



OZSPHCA NEWS & UPDATE

July 2016

*Old Zion St. Paul Halsellville
Cemetery Association (OZSPHCA)*



**2223 West End Road
Chester, South Carolina 29706**

Greetings!

We look forward to periodically updating you, our members, supporters, contributors, and well-wishers, with words of greetings, thanks, and reports on the progress with the restoration work at **Old Zion**. It is because of the prayers and the tremendous commitment, hard work, and dedication that we have come this far, by faith, with the amazing restoration work at **Old Zion** since the *“day of our small beginning” (Zechariah 4:10)* in March 2008 (see pictures [March 24, 2008 and July 22, 2015] on page 3)! Your support and encouragement continue to inspire and drive us on; thank you!

This place holds so much special meaning, historical significance, and reverence for all of us. For it was at this location in the Halsellville community that our ancestors and forbearers lived, labored, loved, and struggle in bygone years. Therefore, we of this generation, accept as our sacred obligation and responsibility, the task of maintaining this location as **The Old Zion AME Zion Heritage Site and Worship Center**. We are praying and preparing others to carry on this work in the coming years as they, too, commit to the belief that, *“A cemetery is a history of people – a perpetual record of yesterday and a sanctuary of peace and quiet today. A cemetery exists because every life is worth loving and remembering – always!”*

The Sixth (6th) Annual Old Zion Revival Reunion/Camp Meeting

The Sixth (6th) Annual Revival Reunion/Camp Meeting will be held at 3:00 P.M., Sunday, September 18, 2016, Lord willing! The work of improving and maintaining the site continues throughout the year; however, our preparation intensifies our **Annual Revival Reunion in September**. So please be in prayer for this **Sixth (6th) Great Gathering**. It is a great blessing, that we, of this generation, can meet on these sacred grounds to greet family, friends, renew acquaintances, and reflect on our loved ones who long ago worshiped at **Old Zion** and **St. Paul**. Also, the focus is on educating a new generation about the rich history and heritage surrounding these two historic places of worship in the Halsellville Community. ***You will be receiving additional information and updates prior to our coming together on September 18, 2016.*** In the meantime, in the words of our ancestors and forebears at Old Zion and St. Paul, “you pray for me and I pray for you, that is the way God’s children do!”

The Simpson Graveyard Donated to the OZSPHCA!

The support for the work at Old Zion continues to take place in so many amazing and surprising ways. It was in July 2015 during conversation between our OZSPHCA president (Jimmy) and secretary (Jannie) inquiring about the lack of rain its impact on the grass and plants at the Old Zion site. Jannie said she would contact Mr. Brenton Feaster, a familiar and longstanding friend and resident in the Halsellville community, as to when a substantial rain had taken place in the area. Jimmy suggested that she also asked Brenton about allowing us to clean up the Simpson Graveyard (a part of Brenton's property on Stone Road, about a mile and a half below St. Paul). He responded with a willingness to donate the graveyard to the OZSPHCA! After surveys and the legal and courthouse deed procedures, the cemetery (consisting of one and a half acres) is owned by OZSPHCA. We appreciate and thank Brenton for this most gracious act of kindness. He was well-acquainted with and had a close relationship with many of the people at St. Paul and Old Zion. He speaks fondly of them, especially "Aunt Took", "Uncle Doc", "Mr. Dave", "Aunt Sweet", and "Ant Carrie"! **Yes, later generations do benefit from the goodwill of those long gone to glory.**

Many neglected and abandoned burial sites continue to be destroyed, particularly those of African-Americans. The Simpson Graveyard served as the burial grounds for black and white in the area. It was likely the property of the well-known slave owner (and later plantation owner) John Simpson. There are numerous tombstones for the Simpsons and some of the known African-American burials are: Mrs. Nettie's Simpson's mother, infant daughters of John and Marie Johnson and Henry McClurkin, Anthony Thompson (has a tombstone and he's one of the three persons listed on the original 1884 deed for St. Paul), and Sallie Price. The research is underway to identify other persons buried at this location

Roadside Property Purchased

During one of our clean-ups/meetings in April (2016), our vice-president, Eumon Chisholm, Jr., came up with the idea of contacting the owner of the large land area at the left front of Old Zion down to Highway 72 (West End). He made contact with Mr. George Whitley, Jr., owner of the property, and reported that Mr. Whitley was pleased with the work he observed at the Old Zion site and would gladly sell us the quarter acre of land for \$1500! Of course we were excited about this opportunity to acquire a prime piece of property on a major highway (adjoining our Old Zion site) and started right away "to get the ball rolling"! An urgent called meeting was held on May 3, 2016 with Eumon, Jannie, and Jimmy present. We collected \$950 on the spot! It was decided that we would immediately get the word out to raise the remaining amount needed to make the purchase (\$1550 + \$130 legal fees = \$1630 total cost). The response to our appeal was immediate and Eumon and Jimmy met with Mr. Whitley at 9:00 a. m. on Monday, May 9, 2016 and made the purchase; the deed is now in hand! This "**new ground**" will enable us to avoid being land-locked, to build a driveway from the Old Zion site to West End Road, and provide additional on-site parking.

Contributors to the Purchase of the "New Ground", Thank you!

George Caldwell - \$200(Chester, SC); Eumon Chisholm, Jr. - \$300(Chester, SC); Jannie Price Woods - \$350(Chester, SC); Rose Franklin Wilkes - \$100 (Kannapolis, NC); Havies Wilkes - \$200(Kannapolis, NC); James E. "Jimmy" Wright - \$300 (Columbia, SC); Gracie Reid \$20.00 (Rock Hill, SC); Monifa Wright \$250(Atlanta, GA); Bernice B. Little \$100(Washington, DC); and Kevin Caldwell \$20(Atlanta, GA). Many others expressed encouragement and will continue their contributions and support to the work and future undertakings/projects.



Highway Location Sign Erected



March 24, 2008

Pastor John C. Heath, Eumon Chisholm, Jr.,
Maggie Price Coleman, Jannie Price - Woods TC Hicks
James E. 'Jimmy' Wright (seated)



June 10, 2016

Help! Help! Help! Get the Word Out!

Call, email, Facebook--- relatives, homefolk, friends, and acquaintances
Tell them about the restoration work at Old Zion and invite them to the
6th Annual Revival Reunion/Camp Meeting - September 18, 2016 at 3:00PM
"A Great Gathering for a Glorious Worship Down Home at Halsellville in Chester, SC
The Land of the bones and dust of our ancestors and forebearers!

Construction, Improvements, and Upgrades at the Old Zion Site Since the First Annual Revival Reunion (September 2011)

1. Concrete Slab/Floor Poured
2. Shelter Erected
3. Cemetery Partial Purchased to Clear Land Deed/Title
4. Old Zion Cemetery Sign Erected
5. Old Zion AME Zion Heritage Site and Worship Center Sign Erected
6. Pews/Podium Purchased/Donated
7. Additional Trees Removed/Site Clearing
8. Replicas of Old Zion Church Towers
9. Food Serving Shelter - 2015
10. Land Clearing/Tree Removal - Ongoing
11. Simpson Graveyard – Stone Road (donated by Mr. Brenton Feaster) – 2015
12. Landscaping with Railroad Ties – April 2016
13. Highway (Site Location) Sign Erected –April 2016
14. Land Purchase(1/4 Acre-Fronting the Old Zion Site to West End Road)–May 2016

The Faithful and Committed Work Crew!

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Jannie Price Woods, Pastor John Heath, Eumon Chisholm, Jr., Yvonne Cook Davis, Barbara Cook Jennings, Samuel Simpson, Jr., Helen Wilkes Woods, Charlie Hopkins, George Caldwell, Alex Feaster, James E. Wright, and Howard Culp) continues to work faithfully improve and maintain the cemetery and grounds at Old Zion at considerable personal expense and labor. **Loretta Feaster is welcomed as the newest member of the executive the committee.** The restoration and maintenance of the Old Zion site continues as a labor of love and commitment for each of us. There is a commitment to establish and lay a good foundation so that the work will be carried on in years to come by succeeding generations.

*Again, Mark Your Calendar and Journey to Old Zion
For*

**The Sixth (6th) Annual Revival Reunion/Camp Meeting
3:00 P. M., Sunday, September 18, 2016**

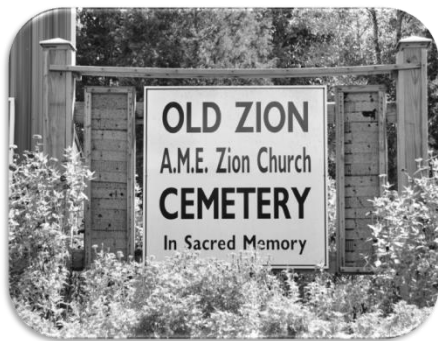
Old Zion Church Site

2223 West End Road, Chester, South Carolina 29706

Contact Information:

Jannie Price-Woods at 581-1545, Eumon Chisholm, Jr. at 377-8325, Charlie Hopkins at 385-2010, George Caldwell at 385-7279, Samuel Simpson, Jr. at 209-6788, Yvonne Wright Cook Davis 389-1422, James E. Wright 754-9510, Or Maggie Price Coleman (704)-332-1879. You May Send Any Email Correspondence To: allmifaith@yahoo.com or Jedwardwright@gmail.com **Mailing address:**
OZSPHCA c/o Jannie Price-Woods, 687 Yarborough Road, Chester, SC 29706

“A cemetery is a history of people – a perpetual record of yesterday and a sanctuary of peace and quiet today. A cemetery exists because every life is worth loving and remembering – always!”



PLEASE RETURN WITH DONATION

Old Zion St. Paul Halsellville
Cemetery Association
c/o Jannie Price-Woods
687 Yarborough Rd
Chester, South Carolina 29706



Donation of \$ _____ is Enclosed

From _____

2016 Souvenir Book Publications:

Please return by: August 12, 2016

Full page \$100 / Half Page \$75/ Fourth page \$50 / Business Card \$25 / Patron \$10
Donations over \$50 receives a book

Your financial contribution greatly appreciated.

All original pictures, documents, etc., returned promptly.

Thank you!

Please make all checks / money orders payable to: OZSPHCA
MAIL TO:

OZSPHCA
C/o Jannie Price-Woods
687 Yarborough Rd
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