



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

May 2016 Volume XVIII Issue 5

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

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT WORSHIP

Our Wednesday Night Worship service will be taking a break from May through August. The service will kick off again in September. Please call Pastor Joel at the church (704)892-8566 or email [jsimpson@mtzionumc.net](mailto:jsimpson@mtzionumc.net) if you would like more information about the worship service and when it will start in the fall.

Dear friends at Mt. Zion,

May is a big month.

It is a big month for Mt. Zion – Mother’s Day, Confirmation Sunday, Homecoming. One Sunday after another is a special celebration.

May is a big month for United Methodism.

Every 4 years, since Methodism came to America, Methodists from around the world have met to worship, pray and make decisions about the church. This year, General Conference meets May 10-20 in Portland.

The United Methodist Church lives by a common covenant called The United Methodist Discipline. There are no doctrinal changes made at General Conference. The Articles of Religion are not open to change.

I encourage you to read through the history of American Methodism for yourself at [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org). You will see that, through the years, the General Conference has made changes. There have been big disagreements through the years. The very methodical process of the General Conference process will again be a testimony that we are organized for stability.

This does not mean we are perfect. It only means we desire to grow more perfect and have a process in place to keep us praying and thoughtful – a process that helps us learn from our mistakes. Differences have been so vehement that there have been divisions. (Mt. Zion was part of the division in 1944) . Because Methodists have this every-four-year open process, there have also been reunifications through the years.

The glory of our process is a firm faith foundation and a willingness to learn from our mistakes. The General Conference includes delegates from Methodism around the world. Any individual or group could send a petition for consideration by the General Conference. (Information on how to submit a petition was included in the Mt. Zion newsletter last September.) Because the General Conference is structured to be open to hearing from all United Methodists, there will be a wide variety of petitions considered. I have never known a General Conference in my lifetime (or in our history) where everybody agreed with everything. I do not know a family, a local church or an annual conference where there are no disagreements—sometimes fierce ones. Everybody across the church has had a chance to have a say. Everyone does not get their way. (Does everyone get what they want in your family?) Whatever passes at the 2016 General Conference will be the covenant of the church until 2020. Then the General Conference will meet again. That has been true of Methodism since 1784.

With the advances of technology, people will have unprecedented access to the proceedings of the General Conference. You can follow these 10 days on <http://wncumc.org/general-conference-2016>. General Conference is how the family of Methodism gathers. Like your family gatherings, there will be spirited debate, a wide divergence of opinions and a common love for Christ and each other. Our connectional church is part of something great for God. May is a big month. I hope you will keep Mt. Zion and the General Conference in your prayers. *Mary John*

**A Celebration of Mt. Zion Homecoming  
May 22, 2016  
See page 2 for more information.**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Food and Fellowship** will meet at Village Inn Pizza, 20129 N. Main St. in Cornelius on May 15. We'll 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!



### April Birth

Harrison Michael Pomeroy was born April 15th. He is the son of Michael & Brittany Pomeroy and the brother of Ella.



### April Baptisms

Sawyer Jones Cooke was baptized on April 17 at the 8:30 service. He is the son of Jim & Arden Cooke and the brother of Peyson.

Caleb Andrew Davis was baptized on April 24 at the 11:00 service. He is the son of Mark & Sara Davis and the brother of Avery.



## A Celebration of Mt. Zion – Homecoming

May 22, 2016

Please join the entire church as we celebrate Mt. Zion's **past, present and future** during the 189<sup>th</sup> Homecoming Anniversary. During the 9:45 a.m. service, special music will be provided by the Youth Choir. At the 11 a.m. service, the colorful Kirk'n of the Tartans will be featured, along with special music to celebrate our heritage. Presentation of the annual Towel & Basin Award and the Lifetime Achievement will also take place.



All members are encouraged to pack a picnic basket and gather together as a congregation at noon on the front lawn for a family dinner on the grounds, entertainment, children's games and activities. There is something for everyone. Our own **Heaven's Reign** Southern Gospel Quartet along with a new women's trio, **Faith, Hope and Grace**, will be our featured entertainment. There will also be a History Tent where you can learn about both the church and community's historic past. This is a special time for all of our membership to join together to reflect on the **past**, celebrate the **present** with friends and family, and plan for our **future**. Please join us for fun, food, and fellowship whether you have been a member all of your life or have joined Mt. Zion in 2016!

## We are most successful when we work TOGETHER!

### Help us support summer reading and minimize summer learning loss for students!

Strengthening the literacy skills of the students has been a top priority at J.V. Washam Elementary School this year. In celebration of their school's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we are hoping to help them collect 10,000 books. They will give each J.V. Washam student 5 books and donate the other 5 to area students in need. We're asking you to participate by donating new and gently used books for their students to take home and read during the summer. Harvard research shows that reading just five books during the summer can help students reduce learning loss. Access to quality reading materials over the summer can also help young readers nurture a lifelong love of reading.

Collection boxes will be placed throughout our church campus beginning May 1st and books will be collected through May 22nd. Look for the donation boxes for books next to the Ada Jenkins Food Collection bins, in the Family Life Center, central hall upstairs of the Education Building, hallway near the Church Library, and outside the elevator on the ground level. In early June a book fair will occur for students and they can select their very own books to take home and keep forever! Your donations can help their students retain the literacy skills they worked so hard to build this year and begin the 2016-2017 school year better prepared to learn. Many thanks, Sandy Riddle

## Children's Ministry News

Our Children's Programs (Sunday Bible Buddies and Wednesday Nights-a.k.a "S'More Time at the Well" and "Kids Lenten Fair") wrapped up in April. They will re-launch in the fall. As we look forward to this summer's Vacation Bible School, Marcy's Music & Arts Camps and the Summer Sleepover...we want to highlight what the kids did this year as they have grown in their knowledge of the Bible and in their relationship with Jesus. What an amazing experience to watch kids come to know God and learn how to serve Him by serving others.

- **AUGUST**- The kids enjoyed popcorn and met their new Sunday School teachers at the Promotion Sunday fest. For the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday mission, the children made goody bags for the teachers at Sonshine Pre-school to welcome them to the new school year.
- **SEPTEMBER**- Bible Buddies started on Sunday nights. We ate s'mores and learned about God's creation on Wednesday nights. We made "Hugs in a Bag" to give out to those in need of a smile.
- **OCTOBER**- We partnered with the Dress A Girl ministry to collect fabric and made "Who Bags" (think Boo Bags) about Jesus to give out to our neighbors. The Great Pumpkin Event was a blast with games, candy, popcorn and a movie.
- **NOVEMBER**- During Sunday School we made special Christmas goody bags for the Backpack ministry.
- **DECEMBER**- The kids made Advent wreaths, dressed up to re-enact the Christmas story, and celebrated Jesus' birthday with a special party.
- **JANUARY**- We collected items for the two Cornelius fire stations. The Bible Buddies organized all the treats into two baskets and the Mt. Zion preschoolers had a blast dropping them off and touring the fire station.
- **FEBRUARY**- Bible Buddies began studying Adam Hamilton's 24 Hours that Changed the World on Sundays. And we learned all about Holy Week during the Kids Lenten Fair on Wednesday Nights. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School Class painted their classroom, made artwork to hang on the walls and enjoyed laser tag and bowling one Saturday!
- **MARCH**- The Bible Buddies group filled eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt, made Easter bags and invitations for our neighbors in Antiquity and made goody bags for the Backpack Ministry.
- **APRIL**- The Flip Flop Hop, Special Needs Ministry event was a great success! We had 65 adults, youth and children who enjoyed dancing, crafts, dinner and Zelnick the Great Magician on Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. Special thanks to Debbie Jackson, Felicia Davis, Gigi Williams, Jane Poston, Stephanie Sossamon, Bobbie Gil, Kurt Floto, Jeff Knight, Ginger Andersen, Kristine Atkinson and Elizabeth Coker. The Bible Buddies enjoyed their last meeting by reviewing everything they learned, playing kickball, and enjoying popsicles on the playground! (A photo from The Flip Flop Hop is on page 4.)

**\*\*Please make note of our Upcoming Events: VBS-June 20-23<sup>rd</sup> & the Summer Sleepover- August 4<sup>th</sup>\*\***



**Mt Zion Children's Ministry is on Facebook! Please check out and like our page for upcoming events, pictures, and information.**

## ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE TRUSTEES

All closets/storage areas in the Family Life Center were cleaned out. Efforts were made to respect the property of all groups and to designate adequate space for all missions. New shelves were assembled and a thorough cleaning was done. Going forward, we ask all groups to store only the items which are consistently used or needed. We encourage everyone to donate any paper goods (plates, napkins, cups, etc.) to the kitchen pantry and to use what is in the pantry before purchasing more. If everyone works together we can all have enough storage and avoid spending extra money. Thanks

### A Word On Witnessing

Exodus 23:11 says that in the 7<sup>th</sup> year the Israelites should let the land where they grow their crops “lay fallow.” They should allow the land to rest. This is both for their own benefit and the benefit of the land. Farmers will tell you that unless you do something to replenish the soil, the nutrients will be sucked out and the land will not produce good crop anymore.

The same is true for our lives. We need time built into the cycles of our lives to be renewed and refreshed. We need time when we stop working; when we allow ourselves to rest and do something different. Another word that illustrates this is “Sabbath.” We need time each day, week, month, and year to rest from our work and remember why we do the work we do.

Finding time each day and week can be a struggle

amidst our busy lives. However, part of the way we become our best selves is by allowing the land to lay fallow. It allows the soil to be replenished, our batteries to be recharged, our passion to be rekindled. It reminds us that there is more to life than “work” and “doing.” It helps remind us why we do the work.

Over the month of May be intentional about finding time for God, silence, being in nature, and spending time with friends and loved ones. All of these things will help refresh you, allow you to enjoy life more, and remind you about why you do the work you do throughout the week.

This is a strong witness and a counter-cultural way of life in our world today. Let the land lay fallow for a time and see how your life benefits from it.

*Rev. Joel Simpson*



Photo at left is from The Flip Flop Hop on April 24.

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

**MT. ZION UMC UNAUDITED  
FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

1/1/16 - 4/30/16

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

Budget Gifts: \$ 360,664

**THANK YOU!**

Budget Expenses: \$ 363,294

General Fund Cash On Hand:  
\$219,343

Capital Fund Gifts Received: \$5,780

Capital Fund Expenses \$9556

Capital Fund Cash On Hand:  
\$13,783

Funds Received for Helping Hands  
(Pastor's Discretionary Fund) \$2,419

Information reflects contributions  
postmarked prior to May 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.



**SPECIAL GIFTS WERE GIVEN... IN HONOR OF**  
Matt Sherrill, a gift was given to ASP; **IN**  
**HONOR OF** Rodney Mayhew, a gift was given  
to the Cemetery Fund....**IN MEMORY OF** Karen  
Sims, a gift was given to the Budget.

**THE SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION IS  
EXTENDED TO ...**Bob and Jackie Elliott and  
family on the death of their grandson,  
Robert Elliott Logano; to Don Brown and  
family on the death of his sister, Priscilla  
Brown Gilbert, on April 15; to George &  
Judy Fogle and family on the death of their  
daughter, Michele Fogle-Sizemore, on April  
18; and to Paul & Marie Bjorneboe and  
family on the death of their son, David  
Bjorneboe, on April 20.

The mission of MT. ZION UMC STEPHEN MIN-  
ISTRY is to provide confidential and compassion-  
ate lay ministry to our congregation and commu-  
nity who face difficult life transitions; enhancing  
and bridging the Christian care provided by our  
clergy. Please pray for those serving in this min-  
istry 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  
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**Associate Pastors:**

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Donnelly Sherrill (pt security)

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**Youth House:** 704-892-7825

**Sonshine Preschool:** 704-892-0654

**APRIL 2016**

**ATTENDANCE:**

April 3: 8:30: 97; 9:45: 107;  
11: 223 = 427

April 6: 56

April 10: 8:30: 124; 9:45: 112;  
11: 207=443

April 13: 53

April 17: 8:30: 130; 9:45: 85;  
11: 247 = 462

April 20: 39

April 24: 8:30: 89; 9:45: 148;  
11: 208 = 445

April 27: 33

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



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

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**"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 (May 17) in the church Parlor at 7:00 pm. Young moms from pregnancy through preschool age children are welcome.

**COAP = Children Of Aging Parents** meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday nights (May 4 and May 18) 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.

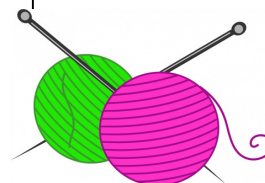
We have something going on all the time!

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

**DRESS A GIRL** meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month in the youth room. Everyone is welcome!! We will teach. **No experience necessary.** Contact Robin Lambert with questions or for more information. [rlambert96@gmail.com](mailto: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 Par-



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