

**THE MESSENGER**

A monthly publication of Zephyr Christian Church

**MINISTER**

**CONTACT INFO:** Jon Stradtner 616-560-8901/  
JonS.ZCC@gmail.com

**ELDERS**

Tom Baker Chr. 863-670-2215  
Larry Buckland 417-712-4098  
Cole Wernette 813-345-7526

**SECRETARY**

Cherie' Osborne: 813-924-0372



**ZEPHYR CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

**SHARING THE LOVE AND  
JOY OF JESUS**

**And He who sits on the throne said,  
“Behold, I am making all things new.”**

**And He said, “Write, for these words  
are faithful and true.” Revelation 21:5**



**THANK YOU TO ALL  
WHO HAVE GIVEN THEIR PRAYERS, TIME, AND SERVICE TO HELP  
CLEAN UP THE CHURCH BUILDING AND GROUNDS!**



# PRAYERS & PRAISE

- ◆Church Leaders - unity & growth
- ◆Jeff Aker - broken hip/leg/lung (C. Osborne)
- ◆Ellen Annis - health concerns
- ◆Sarah Baumberger - health/tests
- ◆Brynlee Beagel - kidneys (ZCC Kid)
- ◆Norman Budd - cancer/treatments (M. Bontrager's friend)
- ◆Shelli Candy - brain tumor/comfort
- ◆Desiray Cook - health
- ◆Keith Dalton - mom in nursing home/daughter Michelle in hospice
- ◆Katherine Ferrell - dementia (Michele Danella's mother)
- ◆Char Henderson - heart problems
- ◆Bob Kujat - nursing home (Tess Stacey)
- ◆Jeff & Dona Lafere - fractured ribs, other injuries, Dona in I.C.U. severe car accident - (Char Henderson)
- ◆Natalie P.- tests for cancer (Taylor Lee)
- ◆Gary & Pat Nicholson - peace and health
- ◆Adrian Painter - recovery/ 2nd hip surgery
- ◆Alan Poole - health/ramp for home (Alice Poole)
- ◆Happy Reed - growth in heart/upcoming surgery
- ◆Michael Roque - cancer (John Roque's dad)
- ◆Sue Sabatucci - health
- ◆Dan Scott - cancer (Nancee Scott)
- ◆Denise Stewart - lungs/emphysema
- ◆Talona & Family - (Shelli Candy's granddaughter)

## Birthdays:

- 2 - Mable Goward
- 8 - Sue Sabatucci
- 20 - Fely Jackson
- 25 - Wendy Matthews
- 28 - Michele Danella
- 31 - Chris Stansfield



## Anniversaries:

- 3 - John & Paty Roque
- 16 - Jim & Dora Mae Sinner
- 21 - Phil & Pam Smith
- 23 - Marti & Hank Bontrag

# MARCH 2025

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

						1
2 Worship Gem Estates 10AM	3	4	5 Women's Bible Study 1PM KidZCC Night 5:30 - 7PM Genesis Center	6	7	8
9 Worship Gem Estates 10AM	10	11 Z.C.W. Meeting Sonny's R.S.V.P	12 KidZCC Night 5:30 - 7PM Genesis Center	13	14	15
16 Worship Gem Estates 10 AM	17	18 Elders Meeting 9 AM	19 KidZCC Night 5:30 - 7PM - Genesis	20 1st day of Spring	21	22
23 Worship Gem Estates 10 AM	24	25	26 KidZCC Night 5:30 - 7PM Genesis Center	27	28	29
30	31					

## REMINDERS:

**March 5th** - Women's Bible Study, 1pm at Pam Smith's home- Call Linda Vollstedt (309- 532- 2613) or Pam (330-437-6521).

**March 9th** - Spring forward don't forget to set your clocks ahead.

**ZEPHYR CHRISTIAN WOMEN MEETING** - March 11<sup>th</sup> at Sonny's BBQ, 11:30am. Please **R.S.V.P.** - Karen Baker (863-602-5180).

Dear Zephyr Christian Family,

The last couple of articles we have been talking about church trends. In this article I want to share some discoveries concerning Christianity around the world...and most of these are not good news!

1. Islam is growing faster than Christianity – the growth of Christianity slightly outpaced global population growth (in other words, Christianity is growing faster than the world’s population), but Islam is growing even faster. Currently Christians still outnumber Muslims, but the gap is shrinking.
2. Christianity is shrinking in North America and Europe – this probably does not surprise you. Throughout the twentieth century, more Christians lived in Europe and North America than all the other regions of the world combined. And Christianity continued to grow in those two continents. But now Christianity is declining in Europe (it has fallen by around 17 million) and in North America (Christianity has dropped by about 2 million in North America).
3. The population without access to the gospel is growing – this is a bit tricky. The global population that does not have access to the gospel is shrinking as a percentage of the population, but the bad news is that the raw number of people without access to the gospel is still growing.
4. Most non-Christians don’t know a Christian – this is similar to #3. In 1900, 95% of non-Christians did not know any followers of Jesus. That percentage fell steadily through the 1900’s and it is still declining...but at a much slower rate. Even today, most non-Christians around the world (51.5%) have no relationship with a true believer.
5. Martyrdom is no longer in decline – in the late 1900’s until 2020 the number of martyrs was declining to about 900,000 in 2020. But what observers have noticed is that the decline has plateaued. The number of martyrs is no longer in decline and estimates are that the number of Christian martyrs will increase to about 1 million by 2050.
6. Financial crimes in churches and ministries has exploded – giving to Christian causes continues to grow (1.4 billion expected in 2025). But with that kind of money comes great temptation. According to a Lifeway Research study, 1 in 13 US Protestant churches has had someone embezzle money from them. But with every bit of darkness comes the opportunity for light to shine. These are the days for the church to step up, to shine brightly, to declare the good news, and to make a difference! We need to share Christ; support missions; build relationships with unbelievers; boldly live and, if necessary, die for Christ; and live out the highest principles of right and morality. Let’s make ZCC that kind of church!

Sincerely,

Jon B. Stradtner