

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

February 2017 Volume XIX Issue 2

WORSHIP EACH SUNDAY AT 8:30, 9:45 and 11:00 AM & WEDNESDAYS AT 6:40 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
  - www.mtzionumc.net
- http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/84673593

Dear ones at Mt. Zion,

After my terrible ordeal with a ruptured colon last summer and two surgeries later, every Sunday, you are still asking me how I am doing. Every Sunday, you remind me that you have been praying for me. Every Sunday, you are attentive and appreciative. You were supportive and prayerful and helpful to me through the whole ordeal. I want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Friday morning, February  $17^{\text{th}}$ , I have my final appointment with my surgeon. I am grateful to say that he expects to release me as a patient at that appointment. I feel better each day.

I have been through a number of health crises – surgery from a pancreatic tumor, surgery for thyroid cancer, surgery from uterine cancer. This ruptured colon was the worst, most discouraging of everything I have been through. Your love and prayers and help and support made all the difference.

So Saturday, February  $18^{th}$ , I would like to say "THANK YOU" by inviting you to my home. My "Thank You From the Bottom of My Heart" party will be from 2:00 – 5:00 at my home, 121 Stonehenge Lane in Statesville. I would love for you to see where I live, to have a time to thank you personally and to give you a small gift.

When I was first appointed to Mt. Zion, I began immediately to find a place to live in Cornelius. Pastors who receive a housing allowance choose where they will live. The guideline is to live within a 60 mile radius of the church. Even though my home in Statesville was 25 miles from my driveway to the church parking lot, my first inclination was to live in Cornelius. So I rented a condominium just 3 miles from the church for the first year. I fell in love with the congregation and the community. The second summer I was there, when I had surgery for uterine cancer, I was not able to walk up and down the steps of the condominium where I lived. So I recovered at my home in Statesville. The good people of Mt. Zion brought me food (wonderful, delicious food) and every person who brought food said to me, "Why don't you just live here? It's not far." And, before I returned, Staff Parish gave their blessing for me to live in Statesville instead of trying to keep up with 2 places.

I would love for you to see where I live. Much of my life is on display in my home. It will not be a meal and please do not expect a picture perfect open house. (I still have not had the physical or emotional energy to figure out where to put many things from my homeplace which we sold after my father's death – things I don't need but can't bear to part with yet.) But I hope that you can share in my heartfelt desire to say a personal thank you to all of you who have blessed me so richly. I thank you from the bottom of my heart. I will never forget the way you have blessed my life. *Mary John* 

For people who do not feel they can make the drive to Statesville, I am hoping to arrange for the van to bring people from the church to my house and back. I will let you know as soon as I get drivers scheduled. Address is 121 Stonehenge Lane, Statesville. If you need directions they are available in the church office. I would love to see you here.

# SONSHINE PRESCHOOL 2017-2018 REGISTRATION

Sonshine Preschool will be accepting enrollment applications for the 2017-2018 preschool year beginning January 25 through February 15 at 1:00 pm. If you or someone you know are looking for a weekday program for preschoolers, ages 2-4, please consider Sonshine Preschool.

Enrollment applications can be found on the table outside the preschool office on the lower level of the Education Building. Forms and additional information can also be found on Mt. Zion's website at <a href="https://www.mtzionumc.net">www.mtzionumc.net</a>.

Parent Information Days and tours will be held February 13 and 15 at 10:00 am in the church Sanctuary. For any questions, please contact the preschool office (704) 892-0654 or sonshine-pre@bellsouth.net.

#### ALLELUIA PANCAKE SUPPER, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26,

from 6-7:30 pm. Come out one and all and enjoy a Pancake Supper, along with Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Sausage and Fruit as we celebrate prior to entering the season of Lent!

Pastor Tony is putting together a team to oversee the Alleluia Pancake Supper. You are invited to join Tony and others in setting up, cooking, or serving. For more information or to sign up you can go to <a href="https://goo.gl/tsg3gl">https://goo.gl/tsg3gl</a> or you can call or email Tony.

3rd Sunday Food & Fellowship will convene at the Acropolis Restaurant on February 19th in Cornelius, 20659 Catawba Avenue. We will meet at 12:15-12:30 after the 11:00 service. Come meet your fellow church members and say "hi" again to those you already know! Hope to see you there!

NEW BIBLE STUDY/LENTEN GROUP OPPORTUNITIES	4	In this issue
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## MT. ZION FAMILY CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS!

Larry and Kay Nichols

8307 Parknoll Drive

Huntersville, NC 28078

864-918-4052

864-915-0055

## WELCOME TO THE MT. ZION FAMILY!



Corrections to Officer/Committee Members listed in the January **Newsletter:** 

Administrative Board: Jim Cooke has replaced Lysa Craig for the term expiring at the end of 2017.

Nurture Team: Co-Chairs: Mary Shaw & Debbie Jackson; Members: Kelsey Fox, Anna Brown, Brittany Pomeroy, Brittany Morris, Dora Dalmas, Tom Sarver, Jane Molle, Nancy Johnson, Damien Carper, Jan Horton

May Jesus take you by the hand And help you find relief Throughout this time of sadness as You journey through your grief. And may you feel the healing touch EXTENDED Of every thought and prayer That's sent with love and sympathy the From friends who truly care.

### THE SYMPATHY OF THE CON-GREGATION IS

TO ...Jim York and family on death of wife, Dianne, on Januarv 1 and to Corinne Hendrix

and family on the death of her mother, Ruth Dotger, on January 21.

SPECIAL GIFTS WERE GIVEN... IN HONOR OF Barbara & Joe Taborek, a gift was given to Stephen Ministry; IN HONOR OF Chloe Nichols, a gift was given to Sonshine Preschool; IN HONOR OF the F.W. Kiker SS Class Teachers: Richard Little, Jim Causey, Myke Griffeth, Jim & Mary Jane Bambrough, Steve Riddle and Pat Jenkins, a gift was given to the Budget; IN HONOR OF Shelley Little, a gift was given to the Music Fund...IN MEMORY OF Pat Little, gifts were given to ASP and a gift was given to the Budget; IN MEMORY OF Inez Sherrill, a gift was given to the Budget; IN MEMORY OF Booty Little, gifts were given to the Budget, a gift was given to the Capital Fund and a gift was given to the Cemetery Fund; IN MEMORY OF Larry Gazzaway, a gift was given to the Room In The Inn; IN MEMORY OF Sue Barkley, a gift was given to the Budget; IN MEMORY OF Woodrow T. & Mabel Washam, a gift was given to the Budget; IN MEMORY OF Dorothy Peeler, a gift was given to the Budget.



Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, is pleased to offer a preventive health event at Mount Zion United Methodist Church on 3/14/2017. 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 <a href="https://lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle">https://lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle</a>

Now available! **MARCHING TO ZION** by Martha Cooke Jenkins. 300 page soft bound book with the church history and cemetery records. 100% profit will be donated to Mount Zion UMC. Price per book: \$15.00. Contact Martha Jenkins @ 704-439-7332.



July 30

November 5

#### 2017 ALTAR FLOWERS

Would you like to honor someone dear, a special occasion or a group of people? Maybe you would like to remember a loved one in a very special way. Church Altar Flowers offer a way to express your love and gratitude. Flowers may be purchased for \$100.00 for two arrangements or \$50.00 for one. On your designated Sunday, you may take the flowers to someone of your choice after the 11:00 service. A special notation of your gift will be made in the bulletin. Please complete the form below and place it in the offering plate. The church office will bill you for the flowers requested. We want to continue placing live flowers in the Sanctuary for worship, but need your help. Thank you for using this as a way to honor or remember someone special.

Your Name	
Phone #	
Date(s) Requested	
Number of arrangements (1 or 2)	
Wording for bulletin:	_
	_
	_

February 19 (1 set)	August 6
February 26	August 13
March 5 (1 set)	August 20 (1 set)
March 12 (1 set)	September 3
March 19	September 17
April 2	September 24
April 23	October 1 (1 set)

The dates available are:

February 12

April 30 October 8

May 7 October 15 (1 set)

May 21 (1 set) October 22 (1 set)

May 28 October 29 (1 set)

June 11 November 12

June 18 November 19

June 25 December 3

July 2 December 17
July 16 (1 set) December 24

July 23

June 4



#### WEDNESDAY NIGHT WORSHIP CONTINUES

On January 25, we began our series on "World Religions: Being Christian in a Multi-Faith World."

How are we to act toward people of other religions? Are all religions the same or are they different? Does God work through other religions? Is there truth in other religions? What does it mean to be a Christian in a world of religions? We will look at 4 of the world's biggest religions and what we can learn from them: Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, and Islam.

Wednesday night worship service happens every week at 6:40 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 midweek renewal.

MT. ZION'S MENS GROUP seeks to provide men with the resources and support to live as apprentices to Jesus and to help equip them to transform our community. The group will meet the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month, at 7 pm, in the Church Parlor and also on occasional Saturdays for activities like breakfast, hiking or a mission project. We will meet in February on the 9th and 23rd. For more information please contact Rev. Tony Moreau.

**LENTEN SMALL GROUPS** are returning for Lent 2017. This year's Spiritual Discipline emphasis will be on prayer. Prayer nurtures our faith and encourages spiritual growth. We will be using a wonderful study, "Near the Cross: A Lenten Journey of Prayer" by Kenneth H. Carter, Jr. "Near the Cross" calls individuals and small groups to a deeper life of prayer during the season of Lent. It guides readers to spiritual transformation and application of Bible study to everyday, practical life experience. By coming near the cross through prayer, we can know and imitate the heart of Christ. If you would like to participate in a small group or Lead/Facilitate a group please contact Pastor Tony or you can sign up via <a href="https://goo.gl/msvsqi">https://goo.gl/msvsqi</a>.

#### YOUTH SPRING RETREAT!

One of our favorite retreats is our spring retreat to beautiful **Camp Tekoa** in Hendersonville, NC. This year we are going **March 10-12th!** This is open to all 6-12th grade students. The theme this year completes a 4 year cycle, starting with Water, then Fire, then Earth, so this year of course will be Wind! Camp is a wonderful place to experience God, make new friends, and have a great time away from the demands of our everyday lives. The cost this year is \$100 and includes everything (lodging, food, travel, t-shirt, program, etc.) To sign up and find out more information visit our website <a href="https://www.mtzfuel.net">www.mtzfuel.net</a>



Adult Travel Ministry Trip to Kentucky, **Sept. 18 - 22, 2017:** Join us as we see rolling bluegrass pastures trimmed by miles of painted wooden fences and peppered with cupolas topping barns. Lexington, with its rich historical heritage, will be our home base, and is home to legendary horses and world-famous bourbons. This southern city will charm and surprise you as we visit the beautiful Race Track, Keeneland, tour historical Lexington and a working horse farm. We will visit the largest Shaker Village in America, the home to a religious sect from England and established in the early 1800's. The Kentucky Horse Park is a AAA gem and not to be missed. We will be eating 'Kentucky Proud' food and tour a working distillery. Before heading home, we will stop for an amazing Toyota manufacturing plant tram tour. Horse country is breath

taking and simply a taste of God's country; it will be the bluegrass experience you will long remember.

The price for 5 days is **\$720** per person double occupancy, double Queens or King room and includes transportation, hotels, most meals and gratuities. Optional trip insurance is available. Deadline to reserve is **March 5 with a \$100 deposit** - monthly payments at \$155 April, June, July, August. Contact Mt. Zion UMC to reserve your space (704) 892-8566. Make checks payable to Mt. Zion UMC, with *Kentucky* in the memo section. Contact Dora Dalmas for more details, questions and to make your room request (Queen or King) 704-737-4859 or dalmas2@mi-connection.com.

## **Children's Ministry News**

Wednesday Night Kids club is 6:30-7:30 pm in the Education Building every Wednesday through April 5th. Childcare for children under 2 in the Nursery Room 101, Preschool Class for 2's, 3's & 4's in Room 103 and an Elementary Class for K through 5th grade upstairs in Room 214. This session kids are learning about Prayer and Lent!

Children's Choirs start back Sunday, February 12th at 4:30 pm

Sonshine Preschool will be selling Butter Braids as a fundraiser for the Preschool February 15<sup>th</sup> through March 2<sup>nd</sup>. There is an order form in the church library or you can contact the Preschool to order via email sonshinepre@bellsouth.net or phone 704-892-0654. Delivery will be March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Babygarten is every Wednesday and Saturday at 10 am in the Woody Washam Sunday School Classroom 201 in the Education Building.

**Dates to Remember:** 

Easter Egg Hunt is April 8th VBS is June 12th-June 15th



#### "MUSIC NOTES from Shelley and Melanie"

Greetings from the Music Ministry! We are so excited about the music opportunities this year, and we look forward to working together with you to make the music department's schedule at Mount Zion appealing to all who want to participate.

Here is the schedule for the different areas of music we offer at Mount Zion:

The Chancel Choir meets on Thursday nights @ 7:00 in the Choir Room to prepare for the 11:00 worship services. There is always room for more in the loft, so please come sit in or join a rehearsal, and let's make a joyful noise together!

The Adult Hand Bells rehearse on Monday nights @ 7:00 in the Bell Room. Ms. Carrie Warren is leading this area of the music ministry, and she is doing a wonderful job. If you are interested in playing, please come join this group of ringers. They would love to have you! They will be playing for us on February 26th.

The Youth Hand Bells rehearse on Sunday afternoons in the Bell Room, also under the leadership of Ms. Carrie Warren. There is room for more ringers in this group also, so don't be shy! (6th-12th grade)

The Praise Team practices on Thursday nights @ 7:00 in the Family Life Center, to prepare for the 9:45 Praise and Worship services on Sunday mornings held in the Family Life Center. The Praise Team is currently seeking additional singers and instrumentalists. If interested, please contact Melanie Kalkan @ 704-491-1624 or <a href="melaniekal-kan@mgsd.k12.nc.us">melaniekal-kan@mgsd.k12.nc.us</a>. NO audition required!

The TESTIFY Youth Choir resumed rehearsals on January 15th. The group rehearses on Sunday afternoons in the Family Life Center from 1:30-3:30. This talented group had a great start in the fall with 40 singers. They presented four concerts, which included two performances at Mount Zion. Three new members joined in January, and there is still time to join this wonderful group of teens. If you have a 6th-12th grader or know one who would like to join the group, contact Melanie Kalkan at <a href="mailto:mtztestify@gmail.com">mtztestify@gmail.com</a>. Their spring musical is titled "The Prodigal".

Babygarten classes are held on Wednesday and Saturday mornings through February 22nd, and will resume for another session in a couple of months. This is such an incredible way for parents to share with their babies in language development and musical interaction that is enjoyable for all involved!

The Childrens' Choirs will begin practicing on February 12th from 4:30-5:15. We are excited to get these groups together again! Cherubs Choir (ages 3-4), Jubilate Choir (Kindergarten-1st Grade), Choristers (Grades 2-5) will all practice at the same times. Cherubs/Jubilate will meet in the Education Building and the Choristers in the Choir Room.

THANK YOU ALL for your continued support of our music program at Mount Zion. Please let Shelley know if you have any questions or concerns in this area.

#### God Bless Us All in 2017!

If anyone is interested in singing with "THE AUTUMN DAZE SINGERS", a group that sings for the residents at Autumn Care the second Friday of each month @ 11:00, please contact Shelley Little @ 704-201-7714. We have a wonderful time, and the residents look forward to this event each month. We sing some oldies, some hymns and a patriotic set of favorites. We arrive @ 10:30-10:40 to get organized and start singing at 11:00 for about 30 minutes. We hope to



Dear Friends at Mt. Zion,

There are no words to express our gratitude to the staff at Sonshine Preschool, Pastors and congregation for your

amazing support of Anja Cheek and her family during her illness and passing. We hold you in our hearts. May God richly bless you all. Sincerely, Sarah & Don Cheek, Brent Cheek

I wanted to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to all of my Mt. Zion Family for all the love and care you have given us during Pat's illness and death. We have been truly blessed many, many times: during my illness and surgery in 1999, during the death of Eric in 2005 and now the courageous battle Pat fought with the cancer that took her life. She truly loved each and every one of you, especially her dear friends in the Kiker Sunday School Class. The visits, the food, the cards and notes were all very special to Pat. No matter how bad she was feeling, your visits always lifted her and allowed her to forget for a little while her pain and discomfort. Thanks to the Pastors and Staff for the many calls, visits, and cards we received during this difficult time. Please continue to pray for me, Pat's sister Sybbie, Brad and "Nana's" special little girls she loved so dearly. We lost her way too soon, but now she is healed and at home. We look forward to our reunion with our special Wife, Mother, Sister, and Nana. May God continue to bless each of you !!!!!

Richard Little & Family



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

MT. ZION UMC UNAUDITED FINANCIAL INFORMATION

1/1/16 - 12/31/16

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

Budget Gifts: \$ 1,068,095

THANK YOU!

Budget Expenses: \$1,139,819

General Fund Cash On Hand: \$150,249

Capital Fund Gifts Received: \$16,060

Capital Fund Expenses: \$22,317

Capital Fund Cash On Hand: \$11,302

Funds Received for Helping Hands (Pastor's Discretionary Fund) \$16,022

Information reflects contributions postmarked prior to December 31.

Please contact Margaret Langston if you have questions.

MT. ZION UMC UNAUDITED
FINANCIAL INFORMATION
1/1/17 - 1/31/17

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

Budget Gifts: \$72,024

THANK YOU!

Budget Expenses: \$65,130

General Fund Cash On Hand: \$157,143

Capital Fund Gifts Received: \$1,150

Capital Fund Expenses: \$0

Capital Fund Cash On Hand: \$12,452

Funds Received for Helping Hands (Pastor's Discretionary Fund) \$ 150

Please contact Margaret Langston if you have questions.

During January, the Mt. Zion Building Committee made six presentations to the members of Mt. Zion regarding the product of its work and possible new facilities for Mt. Zion. The presentations included the history of all the different options the Building Committee considered and researched. Members of the Church asked great questions and gave very insightful feedback. Thank you to everyone who attended! If you were unable to attend any of the presentations. please stop by the Church office to obtain a copy of the presentation.

Now the Building Committee is going to review all the suggestions, comments and feedback as it seeks to improve the main campus project concept. Please communicate your ongoing reflections, insights, concerns and feedback to any member of the Building Committee. Since the financial support of the project is key to its success, the next step will be to obtain a financial feasibility assessment from an independent consultant. The Building Committee will continue to meet monthly as it has diligently done so since 2013 and will keep the Church posted as to the timing of the feasibility study in 2017. Please keep Mt. Zion. its ministries and the needs of the Church and the Building Committee in prayer.

Thanks, Mark Keener, Building Committee Chair

#### JANUARY 2017 ATTENDANCE:

January 1: Numbers not available

January 8: Numbers not available

January 15: 8:30: 100 9:45: 120; 11:

211 = 431

January 22: 8:30: 89; 9:45: 99; 11:

225 =413

January 25: 63

January 29: 8:30: 114; 9:45: 134; 11:

185 = 433

#### 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:**

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

Custodian:

Donnelly Sherrill (pt security)

Preschool Director: Becky Metzger

sonshinepre@bellsouth.net

Church Phone: 704-892-8566

indicii Filone. 704-832-836

**Fax:** 704-892-3143

Youth House: 704-892-7825

Sonshine Preschool: 704-892-0654



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

19600 Zion Avenue Cornelius, North Carolina 28031

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 BREAKFAST held each Wednesday from 7-8 am at the IHOP in Huntersville. It is led on alternate weeks by the ministerial staffs of Mt. Zion UMC and Bethel Presbyterian.

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.

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 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** 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.

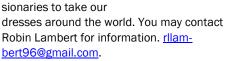
We have something going on all the time!

Contacts: Barbara Broadway: email: <a href="mailto:bbroad-way47@gmail.com">bbroad-way47@gmail.com</a> 704-996-7000 or Shirley Ranson: email: <a href="mailto:Shirley@ransonteam.com">Shirley@ransonteam.com</a> 704-904-0973

YOU ARE INVITED...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. Also, we are seeking mis-



The ladies of the **PRAYER SHAWL MINIS-TRY** 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!