



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

July 2016 Volume XVIII Issue 7

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

**“Making, Maturing, Mobilizing  
Disciples for Christ”**

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.mtzionumc.net)
- <http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/84673593>

### IT IS HARD TO HAVE PEACE IN THIS WORLD

Beloved at Mt. Zion,

You probably heard or read about the Whitewater Center closing June 24 due to the discovery of a potentially fatal amoeba. The amoeba apparently caused the death of a teenager the week before. We were proud of my 11 year old grandson for doing so well in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and for an end-of-year reward, gave him an experience—a day at the Whitewater Center. Connor was on a raft at the Whitewater Center when the water tested positive for the amoeba and the river was shut down.

He and I were talking about it the next day.

He was, understandably, shaken and his bright young mind was racing. Like we all do, he started with the scariest possibilities. What if he had gotten the meningitis-causing amoeba?

Of course, my own mind was racing too.

I don't think scary things and freak accidents are new. But the non-stop coverage and graphic details are new as never before. It is hard to have peace in this world.

Connor is at Camp Tekoa this week – and in our conversation, we were talking about what an important life skill it is to not freak out when terrible things happen. He talked about the 2 year old that was killed by the shark two weeks ago at Disney World. And I did not even tell him about the 14 year old who died unexpectedly in Greensboro two weeks ago – the first grandson of a good friend of mine.

It is hard to have peace in this world.

The turmoil makes it all the more important to stay very close to Christ. He promised us a peace the world can't give and the world can't take away. It is the only source of true peace. My Connor is only 11. But he already needs to know that the only true source of peace in this world comes through Jesus. By the time you get this email, more tragic things will have happened. And we will be able to claim the story to our children, our grandchildren, and our friends about Jesus—who gives us peace that the world can't give or take away. *Mary John*

### JULY WORSHIP: ROAD TRIP

Many people remember attending “Camp Meeting” when they were growing up (and some still do today). During the month of July our traditional Sunday morning worship services will be trying to capture part of the camp meeting spirit. While the choir is on break this month, we will have special music all month long from hymns that people have requested to special groups leading music. To hold to the camp meeting spirit the pastors will not robe and there will be no bulletins.

We will be doing a “Road Trip” worship series during July. We will look at stories in the Bible where people are on road trips and what their trips can tell us about our lives and the road trips we take.

This will be a wonderful month for worship.

(And do not forget, if you are on your own road trip and cannot attend, you can watch the 11am service live or recorded online).

<http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/84673593>

**3RD SUNDAY FOOD & FELLOWSHIP  
WILL NOT MEET IN JULY AND AUGUST.** We will resume 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Food and Fellowship in September.



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## MT. ZION FAMILY CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS!

### June Birth



Avery Mason Barham was born on June 10th. She is the daughter of Morgan & Mason Barham and the granddaughter of Lynn & Don Barham.



### IN JUNE WE WELCOMED INTO MEMBERSHIP:

Lauren & Will Petty (Connor & Katelyn) 4454 Mill Landing Drive Harrisburg 28075 (704-287-0762)



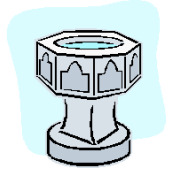
**Ruby Mae Sveen** and **McRae Robert Arnfinn Sveen** were baptized on June 5 at the 8:30 service. They are the daughter and son of Laura & Jackson Sveen.

**Parker Amelia Volpe** was baptized on June 12 at the 11:00 service. She is the daughter of Chrissy & Chris

Volpe and the granddaughter of Sharon & Jerry Washam.

**Connor Moore Petty** and **Katelyn Lilly Petty** were baptized on June 26 at the 8:30 service. They are the son and daughter of Lauren & Will Petty.

**Andrew Chandler Davis, Jr.** was baptized on June 26 at the 11:00 Service. He is the son of Molly & Andrew Davis and the grandson of Mary & Paul Goodson.



Please go to <http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/84673593> to see one of our recent services or to watch live.

### LECTIONARY READINGS for July:

July 3: 2 Kings 5:1-14; Psalm 30; Galatians 6:(1-6) 7-16; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 10: Amos 7:7-17; Psalm 82; Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37

July 17: Amos 8:1-12, Psalm 52 or 82; Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42

July 24: Hosea 1:2-10; Psalm 85; Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19); Luke 11:1-13

July 31: Hosea 11:1-11; Psalm 107:1-9, 43; Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21

**THE FLOWERS AT THE ALTAR** for July are to the glory of God and

July 10: In celebration of Billie Bost's birthday on July 10, given by the brothers and sisters.

July 17: In memory of Gail K. Zeller, given by Marian Zeller.

In memory of James & Ann Blakely, given by their children and grandchildren.

July 24: In celebration of Yvonne Byer's 89th birthday on July 24, given by the brothers and sisters.

In honor of the 47th wedding anniversary of Jim & Sandy Welch on July 26.

July 31: The flowers are given by Debby Skipper and Ricky Wiggins.

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** Gail Brackett, Nick Brown, Mack Cashion, Bobby Cavin, Ruby Cook, Ann Dutton, Dot Fidler, Lilyan Hunter, Jim Jackson, Pat Little, Shorty Little, Avery Masters, Nancy Neal, Lisa Oxidine, Ann Seamon, Inez Sherrill, Phyllis Sherrill, David Sims, Kay Sims, Alina Sossamon, Bob Sutherland, Elizabeth Westmoreland, Todd Wissinger

# Children's Ministry News

**CAVEQUEST VBS** was a great success!! We had 150 children, youth and adults on campus! The kids had so much fun learning that Jesus gives us Hope, Courage, Love and Direction!! **THANKS** to the leaders and youth who gave of their time and talents, we couldn't have done it without you!!

Be on the lookout in July for more details regarding our **Summer Sleepover, (Survivor Style)!!** This overnight activity will be for **rising 2nd - rising 6th grade, August 4th, 1:00 pm** until 9 am.



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/>

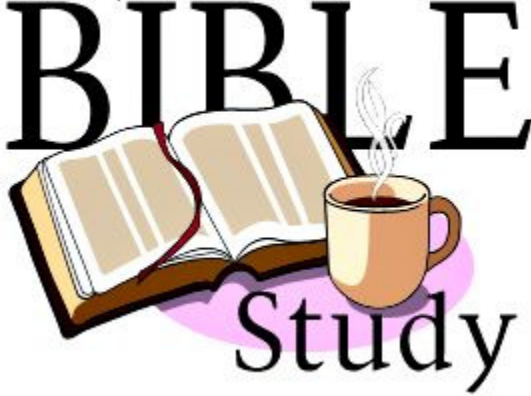


## **Appalachia Service Project 2016!**

We would like to thank everyone for your support of the 2016 Youth Mission trip to Lincoln Co. WV June 19-25th. We took 18 high school students and 10 adults for a great week deep in the mountains of West Virginia. Little did we know, this would be the same week that would send some of the worst rain in many years to WV. Our 4 work

crews each were sent to different homes where we spent all week getting to know the families and helping make their homes warmer, safer, and dryer. We were the first work crews for the summer in this particular area, so we were charged with the task of building a strong initial relationship with each family, as well as starting the initial work on their homes. Some of the projects we worked on included building a 5'x5' deck with stairs, replacing a bathroom floor, installing fascia and soffit, replacing OSB and dry wall in a bedroom, installing new foundation piers, and putting on a tin roof. All of these tasks were slowed when the rains came early in the week and rarely seemed to let up. When we were slowed by the rain, we were able to spend more time with the families. The only real "problem" we had was a power outage at the center on Thursday night for about 5 hours and some power outages at the work sites which made some of the construction more difficult. All in all we had a wonderful time and all made it home safely. We are so blessed to have a church like Mt. Zion that is so supportive of this great ministry. We look forward to where God leads us in 2017! Registration for next year begins in late fall 2016. -Matt Sherrill

COME JOIN OUR



**DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY** classes to begin in August! We are excited to offer three levels of **DISCIPLE** this year.

**Brian Polly** will be leading **DISCIPLE 1: BECOMING DISCIPLES THROUGH BIBLE STUDY** on Sunday afternoons. 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

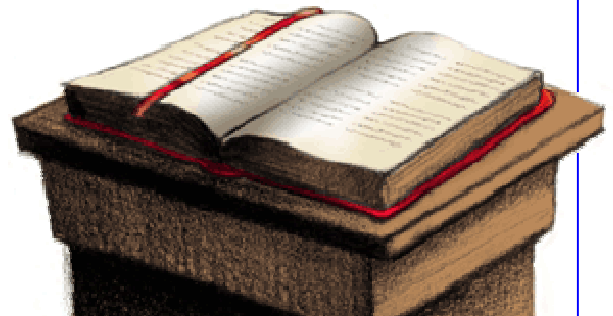
wholeness of the Bible as a revelation of God. **DISCIPLE** draws upon the work of scholars, the personal Bible reading and study of the participant, and dynamic group discussion to aid understanding of the Bible.

**DISCIPLE 2: INTO THE WORD INTO THE WORLD** will be led by **Jeff Knight**. 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 nights 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”.

We will be announcing, in late July, the day/time, location, and starting date of each of the **DISCIPLE** classes. Also, if anyone is interested in leading a Disciple Class that is not being offered or leading one of the **DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDIES** at a different time of the week, please contact Tony Moreau.

Study <sup>the</sup> Bible  
with us



BEGINNING IN AUGUST



Coming in September, **COVENANT BIBLE STUDY!** Covenant is an in-depth group Bible study in which participants read and discuss the Bible together, learning how to love God –and each other, better. Three 8-episode (week) segments each explore a different aspect of Covenant life. Each will examine what Covenant means, and the progression of a Covenant relationship with God.

**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.

Tony Moreau, one of Mt. Zion’s Associate Pastors will lead COVENANT twice weekly on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm and on Thursday mornings at 10 am beginning on September 21st and 22nd. Please contact Tony for more information or to register. To learn more, you can also go to <http://covenantbiblestudy.com/>.

**Covenant represents a relationship—a living, breathing conversation. And we invite you to join in it.**

COMING IN SEPTEMBER



Mt. Zion is planning to launch a **NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS STARTING IN SEPTEMBER.** This new class will be a compliment to the incredible classes we already offer on Sunday mornings. As he has prayed over and dreamed about a new class, Pastor Tony Moreau has started referring to the class as “Oasis”. He explains, “When I think of an oasis, I envision a stop along a journey that offers refreshment. I envision cool water, abundant shade and a revitalizing breeze; a place that provides refuge, relief, or pleasant contrast. When I consider a vision for the Oasis Sunday School Class, I pray that it will be a community in which you will encounter the Living Water that is Jesus Christ. An enticing weekly gathering that overshadows the hustle, bustle, and stresses which are often a part of daily life and that offers an encounter with and revitalization by the Holy Spirit. My prayer for the Oasis Class is that you will be a refuge for one another as we wrestle with Scripture and its application to our everyday lives, learning how we are to live out our calling as adherents of Jesus Christ’ way of life. It is my hope that Oasis will be a community where all who will gather together will experience the love of God and be loved by one another.”

“Oasis” (or another name the class members choose) is intended for those who are in their twenties and early thirties (or there about). Tony invites you to let him know if Oasis Sunday School Class is of interest to you. Tony is also seeking a few people to utilize their gifts of leadership, teaching, service and communication to assist him in ensuring that Oasis becomes a reality. Please spend some time in prayer, and let Tony know if you want to be integral to the launch of Oasis.

## MUSIC NOTES

### Chancel Choir Update

The Chancel Choir is taking the month of July off from leading worship. I am so grateful to all of our talented musicians for making the commitment to sing each Sunday and attend rehearsals regularly. The time out of the loft in July helps to renew and refresh our faithful singers. During July we will be singing hymns that were requested by the members of Mt. Zion. In addition Mike Jackson will be singing on July 10; The Women's Gospel Trio on July 17 and Heaven's Reign on July 31. Thank you in advance to all who have agreed to provide music while the choir is on break.

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. If you have any questions, please contact me at [mmittelstadt@mtzionumc.net](mailto:mmittelstadt@mtzionumc.net) or by calling 704-892-8566.

### THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!!! THANK YOU!!!!

Our summer music and arts camps were a big success this year thanks to the talented and faithful volunteers that

helped me lead. We had 31 elementary age students and 22 preschool age students. A BIG THANK YOU to Jackie Grant, Emily Ray, Riley Dudley, Misty Parrish, Angela Pratt and Katie Easley for leading groups for the elementary group. A BIG THANK YOU to Anja Cheek, Olivia Cheek, Brent Cheek, Bonnie Blum, Natalia Miller League, Mary Helen Ormsby and Derric Alexander for leading groups for the preschool camp. We would never be able to offer these programs without these faithful servants. Mt. Zion UMC has a bright future with the growth in our children's programs. To God Be the Glory!!!!!!

### Cornelius Concert Series

Mark your calendar for Friday, August 26 at 7 pm. Kelsey Maiorano, oboe. More information will follow in the August Newsletter. This is one concert you will not want to miss. Kelsey has been playing and studying in Switzerland this past year and will be visiting and has graciously offered to play a program at Mt. Zion.



If you would like to donate financially to help the People of West Virginia suffering in the aftermath of historic flooding, you may give to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) U.S. Disaster Response Advance #901670. You may write the check payable to Mt. Zion with the response number in the memo section.

You may also give directly to the West Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church at

<http://wvumc.org/News/2016/Bishop-offers-prayer-for-flood;-way-to-donate>.

Remember that 100% of your giving through the church goes directly to those in need.

### UMCOR Requests Prayers, Patience in Response to West Virginia Floods

After severe weather caused major flooding in West Virginia, UMCOR requests prayer for affected communities, and asks that volunteers hold-off on self-deployment.



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

**MT. ZION UMC UNAUDITED  
FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

1/1/16 - 6/30/16

2016 General Fund Budget:  
\$1,280,548

Budget Gifts: \$ 513,241

THANK YOU!

Budget Expenses: \$ 556,029

General Fund Cash On Hand:  
\$179,185

Capital Fund Gifts Received: \$8,410

Capital Fund Expenses \$9,556

Capital Fund Cash On Hand:  
\$16,403

Funds Received for Helping Hands  
(Pastor's Discretionary Fund) \$3,472

Information reflects contributions  
postmarked prior to July 1 and re-  
ceived as of date of printing.

Please contact Margaret Langston if  
you have questions.

Don't forget to pick up your free Mt. Zion car decal. You can get it at the Welcome Station any Sunday or come by the church office.



**JUNE 2016**

**ATTENDANCE:**

June 5: 8:30: 114; 9:45: 123;  
11: 188 = 425

June 12: 8:30: 132; 9:45: 99;  
11: 155=386

June 19: 8:30: 123; 9:45: 92;  
11: 163 = 378

ASP: 28

June 26: 8:30: 112; 9:45: 63;  
11: 208 = 383

**THE SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION IS  
EXTENDED TO ...Debbie Tillis and family on  
the death of her father, Herbert Parrott and to  
Arnold Isaacs and family on the death of his  
daughter, Christina Alston.**

**SPECIAL GIFTS WERE GIVEN... IN HONOR OF** Wendell Fox, a gift was given to UMAR ....**IN MEMORY OF** Polly Goodrum, a gift was given to the Budget; **IN MEMORY OF** Larry Simpson, a gift was given to the Music Fund and a gift was given to the Budget; **IN MEMORY OF** Cliff Cameron, a gift was given to the Budget and a gift was given to the History Room; **IN MEMORY OF** Herbert Parrott, gifts were given to the Budget; **IN MEMORY OF** Christina Isaacs Alston, a gift was given to the Budget and a gift was given to the History Room.

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:**

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jsimpson@mtzionumc.net

Rev. Tony Moreau

tmoreau@mtzionumc.net

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**Assistant Director**

Melanie Kalkan

mkalkan@mtzionumc.net

**Director of Christian Education:**

Crystal Parrish

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**Associate Director Christian Ed**

Kim Webb

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**Director of Youth:** Matt Sherrill

msherrill@mtzionumc.net

**Office Manager/Treasurer:**

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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

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



We're On The Web!  
[www.mtzionumc.net](http://www.mtzionumc.net)

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 E-mail: [m-langston@mtzionumc.net](mailto:m-langston@mtzionumc.net)

***"MAKING, MATURING, MOBILIZING DISCIPLES FOR CHRIST"***

**MEN OF ALL AGES ARE WELCOME** to attend a **MEN'S COMMUNITY PRAYER BREAK-FAST** held each Wednesday from 7-8 am at the Cook-house 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](mailto: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 – Mothers Offering Mutual Support** 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 Of Aging Parents** 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!

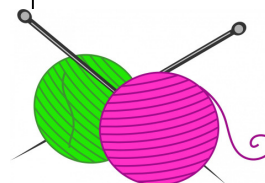
Contacts: Barbara Broadway Lackey:  
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 email: [Shirley@ransonteam.com](mailto:Shirley@ransonteam.com) 704-904-0973

**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 Par-



lor (located on the upper level of the Family Life Center) and hope to see you soon!