



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

March 2016 Volume XVIII Issue 3

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

- Church Office 704-892-8566
 - Fax 704-892-3143
- Youth House 704-892-7825
- Sonshine Preschool 704-892-0654

Dear disciples at Mt. Zion,

For this year's Ash Wednesday service, I shared a letter to my grandchildren – a letter that I wrote to tell them personally about our Christian faith. I wrote (and shared in worship) that death comes to all of us. As Lent begins, we remember that reality. We also remember that, because of Christ, we are not afraid. Life is precious. We remember how important it is to not take life for granted.

I made a hard copy of that Ash Wednesday letter and put it with my funeral instructions. I did not realize that my grandchildren – as well as beloved members of our church family—would be walking through death's valley within a matter of days.

The Wednesday after Ash Wednesday, confirmands came into confirmation class with the news of the death of a 12 year old in their school.

We do not share the basic life realities to scare people. We share them in the family of faith because they are true. We share them because faith can see us through. No sports allegiances or social connections or wealth or activities can save us when it comes to death. Jesus can. Only Jesus can.

Those who have the fresh reminders of death get it. Whether death comes suddenly and unexpected or gradually and slowly, the time of death is no time to be figuring out what we believe and what we stand for. The church will fail its members if we do not teach the central reality of the primacy. Our children need to learn how important faith in Christ is because it, literally, makes a life and death difference.

We have offered a number of options for people to grow in faith during Lent. Holy Week will be filled with a new array of worship experiences for us to deepen our relationship with Christ and be more powerfully prepared to claim the victory over death that Jesus won by His death on the cross. However you have begun your Lenten observance, I pray that you will finish it wholeheartedly. Christ gave His all for us. Let us walk fully with Him, *Mary John*

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Wednesday, March 23

Holy Week Wednesday Meal – 6 - 7:30 pm in the Family Life Center (Gym)

We will not be having our regular Wednesday Night Worship in the Sanctuary. Instead, we will be meeting in the Family Life Center (gym) for a free meal together and a time of fellowship and worship.

Thursday, March 24

Maundy Thursday Worship Service – 7 pm in the Sanctuary

This service is a remembrance of the last supper of Jesus with the celebration of Communion, which is open to all people.

Friday, March 25

Good Friday Worship Service – 7 pm in the Sanctuary

This service will focus on the story of Jesus' death and will include prayer, scripture reading, hymns and the stripping of the altar.

Saturday, March 26

Silent Saturday Service 10 am Outdoor Chapel (Weather Permitting) see page 3 for details

Community Children's Easter Egg Hunt 11 am. Meet in the Family Life Center/Gym. Free and open to the community.

Easter Sunday, March 27

7 am Sunrise Service Located between the Sanctuary and the Cemetery in the parking lot. (Free pancake breakfast after)

8:30 am Worship in the Sanctuary with Chancel Choir, Brass and Handbells. Identical to the 11:00 am service.

9:45 am Worship in the Family Life Center with the Praise Band.

11 am Worship in the Sanctuary with Chancel Choir, Brass and Handbells. Identical to the 8:30 am service.

NO THIRD SUNDAY FOOD & FELLOWSHIP IN MARCH! Palm Sunday and Easter are celebration enough. Take time to reflect on this very important time of the church year. Reflect upon this Palm Sunday as we begin Holy Week.



In
this
issue

SOME OF THE UPCOMING
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PRESCHOOL ARTS CAMP 6

MT. ZION FAMILY CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS!



FEBRUARY BAPTISMS

Brooks Warner Compton was baptized February 14 at the 8:30 service. He is the son of Jennifer and Kevin and the brother of Kenley Compton.



Carlie Laine Keller was baptized at the 9:45 service on February 14. She is the daughter of Deana & Michael Keever and the sister of Patrick Keller.

WINTER 2016 WELCOME 101 CLASS



Barrett & Weslie Dunn 15009
Parsons Ridge Lane Hunters-
ville 28078 704-929-8151

Dani Simpson (pictured with
Rev. Joel Simpson) 19600
Whilehaven Court Cornelius
28031 919-369-0811



**We welcome Barrett, Weslie, Dani,
Erin and Julie into membership!**



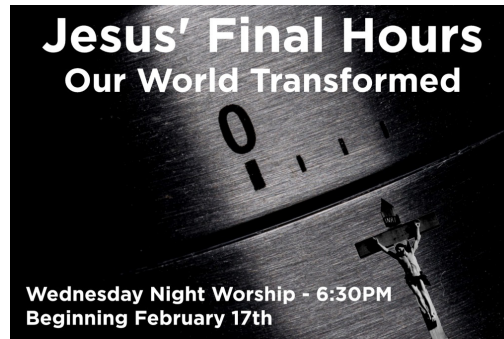
Julie Sherrill
(pictured with
Matt Sherrill
and Boone)
20009
Washam
Street Corne-
lius 28031
317-372-
3860



Erin Moreau (pictured with Rev. Tony Moreau,
Alex and Zach) 15525 Crossing Gate Drive
Cornelius 28031 828-447-9060

THE SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION IS EXTENDED TO ...Billie Bost and family on the death of her husband, John Bost, Sr. on February 3; Suzie Inman and family and Lee Sossamon and family on the death of their father, Jerry Sossamon, on February 4; Andy Lazur and family on the death of his father, Art Lazur, on February 17; Christina Mayse and family on the death of her father, Julius "Jay" Roebuck, on February 22 and to Bill Rice and family on the death of his mother, Linda Rice, on February 27.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT WORSHIP



Our weekly Wednesday night worship service has been journeying through the final hours of Jesus' life in our worship series: Jesus' Final Hours: Our World Transformed.

Wednesday night worship service happens every week at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary. There is a blend of traditional hymns and contemporary songs played on acoustic instruments. The service is contemplative and relaxing and serves communion each week. It is a great mid-week renewal.

Wednesday, March 23 is during Holy Week and we will worship differently. Holy Week is the week we celebrate the last days of Jesus' life. We will gather in the Family Life Center (the gym) to eat a meal together, fellowship and worship from 6:00-7:30 pm. The meal is free (donations accepted). It will be a lamb stew with other options as well for those who do not eat lamb or have dietary restrictions. I hope you will come meet and connect with people you have spent time with in worship.

WHAT IS A "SILENT SATURDAY" SERVICE?

(Weather Permitting -Saturday, March 26, 10 am at the Outdoor Chapel)

The "Silent Saturday" service is a quiet, reflective service focusing on how the disciples must have felt in that "in between" time of the crucifixion and the resurrection. Their hopes and dreams had been dealt a huge blow and they had not seen how it was going to work out. While our Holy Week Services re-experience the events leading up to Jesus' death, their experience on Saturday – that "in between time" is usually ignored.

The day before Easter is a very full day – hundreds of children will gather that morning to hunt Easter eggs. The Sanctuary will be prepared for the glory of the Easter service. Orchestra and music rehearsals will be taking place for the glorious Easter music that always awaits us on Sunday.

So, in a different place, in one of our most beautiful places for reflection, Mt. Zion's outdoor chapel, we will gather for prayer and reflection. (If you haven't been to the outdoor chapel, come into the main campus and park by the Family Life Center. When you are facing the church's historical treasure, affectionately known as 'The

Hut', you will see the entrance to the picnic/labyrinth/outdoor chapel wooded area of the church property. Follow the path to the right to go to the outdoor chapel.

Why would people attend a "Silent Saturday" service? Because many people are in the place of the disciples on Saturday—people who have experienced a great loss who have not yet seen the triumph God works out.

This could include:

- people who have gotten a diagnosis who are living between the diagnosis and the outcome
- people who have lost a job who live between that experience and something yet to come
- people who have experienced the breakup of a marriage who do not know what is next for them
- people who have lost a loved one
- anyone who has received bad news, something that dashed their hopes and dreams, something that cut them to the core

"Silent Saturday" is not a time to brush off. Many people live in Silent Saturday. This prayer service will be a time of learning to hope when all seems lost. Saturday, March 26 at 10 am in the Outdoor Chapel.

A Word on Witnessing

I was privileged to go with the 2016 Confirmation class on a retreat to Lake Junaluska. It was a powerful weekend for everyone. While we were there Ed Kilborne said missionaries are all about matching up what they have to offer and what people around them need...and they do not need to go overseas to do it.

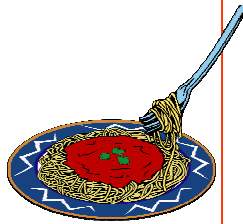
I agree, and this is what every Christian is called to do. We are all called to figure out what we have to offer and what people around us need. If we can each figure that out in our lives we will be a force of unstoppable good in the world. There can be no stronger witness for God's love than that.

Rev. Joel Simpson



EAGLE SCOUT FUNDRAISER on March 13th at 12:00 in the Family Life Center- Hi! My name is Jackson Cooksey and I am inviting you to join me in the Family Life Center on Sunday, March 13th for my spaghetti luncheon. I will be raising money for my Eagle Scout project which benefits a charity called Lydia's Loft. Lydia's Loft is a ministry that provides free clothing to residents of North Mecklenburg who are in need

of them. We will be having spaghetti, garlic bread, salad, and homemade dessert and is guaranteed to be a fun time. Your support would mean a lot!



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

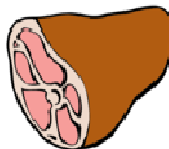
We have four opportunities to help our neighbors build their house. We need 10 to 12 people on the following Saturdays from 7:30 to around 12:00: March 19, April 2, June 4, and August 20. No special tools or skills needed, just a servant's heart and a willingness to do physical labor. If interested contact:

Rick Carter ccarter502@aol.com 704-948-1642
or Pastor Joel Simpson jsimpson@mtzionumc.net
704-892-8566



12TH ANNUAL BOSTON BUTT SALE: Troop 10 Boston Butts are back again! Troop 10 is once again pre-selling BBQ Boston Butts. Easter Sunday Dinner can be better than ever with a Boston Butt (approx. 6-9 lbs) from Troop 10. Troop 10 is pre-selling Boston Butts for \$35.00 thru Sunday, March 13, for pick-up after the 11:00 worship service on Palm Sunday (March 20). The proceeds from this effort benefit Troop 10's High Adventure Program.

See any Troop 10 Scout to place your order. Order forms may be picked up in the Narthex or any adult Sunday School Class and they can be left in 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; Gaspésie, 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.



Repairers of the Breach

This will be our 5th year of providing Easter baskets for the After School Children at Ada Jenkins Center.

They will need between 75 and 105 baskets. This will be a great opportunity for families and classes to

help in this project. You can do this either of 2 ways, one being creating your own baskets or donating the \$15.00 it would take for us to purchase for you. You can do this by dropping off your baskets at the Church Office or on Sunday mornings on the table in the Family Life Center prior to March 22th.

If you have question please contact Tom Russell 704-507-2493 or Tom@moisturewarranty.com. Checks should be made out to Mt. Zion and designated in the memo area for Easter Baskets.

God Bless, Tom Russell





Children's Ministry



News

- The 4th and 5th graders had a blast on their Feb. 6th Service/Mission day painting their classroom, making artwork to decorate the walls and fellowshiping during bowling and laser tag at SpareTime.
- Bible Buddies have been learning about the 4 Gospels and hearing lessons from Adam Hamilton's 24 Hours That Changed the World. We are also keeping them active doing relay races on our new roller boards as well as mission work that has included filling baskets for the Cornelius Lemley fire-fighters and making cards for the sick.
- Kids on Wednesday nights are exploring Lent. They learned it is 40 days long and a time of preparation for Easter. They also built crosses out of Legos, made fruit palm fronds, enjoyed fair games and ate tasty snacks like popcorn and green smoothies.



Upcoming Events

- **Feb. 7-April 10:** Bible Buddies, Sundays in the FLC, *3:45-4:30 pm* **NEW TIME/ NEW PLACE** (K-5th grade)
- **Feb. 17-March 23:** Lenten Fair, Wednesday nights in Room 107 in the Education Building, *6:30-7:30 pm* (Preschool-5th grade)
- **Feb.17-March 23:** Nursery Care during Wednesday Night Worship in Room 101 Education Building
- **March 26:** Easter Egg Hunt, 11:00 am
- **April 17:** Children's Sunday during the 11:00 am worship service
- **April 24:** JEDI Night, Flip Flop Hop, Special Needs Event during FUEL Youth Ministry, FLC 5:30 pm
- **June 20th-23rd:** Vacation Bible School, 6:30-8:30 pm-Leaders Needed
- **Aug. 4-** Summer Sleepover (rising 2nd grade-rising 6th grade)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Nursery: Help needed during any of the 3 services (8:30, 9:45 11 am)

Special Needs: Sunday School Class Assistant needed at 9:30 am on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sunday of every month.

PAID CHILDCARE STAFF NEEDED

Experienced Adult needed to staff events on Sundays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Please email Crystal Parrish at cparrish@mtzionumc.net



FILL THE LOFT FOR PALM SUNDAY AND EASTER

HELP WANTED: CHOIR MEMBERS

Positions Open:	Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass, Don't know.
Physical Qualifications:	Must be able to carry a folder and a musical note partially across the Sanctuary.
Experience:	No application accepted from persons who have not sung, hummed or whistled in the shower.
Wages:	Satisfaction and joy in God's service, together with talented development.
Fringe Benefits:	Social Security—we promise you the security of social fellowship with some of the greatest people at Mt. Zion –the Chancel Choir.
Hours:	Sunday Mornings, 10:40 am – Noon. With occasional overtime at the above wages and Thursday rehearsals 7 pm – 8:30 pm at the latest. Child Care available.
Retirement:	Generally determined by notes getting too small, robe too heavy, choir loft steps too steep, notes too high, Sanctuary too hot (or cold), or organist unable to play the notes you sing.
Apply:	By attending the next rehearsal on Thursday nights at 7 pm in the Choir Room.

All kidding aside friends, we really need you to step up and help lead worship each Sunday through participation in the Chancel Choir. I am very flexible when it comes to work and travel schedules. We rehearse at least four weeks ahead. Child care is provided each week by trained and screened child care workers. See, there is no excuse left for anyone who loves to sing, not to participate in the Chancel Choir. LET'S FILL THE LOFT FOR PALM SUNDAY AND EASTER.

"We United Methodists are a people of many songs. We sing because God gave us a great gift of music and even greater gift of the song leader, Jesus." (Diana Sanchez, "People of Many Songs")



Music and Arts Camps Summer 2016

Preschool Arts Camp

Believe it or not, it is the time of year to think about the Preschool Summer Arts Camp at Mt. Zion UMC. We are doing things a little different this year. I am opening **registration for the Preschool Camp (ages 3 – rising Kindergarten) in March to church members only.** Because our space is limited, we can only enroll 20 children. The dates are June 27 - 29 from 9 am to 11:30 am. We will have activities in music, art and movement during this time. Church members may register their children by emailing me at mmittelstadt@mtzionumc.net. Please include their age and full name in your email and any food allergies. Once the 20 spots are filled, registration will close. If there are any places available on April 1, I will open those to community friends. Don't miss this deadline. **Remember email Marcy by April 1 to register for the Preschool Camp.**

Elementary Arts Camp

The elementary camp (rising 1st grade through rising 5th grade) is **June 13 – 17 from 9 am to Noon.** This year we are planning activities around the themes of wonder, love and praise. The campers will also be creating art projects and have a time for recreation. Space is limited to 30 students. Registration will remain open until we have 30 students. You may register by emailing Marcy at mmittelstadt@mtzionumc.net. Please remember to give your child's name, age and grade for Fall 2016. Also include any food allergies.

It's going to be another fun year and I am looking forward to playing, singing and learning with your children.

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

**MT. ZION UMC UNAUDITED
FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

1/1/16 - 2/29/16

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

Budget Gifts: \$ 167,930

THANK YOU!

Budget Expenses: \$ 171,432

General Fund Cash On Hand:
\$218,471

Capital Fund Gifts Received:
\$3,330

Capital Fund Expenses \$0

Capital Fund Cash On Hand:
\$20,889

Funds Received for Helping Hands
(Pastor's Discretionary Fund) \$597

Please contact Margaret Langston if
you have questions.

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I am grateful to God for my healing and my church family being a part of my recovery process. It seems like I have been house bound forever, but the cards, visits, soups, salad, fudge, cupcakes, Christmas Poinsettia, cookies, Advent wreath and delicious turkey gave me joy each day.

I look forward to being back in church soon, and may God continue to bless Pastor Tony Moreau and my Mt. Zion church family.

Gratefully Yours, Donna Hase



Dear Friends of Mt. Zion,

Thank you for all your prayers and cards and calls and visits. They mean more to me than I can say.
Kay Sims

SPECIAL GIFTS WERE GIVEN...IN HONOR OF

The J.C. Grose Class, a gift was given to the Budget; **IN HONOR OF** Shelley Little, a gift was given to the Music Fund; **IN HONOR OF** the Bost Quartet, a gift was given to the Music Fund; **IN MEMORY OF** Lanny Bustle, gifts were given to the Youth Fund; **IN MEMORY OF** John Bost, gifts were given to the Budget, gifts were given to the Music Fund, a gift was given to Stephen Ministry, a gift was given to the Cemetery Fund, a gift was given to UMCOR, a gift was given to the Capital Fund and gifts were given to the Trustee Fund; **IN MEMORY OF** Jerry Sossamon, gifts were given to the Budget, gifts were given to the Music Fund, a gift was given to Stephen Ministry, a gift was given to UMCOR, a gift was given to the Trustee Fund, a gift was given to Family Ministries, a gift was given to the Capital Fund, a gift was given to the Preschool Scholarship Fund and a gift was given to the Cemetery Fund; **IN MEMORY OF** Patty and Jerry Sossamon, a gift was given to the Budget; **IN MEMORY OF** John Sossamon, a gift was given to the Cemetery Fund.

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:

Dr. Marcy Mittelstadt

mmittelstadt@mtzionumc.net

Assistant Director

Melanie Kalkan

mkalkan@mtzionumc.net

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

Custodians:

Nancy Neal

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

FEBRUARY 2016

ATTENDANCE:

February 3: 41

February 7: 8:30: 122;
9:45: 109; 11: 255 = 486

February 10: 192

February 14: 8:30: 124;
9:45: 132; 11: 218=474

February 17: 54

February 21: 8:30: 123;
9:45: 107; 11: 247 = 477

February 24: 46

February 28: 8:30: 133;
9:45: 107; 11: 233 = 473

Non-Profit Org.

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

US Postage

PAID

Permit No. 2

Cornelius, NC



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

19600 Zion Avenue
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Tel: 704-892-8566
 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 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 (March 15) in the church Parlor at 7:00 pm. Young moms from pregnancy through pre-school age children are welcome.

COAP = Children Of Aging Parents meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday nights (March 2 and March 16) 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.

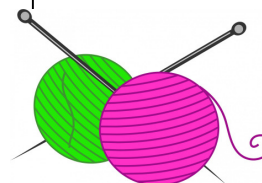
We have something going on all the time!

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!