



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

December 2017 Volume XIX Issue 12

“Making, Maturing, Mobilizing Disciples for Christ”

WORSHIP EACH SUNDAY AT 8:30, 9:45 and 11:00 AM WEDNESDAY Nights @ 6:40 pm

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
 - www.mtzionumc.net
- <http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/84673593>

LUNCH BUDDIES PROGRAM	2	
MUSIC NOTES	5	In this issue
SONSHINE PRESCHOOL NEWS	6	

Dear friends at Mt. Zion,

Happy new year!

Yes, for the most important way to calculate time, it is the new year.

The CHRISTIAN year calculates time based on the life of Christ. So the CHRISTIAN year begins 4 Sundays before Christmas with the Advent Season where we prepare for Christ’s birth.

Like everyone else, there are ways we honor the calendar year. The calendar year is the term for terms of service for officers of the church. Newly elected officers begin their terms in January. The calendar year is the time frame for the budget of the church. (All contributions to the church must be received or postmarked by December 31!) So the calendar year is important.

In the United Methodist Church, we also honor the conference year (which is July 1 – July 1). Appointments of pastors are based on the conference year. Every pastor and family knows what it is like to live by the conference year. It is very important for us.

We have an eye to all the markers of new beginnings. New beginnings are a reminder of God’s grace and invitation to grow, improve and “move on to perfection”.

The church chooses to order the life of worship by the Christian year as a way of modeling our primary focus: to keep Christ first. So, while it may seem odd to hear us say “Happy New Year” in early December, the Christian year is always a reminder that the goal of the church is to be in lock-step with Christ, not the world around us. Romans 12 (which I hope you read every day) reminds us, “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.....” (Romans 12:2)

Observing the Christian year is our way of witnessing that in church, we put Christ first. With determination and intention, we say that our life is ordered around the life of Christ—from his coming as a baby in Bethlehem to honoring Him as conquering King and Lord of Lords. So go ahead and celebrate the new calendar year on January 1. But let the Christian year be the call – and holy reminder—to order our lives around Christ. His coming to our hearts makes all the difference. Blessed new Christ-centered year, *Mary John*

SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES IN DECEMBER

Sunday, December 10th
 9:45 am – Testify Youth Choir – Family Life Center Gym
 7 pm – Testify Youth Choir – Family Life Center Gym

Sunday, December 17th
 9:45 am – Combined Praise Team and Chancel Choir Cantata – Sanctuary
 11 am – Combined Praise Team and Chancel Choir Cantata – Sanctuary
 3 pm - Christmas Service of Hope and Healing – Sanctuary
When life brings losses, the celebration of Christmas changes. Mt. Zion United Methodist Church offers a unique worship service for anyone struggling with loss during the holiday season.

Christmas Eve Morning: Sunday, December 24th
 10 am – one combined worship service in the Sanctuary with a Moravian Love Feast. There will not be Sunday School that morning.

Christmas Eve Night: Sunday, December 24th
 5:00 pm - Family Candlelight Services* with Children Participation (Scratch Nativity)
 7:00 & 11:00 pm - Traditional Candlelight Services*

**Glow sticks will be available for younger children. Communion will be served at all Christmas Eve services.*

New Year’s Eve: Sunday, December 31st
 10:00 am – one combined worship service in the Sanctuary. There will not be Sunday School that morning.

MT. ZION FAMILY CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS!

Ann McCarthy

16723 100 Norman Place

Cornelius 28031

and

Susan Dunlap

9047 McDowell Creek
Court

Cornelius 28031

Joined on November 5

WELCOME!



*Our Deepest
Sympathy*

**THE SYMPATHY OF
THE CONGREGA-
TION IS EXTENDED
TO the family of**

Lagette Goodrum who passed away on
November 29.

VOLUNTEERS REQUESTED Every Sunday morning, Mt. Zion provides a devotion service for the residents of Autumn Care Nursing and Rehab Center. Volunteers are needed to assist transport residents to the 10:00 a.m. service and then return them to their rooms or living areas following the 30-minute service. We begin at 9:30 a.m. and conclude no later than 10:45 a.m. If you would like to share in this blessing, please call Sue Weaver, (443) 350-1732.

JV WASHAM ELEMENTARY LUNCH BUDDIES PROGRAM

Mt. Zion partners with JV Washam Elementary as a support for school and students. Currently and over the past few years, Mt. Zion has supported children in need through the Backpack Food Ministry. This year we are extending our support through the "Lunch Buddies" program. In this program, an adult visits with a specific student throughout the year, encouraging them to be their best selves and the person God has created them to be. This year the school has a particular need for male role models. If God is calling you to be a mentor to a young boy or girl, please email Cindy Parnell at cindy.parnell2015@gmail.com. Cindy will provide more information about Lunch Buddies and provide the information needed for signing up as a volunteer in CMS and as a lunch buddy mentor at JV Washam.

It is with great delight that we thank each and every one of you who participated in **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD** this year. So many of you filled more than one box and that is so appreciated. We will probably never know the number of children and adults whose lives have been changed by your act of love, generosity, and being God's hands and feet in this special mission to children. It really honors the most famous Baby ever born. The following quote from Franklin Graham sums up the whole program pretty well: "Every shoebox is an opportunity for the Lord Jesus Christ to wrap His arms around a child." Surely, through your participation, this exemplifies reaching out and "loving your neighbor". We wish you all a very Merry Christmas!!

Many thanks, Brenda Scott & Ann Dutton

A Big Thank You

The United Methodist Church is organized around representative leadership. Elected leaders of focused groups are entrusted with the care and decisions about church life. Other denominations are organized differently. The goal of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples for Jesus Christ. Yes, the buildings have to be taken care of, finances of the church managed, personnel of the church need to be supported and supervised, programs and missions need to be planned. The gift of officers is to care for the life of the church so that when people come to church, their focus can be missions and spiritual growth. So the officers serve everyone in the church. They serve diligently and tirelessly and sacrificially. People in the congregation benefit from their dedication.

United Methodism also has a healthy practice of rotating officers. Every year, 1/3 of all administrative groups are new. 2/3 of the group continue. That gives every group new insights from new people AND stability of people who have already served on the group as leaders.

There are the people who are rotating off at the end of December. When you see them, please give them your thanks. We are grateful for their service.

Members at large for Administrative Board: Pete Newton, Claudia Kepner

Staff Parish: Mary Goodson, Lee Rice, Jim Welch, Pat Jenkins

Trustees: Jimmy Grindstaff, Sharon Washam, Roddy Oxidine

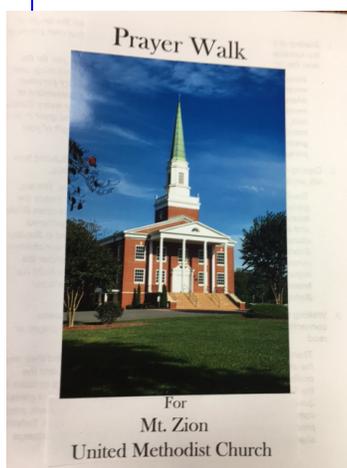
Finance Committee: Susan Caldwell, Kris Newton, Jeremy Grant

Nominating Committee: A.J. Drury, Ann Dutton, Richard Little

Weekday Ministry Board: Marilyn Ainslie, Andrew Mayse

Nurture Co-Chair: Mary Shaw

Lay Leader Representing 11:00 worship service: Ritchie Crump



November activities and celebrations are reminders to count our blessings.

The Prayer Walk is one way to pray for the many blessings of Mt. Zion.

Using the Prayer Walk guide, people are encouraged to begin at the Sanctuary and follow the path on the map of the main campus. There are 8 places marked as stops for prayer, beginning at the steps of the Sanctuary, walking down by the cemetery to the Education Building, Family Life Center, the Hut, the Outdoor Chapel and Prayer Labyrinth and back up to the Youth House. At each stop, people are invited to remember the ministry that takes place there and say a prayer. Prayers are provided in the guide to read as well.

The Prayer Walk can be taken anytime by individuals, by friends walking together or by groups. We encourage people to actually take the walk physically, but the Prayer Walk guide could also be used by individuals or groups as a devotional way to pray around the church without walking.

Use the Prayer Walk to take an inspiring look at the many blessings at Mt.

Zion and to uphold the church in prayer.

Copies of the Prayer Walk are available in the Sanctuary, the Family Life Center, the Church Office and the Sunday School Rooms.



So God created
mankind in *His*
own image, in the
image of God He
created them;
male and female
He created them.

Genesis 1:27

His is an exciting new ministry created to promote awareness, inclusion, accessibility, advocacy, and additional opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. *His* opportunities for December include:

Sustain -	6:30	December 5 - Parlor	Support Group for Caregivers
Just As I Am -	4:30	December 10 - Hut	Fellowship, Devotion, Fun
The Feast -	11:00	December 17 - Youth Room	Modified Worship Service for Families
JEDI Night -		Christmas Holiday	See you next month!
Agape Sunday School -	9:45	Every Sunday	Modified Sunday School Class
A Place For Us -	11:00	Every Sunday	A quiet, dedicated worship
			Livestreaming space dedicated for times when privacy is needed/desired

Did you know... 1 in 68 children (1/42 boys, 1/189 girls) is diagnosed with Autism (a developmental disability). **Autism, or autism spectrum disorder**, refers to a range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech and nonverbal communication, as well as by unique strengths and differences. There are many different types of autism. Approximately 1/2 of individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder have average or above average IQ. Less than 1/3 of people with autism have an intellectual disability and 1/3 remain nonverbal. Autism:
affects 1 in 68 children (1 out of 42 boys and 1 out of 189 girls)
is one of the fastest-growing developmental disorders in the U.S.
costs a family \$60,000 a year on average
Has no medical detection or cure



Christmas is approaching quickly! So, Melanie and I just want to make sure you have some important dates on your calendars for the upcoming programs:

December 3 @ 11:00 - the Children's Christmas Musical Fantasy, "Three Wee Kings"

December 10 @ 8:30 and 11:00 - Hand Bells play Prelude and Offering Selections

December 10 @ 9:45 and 7:00 - Testify presents their Christmas Program in the Family Life Center

December 17 @ 9:45 and 11:00 - The Adult Christmas Cantata, "The Greatest Story Ever Told", will be presented by the Chancel Choir, Praise Team and Orchestra in the Sanctuary. (NOTE: We originally planned to present this at 8:30 and 11:00, so make that change!)

December 24 @ 10:00 - Moravian Love Feast Service (our only morning service)

December 24 @ 5:00 - The Scratch Nativity Service

December 24 @ 7:00 and 11:00 - Christmas Eve Services

December 31 @ 10:00 - our only Worship Service that day

Testify is selling Mount Zion BBQ for \$10:00 a pound to help with their purchased music and travel expenses. Please contact Melanie @ melaniekalkan@mgsd.k12.nc.us

Please contact me with any questions/concerns, and thank you all so much for your support, prayers, and love. slittle@mtzionumc.net (704) 201-7714

Shelley Little
Music Director



The 2017 BBQ was a success! Together we are able to donate \$11,289.85 to the following ministries:

- UMCOR -designated for national disaster/emergency relief
- Mt. Zion UMC Helping Hands
- Mt. Zion UMC General Mission Fund -to be distributed by the Outreach Committee based on need
- Mt. Zion UMC Youth - FUEL and Testify

We also were able to provide \$1896.00 in prepared food to our Veterans, Magical Mountain Christmas, Testify, UMAR Barnabas Group Home, Cornelius Police, Cornelius Firefighters, and to church members in need of love and support. The Sonseekers thank you for all of your hard work and support and for allowing us to host this event for the past five years. We look forward to continuing in the role of active volunteers in the future. With love, Gigi Williams

Sonshine Preschool is supporting lots of missions this school year! In November, we collected Thanksgiving foods for the Ada Jenkins Food Pantry. The children collected 6 large boxes of food to help those in need at Thanksgiving! During December, the children will collect money to give to **Warrior Jace**. Jace is a local 3 year old who is battling a rare brain tumor. Jace's mom is a police officer with the Cornelius Police Department. We hope that with our collection, we can help make Jace and his family a little happier! If you would like to help, please call the Preschool Office 704-892-0654.

The children will present a Christmas Program celebrating the birth of Baby Jesus, Tuesday, December 19, 11:30 am. Come join us as they retell the Christmas story. Afterwards, the children will enjoy a special cake that will continue Jesus' story.

Sonshine Preschool offers scholarships to families in need. We currently are serving three children with full scholarships for the 2017 – 2018 preschool year. If you would like to help a child be able to attend Sonshine Preschool, prayerfully consider a donation to our scholarship fund.

Thank you for supporting our Butter Braids Fundraiser. Together, we raised \$699.25 for needed supplies and \$78.00 for the Sonshine Preschool Scholarship Fund.

Sonshine Preschool Preciousness:

Little Abby was asked, "Where are you going for Thanksgiving?" She responded "Why over the river and through the woods to Grandmother's house!" ...Max on the way out of preschool sees the bulletin board and says, "Bye Baby Jesus!"

"They saw him lying in a manger." Luke 2:16 December Favorite Bible Words

Sonshine Preschool has a few openings in our 2, 3 & 4 year old classes. Please tell your friends and neighbors. For more information, please call the preschool office (704) 892-0654.

THE ROOM IN THE INN is a ministry that Mt. Zion participates in during the winter months in partnership with the Urban Ministry Center. The simple goal is to keep homeless people from freezing on cold winter nights. Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday night from December – March we will provide housing and food for 10 people who are homeless. We do this by opening the doors of our Youth House and our hearts to a population of homeless people that continues to grow here in our own community. Something as simple as sharing a meal and a conversation could be one of the most rewarding experiences for you and the Neighbors!

Each week there are a number of things that need to come together to make this ministry successful ... and that is where you come in! We need volunteers! There are many ways that you can serve: cooking a warm meal, providing breakfast, packing a bag lunch, driving the church mini bus, doing laundry, staying overnight and more. Please prayerfully consider giving your time and talents this year especially if you have never participated in Room in the Inn.

If you would like to know more about this mission, please contact Barbara Broadway at 704-996-7000 or email mtzriti@gmail.com. You can also visit the Urban Ministry Center's page on RIT: <http://www.urbanministrycenter.org/helping-the-homeless/room-in-the-inn/>.

Sign-ups are available online at <http://tinyurl.com/mtzriti2017> or you can call or email the contact info below. Also, if you are interested in driving the Mini Bus to pick up or drop off Neighbors and have not completed training, please contact Matt Sherrill to coordinate a time for training. **Drivers are needed for December 19th pick up and return trip on 20th. March 20th pick up and March 21st for return.**

We also have a wishlist of things that we need for this ministry: Paper products (paper towels, toilet paper, and napkins), Cleaning supplies (Windex, Clorox wipes, sponges, kitchen cleaner, etc.), Laundry and dishwashing detergent, fabric softeners, ground coffee (regular & decaf), tea bags, and hot cocoa packets, Chapstick, travel size lotion, travel size deodorant (men's & women's), razors & shaving cream (men's & women's), toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, travel size soap, children's books (reading, coloring, stickers, etc.), CFL light bulbs, silverware and cereal bowls. Due to generous donations and limited space, we **CANNOT** accept shampoo, conditioners or soap at this time. Donations can be dropped off at the youth house. Jesus said "For I was hungry, and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink... when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me." - Matthew 25:35,40

Contacts: Phone: Barbara Broadway, 704-996-7000

Email: mtzriti@gmail.com;

Web: <http://mtzionumc.net/event/891650-2016-12-06-room-in-the-inn/>

Sign up: <http://tinyurl.com/mtzriti2017>

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

MT. ZION UMC UNAUDITED

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

1/1/17 - 11/30/17

2017 General Fund Budget: \$1,331,720

Budget Gifts: \$ 862,441

THANK YOU!

Budget Expenses: \$910,582

General Fund Cash On Hand: \$102,107

The amount owed for apportionments is \$71,702. We also owe an additional \$43,732 for project consulting fees for the main campus.

Capital Fund Gifts Received: \$9,502

Capital Fund Expenses: \$5,812

Capital Fund Cash On Hand: \$14,992

Funds Received for Helping Hands (Pastor's Discretionary Fund) \$ 2,621. Please contact Margaret Langston if you have questions.

Please note: These figures are based on funds received at time of publication. The monthly Treasurer's Report may be different due to funds postmarked by the end of the month but not received until after publication.

SPECIAL GIFTS WERE GIVEN...IN HONOR OF Shelley Little, a gift was given to the Music Fund; ... **IN MEMORY OF** Floyd Lentz, gifts were given to the Budget; **IN MEMORY OF** Selma & Mose Cooke, a gift was given to the Budget; **IN MEMORY OF** Buddy Phillips' father, a gift was given to the Budget; **IN MEMORY OF** Peter Bullock, a gift was given to the Music Fund.

A special thank you to the Mt. Zion UMC staff and congregation for supporting us on the recent journey with our father, Lagette Goodrum. Your love in this journey and the beautiful celebration of his life planned for December 2nd is greatly appreciated. Love, David, Judy, John, John, Jenn, Aaron, Joanna, Jess, Matt, Jack & Margaret

Dear Mt. Zion family,

Thank you for all your prayers, words of encouragement, love and support expressed to me and my family during my mother's journey to Heaven.

We miss her and find comfort in knowing she is now at peace with her Lord & Savior! With love, Lynn Barham & family

Contributions must be received in the church office by December 22, placed in the offering plate or post-marked by December 31 in order to be included on your 2017 contribution statement. (The office will be closed between Christmas and New Years, reopening 1/2/18.)

NOVEMBER 2017 ATTENDANCE:

November 1: 26

November 5: 8:30: 113; 9:45: 112; 11: 181 = 406

November 8: 25

November 12: 8:30: 97; 9:45: 88; 11: 214 = 399

November 15: 25

November 19: 8:30: 114; 9:45: 95; 11: 161 = 370

November 22: 25

November 26: 8:30: 105; 9:45: 115; 11: 162= 382

November 29: 34

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:

Shelley Little

slittle@mtzionumc.net

Assistant Director

Melanie Kalkan

mkalkan@mtzionumc.net

Director of Christian Education:

Associate Director Christian Ed

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

gwilkins@mtzionumc.net

Custodian:

Donnelly Sherrill (pt security)

Interim Preschool Director: Patti Goforth

pgoforth@mtzionumc.net

Church Phone: 704-892-8566

Fax: 704-892-3143

Youth House: 704-892-7825

Sonshine Preschool: 704-892-0654

Non-Profit Org.

US Postage

PAID

Permit No. 2

Cornelius, NC



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

19600 Zion Avenue
 Cornelius, North Carolina 28031

Tel: 704-892-8566
 Youth House: 704-892-7825
 Sunshine Preschool: 704-892-0654
 Fax: 704-892-3143
 E-mail: m-langston@mtzionumc.net

"MAKING, MATURING, MOBILIZING DISCIPLES FOR CHRIST"

MEN OF ALL AGES ARE WELCOME to attend a weekly **MEN'S COMMUNITY PRAYER BREAKFAST** now meeting on Wednesdays, 7 am at Bethel Presbyterian Church: 19920 Bethel Church Road, Cornelius, NC 28031. Breakfast will be provided.

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.

YOU ARE INVITED...SEWIN' LOVE (FORMERLY DRESS A GIRL) MEETS THE SECOND AND FOURTH WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH in the Youth Room at 6:30. Everyone is welcome!! We will teach. **No experience necessary.** Bringing your own sewing machine is welcome, but not necessary. You may contact Robin Lambert for information. rllambert96@gmail.com.

All women of the church and community are invited to join the **WOMEN OF ZION** on the first Tuesday of each month (location to be determined). 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.

NEW BEGINNINGS... 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! **TO RECEIVE OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

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

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!