IN TOUCH. . . The Newsletter of the Mt. Zion Family

August 2016 Volume XVIII Issue 8

"Making, Maturing, Mobilizing Disciples for Christ"

WORSHIP EACH SUNDAY AT 8:30, 9:45 and 11:00 AM

Dr. Mary John Dye; Senior Pastor, Rev. Joel Simpson and Rev. Tony Moreau; Associate Pastors

- Church Office 704-892-8566
- Fax 704-892-3143
- Youth House 704-892-7825
- Sonshine Preschool 704-892-0654
- www.mtzionumc.net
- http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/84673593

Beloved at Mt. Zion,

If you have not read the 12th Chapter of First Corinthians recently, I hope you will read it often during this month. The beloved words of Paul have been very much on my mind these last couple of weeks of hospitalization and preparation for surgery.

The body language of Paul is such an obvious and graphic reminder that every part of the body has importance. In my case, the problem is a small part of the body – one of the parts that Paul describes as "unpresentable" that has precipitated a health crisis. Lots of my body parts are working fine. The standard joke in my hospital room was person after person who said, "You look good...." . Then they would go out and look at my CT scan. That told a different story—the story that will determine the cure. Every part of the body is important. When one part is in trouble, all parts suffer.

This is true in our individual bodies. It is true for our families, it is true for church and community. Where there is pain, lots of other parts are affected.

For the last 3 years, we have been working carefully to develop leadership teams – a team approach to staff decisions and ministry and a team approach to lay leadership. At its best, the team approach makes better leaders because there has been more input on decisions that are made. At its best, the team approach keeps the ministry going when any individual is in a struggle. While developing team approaches is different – and often more time-consuming—than individuals who do their own thing, our commitment to be the body as a staff and in leadership keeps ministry moving well no matter our individual ups and downs. While we have been in and out for vacations and study times, and family needs and my perforated colon, the gift of the church has been able to continue strong because of the marvelous team at Mt. Zion.

In the body, everyone is important. No body part takes the place of another body part. We all need each other. I have certainly needed and been supremely grateful for your prayers and support. Surgery will be August 8 and if all these weeks of IV treatment have worked as the surgeon has planned, the surgery will take care of it. I am supremely thankful for the whole staff at Mt. Zion – who have been the body of Christ for me and for you during this time. And I am so grateful for the magnificent ministry God has called us to at Mt. Zion. I Corinthians 12. Be sure you know the importance of your place in the body. Continue to shower love and compassion on those parts of the body where there is pain. God has so designed church life as body life. We should be grateful every day. *Mary John*

BOOK BAG DRIVE

Mt. Zion is partnering with the Ada Jenkins Center for its annual Book Bag Drive. The Center is in need of 90 book bags for this coming school year. If you are interested in providing book bags for elementary school children, please leave the filled book bag in the Church library by Sunday, August 14th. Listed below are the items you need to include in the book bag you purchase:

1 two-inch binder

4 or 5 two-pocket folders with prongs in various colors

2 or 3 packs of filler paper – wide ruled works best for younger students

1 or 2 composition notebooks

Pencils

1 pack of 24 ct. crayons

1 pack of markers

1 pack of coloring pencils

2 glue sticks

1 pack of index cards

1 box of tissue

1 container of Clorox wipes

3RD SUNDAY FOOD & FELLOWSHIP WILL NOT MEET IN AUGUST. We will resume 3rd Sunday Food and Fellowship in September.

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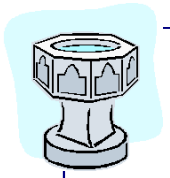
MT. ZION FAMILY CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS!

July Birth

Elliott Grace Fox was born on July 28th. She is the daughter of Andrew & Kelsey Fox and the granddaughter of Wendell & Terri Fox and Kenny & Suzie Inman.



Corbin Reed Morris was baptized on July 17 at the 11:00 service. He is the son of Mike & Brittany, the brother of Braylen Morris and the grandson of Jimmy & Deanna Grindstaff.

Cory & Stephanie Ritchie (and Brody)

119 Pin Oak Lane Mooresville 28117 704-728-2196

Maya Hieronymi (pictured with fiance, Don Duncan)

16440 Sedgebrook Lane Apt. 306 Huntersville 28078 704-728-3198

SPECIAL GIFTS WERE GIVEN... IN HONOR OF Shelley Little, a gift was given to the Music Fund and a gift was given to the History Room**; IN HONOR OF** Wendell Fox, a gift was given to UMCOR...**IN MEMORY OF** Cliff Cameron, a gift was given to UMCOR; **IN MEMORY OF** Larry Simpson, a gift was given to the Parlor Fund and a gift was given to UMCOR; **IN MEMORY OF** Kenneth "Nick" Brown, a gift was given to the Cemetery Fund, a gift was given to the History Room, a gift was given to BSA Troop 10, a gift was given to the Budget and gifts were given to the Missions Fund; **IN MEMORY OF** Tony Maiorano, a gift was given to UMCOR; **IN MEMORY OF** Christina Isaacs Alston, a gift was given to UMCOR; **IN MEMORY OF** Ben Moffett, a gift was given to the Budget, and a gift was given to the Cemetery Fund; **IN MEMORY OF** Gail Knox, a gift was given to the Budget; and **IN MEMORY OF** Linda Beck, a gift was given to the Budget.

WNC CONFERENCE AND DISTRICT NEWS

- The Metro District which includes Mt. Zion has a new **District Superintendent, Rev. Mark Andrews.** Information can be found on the District website *http://wnccumc.org/metro/*
- *Beginning September 1, Western North Carolina will have a new bishop, Bishop Paul Leeland. Information about the new bishop is available on the conference website http://wnccumc.org/*

THE SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION IS EXTENDED TO ...Buddy Phillips and family on the death of his mother, Ann Phillips, on July 1, to Cathy Wiese and family on the death of her father, James Elsmore, on July 11, to Claudia Kepner and family on the death of her mother, Beverly Wisbon, on July 13, to Jim Cooke and Donna Cooke Sutay and their families on the death of their grandfather, Darrell Bullock on July 15, to June Brown and family on the death of her husband, Kenneth "Nick" Brown, on July 17 and to Laura Lemmond and family on the death of her husband, Roger Lemmond, on July 29.

Children's Ministry News

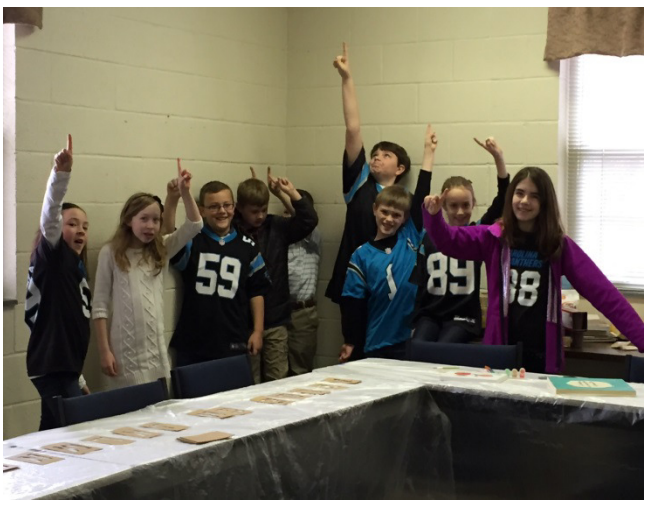
Thanks again to all the amazing **VBS** volunteers!!! We praise God for a successful June **VBS**!!!

The **Summer "*Survivor*" Sleepover** for rising 2nd grade through rising 6th grade was Thursday, August 4. Our campers learned how to ***"Survive Life's Challenges with God"*** by competing in Survivor type Bible based challenges, participating in an outreach mission for our homebound, and fellowshipping with each other! We ended the night with bowling, a movie and a sleepover at church! *Phew*, we are tired!

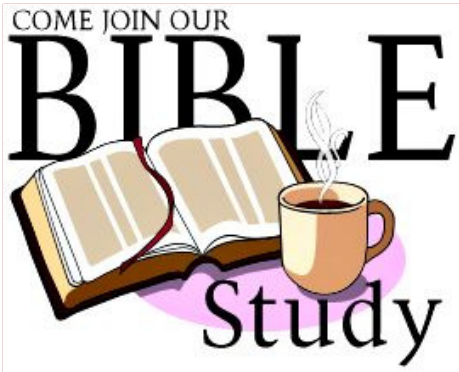
Promotion Sunday is **August 28th**!! This is a family event to celebrate the children moving up to their next Sunday School class. It is held during **Sunday School (9:45-10:45 am)** in the Education Building. Come meet the teachers, see the new rooms, fellowship and have a snack!

Wednesday Night Kids Club starts back on Wednesday, **September 21st** with **G3** at **6:30 pm** in the **Education Building.** G3 stands for *Give God Glory*!! Our kids will learn how to give God all the glory in their life through lessons, prayer, fellowship, games/activities and good snacks.

Bible Buddies will return Sunday, **September 25th at 2:00 pm** in the Family Life Center Gym!!! ***Please notice the NEW time, 2:00 pm*** Children's Choir will be 2:45 pm-3:25 pm. Children participating in Bible Buddies will be taken over to choir classes.



Mt. Zion Children's Ministry is on Facebook! Please check out and like our page for upcoming events, pictures, and information. **https://www.facebook.com/MtZionKids/**



REGISTER FOR DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY

Beginning September 11th, Brian Polly will be leading **DISCIPLE 1: BECOMING DISCIPLES THROUGH BIBLE STUDY** on Sunday evenings from 5-7 pm in Room 205 of the Education Building. Brian is a gifted and insightful teacher with a number of years' experience teaching **DISCIPLE**. The 34 week study gives the Old and New Testaments equal time, emphasizing the wholeness of the Bible as a revelation of God. **DISCIPLE** draws upon the work of scholars, the personal Bible reading and study of the participant, and dynamic group discussion to aid understanding of the Bible.

DISCIPLE 2: INTO THE WORD INTO THE WORLD will be led by **Jeff Knight, and will begin on Tuesday, August 30th**. Disciple 2 will meet from 6:30-8:30 pm in Room 205 of the Education Building. Jeff is a passionate, seminary trained leader who will offer great insight as you explore, together, our calling to study God's word and to take it into the world. This 32 week study offers a deeper examination of Genesis, Exodus, Luke and Acts, emphasizing the rhythm of coming to God and going for God…approaching all experiences of life as opportunities for faithful witness and service.

On Sunday evenings, 5-7 pm in Room 209 of the Education Building we will also offer **DISCIPLE 3: REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE** led by the incredibly gifted **Stephanie Butler.** The driving idea in this study is the connection between memory and identity as the people of God. Participants in this 32 week study will read the major and minor Old Testament prophets, with the exception of Daniel, and will read the thirteen Letters traditionally attributed to Paul. Several themes weave their way through the study – the call to remember; the call to repentance; the need for renewed vision; and the place of community. The prophets and Paul are continually calling hearers and readers back to their God and to a sense of who they are as a people "set apart".

To Register for a Disciple Bible Study Class please contact Pastor Tony Moreau by calling (704) 892-8566x224, calling or texting (828) 447-8992, or sending an email to tmoreau@mtzionumc.net.

Mt. Zion is thrilled to announce that we will be offering a new Bible Study this Fall, **Covenant Bible Study.** Covenant is an in-depth group Bible study that centers on our relationships with God, with each other, and the World.

It differs from other Bible studies in that it emphasizes the biblical concept of Covenant-the enduring commitment between God and people-as a unifying pattern throughout the entire Bible. As such, it underscores the unique relationship that God chooses with us as his people.

Covenant creates a learning experience –both within and beyond the sphere of church life. It builds trust in others as well as confidence in scripture. And it provides an exciting new opportunity to better understand God's Call, his love and his unexpected favor.

Covenant is offered in three, eight-week sessions. "CREATING" examines how the Covenant community is created and established. "LIVING" focuses on how the community lives out their Covenant in faithful love—how it's applied to actual relationships in everyday life. "TRUSTING" looks at the crises that sometimes call Covenant life into question, and how we are restored to trust in God when troubling things happen.

Covenant represents a relationship—a living, breathing conversation. And we invite you to join in it. Two different class times will be offered. You can participate on Wednesday Nights from 6:30-8 pm beginning September 21st or on Thursday mornings from 10-Noon beginning on September 22nd. Contact Pastor Tony or check out http://covenantbiblestudy.com/ for more information.

Separated or Divorced? A new session of **DivorceCare Ministries** will begin on Tuesday, August, 23rd (6:30-8 pm) "DivorceCare at Mt. Zion United Methodist Church offers help in dealing with the crisis of separation and divorce. DC is a 13-week program of sessions that are topic relevant. Our group is supportive, safe, confidential and offers God's help towards healing and wholeness. We will also offer DC4K for children as well (ages 8-12). Please contact Don Duncan @mphpromo@gmail.com or visit www.divorcecare.org for more information."

It's back to school time!!! **WE NEED ADULT MEMBERS TO HELP IN ADOPTING A MT. ZION COLLEGE STUDENT.** All you need to do is stay in touch with a student once a month by phone, email or cards; letting them know how much their church family loves them while they are away at school. You will be given the "adoption papers" which has all their contact information on it.

Another way to help is to **SPONSOR** a college student. For $30. for the school year, the College Adoption Program committee will make sure a student is sent something special from you monthly by mailing a card or an occasional small gift card. In August, you will send in your check, made out to Mt. Zion UMC, with a note at the bottom for the college adoption program. The money will cover the cost of cards, gifts, and postage for the entire school year.

So, come on Mt. Zion Family!!! This is a wonderful ministry for our youth. Contact Sherry Washam at 704-651-1519 or email her at sherry.hawley.washam@gmail.com. Sherry and the Adoption Committee look forward to being your adoption agent.

COLLEGE STUDENTS or (**COLLEGE STUDENT PARENTS**): **We need to hear from you before September** if you want to be a part of the College Adoption Program. Contact Sherry at the above address and provide your name, phone number, school mailing and emailing addresses and birth date. May God bless your continuing studies. We love you and are praying for you while you are away.

BLESSING OF TEACHERS AND BOOK BAGS

On **Sunday, August 28th** we will have a blessing of our school teachers and our students as they prepare for the new school year. We will do this at all three worship services.

- We will have a special blessing for all school teachers, staff, and administrators.
- Students are invited to bring their book bags to church and we will pray over them.
- Students are encouraged to invite their new teachers to come to church that Sunday so we may bless them as they prepare to teach and learn together.

Rev. Ned Owens has written a new book and asked that we include the information in this month's newsletter.

Poison in our Well of Faith (title) Price (paperback) $11.95 Hard Copy $28.98 If anyone wants a copy, call Ned at 828-453-9520.

Music Notes

COME SING IN THE CHOIR

The Chancel Choir will return to the loft on Sunday, August 7 and to Thursday night rehearsals on August 4. This is a great time for anyone considering joining us to come for practice. No auditions are required. All you need is a joy for singing and serving your church. We practice 3-4 Sundays ahead so if you need to miss, for any reason, you may still sing on Sunday. We have childcare each week beginning in September. In August, people needing childcare will need to contact me by Monday of each week.

We will begin learning Christmas music in August. If you have any questions, please contact me at mmittel-stadt@mtzionumc.net or by calling 704-892-8566.

Kelsey Maiorano, oboist in Concert at Mt. Zion UMC

In collaboration with David Gilliland of Davidson College, Kelsey Maiorano, will give her first US concert after a year abroad on Friday, August 26th at 7:00 pm in Mt. Zion UMC's beautiful Sanctuary. The program will feature works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Bernhard Henrik Crusell and Antonio Pasculli, among other possible surprises.

Dubbed an "oboe force of nature" by Joseph Robinson, former principal oboist of the New York Philharmonic, Kelsey Maiorano left her hometown of Davidson at the age of fourteen to attend high school at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts in Winston-Salem. In 2015, she earned a Bachelor of Music degree with presidential honors from the Lynn Conservatory of Music in Boca Raton, Florida. Since September 2015, Kelsey has been pursuing her Master of Arts degree in Basel, Switzerland at the prestigious *Hochschule für Musik* (HSM) with Emmanuel Abbühl, an internationally acclaimed artist and former principal oboist of the London Symphony Orchestra. At just 23 years old, Kelsey has participated in the master classes of Albrecht Mayer, Stefan Schilli, Christoph Hartmann, Hansjörg Schellenberger and Pedro Díaz, among other renowned oboists.

Kelsey has already had many successes in Europe, with frequent performances throughout Switzerland and also in Germany. She has been adopted as principal oboist of the conductor-less chamber orchestra, the *Kammerakademie Basel* (Chamber Academy Basel or CAB) as well as the contemporary group *Ensemble Diagonal*, and is a member of the HSM's official wind octet. Additionally, she was invited to perform as guest principal oboist with *Stadtmusik Bremgarten*, one of Switzerland's first class wind bands, and in doing so won second place in the *34th Eidgenössische Musikfest*, an important Swiss competition that takes place every year in Montreux. Aside from having her solo debut performing Bellini's oboe concerto with the *Jugend Sinfonieorchester Konsi Bern* in Switzerland's capital, Kelsey also performed as part of a special concert celebrating the birthday of Swiss composer Jürg Wyttenbach; his contemporary trio *Drei Sätze for oboe, harp and piano*, of which she performed with HSM faculty, was written for oboe legend Heinz Holliger. Both Holliger and Wyttenbach were in the audience and held the performance to high esteem.

Kelsey has many upcoming professional engagements. Most notably, she will appear as a soloist with CAB in November, performing Pasculli's virtuosic *Ricordo di Napoli*. The following month, she will perform Ginastera's *Duo for flute and oboe* in Basel's most popular contemporary music venue, Gare du Nord. Additionally, Kelsey will travel to Spain with the double reed specialists at Oboes.ch for the *Asociación de Fagotistas y Oboístas de España's* (Spanish Double Reed Society's) fourth annual conference. Kelsey is the daughter of Lee and Peggy Maiorano. Lee is the bass player for the Praise Service. **This is one concert you will not want to miss. It will not be long before Kelsey will be too busy to come back and play for us. She is outstanding.**

September Music Schedule

The music ensemble schedule for Fall 2016 has changed due to the merging of the Testify Youth Choir with Mt. Zion's Youth Choir. Please make note of the schedule listed below.

Sunday, September 11 *Start Date

2 pm–3:25 pm FLC Mt. Zion Testify Youth Choir All are welcome

3:30 – 4:30 pm Bell Room Mt. Zion Youth Bells New members please contact Marcy at mmittelstadt@mtzionumc.net. Spaces are limited and we want to be ready for the new ringers.

Monday, September 12 *Start Date

7:00 pm Bell Room Mt. Zion Bell Ensemble New members contact Marcy at mmittelstadt@mtzionumc.net. Must have basic music reading skills.

Sunday, September 25 *Start Date

2:45 – 3:25 pm Children's Choirs will begin meeting

Cherubs Room 207, Education Building

Jubilate Room 210, Education Building

Choristers Choir Room, Sanctuary Basement

REMINDER: Please send any articles you would like to have included in the next issue of the newsletter to the church by September 1.

MT. ZION UMC UNAUDITED

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

1/1/16 - 7/31/16

2016 General Fund Budget: $1,280,548

Budget Gifts: $ 594,939

THANK YOU!

Budget Expenses: $ 640,104

General Fund Cash On Hand: $176,808

Capital Fund Gifts Received: $9,780

Capital Fund Expenses $9,556

Capital Fund Cash On Hand: $17,773

Funds Received for Helping Hands (Pastor's Discretionary Fund) $3,991

Information reflects contributions postmarked prior to August 1 and received as of date of printing.

Please contact Margaret Langston if you have questions.

JULY 2016 ATTENDANCE:

July 3: 8:30: 101; 9:45: 63; 11: 134 = 298

July 10: 8:30: 100; 9:45: 105; 11: 185=390

July 17: 8:30: 116; 9:45: 86; 11: 185 = 387

July 24: 8:30: 121; 9:45: 90; 11: 198 = 409

July 31: 8:30: 141; 9:45: 115; 11: 172=428

RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

One of the most cherished areas of ministry at Mt. Zion is music. From newborns to seniors, across a wide range of musical styles, the music program at Mt. Zion has grown and prospered the past seven years under the direction of Dr. Marcy Mittelstadt.

This week, she has notified us of her intention to retire at the end of 2016.

Staff Parish, the congregation and all staff join to thank her for her indelible influence and remarkable, selfless service at Mt. Zion. We wish her well in her retirement.

We look forward to the next 5 months of her gifts and Staff Parish has begun working on a smooth and strong transition for music leadership at Mt. Zion.

Lee Rice Mt. Zion Staff Parish Chair
Dr. Mary John Dye Senior Pastor

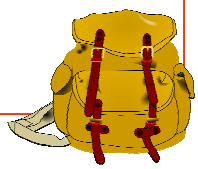
BLESSING OF TEACHERS AND BOOK BAGS

On **Sunday, August 28th** we will have a blessing of our school teachers and our students as they prepare for the new school year. We will do this at all three worship services.

We will have a special blessing for all school teachers, staff, and administrators.

Students are invited to bring their book bags to church and we will pray over them.

Students are encouraged to invite their new teachers to come to church that Sunday so we may bless them as they prepare to teach and learn together.



The mission of MT. ZION UMC STEPHEN MINISTRY is to provide confidential and compassionate lay ministry to our congregation and community who face difficult life transitions; enhancing and bridging the Christian care provided by our clergy. Please pray for those serving in this ministry and those being served. **Please call the church office or talk with any of our Stephen Ministers or Pastors if you or someone you know is in need of a Stephen Minister.**

Staff

Senior Pastor: Dr. Mary John Dye

mdye@mtzionumc.net

Associate Pastors:

Rev. Joel Simpson

jsimpson@mtzionumc.net

Rev. Tony Moreau

tmoreau@mtzionumc.net

Director of Music Ministries:

Dr. Marcy Mittelstadt

mmittelstadt@mtzionumc.net

Assistant Director

Melanie Kalkan

mkalkan@mtzionumc.net

Director of Christian Education:

Crystal Parrish

cparrish@mtzionumc.net

Associate Director Christian Ed

Kim Webb

kwebb@mtzionumc.net

Director of Youth: Matt Sherrill

msherrill@mtzionumc.net

Office Manager/Treasurer:

Margaret Langston

mlangston@mtzionumc.net

Administrative Assistant:

Mary Ellen Westmoreland

mwestmoreland@mtzionumc.net

Part Time Assistant: Ginny Wilkins

Custodian:

Donnelly Sherrill (pt security)

Preschool Director: Becky Metzger

sonshinepre@bellsouth.net

Church Phone: 704-892-8566

Fax: 704-892-3143

Youth House: 704-892-7825

Sonshine Preschool: 704-892-0654

Mt. Zion
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Sonshine Preschool: 704-892-0654
Fax: 704-892-3143
E-mail: mlangston@mtzionumc.net

"MAKING, MATURING, MOBILIZING DISCIPLES FOR CHRIST"

MEN OF ALL AGES ARE WELCOME to attend a **MEN'S COMMUNITY PRAYER BREAKFAST** held each Wednesday from 7-8 am at the Cookhouse Restaurant located at 20936 Torrence Chapel Road in Cornelius. It is led on alternate weeks by the ministerial staffs of Mt. Zion UMC and Bethel Presbyterian.

All women of the church and community are invited to join the **WOMEN OF ZION** on the first Tuesday of each month at Acropolis. We meet at 7:00 pm for fellowship and a devotional program. Please contact us at mzwoz1@gmail.com if you have questions or need more information. We look forward to seeing you the first Tuesday of each month! To receive meeting reminders, text the message @womenofz to 81010.

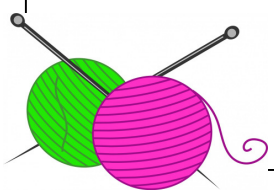
MOMS – **M**others **O**ffering **M**utual **S**upport meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month in the church Parlor at 7:00 pm. Young moms from pregnancy through preschool age children are welcome.

COAP = Children **O**f **A**ging **P**arents will meet the 1st Wednesday night of each month through the summer at 7 pm in the Parlor. All our circumstances are different with parents at different stages of care and need. The shared goal of giving them the best support possible for this stage of their lives is the common bond of those who gather to share and pray. All are welcome.

NEW BEGINNINGS meets the **3rd Monday of each month** at Duckworth's in Cornelius at 11:45 am. We currently have 92 members of widows and widowers. We bowl, go to movies, take tours and just have friendship with others that have lost a spouse.

We have something going on all the time!

Contacts: Barbara Broadway Lackey: email: bbroadway47@gmail.com 704-996-7000 or Shirley Ranson: email: Shirley@ransonteam.com 704-904-0973

DRESS A GIRL WILL RESUME MEETING IN SEPTEMBER (2nd and 4th Wednesdays) in the youth room. Everyone is welcome!! We will teach. **No experience necessary.** Contact Robin Lambert with questions or for more information.

The ladies of the **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** invite you to join them on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 to knit/crochet prayer shawls and baby blankets. No matter what your skill level may be, there is a place for you. If you are interested in learning how to knit, they can help with that, as well. (Yarn is provided.) They meet in the church Parlor (located on the upper level of the Family Life Center) and hope to see you soon!