



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

September 2016 Volume XVIII Issue 9

WORSHIP EACH SUNDAY AT 8:30, 9:45 and
11:00 AM & WEDNESDAYS AT 6:40 PM
BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 21

**“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.ustream.tv/recorded/84673593>

Dear friends at Mt. Zion,

I had plans for this summer. They were wonderful plans. Plans to study, pray, write sermons, reflect and rest up for the marvelous year ahead at Mt. Zion.

To say that the summer was not what I had planned is an understatement. Weeks in the hospital, major surgery were not in the plan at all.

Probably – in one way or another—you have been in a similar situation. I hope it hasn't included the physical challenge I have had. But I think we have all been in the situation (short-term or long-term) where life took a turn that we did not ask for, we did not welcome and we did not want. And then, it is on our plate to make the best of it. That is hard to do, especially when the change is not something you wanted.

I thank God every day for the way you have helped this summer be a time of blessing and grace for me. It is the most difficult physical challenge I have ever had (which is quite a statement since I have had a pancreatic tumor, advanced thyroid cancer and uterine cancer). On top of the physical challenge was the life change of my father's death just 3 days after my surgery. Not-what-I-had-planned is the understatement of understatements.

But blessings have been evident in even the deepest valley—reinforcing for me the goodness of God and the great gift of the body of Christ, the church.

The only part of my plan for the summer that went as we had dreamed it was Joel's preaching in July and Tony's preaching in August. That was part of the plan partly for my time to study and pray and reflect. But it was also part of the plan because I wanted a time for their contribution to the congregation to expand – for everyone to have a chance to see the exceptional gifted ministry team we have at Mt. Zion. That part of the plan has been a blessing to me and to the church. I thank God for our great ministers and extraordinary staff every day and hope you do as well.

We have a great fall in store. As life moves back more into a routine, I hope that church will have a high priority in your heart and in your schedule. And when your life turns out to be not-what-you-had-planned, the church will be there to see you through – as it has for me. Gratefully, *Mary John*

PS. Since I was in the hospital, our family set my father's funeral for Saturday, September 17. I would be grateful for your prayers as we celebrate his long and faithful life to Christ and the church. The service will be at First United Methodist Church in Frankfort, Kentucky where Daddy served as pastor from 1961-1971. He was on staff there as Minister in Residence until his death.

Come out and enjoy Mt. Zion's **FALL PICNIC ON THE LAWN** on September 14 from 6:00-7:30 pm. Enjoy great conversation with friends, new and old, Bluegrass Gospel Music by the Hinson



Girls, and Hot Dogs & Hamburgers, as well as lawn games for all ages. Bring your lawn chair or a picnic blanket (we will have some tables and chairs set out for those who need them). Contact Pastor Tony for more information and if you can assist with set up or take down, please sign up at <http://goo.gl/EwdV2J>.



MEET THE PASTORS AND STAFF LUNCH, Sunday, September 18th If you have been visiting Mt. Zion, we would love to extend an invitation for you to join us for lunch with the pastors and staff. This lunch will give you the opportunity to meet the pastors and staff as well as learn more about Mt. Zion while meeting other members and visitors. We will meet in the church Parlor around 12:15 on Sunday, September 18th. (The Parlor is left of the Sanctuary. Go up the steps of the gazebo and go into the double doors on your left. There will be people there to greet you. The Parlor will be the second room on the left). Questions? Contact Pastor Joel at 704-892-8566 or by email at jsimpson@mtzionumc.net.

3RD SUNDAY FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP will be on September 18 at the Acropolis Restaurant in Cornelius—20659 Catawba Avenue. We will meet at 12:15 – 12:30 after the 11:00 service. Come meet your fellow church members. Hope to see you there!



WEDNESDAY NIGHT WORSHIP, 2
FIRST YEAR FRIENDS, WELCOME
101 CLASS

In
this
issue

COVENANT BIBLE STUDY & 4
BELIEVING GOD BIBLE STUDY
INFORMATION

SEPTEMBER 22 GUEST SPEAKER 7

MT. ZION FAMILY CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS!



Day Case
19304 Coachmans Trace Cornelius 28031
704-564-7070

WELCOME 101 CLASS – This class is for people visiting Mt. Zion and new members that have recently joined Mt. Zion. The focus of the class is to help you meet others, learn about Mt. Zion and what it means to be a member, and help you grow in your faith journey. It will also allow you to find a place to plug in and connect at Mt. Zion. The class will meet once a week for 6 weeks. This is an important step to getting integrated into Mt. Zion and growing in your faith walk.

When: Thursday nights 9/22-10/27 from 6:45- 7:45 pm

Where: Second floor of Education Building in Room 209 (the building behind the Sanctuary).

To Sign-Up: Contact Pastor Joel at 704-892-8566 or by email at Jsimpson@mtzionumc.net.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT WORSHIP BEGINS SEPTEMBER 21ST

Located in the Sanctuary at 6:40 pm, the Wednesday Night Worship service is a contemplative service that offers a unique opportunity to slow down and be refreshed. Each week there is a variety of music led by acoustic instruments and/or piano. Communion is served at the kneeling rail each week. The message is different from Sunday mornings. The service runs from 6:40-7:30.

We will begin this fall with our series called “Thoughtful Questions about the Bible.” Does God really command violence in the Bible? What does the book of Revelation really say about “The End”? What does Jesus mean by “Nobody comes to the Father but through me”?

FIRST YEAR FRIENDS MINISTRY

A First Year Friend (FYF) is a current church member who intentionally reaches out to a new member for their first year of membership to help them connect and learn more about Mt. Zion. A First Year Friend commits to reaching out to the new member once a month for the first year. This can be as simple as giving them a call or going out to lunch, maybe even sitting with them in worship. FYFs let new members know about church-wide events and invite them to participate such as the upcoming Wednesday night picnic on September 14th, Easter events, BBQ, mission trips, etc. (Many FYFs are surprised about how much they learn in this process too!).

There is no pre-determined way for this to happen. Keep it casual. Just be a conscientious person who keeps in touch. This gives new members someone they know right away and also helps them connect with their new church family in a more personal and meaningful way.

THE SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION IS EXTENDED TO ...Dr. Mary John Dye and family on the death of her father, Dr. James Shepherd, on August 13.

SPECIAL GIFTS WERE GIVEN... IN HONOR OF Ruth Westmoreland, a gift was given to Missions (Prayer Shawl Ministry); **IN HONOR OF** Wendell Fox, a gift was given to UMCOR; **IN HONOR OF** Mary John Dye, a gift was given to UMCOR; **IN HONOR OF** Phil Jackson, a gift was given to UMCOR...**IN MEMORY OF** Roger Lemmond, a gift was given to the Budget; **IN MEMORY OF** Dr. James Shepherd, a gift was given to the Budget; **IN MEMORY OF** Kenneth “Nick” Brown, a gift was given to the Cemetery Fund, a gift was given to UMCOR and gifts were given to the Missions Fund; **IN MEMORY OF** Beverly Wisbon, a gift was given to Stephen Ministry.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

- **Promotion Sunday** was a blast! It was great to see all the teachers, parents and kids! We are ready to start our new Whirl curriculum!
- **Wednesday Night Kids Club** starts back on Wednesday, **September 21st** with **G3** at **6:30 pm** in the "Hut". 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 2:45-3:25 pm. Children participating in Bible Buddies will be brought 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/>

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. You can register by going to <http://www.mtzionumc.net/ministries/adults/> and clicking on the “Sign-up for COVENANT” button or by contacting Pastor Tony.

Covenant Bible Study Group and Believing God Study

Believing God (Experiencing a fresh explosion of faith) by Beth Moore - will begin at Mt. Zion with an introductory meeting on September 20, 2016 at 10:00 am in Classroom #205 (2nd floor Education Bldg. – Son-seeker Classroom). Study materials will be available for purchase on the first day of class (Cost for the **Workbook is \$22.00** and if you would like the book associated with the study, the cost is **\$12.00**). This **weekly study** will include the introductory meeting and **10 sessions** where we will view teaching videos, discuss/fellowship/pray together, and leave to complete our five “homework” sessions individually at home. You can sign up by contacting the church office or the facilitators – Patti Keener (pkeener60@gmail.com) and Gigi Williams (gigiwilliams@hotmail.com).

CHRISMON WORKSHOPS in the Education Building Room 205

September 26 9 am & 6 pm

October 3 9 am & 6 pm

October 17 9 am & 6 pm

Classes are for beginners and intermediates. We have Chrismon kits for all.



BACKPACK FOOD MINISTRY

NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The local children are back in school and many in our area will be relying on the meals served there during the week. These same children may go hungry during weekends and school holidays because of economic strains on their families.

Mt. Zion will once again partner for the 3rd year with J.V. Washam Elementary in Cornelius to help these children by providing backpacks of food for their weekend meals.

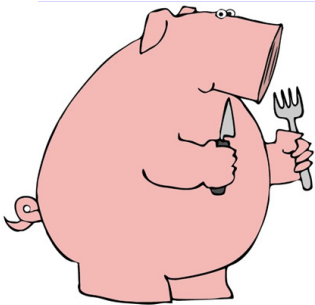


We were blessed last year to have a large group of volunteers to help with this amazing community program. Some dedicated volunteers filled weekly bags during the school year to a designated sponsored child. Others donated food or occasionally filled bags, to help out with the overall program. And for those who would like to help with the program financially, we gratefully accept monetary contributions. These funds can be used to purchase book bags for our children as well as grocery store gift cards to help over school breaks and holidays. We couldn't make this ministry work without everyone's support!

This is an opportunity to become involved either personally, or with a group. Sunday school classes, small groups or families are welcome to share in sponsoring a local child for the school year.

There will be an organizational meeting for all those interested in volunteering for the Backpack Ministry on Tuesday, September 13th at 10 o'clock in the Conference Room. If you're unable to come to the meeting, but are still interested in being involved, please email me at sriddle1974@gmail.com or call Sandy Riddle at 704.806.8278.

1 John 3:18 *Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.*



77th Annual Mt. Zion UMC BBQ

Saturday, November 5,
2016

11:00 AM - 6:00 PM (or
the food is gone!)

This is a **CHURCH WIDE mission event** sponsored by the Sonseeker Class - **100%** of the proceeds support missions and we get an opportunity to serve/work/play together! Entertainment is provided along with good food, even better fellowship. Please make plans now to be a part of this – we need every volunteer we can get, accept dessert and financial donations, and appreciate everyone's support in joining us to eat BBQ! Volunteer sign ups and sponsorship opportunities will begin October 1st with a sign up link available on the Mt. Zion UMC website – www.mtzionumc.net. Any questions, information, or requests can be forwarded to mzbbq@outlook.com.

WHEN PIGS FLY.....

Part of the BBQ fundraiser is helping raise money for the cost of pork. For \$25.00 donation, you can name a pig for sponsorship and we will put it on the PIG bulletin board. These donations allow us to keep the costs of meals the same as the past. As always, we appreciate your support and volunteer help. Our Mt. Zion family is the best!! Let's make this year our best FUNdraiser ever!! Please fill out the information and place in offering plate noting WHEN PIGS FLY.

Name: _____

Donation: _____

Pig Name(s): _____

Music Notes

I am so excited to start our Fall music program. New music is here and lesson plans have been prepared. Remember, our groups are open to all who wish to participate. Bring friends. Below is the schedule for our Fall Music Program. Please note the time changes for Youth Choir and Children's Choirs.

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.

Every Thursday

7 pm Choir Room, located in the basement of the Sanctuary Building; Chancel Choir, All voices are welcome and needed.

Sunday, September 11 *Start Date

2- 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

Fall 2016 Babygarten Classes begin in September

Babygarten was designed by two librarians who were concerned that young children might not be receiving the exposure to language needed to become competent readers. This class is much more than a play group! Infants and their caregivers will share nursery rhymes, songs, and books. Also participants will get a chance to make fun projects that demonstrate the babies' developmental milestones-usually a homemade toy or a baby book item. Many projects will emphasize the importance of reading to babies AND parents will learn how to do this more effectively. Each class will conclude with a free play period and opportunity for caregivers to share with each other. We meet at 10 am in Room 201 of the Education Building. Park on the south side, by the cemetery, go up the ramp and enter at that door. Marcy will be there to greet you.

Fall 2016 Wednesday, September 21, 28, October 5, 12 & 19 (Note the day change for weekday class.)
Saturday, September 24, October 1, 8, 15, 22

Woody Washam Sunday

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 9th. On this Sunday, we are honoring our organist, Woody Washam, at the 11 am service. Woody has been the organist at Mt. Zion UMC for 50+ years. Now that is something to celebrate!!! We will have a service of glorious music with a reception following in the Family Life Center.

MT. ZION UMC ADULT TRAVEL MINISTRY

Christmas at the Library December 15, 2016

A joyous trip to the Billy Graham Library is planned where the whole complex comes alive with the Christmas

Spirit.

Cost per person: \$27.50

Payment Due: September 13 Make checks payable to

Mt. Zion UMC with *OD Christmas trip* in memo section and

take to church office or mail to Mt. Zion UMC, Attention Adult Travel Ministries, 19600 Zion Avenue, Cornelius, NC 28031

Departure

Thursday, December 15, 3:30 pm from church and returning approximately 8:30 pm

For more information, please contact your group leader, Dora Dalmas at 704-737-4859 cell or

dalmas2@mi-connection.com

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

**MT. ZION UMC UNAUDITED
FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

1/1/16 - 8/31/16

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

Budget Gifts: \$ 663,669

THANK YOU!

Budget Expenses: \$ 726,633

General Fund Cash On Hand:
\$159,009

Capital Fund Gifts Received:
\$11,585

Capital Fund Expenses \$9,556

Capital Fund Cash On Hand:
\$19,578

Funds Received for Helping
Hands (Pastor's Discretionary
Fund) \$4,473

Information reflects contributions
postmarked prior to September 1
and received as of date of print-
ing.

Please contact Margaret
Langston if you have questions.

To the Children of Mt. Zion,

Thank you for the tote bag full of gifts, cookies and goodies. It was so nice of you to remember us. We love all of you.

George & Mary McAlister

Dear "Summer Sleepover" Group,

Your visit to our home on August 4th was such an appreciated surprise for Rodney and me. To see the happy smiling faces when you presented us the pretty "tote bag" filled with so many wonderful, useful gifts—goodies, Kleenex, etc.—we felt truly a gift from Mount Zion's children of God.

Thank each of you for your kindness and generosity.

All the activities you did that day were interesting with a lot of fun time included. The "sleep over" must have been great! Our love to each, Rodney & Miriam Whisnant

I so appreciate the many ways people helped me as I recovered from neck surgery. Cards, calls, texts, face book, visits and delicious food made a difficult time a lot easier. I am so blessed and feel so grateful for your many acts of kindness. I would be remiss if I didn't thank my husband, Tom, for his excellent care. God bless you all for following Jesus' example of showing loving care for others. Thanks, Ann

Everyone is invited to the Thursday, September 22 meeting of the Stephen Ministers at 6 pm in Room 204. The first hour or so will be led by Leslie Willis who is the coordinator for the Suicide hot-line in Davidson. She has done other community programs and has one for fall thru Davidson Parks and Rec. (Supervision for the Stephen Ministers will follow this program.)

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

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Director of Music Ministries:

Dr. Marcy Mittelstadt

mmittelstadt@mtzionumc.net

Assistant Director

Melanie Kalkan

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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

**AUGUST 2016
ATTENDANCE:**

August 7: 8:30: 108; 9:45:
97; 11: 214 = 419

August 14: 8:30: 106;
9:45: 104; 11: 183=393

August 21: 8:30: 111;
9:45: 109; 11: 185 = 405

August 28: 8:30: 113;
9:45: 128 ; 11: 207 =
448

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Cornelius, NC

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



We're On The Web!
www.mtzionumc.net

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 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 BREAK-FAST** 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 – 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 3rd Wednesday night in September (21st) at 7:30 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

YOU ARE INVITED...DRESS A GIRL WILL RESUME MEETING IN SEPTEMBER (4th Wednesday only in September) in the youth room at 6:30.

Everyone is welcome!!

We will teach. **No experience necessary.** Bringing your own sewing machine is welcome, but not necessary. Also, we are seeking missionaries to take our dresses around the world. You may contact Robin Lambert for information. rlambert96@gmail.com.



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!