



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

February 2016 Volume XVIII Issue 2

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

3RD SUNDAY FOOD & FELLOWSHIP –February 21st at Village Inn Pizza, 20129 N. Main Street in Cornelius. We will meet at 12:15-12:30 after the 11:00 AM service. Come meet your fellow church members. Hope to see you there!



THE ROOM IN THE INN is a ministry that Mt. Zion participates in during the winter months. New this year, we will run this mission on only the 1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesday nights from December – March. On these nights, we open the doors of our Youth House to provide overnight housing and hot meals for 10 homeless neighbors who are screened and approved through the Urban Ministries Center.

Please prayerfully consider volunteering your time, providing a meal or donating items off the RITI wish list. **Currently, we are in need of volunteers for:**

Mar 1st: Innkeepers (2) & Mini-bus driver (pick up)

Mar 15th: Bag Lunches & Mini-bus driver (pick up & drop off)

Mar 29th: Mini-bus driver (pick up)

Visit the RITI page on the Mt Zion website (<http://mtzionumc.net/room-in-the-inn>) for more info including our wish list and online volunteer sign up. Donations can be dropped off at the Youth House. If you have a group that is interested in serving together on a specific Tuesday, please contact Lisa directly (note that you will need to be able to fill all volunteer slots.) For more info contact Lisa Strom at mtzriti@gmail.com or 704-277-3687. Thanks!

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Ash Wednesday Car-Side Prayer and Imposition of Ashes 6:30 am–7:30 am. This will take place in the driveway in front of the Sanctuary.

Join us on the evening of Ash Wednesday: Pancake Supper & Mardi Gras Celebration 5:30-6:50 in the Family Life Center. 6:50 Parade to Sanctuary. 7 pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service (includes the Imposition of Ashes).

Wesley Small Groups are forming for Lent. Groups will meet once a week during the six weeks of Lent. Groups will meet at various times and days of the week. If you are interested in participating in a group, please contact Pastor Tony at 704-892-8566 or tmoreau@mtzionumc.net.

Adult Travel Ministry Spring Trip, Thursday, May 26

For this trip, we are headed to Raleigh NC and visiting the most prestigious address in North Carolina - The Executive Mansion! We will have a docent led tour of the governor's home and beautiful gardens. Lunch will be held in the History Museum. Our day in Raleigh ends at the State Capitol where we will have a 30 minute guided tour. This trip is limited to 34 persons. Cost per person: **\$22**. Reservations are due by **April 3**. Payment is due by **April 10**. For more information, contact Dora Dalmas at dalmas2@mi-connection.com /704-737-4859 cell.

DivorceCare is 13 weeks of topic specific sessions to provide comfort, healing and restoration of hope. Our group is a safe place to find support and guidance through the crisis of separation and divorce. Our church is paired with Davidson UMC to offer DC4K as well for children ages 8-12. Both groups begin at 6:45 pm starting Tuesday, February 2nd. Please call if you have questions. We welcome you to join our group. Email: mphpromo@gmail.com or call Don Duncan @ [704.650.9022](tel:704.650.9022)

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Reactivate New Church Start

Dear friends at Mt. Zion,

Methodists have always had a heart for planting new churches. North Carolina is a prime illustration of how, throughout our history, we have taken the initiative to form new

churches. Mt. Zion's history includes having a role in the founding and nurture of other churches in our area. At this past Annual Conference, a new church launch for the Metro District was blessed—Reactivate. Ian and JaCynthia Bailey are participating as a missional family.

Their launch pastor, Rev. Jesse Smith, is one of the most dedicated and innovative pastors I have known. He has sent me this update for other ways that people at Mt. Zion could help with this new church start:

People can sign up to be on their **Prayer Team** by following this link and providing your email address: <http://tinyurl.com/reactivateprayer>

Right now, their Big Prayers are:

1. Missional Families who will join our Launch Team
2. 30 Worshipers by Easter
3. Receptivity of Individuals in this Community - For God to open up doors and help them make key connections.

People can contribute financially to Reactivate Church in one of two ways:

1. Paypal - a safe, easy way to give online. <http://tinyurl.com/reactivategiving>
2. Send a check payable to: WNC Conference Treasurer

(Reactivate Church - in the Memo Line) Metro District Office of the United Methodist Church
PO Box 5622, Charlotte, NC 28299

They are also planning a "Restore the Power to Love" bridge event on **Sunday, February 14th @ 11 am**. They are going to hand out 100's of roses to people in the community with information about Reactivate Church and this quote from Henri Nouwen - "Those we most love cause us not only great joy but also great pain. LOVE is stronger than fear, life stronger than death, hope stronger than despair. We have to trust that the risk of loving is always worth taking." The cost is going to be about \$1.50 each for a rose, sheath, and printing costs. They could use some extra volunteers and costs for the supplies. They will scale the event to their capacity.

Their website is www.reactivatechurch.com which has much of the basic info: a bio on his family, why they exist, their methodology for ministry, mission, Paypal link, and his blog.

Dear Mt. Zion Friends and Family of Faith,

Many of you know me from father's service to Mt. Zion United Methodist from 2002-2012. Bishop Larry Goodpaster appointed him to Christ Church United Methodist in Greensboro and unfortunately, y'all got stuck with me. All jokes aside, for the first time in my life, I was committed to a body of Christ not because of my Dad's presence there. This was truly a blessing for me, because many of you watched me grow up through the years and this was the time that my relationship with God really grew. I was joyfully a part of Youth activities with Matt Sherrill as an assistant. I've lead Sunday School Classes for Elementary, Young Adults as well as the JC Grose Class. I've even served on the Staff Parish Committee for two years now. Many of you are unaware of the way God has used you to increase my love for Him... but it is so true. For that, I am so thankful to be a member of Mt. Zion. I urge everyone to remember that's, in fact, our calling. Most notably, I want to thank each one of you who welcomed my family with open arms of love. So many of you have embraced my wife,

JaCynthia and our two beautiful children, Elias and Eden-Rose. I've always said that something beautiful happens when you love two separate parties and you introduce them and witness them express love towards each other. That has been a sincere joy.

Now, to get to the point of this letter: My father, as you know serves in Greensboro. My father-in-law serves at an ecumenical church in South Charlotte. Balancing my family's activities and attendance at multiple churches including Mt. Zion has been a challenge. My heart is with all brothers and sisters in Christ. I wish I could commune with every saint, every day, especially my 'Mt. Zion folk.' With that being said, my family will be maintaining church membership with Mt. Zion, but we will be devoting our tithes, talents and gifts to a United Methodist startup church in Mallard Creek (University City). Our connection to this church is very interesting and no doubt the work of God.

At the 2015 Western North Carolina United Methodist Annual Conference, Bishop Goodpaster blessed a young man named Jesse Smith who just received his Masters of Divinity at Hood Theological in Salisbury.

He's a provisional pastor who's starting a church out of his home. He formerly served as an associate pastor in Hickory at a United Methodist Church where he also planted a church body. That church started out with his immediate family and rapidly grew to 400 members. He packed up his bags and relocated his wife and two sons to Charlotte under the premise that God was calling him here. My dad first met Jesse as he interviewed him from his Seat on the Board of Ordained Ministers. When dad heard Jesse's testimony. When he heard his ups and downs. His views of diversity. When he heard Jesse's mission and saw his passion...he knew he had to introduce us. And I quote my dad saying, "Ian...I don't know if it's the Holy Spirit or this cheeseburger I ate for lunch, but I have got to introduce you to this guy." Unfortunately, we didn't get to meet each other at Annual Conference, but I met him at Starbucks. When he spoke with me, I was implored to pray for this young leader. Long-story-short, the lovely leader of our church, Mary John Dye, had been praying for me to be a part of Jesse's church as she was his District Superintendent in Hickory! You can imagine her reaction when I asked for her

blessing to be a part of his ministry. Needless-to-say, I don't think this initial introduction was my dad's cheeseburger. With all of these random connections, I believe God's at work and really wants me to learn from Jesse's church leadership. I feel the Lord calling me into ministry as well. I'm exploring seminaries and I ask that you keep me in your prayers. Despite my family's love and appreciation of Tar Heel nation, JaCynthia and I have fallen in love with the Duke University Divinity program. The culture, the students and the prayer we had with faculty has truly opened our hearts to that school. I've requested the Admissions Department open up the great Gospel too and read about the concept of Grace (because I'll need them to exercise it when they see my GPA from undergrad). I'm joking of course...it wasn't *that* bad, but please keep me in your prayers for God to send me where I can best be grown as a leader in today's church.

Looking forward to seeing you all again soon!

May God Bless You,

Ian Bailey

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

**MT. ZION UMC UNAUDITED
FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

1/1/16 - 1/31/16

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

Budget Gifts: \$ 81,458

THANK YOU!

Budget Expenses: \$ 75,486

General Fund Cash On Hand:
\$227,945

Capital Fund Gifts Received:
\$1,485

Capital Fund Expenses \$0

Capital Fund Cash On Hand:
\$19,044

Funds Received for Helping Hands
(Pastor's Discretionary Fund) \$162

Please contact Margaret Langston if
you have questions.

Happy New Year to everyone. We have wrapped up Repairers of the Breach for this year and it was a huge success. We helped 80 families and 199 children of which 115 were from Cornelius. Since the Christmas break was longer than usual we tried to add a little more to the families food boxes to get them through. All this could not have happened without the dedicated team that did so much. A special thanks to Lynn & Harry Harriman, Pam Lazur & her family, Robin, Dawson & D.J. Thornton, Rick Carter, Kevin Parrish, Tracy Yochum, the Hess, Polly & Arens Families and the girls from The Egg in Davidson that put in many hours.

Thanks to all the others that helped by donating their time, monetary donations or collected food for the families. In addition, thanks to Rick McBee for donating the use of the building, Cooke Rentals for supplying the tables, Ferguson Box Company for supplying the boxes, Publix and Harris Teeter for helping on the food needed, Moisture Warranty on the cost of the turkeys and Dawson Thornton for doing his food drive that brought in 250 cans.

God Bless to all that were involved,

Tom Russell



THE SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION IS EXTENDED... To Darrell Murray and family on the death of his mother, Virginia Murray and to Judy Bustle and family on the death of her husband, Lander "Lanny" Bustle, Jr. on January 28.

SPECIAL GIFTS WERE GIVEN...IN HONOR OF Louise Cashion, a gift was given to the Budget; **IN HONOR OF** Raegan Cashion, a gift was given to the Budget; **IN HONOR OF** Sherry Washam, a gift was given to Family Ministries; **IN MEMORY OF** Robert Cashion, a gift was given to the Budget; **IN MEMORY OF** Mary Katherine Cashion, a gift was given to the Budget.

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:

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jsimpson@mtzionumc.net

Rev. Tony Moreau
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mwestmoreland@mtzionumc.net

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Custodians:

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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

JANUARY 2016

ATTENDANCE:

January 3: 8:30: 112; 9:45:
138; 11: 226 = 476

January 10: 8:30: 102;
9:45: 116; 11: 249=467

January 17: 8:30: 97; 9:45:
115; 11: 202 = 414

January 20: 35

January 24: Worship Ser-
vices Cancelled Due to
Snow/Ice

January 27: 54

January 31: 8:30: 115;
9:45: 102; 11: 235 =452

Non-Profit Org.

US Postage

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Cornelius, NC

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 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 (February 16) 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 (February 3 and February 17) 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.

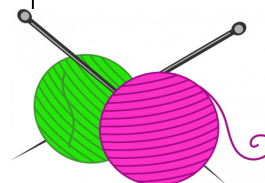
We have something going on all the time!

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 Par-



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