your donations of food and money! They help so much.

Deb Ruble, Director  
Bridging the Gap

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## 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on the 20<sup>th</sup>!

You are invited to an **Open House at Kindermusik on the River** in the downstairs rooms of our church on **Sunday, September 20**, from **3:00 - 4:30 p.m.** “Miss Janice” has been teaching Kindermusik for 20 years, and a celebration is in order!

Come for refreshments, music by former Kindermusik students, view photos and video from the last 20 years, and win a door prize! Even if you just want to learn what Kindermusik is all about, come and say hello!



## Highway Cleanup

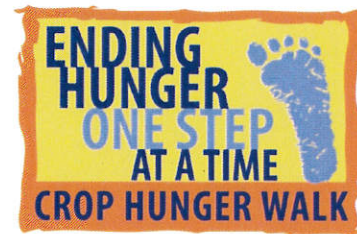
**Saturday,  
October 3,  
9:00 a.m.**



Zion is responsible for cleaning a one mile stretch of highway south of Burlington on Highway 61 twice a year. We do this in May and October.

Please meet at Zion at 9:00 a.m. to carpool to the location. The D.O.T. provides reflection vests, trash bags, and vinyl gloves. All helpers are welcome! Any questions, please contact Gail Lawlor.

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**Ending Hunger One Step at a Time!  
Sunday, October 11, 1:30 p.m.**

The Burlington Area Crop Hunger Walk will be held on Sunday, October 11, at 1:30 pm. It will start and end this year at The Loft at 416 Jefferson Street. Lyle Gibson is Zion's representative again this year. He will be in the narthex following the worship service on September 27, October 4, and October 11, to sign up walkers and/or receive your donations.

The Crop Walk is an arm of Church World Service. "Rain or Shine, we walk, because others must walk for food, water, firewood, and other life necessities."

## **NOIZ Nites for Families**

The first fall event for NOIZ Nites will be on **Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>**, from 5:30 - 7:00 pm. Stay tuned for details!!

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On **Sunday, October 11, at 4:00 p.m.** we will have a square dance in our fellowship hall with caller Tom Manning.

We'll start off with a spaghetti supper provided by the Fellowship Committee. Then we'll have a fun time of square dancing! Please come prepared for a good time, whether you dance or just watch.

A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board around the middle of September.

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We forgot to advertise the "5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Food Collection" in August so rather than wait until we have another five Sunday month, we invite you to bring food for our food pantry any time!

Please bring cans, jars, or boxes of food whenever you are able to during the next few weeks. Our food pantry needs to be replenished on a regular basis. Thank you!



From the family of **Rev. David Michael** who passed away on June 7, 2015:

*Dear Zion Church Friends,*

*Thank you for your prayers, calls and cards during Dave's short, painful illness. Your support helped us cope during this sad and stressful time in our lives. We were so fortunate to be a part of three loving and dedicated congregations throughout Dave's forty years in the ministry. Our family misses him, but we're glad the pain is done. I'd like to say "Well done, good and faithful servant" but I hear this whisper, "Come on, Linda, you know I could have done much, much more!"*

*With love,  
Linda, Sara, Tim and Johanna*

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## **Iowa Conference UCC Annual Business Meeting Saturday, October 17**

The annual meeting will take place at Plymouth Congregational UCC at 4126 Ingersoll Avenue in Des Moines.

Check-in is at 9:00 am, and the opening worship/business begins at 10:30 am. Cost is \$25/person, which includes lunch. The registration deadline is Friday, September 25. Walk-ins are welcome, but there is no guarantee of meal or materials.



## The Most Bang for Your Buck



### You want the most Bang for your Buck.

When you make your donations to charitable causes, you want to feel confident that you are having the best impact. Some charities do a better job than others about making sure that your donation actually benefits the people you intend. Some charities do not. For example, it has been widely reported that Goodwill Industries pays its CEO \$2.3 Million dollars a year, and that eight cents of your dollar actually reaches needy patrons. Red Cross pays its CEO \$562,364. Heifer Project pays its CEO \$313,008 annually.

Some charities spend almost all the funds donated to raise more funds. Heifer Project spends 20% of its budget on fundraising, 8.7% on administrative costs.

You can see an extensive list of Charities compared at <http://www.charitynavigator.org>.

Church World Service, which presents the CROP Hunger Walk, and Blanket Sunday spends 9.7% on fund-raising, and 4.1% on Management and General uses. CWS pays its CEO an annual salary of \$213,961. For the details on Church World Service Annual Report, go to [www.cwsannualreport.org](http://www.cwsannualreport.org).



Your donation does great work when you share with Church World Service.

You can be confident as you support CWS with your gifts. Please consider walking for CROP HUNGER Walk on October 11, or make a donation to one of the other walkers.

--Pastor Brice



Because of your generosity and courage and bold following of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Zion Church has been a leader in the progressive movement in Burlington, and across the Iowa Conference of the UCC for more than 150 years. Your time, talents, and treasure are what keep us strong. We have a vision of what it means to follow Jesus in this world; a vision that is amazing and exciting and life-giving. You have invested of yourself through the resources God has given you—through your prayers, your time, and your money.

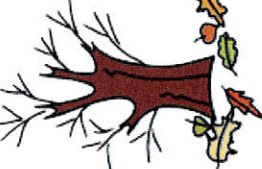




Zion's mission has been shining out in Burlington for most of Burlington's existence. And like trees planted by the water, we will continue to be strong and vibrant, and produce a harvest of fruit for the Kingdom of God. Your extravagant giving allows us to reach out to others who are seeking a place where they can feel accepted and loved for who they are, where everyone is welcomed. Your giving ensures that Zion will continue to remain a strong, progressive, positive presence here on the side of the hill. God is still speaking; and you have been listening and responding. Thanks be to God.

--Pastor Brice



# September 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <b>10:00 am:</b> Worship No Coffee Hour	 <b>7</b> <b>LABOR DAY</b>	<b>1</b> <b>7:30 am:</b> Bible Study at Diggers Rest <b>7:00 pm:</b> Stewardship Committee	<b>2</b> <b>6:00 pm:</b> Bible Study <b>7:00 pm:</b> Choir	<b>3</b> <b>6:00 pm:</b> Elders <b>7:00 pm:</b> Consistory	<b>4</b> Pastor Brice's day off	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> <b>10:00 am:</b> Worship No Coffee Hour	 <b>7</b> <b>LABOR DAY</b>	<b>8</b> <b>7:30 am:</b> Bible Study at Diggers Rest <b>7:00 pm:</b> Building & Grounds Committee	<b>9</b> <b>6:00 pm:</b> Bible Study <b>7:00 pm:</b> Choir	<b>10</b> Pastor Brice's day off	<b>11</b> Pastor Brice's day off	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> <b>8:45 am:</b> Adult Sunday School <b>10:00 am:</b> Worship & Children's Church <b>11:00am:</b> Chuck Wagon BBQ	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Annual Community Paint-a-thon --- September 8 - 12</b>			<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> <b>8:45 am:</b> Adult Sunday School <b>10:00 am:</b> Worship & Children's Church <b>11:00am:</b> Coffee Hour	<b>21</b> <b>1 - 6 pm:</b> Downtown Churches Blood Drive at First UCC	<b>22</b> <b>7:30 am:</b> Bible Study at Diggers Rest <b>6:00 pm:</b> Social Justice Committee	<b>23</b> <b>6:00 pm:</b> Bible Study <b>7:00 pm:</b> Choir 	<b>24</b> Pastor Brice's day off	<b>25</b> Pastor Brice's day off	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> <b>8:45 am:</b> Adult Sunday School <b>10:00 am:</b> Worship & Children's Church <b>11:00am:</b> Coffee Hour <b>2:00 pm:</b> Sing-along	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>7:30 am:</b> Bible Study at Diggers Rest	<b>30</b> <b>6:00 pm:</b> Bible Study <b>7:00 pm:</b> Choir			

# September 2015: We are One Family

BY LOREN MCGRAIL

**Every ethnic group in heaven or on earth is recognized by God. Ephesians 3: 15**

Here at the YWCA of Palestine, we are celebrating the completion of our report on the international conference on Women's Freedom, Peace, and Dignity in Palestine. The conference was attended by people from all around the world who are working on issues related to women and violence and women's leadership. A number of staff and board members from Global Ministries as well as the Executive Minister of the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries attended this historic conference and helped contribute to its success.

I am also working on our new electronic newsletter that is a compilation of news stories about how the occupation is affecting women's lives, and how women are standing up for their rights under patriarchy. I am continuously exploring new ways to tell our story and call for advocacy. Some stories never make the news, but quietly happen every day. This is one of my experiences:

Walking down the Via Dolorosa (the Way of Sorrows) in Jerusalem just before Station of the Cross #8, I stopped to buy three little Hebron pottery bowls to replace the ones the cats and I broke. After paying my Muslim friend the shopkeeper, I was asked if I would do him a favor. I said of course. He wrote down the name of a Christian man and asked that I pray for him. He said he was a friend of the family and that this man was very sick. They had already gone to the Holy Sepulcher and lit a candle. Could I do the same at St. Andrews?

This circle of love by Muslims praying for Christians doesn't make it into the news but it happens all the time, naturally. We are of one family not just Christ's body.

*Rev. Loren McGrail, serves our Mission Partner the YWCA of Palestine. Her appointment is made possible by your gifts to Disciple's Mission Fund, Our Church's Wider Mission and your special gifts.*



## Global Ministries



# **The BZ Express**

**September 2015**

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## **Zion United Church of Christ**

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515-450-1321 – Pastor's cell

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Pastor's email: [bricehughes@hotmail.com](mailto:bricehughes@hotmail.com)

Website: [www.zionuccburlington.org](http://www.zionuccburlington.org)

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## **Staff**

**Rev. Brice Hughes**, Pastor

**Janice Gibson**, Organist, Pianist, Music Director,  
and Christian Education Director

**Marilyn Stein**, Office Administrator

**Kay Jacobs**, Treasurer's Assistant

**Renita Jarrett**, Choir Accompanist and  
Wedding Coordinator

**Megan Agnew**, Nursery Supervisor

**Tom Kenney**, Custodian

## **Volunteer**

**Deb Ruble**, Director of Bridging the Gap