



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

April 2016 Volume XVIII Issue 4

WORSHIP EACH SUNDAY AT 8:30, 9:45 and
11:00 AM and WEDNESDAYS at 6:30 PM

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

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

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Dear disciples at Mt. Zion,

When I first came to Mt. Zion, the first thing I wanted to do (besides preach!) was to listen. That first fall, we set up “Listening Circles” to give me the opportunity to hear from people across the church. I asked them to share the joys, the needs and the hopes for Mt. Zion. Over 200 people participated in these conversations. It was a wonderful experience for me.

One of the first things I learned is that people are keenly aware of the need for new and up-graded physical facilities on our church campus. I heard all about the difficulties created from accessibility problems. I quickly understood that people were not complaining about cosmetic updates – they were sharing about fundamental, functional problems, inadequacies and liabilities of the present buildings. Through my four years, every week, I have seen volunteers and leaders of Mt. Zion’s wonderful programs struggle with space issues and limitations. The growth of the program is something to celebrate. That growth also means that more people struggle to participate because of the significant limitations of accessibility.

In response to the well-known challenges of our buildings, the leaders of the church authorized a Building Committee to build on the foundation of a vision group that had been meeting for over 10 years. The Building Committee is responsible to develop well-thought-out plans for the needs of the church. As the Building Committee has planned and prayed three goals have emerged of essential importance:

1) The ongoing ministry of the church. (The ministries of the church are high priority. They serve people of all ages in very important ways. Whatever is done to expand or improve present facilities, it is a priority for the ministries of the church to not be disrupted or discontinued in the process.)

2) The importance of accessibility (People want the facilities of the church to help and not hinder their participation.) That means both handicap accessibility and proximity. Accessibility is very important to help people participate in the life of the church.

3) The important role of planning for the future. (It is a great blessing that Mt. Zion is land-rich. The Building Committee has chosen to take a long look at the needs for the present. They understand that what is done first should be a building block for everything else that needs to be done in the future. The study of all the needs of the church will save the church from jumping to make a short-term fix that would block or limit important needs for the future of the church).

As far as I know, everyone agrees on those goals.

With those goals in mind, the Building Committee has taken a big first step and hired an architectural firm. That firm, LS3P wants to come and meet with people from across the congregation to hear about the needs and hopes for the different areas of church life. April 9, 10 and 11, the architects will be meeting with the Building Committee, staff and officers of the church. Meetings have been set up with lay people who lead the children’s program, youth, education, worship, music and missions and witness areas of the church. These representative people will give the first step input into what Mt. Zion needs. Based on what they hear and observe, the architects will develop a general concept rendering for the Building Committee to consider. (After the review and approval of the Building Committee and Administrative Board, the concept will then be shared across the congregation hoping to get the input of as many people as possible. After that process, the concept will be adapted as needed and, at that time, architect drawings developed. Then there would be more approvals, additional input and a process of education, District approval and fund-raising before plans would come to the congregation for approval).

While this is a first step, it is a hope-filled, joyful step. We ask everyone to undergird these 3 days in prayer. Across the years, Mt. Zion has kept a vision of ministry shining bright in Cornelius. What a great opportunity is ours! What a blessing to be a part of what is unfolding, *Mary John*

PLEASE MARK YOUR CAL- ENDARS.

On April 17th and 24th, Stephen ministers will have booklets available after each service for End of Life planning. These documents include general, financial and healthcare powers of attorney and a Living Will. On May 1st after each service, notaries and social workers will be on hand to help with legalizing the documents presented. As we celebrate the resurrection, let us remember that we celebrate life and can face death fearlessly and with faith. What better gift for your family and loved ones than your thoughtful and informed (and legally signed) documents. The peace of mind is priceless, your family will be informed and better able to carry out your wishes. Please prayerfully consider getting and completing these documents. What an act of love to share with your family!

The 3rd Sunday Food & Fellowship for April will be at the Huntersville Family Restaurant at 105 S.

Statesville Road in Huntersville on April 17th. We will meet between 12:15 and 12:30 pm after the 11:00 am service. Come meet your fellow church members. Hope to see you there!



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MT. ZION FAMILY CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS!



March Births

Chandler Davis was born March 21st. He is the son of Andrew & Molly Davis and the grandson of Paul & Mary Goodson.

Declan David Carper was born March 25th. He is the son of Damien & Emily Carper and the brother of Madeline.



Lay Leader Roles Expanded at Mt. Zion

The Nominating Committee and Administrative Board have elected a team of people to serve as Lay Leaders of Mt. Zion. The Lay Leader is someone who listens to concerns and gives advice to the leaders and pastors of the church. The new structure for lay leader is designed to give more access and more input for church members – and to give an expanded base of input for other church lead-

ers and the pastors. Three people have been elected: Gaylon White, David Thornton and Ritchie Crump. While people from any worship service can contact any of the three, each of the lay leaders generally attends a different worship service at the church. They will be meeting together soon to work out contact points and which officer groups the three will serve. Please keep them in your prayers and feel free to share concerns with them in their new role.



I am writing you all, my Church family, with gratitude deep in my heart. As you all know, Cornelius and Mt. Zion took a couple of big hits in February with losses of some old members.

One of those happened to be my dad, Jerry Sossamon. As it was tough on the family, it

was also tough on those who knew and loved him, as well. Through all the pain we are fortunate to know we have not just hope, but “The Great Hope”. Knowing my dad the way we all do, you know the path he walked and where it led. I have no doubt that we will see him with Jesus when we get there too. Another huge comfort is how “The Body” worked to help us through. Mt. Zion, our church family, lifted us in prayer, brought meals, and loved us. What else could anyone ask? This outpouring of love from our brothers and sisters in Christ was overwhelming and greatly appreciated by our family.

Also following the passing of my dad, Alina our youngest, had to be admitted for a 3 week tour of Levine’s Children’s Hospital at CMC Main. This too was a very trying time for us. Again our church family stepped up. I can’t begin to thank everyone enough for all the prayers and support you’ve given us through this ordeal.

Thank you all for loving on me, and all of my family during our difficult times. You have been a fine example of what the “Body” should look like in the Christian Church.

Thank You, Lee Sossamon

MT. ZION UMC TRUSTEES SPRING CLEANING

Date: April 16

Time: 8 am until

Areas of work /tasks to be performed:

Sanctuary: (Trustee Team Leaders: Amy Murphy, Sharon Washam & Pastor Tony) Clean inside windows, polish church pews and altar area, clean out and organize all storage areas and general cleaning

Education Building 2nd Floor only (Trustee Team Leaders: David Webb & Rick Earp) Clean inside windows & out, clean out and organize all storage areas and general cleaning

Family Life Center (Trustee Team Leaders: Gigi Williams & Roddy Oxidine) Clean inside & windows, clean out and organize all storage areas (remove counter and sink in former kiln room—no longer needed)

Mechanical Rooms & Outdoor Storage: (Trustee Team Leader: Larry Horton) Repair FLC chairs

Outdoor Work (Trustee Team Leaders: Jimmy Grindstaff & Bill Rice) Clean & repair gutters, paint pipe cover just outside Education Building, spread new mulch around shrubbery and trees and clean Sanctuary windows outside.

THE SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION IS EXTENDED TO ...Linda Bauer and family on the death of her mother, Patricia Olson, on February 20.



Mount Zion United Methodist Church is pleased to offer a preventive health event. Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will host their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings on 4/26/2016. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for

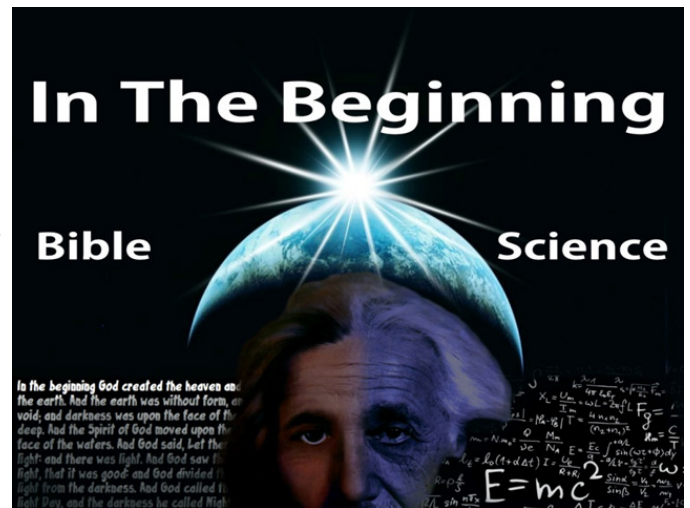
men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. **In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners.**

WEDNESDAY NIGHT WORSHIP

6:30 pm – Sanctuary

How was the world made? Does science help or harm our faith? Why were we created? How do we view ourselves as a part of this world? Is extinction part of God's plan?

Grab your lab coat and put on your pocket protectors as we explore science, the Bible, and creation.



Many of us traveled through the season of Lent with a Wesley Group. We met weekly in conversation and prayer, as disciples of Jesus Christ, to wrestle with and build upon the foundations of our faith. We gathered in homes, coffee shops, and in classrooms to foster close relationships and integral community. Along the way we provided a source of encouragement and accountability to one another. As we journeyed through Lent we had great conversation with God and with one another. Over the six weeks leading to Easter we laughed and we cried, we disagreed and we found common ground, we also grew in our faith and we were transformed in ways that have not been realized yet.

Our Lenten Wesley Groups used Rev. Steve Harper's *Five Marks of a Methodist: The Fruit of a Living Faith* and Pastor Mary John's sermons as a basis for the discussions. Each week we grappled with a topic of scripture that John Wesley believed were marks of Christians, especially Methodists. We spent time reading, praying, and coming to terms with what it meant to live out Jesus' command to love God and love others. We contemplated life as exemplified by Jesus, a life infused with prayer and thanksgiving, as well as life lived abundantly, rejoicing in God. We were led by the Holy Spirit in wonderful conversations, encountering God and each other along the journey to a deeper faith. We acknowledge that many of us have more questions now that we have received answers to the questions posed, but we trust the Spirit to continue to lead us toward greater understanding and faith.

I pray that for the Wesley Group members and for all of us who compose Mt Zion that Lent was a time of retelling and participating in the life, suffering and death of Jesus Christ as a way to equip us as Christ's disciples to live a Resurrection inspired life. Because the Staff of Mt Zion believes Wesley Groups to be a vital aspect of our resurrection inspired lives we would like to continue to offer opportunities for existing and new groups to meet. Some of our groups will continue to meet and invite you to come along side as they continue the journey of discipleship. We also will be actively beginning new groups throughout the year. We are currently working on Summer Groups that will meet once a month during June, July and August, as well as Fall and Advent groups. If you are interested in joining an established group or taking part in a new Wesley group please contact Pastor Tony. Call 707-892-8566, call or text 828-447-8992, email tmoreau@mtzionumc.net or private message him through his Facebook account.

MISSION MOMENTS

Habitat For Humanity

On March 19th a group from Mt. Zion did a Habitat build in Mooresville. They were able to work with the future owners of the home as well as other individuals in the midst of the process to get a home. This is a wonderful ministry and Mt. Zion is proud to support Habitat by volunteering and financially. For more information on upcoming Habitat builds on the following Saturdays from 7:30 to around 12:00: June 4, and August 20, contact Rick Carter: ccarter502@aol.com 704-948-1642



Easter Baskets: Repairers of the Breach



Leading up to Easter, Mt. Zion collected Easter Baskets and donations to give to Ada Jenkins for children in afterschool programs. Tom Russell worked closely with Ada Jenkins on this project and offered a brief summary below. "Yesterday was a wonderful day in the life of Mt. Zion. We were able to deliver 130 Easter baskets to Ada Jenkins for the children and their siblings in their after school programs, plus 30 of those baskets are going to the ladies Homeless Shelter for their children. This was done by the many members that made baskets or donated the funds to purchase baskets. This is the most we've been able to supply. These are our neighborhood children and with God's grace this will make their lives brighter." Thanks to Tom for leading this mission and to Mt. Zion for seeking to help bring happiness into the lives of others in a variety of ways.



Thank you for your generous donations. Stop Hunger Now is fully funded! We will be able to purchase the necessary food and items to feed 20,000 people. The final step is to package the food.

We will be packaging the food Saturday, April 9, 2016, from 9:00 a.m.- 11:15 a.m. in the Mt. Zion UMC Family Life Center Gym

Anyone any age can help with this project. To learn more or to volunteer go to <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080544a8ae2aab9-stop> or contact Sherry Washam at sherry.hawley.washam@gmail.com

Thank you for all you do to support others in need!

Children's Ministry News

April 10th- Last **Bible Buddies**, 3:45 FLC

April 17th- **Children's Sunday** during 11 am service

April 24th- **JEDI Night, Flip Flop Hop**, Special Needs Event during FUEL Youth Ministry, FLC 5:30pm

June 20th-June 23rd- **Vacation Bible School** 6:30-8:30 pm Leaders needed

Aug 4th- **Summer Sleepover** (rising 2nd-rising 6th graders)

The Kids Lenten Fair, Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Sunday Party were all a big hit! Crystal and I will miss Wednesday nights with your kids...but can't wait until the fall!



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.

New England and Nova Scotia Cruise

Sept. 23 - Oct. 1, 2016

Please join us in fun and fellowship on a cruise from Boston to Quebec on the Norwegian Dawn! Ports of call include Portland, Maine; Halifax, Nova Scotia; Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island; Gaspie, Canada; Saguenay, Canada and Quebec.



Included with this 7 night cruise is the cost of a cabin based on double occupancy, round trip airfare on American Airlines from Charlotte, government taxes, transportation from the Boston Airport to the ship,

all Quebec transfers, 1-night hotel stay in old town Quebec, and a half day city tour of Quebec. Optional travel protection is available.

Cost: Cruise and Quebec package start at \$2235 including group air fare. Call Anne at Vacations to Go for current availability and pricing. (800-514-9986, ext. 7475 M-F afternoons)

For more information or to be emailed a flyer, contact Dora Dalmas at dalmas2@mi-connection.com or 704-737-4859 cell.

2016 MT. ZION UMC HOMECOMING-SUNDAY, MAY 22

Mt. Zion UMC will be celebrating its 189th Anniversary! During the 11 AM Service, the colorful **Kirk'n of the Tartans** will be held honoring our heritage. Immediately following the service, dinner on the grounds (front lawn) will take place. Mark your calendars to pack your picnic baskets with your favorite



dishes to share and gather your family to join us all for a couple of hours of fellowship and fun. We are honored once again to have our own "**Heavens Reign**" entertain us after lunch along with the Praise Team Ladies Quartet. Activities will be planned for the children. There will be a History Tent to learn more about our heritage to browse and ask questions. The Homecoming Committee looks forward to seeing you there!



Music Notes

BABYGARTEN CLASSES RESUME

After a short break, we are resuming Babygarten classes for Spring. Below is all the information needed. We always have room for more.

DATES:	Monday	April 11, 18, 25, & May 2
	Saturday	April 9, 16, 23, 30
PLACE:	Room 201 of the Education Building	
PARKING/ENTRANCE:	Park by the cemetery and enter through the second floor door at the top of the ramp.	
TIME:	10:00 AM – whenever your babies tell us they are ready to quit.	
DRESS:	Casual	

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY

On Sunday, April 17 at the 11:00 am service we will be celebrating our children at Mt. Zion. The children will be leading worship through music and by sharing all that they have been learning and doing throughout the year. Some of the groups that will be represented are Bible Buddies, Sunday School, Lenten Fair kids, Cherubs, Jubilate and Choristers (presenting The Big Fish mini musical). It will be a fun and informative time for all. This is a chance for our future leaders to be actively involved in worship. We have a lot planned, so mark this down on your calendar!

A Word on Witnessing



Mt. Zion is such a warm and friendly church to everyone. I am always amazed and feel so blessed to be a part of it. I am grateful for the work the Witness Team has done to help form the Welcome Station. I am especially grateful for the people who have agreed to be a part of the Welcome Station team each Sunday at the 11 am service.

Research says that visitors decide whether they will return within the first few minutes of their visit. This is our chance to make them feel welcomed right away, and I hope it makes you feel welcomed too! Please stop by and say hello to the welcome team next time you worship at 11 am. This does not replace the warm and friendly welcoming we do as a congregation. However, it gives visitors a warm welcome while they are still in the parking lot and a place to stop and ask questions.

I hope you will continue to welcome each and every person to Mt. Zion. If they are visitors, send them to the Welcome Station so they can get a gift for visiting!

Rev. Joel Simpson

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

**MT. ZION UMC UNAUDITED
FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

1/1/16 - 3/31/16

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

Budget Gifts: \$ 268,290

THANK YOU!

Budget Expenses: \$ 274,805

General Fund Cash On Hand:
\$215,458

Capital Fund Gifts Received:
\$43,930

Capital Fund Expenses \$0

Capital Fund Cash On Hand:
\$22,489

Funds Received for Helping Hands
(Pastor's Discretionary Fund) \$2003

Please contact Margaret Langston if
you have questions.

Mollie Sherrill Circle United Methodist Women

Distribution of Funds

Your support of our fund raiser at the November 2015 Christmas Show enabled us to make contributions totaling \$2,400 as follows:

ASP	\$300
Repairers of the Breach	\$300
Ada Jenkins	\$300
Loaves & Fishes	\$300
Angels & Sparrows	\$300
Serenity House Huntersville	\$300
Back Pack Ministry	\$300
Robinette Family	\$300

Thank you for your continued support of our Circle and our efforts to raise funds for mission projects.

SPECIAL GIFTS WERE GIVEN... IN MEMORY OF

John Bost, a gift was given to the Budget, a gift was given to the Music Fund and a gift was given to Stop Hunger Now; **IN MEMORY OF** Jerry Sossamon, gifts were given to the Budget; **IN MEMORY OF** The Bost Quartet, a gift was given to the Budget and **IN MEMORY OF CHESTER STURGEON**, a gift was given to Stop Hunger Now.



Staff Parish, the Mt. Zion staff and congregation all send their love and prayers to longtime custodian Nancy Neal as she recovers at home. Nancy has been a valuable member of the Mt. Zion staff for many years and we are grateful for the many ways she cared for our church.



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

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Rev. Tony Moreau

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Assistant Director

Melanie Kalkan

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Director of Christian Education:

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Associate Director Christian Ed

Kim Webb

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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

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Youth House: 704-892-7825

Sonshine Preschool: 704-892-0654

MARCH 2016

ATTENDANCE:

March 2: 46

March 6: 8:30: 132; 9:45: 122;
11: 224 = 478

March 9: 35

March 13: 8:30: 91; 9:45: 108;
11: 239=438

March 16: 39

March 20: 8:30: 114; 9:45:
124; 11: 340 = 578

Maundy Thursday: 100

Good Friday: 114

March 27: Sunrise: 93; 8:30:
288; 9:45: 183; 11: 369 =
933



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 Women-ofzion@outlook.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 @womenofzi to 81010.

MOMS – Mothers Offering Mutual Support meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month (April 19) 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 (April 6 and April 20) 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.

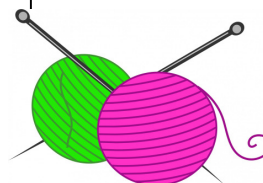
We have something going on all the time!

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

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



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!



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Non-Profit Org.

US Postage

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Cornelius, NC