



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

June 2016 Volume XVIII Issue 6

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

next
DIRECTORY

INFORMATION
NEEDED FOR A 2016
MEMBERSHIP DI-

RECTORY to include
addresses, phone numbers and
email addresses for all mem-
bers. See page 5 for details.

Dear family at Mt. Zion,

There is no higher calling than to live out the love of Christ for others. In marriage, as parents, as Christian friends, that is our ultimate joy and challenge. Sometimes it is easy to love. Other times, it is not so easy. But the abounding resources of God’s love are always available to us.

Every day, I am reminded of the great privilege of being a pastor. I am grateful to share ministry at Mt. Zion with Tony Moreau and Joel Simpson. As we go to Annual Conference and return as pastors here, this reading (I do not know the author) describes the love that is our goal as we serve:

When you rise to your highest and best,
we are your pastors.

When you yield to temptation and fall to your lowest,
we are your pastors.

When you live in the Spirit and manifest the attitude of a Christian,
we are your pastors.

When, for a time, you sink to the level of the flesh,
we are your pastors.

When joys come to you that swell notes of praise in your heart,
we are your pastors.

When sorrow comes as a dark shroud over your life,
we are your pastors.

When you have done your best and deserve the commendation of others,
we are your pastors.

When you have done your best and your good is spoken of as evil,
we are your pastors.

When you keep sweet and gracious as a mature Christian ought,
we are your pastors.

When you act childish over some real or imagined wrong,
we are your pastors.

When everything goes right and you don’t have a care in the world,
we are your pastors.

When nothing seems right and burdens multiply,
we are your pastors.

When you please us by the stand you take for right and manifest a wonderful spirit,
we are your pastors.

When you disappoint us and cause sleepless nights,
we are your pastors.

When you are living life to the fullest,
we are your pastors.

When your health fails and death draws near,
we will stand by you. *We are your pastors.*

We are humans, too. We have our own weaknesses
and heartaches. When you stand by us with charity and understanding,
We are grateful to be your pastors.

Living into and sharing God’s love is a high privilege. Gratefully, *Mary John*

Sunday, June 19, please come and support Ian Bailey as he preaches for the services at Mt. Zion. Ian is going to Duke Divinity School this fall to begin his studies for the ministry. He has been recommended for candidacy by Mt. Zion and our love and prayers go with him as he follows the calling God has placed on his heart. Make a special effort to be present to hear him share with Mt. Zion on June 19.

3rd Sunday Food and Fellowship
will convene on June 19th at the Acropolis Restaurant in Cornelius, at 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!



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MT. ZION FAMILY CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS!

May Births



Lula Eveley Hollingsworth was born on May 2nd. She is the daughter of Jessica & Marshall Hollingsworth and the granddaughter of Joe and Becky and the great granddaughter of Katy Hollingsworth.

Carson Elena League was born May 5th. She is the daughter of Natalia & Josh League and the granddaughter of Martha & Doug Miller.

Rebecca Lynn Caldwell was born on May 13th. She is the daughter of Kevin & Lynn, the sister of James and the granddaughter of Judy & Buddy Caldwell.

Corbin Reed Morris was born on May 13. He is the son of Brittany & Mike, the brother of Braylen Morris and the grandson of Deanna & Jimmy Grindstaff.

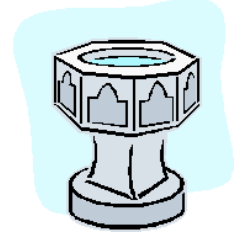


May Baptisms

Chase McConnell Ray was baptized on May 22 at the 11:00 service. He is the son of Fifi & Rusty Ray and the brother of Emma, Bella and Mac. He is the grandson of Cindy Ray and Sharon & Jerry Washam.

Carson Elena League was baptized on May 29 at the 11:00 service. She is the

daughter of Natalia & Josh League and the granddaughter of Martha & Doug Miller.



IN MAY WE WELCOMED INTO MEMBERSHIP:

Fred & Brooke Small (Katelyn, Kelsey & Patrick) 11510 Warfield Drive
Huntersville 28078 (704-644-2544)

On May 15 the following confirmands were welcomed into membership: Derric Stephen Alexander, Kennedy Grace Bishop, Ava Margaret Cooksey, Malena Marie DePaolis, Kathryn Janet Eisley, Drew Hobson Fellows, Nicole Louise Fellows, Patrick Lewis Hannagan, Jordan Elizabeth Kerr, Emily Grace King, Mason Byron Lennon, Morgan Rebecca Little, Matthew William Morrison, Nicholas Lee Redmond.

Children's Ministry News

Vacation Bible School is coming up!! At **Cave Quest Vacation Bible School**, kids experience **God's Word in surprising and unforgettable ways!** This year we will be **SPELUNKING** through our homemade caves, letting Jesus light our way! June 20th – 23rd, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm in the Main Sanctuary.

*****A registration table** has been placed in the education building beside the preschool office. We are only doing **paper registrations** this year, due to the new website delay. Please email cparrish@mtzionumc.net if you would like a form emailed to you.***

We also need you to collect **paper towel rolls**, for a craft activity. You can drop these off in the Main Office.

We are excited to **Announce** the **SUMMER SLEEPOVER** for rising 2nd grade – rising 6th graders on **AUGUST 4th!!** A **Survivor style** summer adventure and sleepover at the church!!



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/>



**We would like to congratulate all of the
December 2015 and May/June 2016 Graduates!!!!**

High School Graduates

Curtis Brown	Danielle DePaolis	Harrison Keene
Nathan Kemper	Alex King	Julia Knutson
Max Knutson	Katie Lambert	Elizabeth Lankford
Rachel Lineweaver	Gabby Moore	Logan Orr
Brian Pasewaldt	Hannah Scott	Noah Warren

College Graduates

Lauren Bauer	Brett Bowen	Cole Bowen
Michael Gil	David Keener	Rebekah Knight
Izzy Piedmonte	Lauren Shanks	Courtney Wakeman

On Sunday, June 5th, we honored the Mt. Zion graduates that were present at the worship services.

Following is the information we received from some of the graduates:

COLLEGE GRADUATES

Lauren Bauer graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology and minors in Chemistry and Spanish for the Professions. During her undergraduate studies, Lauren was on the Dean's list for all eight semesters and graduated with highest distinction. She accepted an invitation to join Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society. She was an undergraduate research assistant in the Peifer lab and wrote her honors thesis on a research project studying colon cancer. She also studied abroad in Costa Rica for one semester. She is the daughter of Linda and Bill Bauer.

David Keener graduated from East Carolina University with honors from the School of Health and Human Performance. He obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Athletic Training. He is currently interviewing for positions in the Charlotte, Wilmington and Asheville areas. He is the son of Patti and Mark Keener.

Rebekah Knight graduated Summa Cum Laude from Appalachian State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a minor in Leadership Studies. In the fall, she will be returning to App State to begin the General/Experimental Psychology Masters program. She is the daughter of Laurie and Jeff Knight.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE

Kaitlyn Hope Lambert graduated on June 4th from Pine Lake Preparatory. Katie has been a lifelong member of Mt. Zion UMC and has been involved in about every aspect of her church. From Sonshine Preschool to Sunday School, VBS, Elementary Camp, choir, handbells, Confirmation, FUEL, ASP and the South Africa mission trip, Mt. Zion has been one of the most influential things in Katie's life. She would like to thank all of the church members that have supported these ministries. All of this has led to a love of service to others, earning her the Gold Presidential Service Award. While at Hough High, Katie was a member of the dive team and managed the lacrosse team. At Pine Lake Preparatory, Katie was on the Varsity Cheer Team for two years, earning the Pride Award for sportsmanship and leadership. She was also a Junior Ambassador. Katie will be attending Appalachian State University in the fall to study nursing. She is the daughter of Robin and Mark Lambert.

With a congregation full of selfless servants, 9 years ago, Mt. Zion began an annual way to honor people whose Sunday-after-Sunday blesses this church. The award, called the **"Towel and Basin" Award** has the same bent and appreciation goal that the Annual Conference's Laity Service Award has: to say a heartfelt thank you for dedicated service. Homecoming Sunday has been the time that a Towel and Basin recipient has been selected and honored.

Everyone gathered for worship today has been blessed by our 2016 Towel and Basin honoree. There are countless ways that you will know what I mean.

Today's recipient is a wise friend and teacher for a number of small groups. She has been a caring friend to others as a Stephen Minister. You have seen her giving selfless service wherever Mt. Zion is serving others – from church-wide functions like the Barbeque to the quiet but powerful serving of communion at Autumn Care. She has served the church in numerous leadership capacities: Worship Chair, Finance Committee, Administrative Board, Delegate to Annual Conference, Building Committee.

Everyone here at this service has benefitted from her careful care and welcoming, kind heart as she has headed up the Hospitality Teams for the 9:45 service for the last 14 years. She came this morning – not to get an award, but to be a servant.

She is continually bringing God's love to sexually abused children through her leadership on behalf of the Dove House Children's Advocacy Group. And she and her husband were instrumental in starting the Safe Sanctuary program on behalf of child safety here at Mt. Zion.

By now, you have figured out that this year's Towel and Basin award is being given to Patti Richardson. John Wesley wrote a tribute to his mother which, I think, sums up the witness that Patti has had to all of us. I know that more than 2 centuries have separated the life of Susanna Wesley – part of our history—and the life of Patti Richardson – who, thank God, is part of our present. But the description is better than anything else I could say:

"Take her for all and in all, I do not believe that any human being ever brought into the world a larger portion of original goodness. Every one who knew her loved her for she seemed to be made to be happy herself and to make everyone happy within her little sphere. Her understanding was as good as her heart; God never blessed a human creature with a more cheerful disposition, a more generous spirit, a sweeter temper or a tenderer heart.

Patti, you have encouraged us to grow spiritually with teaching, leading and example. You have carefully provided for the nurture and growth of this worship service. You have shown the spirit of Jesus Christ to us. And today, Mt. Zion honors you. (written and presented by Dr. Mary John Dye)

This year's honoree of the **Lifetime Achievement Award** joined Mt. Zion UMC in 1969. Since joining he and his wife have been very active in the church. He is a member of the Don Bridger Sunday School Class, worked with the youth programs of the church and served on every committee of the church. Some more than two or three times. His soft spoken and gentle way has gone a long way when serving on church committees. He is not one to speak a lot at meetings but when he does you can say he has thought about the situation and spoke for what was the right thing to do for our church. He is respected by all that know him and our church is fortunate to have him as a member.

When Mt. Zion began the building program for the Family Life Center he was the chairman of that committee. There were many long hours that went into this project but he was there early morning or late at night working through any problem that had come up. Rev. Ned Owens would sometimes send a note home with him explaining to his wife why he was out way past midnight. There is a story Pastor Ned tells about them at the church way after 1 am and this year's honoree tried to pretend he was God and scare Pastor Ned. I know I don't have the story correct but I do know it scared Pastor Ned. His biggest challenge during the project was to get the Ben Brown Bible Class to agree to move the Hut. For those who do not know, the Hut was used as a Sunday School Class for the older gentlemen of the church. At the time, they were about 100 members strong so you did not want to upset them. As you can see today, the Hut was moved and all members of the class were happy. My Daddy always said it was the way this year's honoree handled things that kept the move peaceful.

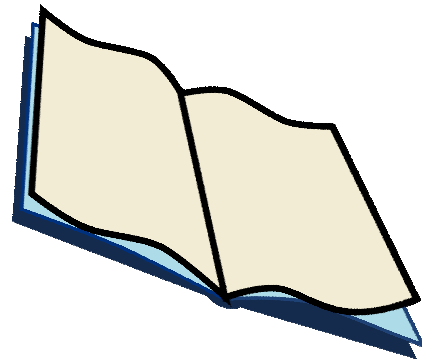
This year's honoree truly loves Mt. Zion. He is very supportive of our church and tries always to do what is best for the church. It is my great honor to announce on behalf of Mt. Zion that the 2016 Lifetime Service Award be given to David Scott. (written and presented by Jan Horton)

**2016 MEMBERSHIP
DIRECTORY BEING
PREPARED**

A 2016 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY IS BEING PREPARED! A new directory including names, addresses and email addresses is being prepared. If there have been changes to your address or phone number since the 2015 directory was printed and you have not notified the church office, please let us know **BY JUNE 30TH**. If you would like to have your email address (2 per family) included, please notify us by email at info@mtzionumc.net, call the church office at 704-892-8566, provide the information on the attendance pad or fill in the information on one of the forms provided in the narthex, gym and adult Sunday School classrooms **BY JUNE 30th**. We need your authorization to publish your emails. We will **NOT** be publishing emails from our database or constant contact list. We look forward to hearing from you and, with your help, having this directory be the most accurate and informative way to contact one another.

EMAIL ADDRESSES NEEDED (2 per family maximum). Please provide your email if you want it in the directory. **We will not be able to use the email addresses we have on file! We need your authorization to publish your emails. We will NOT be publishing emails from our database or constant contact list.**

Send an email to info@mtzionumc.net, call the church office (704-892-8566), provide the information on the attendance sheets on Sunday or fill out one of the sheets in the Narthex, Sunday School classrooms or Family Life Center with any changes to your address or phone numbers on file as well as your email address(es) you want included!



SEND INFO BY JUNE 30, 2016

(firm deadline)

My heartfelt thank you to the family of Mt Zion for presenting me with the 2016 Towel and Basin Award.

You are all such a wonderful example of the church of God. You have held me up in kindness, love and spirit for almost 20 years.

The Mt Zion family truly incorporates the teachings of I Corinthians 14:26; 'Everything must be done so that the church may be built up.'-NIV.

I am truly blessed by each of you, your presence in my life and the opportunity to serve at Mt Zion.

In all things, to God be the glory.....Patti

MUSIC NOTES

Mt. Zion Music Ministry Grows

The Mt. Zion UMC Music Ministry is excited to announce that our youth choir program will be expanded in Fall 2016 to include the singers from the Mooresville based Testify Youth Choir. Susan O'Keefe, director of the present Testify Youth Choir, is retiring and turning over the leadership for Testify to the music ministry of Mt. Zion UMC.

Melanie Kalkan, Praise Team and Mt. Zion Youth Choir Director, is thrilled to be welcoming these singers to our present Genesis Youth Choir. In an effort to use the familiarity of the group's name in the area and for continued recruitment, the Mt. Zion Genesis Youth Choir will now be named the Mt. Zion Testify Youth Choir. The opportunities for this group are endless and we cannot wait to get started this Fall.

There will be some scheduling changes for the Sunday music program to make room for additional participants in our present facilities. The new schedule for Sunday afternoon groups will start Fall 2016.

2016 Fall Sunday Schedule:

2 - 3:25 pm	Mt. Zion Testify Youth Choir, Family Life Center
2 - 2:45 pm	Children's Activities, Youth Room & Front Lawn
2:45- 3:25 pm	Children's Choirs - All groups
3:30- 4:25 pm	Youth Hand Bells, Bell Room
4:30 pm	FUEL Youth, Family Life Center

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Director of Music Ministries, Dr. Marcy Mittelstadt at mmittelstadt@mtzionumc.net or Melanie Kalkan, Director of Mt. Zion Testify Youth Choir at melaniekalkan@mgd.k12.nc.us.

June Music and Arts Camps

Both the Elementary Music and Arts camp and the Preschool Music and Arts Camp are at capacity. Please keep all of us in your prayers as we explore music, movement and arts with 50+ young learners. I especially would like to thank my volunteers who make it possible for us to offer these camps.

July Worship Music

Worship in July will be a more relaxed style of worship with added hymn singing. Here is your chance to request your favorite hymns. We cannot guarantee all will be used, but we will do our best to include as many as possible. If you have any favorites you would like for us to consider for this worship time, please email them to me at mmittelstadt@mtzionumc.net. If you do not email, you may write them down and give to me on Sunday morning. We would prefer hymns that are in our current hymnal or The Faith We Sing. (Remember The Faith We Sing has many old hymns that are not in the present UMC hymnal.) I will need all requests in writing, to be able to remember them all. Deadline for hymn submissions is June 15.



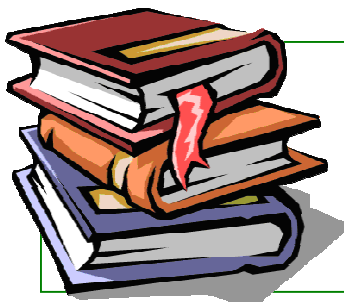
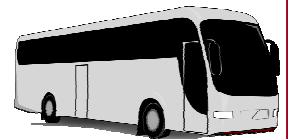
A HUGE THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HELPED WITH THE BACKPACK MINISTRY

As the school year comes to an end it's the perfect time to give thanks to all those dedicated people who helped local children at JV Washam Elementary. Because of you all, 18 children received bags every week full of food to sustain them through the weekends all year long. You helped not only each of these children, but you relieved their parents of a stressful situation. Know that because of you, 18 children experienced the love of Christ through your actions.

Mt. Zion Adult Travel Ministry presents a 'Mystery Trip' for Saturday, August 20, 2016. What mysteries await us around the Charlotte beltway? We will always be within 1 hour of Cornelius, enjoying places we have never been before. Cost is \$39 per person and includes lunch, three events, *guaranteed* laughter, and priceless fellowship. We even have one of our own leading one of the events! Reserve by July 5 with your \$19 de-

posit. Final payment is due July 25.

If you must have more information, please contact your group leader, Dora Dalmas at 704-737-4859 cell or dalmas2@mi-connection.com



YOUR DONATIONS MADE A DIFFERENCE!!!

Many thanks to everyone who donated books for JV Washam Elementary. We collected 275 books for their book drive. Their goal was to give each student 5 books to take home for summer reading. This means that because of your generous hearts, 55 children will enjoy, read, and cherish their chosen books all summer long. They'll retain their reading skills and reduce learning loss over their summer break. Thanks for helping with this important program!

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

**MT. ZION UMC UNAUDITED
FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

1/1/16 - 5/31/16

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

Budget Gifts: \$ 445,271

THANK YOU!

Budget Expenses: \$ 474,372

General Fund Cash On Hand:
\$192,871

Capital Fund Gifts Received: \$6,520

Capital Fund Expenses \$9,556

Capital Fund Cash On Hand:
\$14,513

Funds Received for Helping Hands
(Pastor's Discretionary Fund) \$2,920

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

Please contact Margaret Langston if
you have questions.

MAY 2016

ATTENDANCE:

May 1: 8:30: 89; 9:45: 85; 11:
192 = 366

May 8: 8:30: 130; 9:45: 118;
11: 226=474

May 15: 8:30: 94; 9:45: 105;
11: 340 = 539

May 22: 8:30: 113; 9:45: 127;
11: 186 = 426

May 29: 8:30: 111; 9:45: 81;
11: 192 = 384

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.



SPECIAL GIFTS WERE GIVEN... IN HONOR OF Shelley Little, a gift was given to the Music Fund; **IN HONOR OF** Mary Shaw, a gift was given to the Youth Fund; **IN HONOR OF** Drew and Nikki Fellows, a gift was given to the Budget....**IN MEMORY OF** Claudia Bost, a gift was given to the Music Fund; **IN MEMORY OF** Larry Simpson, a gift was given to the Stop Hunger Now Fund and a gift was given to the Budget; **IN MEMORY OF** Cliff Cameron, a gift was given to the Budget; **IN MEMORY OF** Phil Gibbs, a gift was given to the Budget.

THE SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION IS EXTENDED TO ...Lee Maiorano and family on the death of his father, Tony Maiorano, on May 21; to Rev. Joel Simpson and family on the death of his father, Larry Simpson, on May 27 and to Randy Cameron and family on the death of his father, Cliff Cameron, on May 28.

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:

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Assistant Director

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mkalkan@mtzionumc.net

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Crystal Parrish

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Associate Director Christian Ed

Kim Webb

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Director of Youth: Matt Sherrill

msherrill@mtzionumc.net

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m-langston@mtzionumc.net

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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

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Youth House: 704-892-7825
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 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 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!

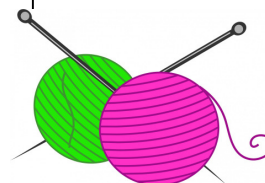
Contacts: Barbara Broadway Lackey:
email: bbroadway47@gmail.com 704-996-7000 or Shirley Ranson:
email: Shirley@ransonteam.com 704-904-0973

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 Par-



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