

---

# PASTOR'S CORNER

---

*From the Desk of Pastor Daniel Simmons*

---

## Book of the Month

---

### Leader Shifts:

*Mastering Transitions in Leadership & Life*

By: *Joseph W. Walker, III*

ISBN-13#: 978-1-4267-8140-7

### Scripture Readings:

*Embracing Change* (NIV)

**Week of August 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Romans 12:2**

**Week of August 13<sup>th</sup>**

**1 John 3:2**

**Week of August 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Acts 22:10**

**Week of August 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Zephaniah 3:19**

### *Culmination Message to Mount Zion's Summer Enrichment Program and CAPS Summer Youth Academy (Many Members, One Body)*

*Start children off on the way they should go, and even  
when they are old they will not return from it.*

Proverbs 22:6 (NIV)

Mount Zion's 2017 Summer Enrichment Program provided a wonderful six weeks experience for our children. I say, '*our children*', and I mean just that. This opportunity we provide is not about a child's affiliation with Mount Zion. No - it is far greater than that. It is about our (*the church's*) mission to provide a service in agape love to any and every child who simply *comes*. And when they come we want them to know we genuinely welcome and want them here with us, that we care about them, we believe in their abilities, and together we will do all we can to help them realize and grow into the greatness that has already been placed within them by the Mighty Hand of God. In the process of all we do – *each child becomes ours* – not just for the six weeks they are in the program, but for every day going forward. Our hope for the outcome of helping our children is for them to thrive on the fundamentals they've gained, excel in their character, confidence, discipline and learning when they return to school, and remember that *we – the active and vibrant members of the body of Jesus Christ* – are always ready, willing and able to help them when they find themselves facing any form of difficulty.

In like manner – Mount Zion's 2017 Summer Youth Academy provided a wonderful six weeks experience for our boys. On a personal level, I am most pleased with the growth and accomplishments this group made. The opportunities of choice, challenge, and exposure they have acquired along with academic training and social etiquette we provide will be a

reinforcement in their well-being when they return to school. As they utilize what they have experienced in this program correctly, they will stand out and be ready to accept other opportunities beyond the traditional classroom setting as part of their educational growth.

Part of our mission with the CAPS Summer Youth Academy is to help our boys develop their character, confidence, discipline and learning skills not only for home and school- but for life! We want to help them believe in their abilities even more than we do, and we want to do all we can to help them realize and grow into the greatness that is already seeded within them by God. And then we expect them to walk in their forward and upward development every day. Our hope for their outcome is that they will thrive in the spiritual and educational fundamentals they've gained, and know that we – the church – surround them with a lifetime of guidance, reassurance, and support.

With heartfelt gratitude, *I thank the children* who participated in the Summer Enrichment and CAPS Summer Youth Academy programs for their enthusiasm, participation, and accomplishments. I expect each of you to do your best both at school and at home, make great progress, and enjoy adding more knowledge to what you already know. I hope something you've experienced while you were with us this summer will connect with your home and school life and cause you to dream big about what you want to do in your future. Set your mind to it, and believe in it until it becomes your reality!

*I thank the parents* for allowing us to take your children into our care and invest in them. Your commitment to making sure they engage in constructive and productive activities during their school break speaks the strong message to them that you care about their daily and future well-being as well as their spiritual growth, social interactions and educational skills. May God bless you.

*I thank Dr. Angela Shumate* for spearheading the leadership of the Summer Enrichment Program with a profound spirit of excellence. Your joy of interacting with children and adults alike is reflected in the dedication of everyone who has worked to make the program a reality.

*I thank co-directors Elaine Williams and Albert Simmons, along with Pastor Brian Jones and Bro. Twontavious Cuff* for their proactive and effective leadership with the CAPS Summer Enrichment Program. Although I think all our past summer academies were successful, I've observed a distinct elevation with the group this year.

Lastly, *I thank all the dedicated volunteers* who with much compassion served as the working engine to make both programs flow smoothly and safely for the children and their parents. Members and ministries of Mount Zion, non-members, retirees, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, guardians, friends of the community – all of the individuals who worked with administration, teaching, food preparation, media, maintenance, safety, transportation, and the list goes on - I say to each of you, *"Thank you from the depths of my heart. It is my prayer for God's blessings, favor, grace and mercy to cover you always as you continue to do Kingdom work for our children and this community."* Believe with me that *'the best is yet to come'*... in Jesus' Name. Amen.

people Helping People

