

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR ZION!

Each Sunday	9:30 am 10:40 am	Sunday School Worship Service
Each Wednesday	7:00 pm	Family Ministries

April 1	6:30 pm	Maundy Thursday Service
April 4	10:40 am	Easter Service
April 7	6:15 pm	Family Jam
April 11	12:00 pm	Guess Who's Coming to Dinner Drawing
April 13	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Deacons Meeting Leadership Team Meeting
April 16 & 17		MCC Sale
April 17	7:00 am	Men's Breakfast
April 20	9:00 am	Sewing Circle
April 25	12:00 pm	Potato Bar and Bake Sale

Please remember to contact the Church Office by the 20th of each month about any dates or articles that you would like included in the next newsletter. It is appreciated.



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April 2010 Newsletter

Potato Bar & Bake Sale

Fundraiser for Youth Camp Sunday, April 25

Everyone is invited to stay for a meal after church on April 25th that includes baked potatoes with lots of tasty toppings.

Following the meal will be an auction to sell items that members of the youth group, as well as other Zion attendees, have made.

Baked goods are the most common item sold, however, hand-crafted items have also been a big hit in the past. Money raised goes to assist in paying students' fees to youth camp and other conferences throughout the year.

The cost of the week-long camp that Zion youth attend in Colorado is about \$220. Often many students go to camp that do not attend another church, and XYZ and youth camp may be the primary spiritual influences in their lives. It is a blessing to be able to remove any financial obstacles to such events that encourage their salvation and spiritual growth in Christ.

We hope you'll join us on April 25th! Please sign up in the foyer if you plan to bring something for the auction.

From Pastor Bob:

I'm going to try something new. It's something that I've been wanting to do for a long time, but didn't really know how to go about it most effectively. So, I finally have a plan and we'll see how it goes. But before I tell you what it is I can't emphasize enough that in order for it to have worth I will need your help.

Here it is, I've been wanting to find a place where 2 objectives could happen: 1) that you would have a place to give feedback pertaining to a sermon, process through it and ask questions and 2) a place that before a sermon was preached I could give you the passage that we will be working through and you could add your insight or stories or illustrations concerning this passage that I could potentially use to help in my sermon preparation. With much help from Karen and Heather we have started 2 blogs that will allow both of these to occur.

And it is a very simple process. You can go to our website www.zionbic.org and on it you will find links that will take you right to my blog. So I have one blog set up where you can react to the sermon (entitled: "Got Questions?") let me know what you are thinking, how God is challenging you or leave me questions that you have, which I will do my best to answer. And on the other I'm asking you for your help and input (entitled: "Just Bob Bouncing his Thoughts Around"). This space is created so that you would have the opportunity to give me your thoughts, stories and illustrations, pertaining to an upcoming sermon passage.

I am really excited about both of these opportunities and I hope you will be as well. I look forward to hearing your reactions and God's interaction with you from week to week. It is extremely encouraging to hear about God's work in our lives and the difference he makes. I am also excited to learn from the community as I head into sermon preparation. God has spoken to all of us and has given us different experiences and vantage points. So, I'm looking forward to our interaction and encourage you to check out the blogs and the discussion that takes place and don't be shy about entering into the discussion. I can't promise that I will always respond within the day to your questions or thoughts, but I'll do my best to stay engaged in the process and reply to the questions and insights.

So, we're going to give it a try and see how it works. I hope it is a helpful tool for you to process, question and add to the discussion! Thanks in advance for all your help and insight into this adventure.

-Bob

Kids Zone

**Striving to
make Christ real to every child,
and to see every child live fully for Christ:**

REACHING
the next generation one at a time

HELPING
them experience the love of Christ

GROWING
kids in knowledge, character & conduct

Over the course of the last few months, you have read how our Kids' Team has developed our purpose statement for the children's ministry and has intentionally chosen programming that will support these goals. So far, we have introduced our Wednesday night and Sunday School programming. The last significant time of training for our kids is during Children's Church on Sunday mornings.

What happens after all of those little feet go stampeding out of the sanctuary on a Sunday morning? While we adults are being instructed in God's Word from the pulpit, our children are studying systematic theology in their own way! Engaging Bible lessons, active review games, hands-on crafts, and even snacks all serve to reinforce one main concept & Scripture verse that we want students to remember each month.

My favorite part of these lessons is the way we present Bible stories. Our curriculum creators have researched the geographical and historical details that surround each of our Bible lessons so well that it makes it easy to explain that these were real events that happened to real people in real places at a very real point in history! I was personally thrilled to see pictures of the Altar to an Unknown God (Acts 17) and to see photographs of the fields of Jezreel where Naboth's vineyard may have stood (1 Kings 21).

The same God that was active then is still active in the world around us and changing our hearts today! It's so important to us that our children grasp this at a young age and allow Him to transform their lives into His likeness. Children's church is one more opportunity to engage our little ones with the knowledge of God's Word.

-Heather Beaty

Get to know the Bathurst Family

Estol grew up outside of Abilene and graduated from Chapman. He spent many hours working on the family farm and taking part in youth group activities. I grew up mostly in Pratt, KS and enjoyed riding horses. Estol and I met through some mutual friends during our junior year at K-State. We each enjoyed our years at K-State and were involved in the Navigators campus ministry where we really grew in our walks with Christ. After we started dating we had fun getting to know each other and going on motorcycle rides. We got married in 2003 after our senior year. Since then, Estol has worked on the family farm, been the youth pastor at Zion, worked at Great Plains Manufacturing, and he now works for Crop Service. I worked full-time at Memorial Health System as the dietitian before our twins were born, and now work there one day a week. We were blessed with twin boys in 2006! Landon and Leighton unexpectedly arrived nine weeks early and spent about 5 ½ weeks in the hospital in Topeka. We praise the Lord for how He took care of the twins during and after their premature birth. Today Landon & Leighton love trains, tractors, and playing outside. Jackson was born last year and tries to keep up with the big boys as much as possible! We are enjoying life with three boys and desire to live our lives for Jesus Christ and His glory.

~Estol and Kristen Bathurst

We are creating a new pictorial directory!

The leadership team decided it was time for an updated pictorial directory. We would like to get updated pictures of everyone in the church to include in this directory.

So, in the month of April, there will be time after the service to get your picture taken with Jim Brown in the fellowship hall. If you prefer, you can submit a current picture of your family.

Check your mailbox for a letter with more information.

Are you Graduating?



If you, or someone you know here at Zion is graduating from 8th or 12th grades or from College, please contact the Church Office with the names of all graduating persons. We need each graduate to provide a picture when they were a baby, in Jr. High, High school and college as applicable.

We will be celebrating with graduates on Sunday May 16.



Mennonite
Central
Committee

**April 16 & 17
in Hutchinson**

**For more
information and a
schedule of
activities go to:**

www.kansas.mccsale.org

Abilene Area Food & Clothing Center

Once a year Zion Brethren in Christ Church partners with Abilene Area Food and Clothing Center.

"The churches of Dickinson County are the "backbone" of our Christian Ministry to the needy by giving their gifts of food. Gifts of money are always welcome for utility assists, which are especially needed during the winter months."

The following are the list of immediate needs for their pantry:

Cake Mix and Frosting	Napkins
Oil	Kleenex
Flour	Macaroni, Noodle and
Sugar	Spaghetti Pastas
Fruit	Shampoo
Vegetables	Deodorant
Soup	Toothpaste
Meat Substitutes	Tooth Brushes
Cold and Hot Cereals	Canned Meats and Fish
Laundry Soap	Peanut Butter
Dish Soap	Jelly
Hand Soap	Coffee
Toilet Tissue	Tea
Paper Towels	



Baskets will be in the foyer for the month of April.

BIC World Missionaries

Jason and Rebekah Oberholser, New Mexico

Jason and Rebekah have been serving among the Navajo people in New Mexico for 1.5 years. While the work is challenging, exciting and sometimes discouraging, it's never dull! Their long-term goal is to see a thriving Navajo-initiated and Navajo-led BIC church planted. For the short term, their work involves building relationships with many Navajo individuals and families. It's important for Navajos to see the missionaries as real friends and people to whom they can relate. As they build relationships, the Oberholser's point people to Christ and encourage interest in God's word. So far they are leading one Bible study group (using the chronological approach called Creation to Christ) and are hoping to soon lead more.



Jason works part-time at a local agricultural store. This gives him a great opportunity to meet and influence people from all walks of life. Rebekah is happy as a stay-at-home mom and constantly works to balance home life and ministry.

The Oberholser's have two daughters. Christina is 3 years old and enjoys being a big helper to Mommy and Daddy. Abigail will turn 2 in June and tries to do everything she sees her big sister doing. Baby #3 is expected in August!

An example of ministry among the Navajo is the family's ongoing friendship with a man named Gerald. Having a broken family, no job and no real purpose for living, Gerald spends his time wandering the streets and drinking. To no one's surprise he was arrested for drinking-related misbehaviors. Jason visited him regularly in jail, where he would encourage Gerald to seek the Lord and not become discouraged. Gerald was recently released, but his battle is by no means over. He has learned that the Oberholser home is a safe place where he'll receive acceptance, a listening ear and a hot meal. He seems to really desire to change his life, but is so bound by his addiction. Please pray that Gerald will not idolize Jason and Rebekah, but come to know the God who enables them to love him. And pray for the hundreds of Navajo men and women like him who desperately need the Savior.