



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

July 2017 Volume XIX Issue 7

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

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Dear ones at Mt. Zion,

Last summer, I had a plan. I needed some time to pray and study and plan sermons and I wanted time for the whole congregation to experience the remarkable gifts of our associate pastors. In consultation with SPRC, we made a plan for Joel and Tony to have time for consecutive Sunday preaching and I would devote those weeks to planning out the year ahead.

Hospitalizations and surgery for a perforated colon shot my part of the plan all to pieces in 2016. But the great thing for the church was that we had already planned for Tony and Joel to be in primary leadership roles. As I recovered, people told me how well these fine pastors did and how much they enjoyed a chance to get to know them. It was not easy to be in the hospital, but it was a thrill for me to know that the church was so well cared for. It was wonderful to me that the leadership care of the church had already been planned.

This summer, I have a plan.

This year's plan does not include hospitalizations or surgery. :) It does include time for prayer, reflection, Scripture study, reading and sermon planning. To help me concentrate on the goals of these weeks, I will be limiting my usually-frequent checking of email. Later in July, I will be having cataract surgeries on my eyes and following doctor's orders with those procedures. I can't wait to be able to see well again!

Mt. Zion will be in wonderful hands under the leadership of Joel Simpson (preaching the first 4 Sundays of July) and Tony Moreau (last Sunday of July through mid-August). We have exceptionally gifted pastors on staff and they will be a marvelous blessing to each of you.

I will love having a concentrated time for study and planning. Please pray for me and be assured that I am praying for you each day.

I am hoping that this year's plan works to bless us all! Grace and peace, love and prayers to each of you, *Mary John*



Check out the bulletin board downstairs in the Education Building and see pictures from Bible School!

We look forward to worship during the month of July. This will be a more casual setting with no bulletins or robes. Hoping to see you there!

**We
were made
for
WORSHIP!**

MT. ZION FAMILY CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS!



The members of the 2017 Confirmation Class joined the church on Sunday, June 4th at the 11:00 service. The members of the class are Sydney Lauren Broadway (b), Taylor Ann Cashion, Lucas Caldwell Coker, Bryson Hill Freeman, Callihan Riley Herbster (b), Jacob David Kerr, Laylah Lynne Madji, Sydney Lea McLennan (b), Jordyn Elizabeth Moore, Jeremy Christian Newton, Emma Reece Oltremari, Kendall Nicole Redmond, Joseph Michael Ryan and Benjamin Felix Vaughan. (b) designates these confirmands were also baptized during the service of confirmation. Also pictured are Gigi Williams, Ella Taylor, Jeff Sarver and Tony Williams, mentors, Matt Sherrill, Director of Youth, Dr. Mary John Dye, Rev. Tony Moreau and Rev. Joel Simpson.

LAY DELEGATES REPORT ON 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 2017 Western Carolina Conference's Annual Conference meeting was held June 22-25th at Lake Junaluska. The theme of "Go & Baptize the World" was emphasized through moving worship filled with glorious music, art and captivating messages. Our Bishop, Rev. Paul L. Leeland, did an outstanding job of executing a meaningful and informative picture of the ministries of the WNCC.

Church growth for this year included 3,000 baptisms and an additional 3,000 professions of faith. We approved the 2018 conference budget at a 1.8% decrease from 2017, without cutting funds to any ministries. The new construction of a Conference Center Office to be located in Huntersville was approved.

The mission reports reminded us that not all mission opportunities occur outside the US. Camps and Retreats completed a merger of facilities and revitalization that resulted in participation growth. The Commission on The Way Forward reported on their work to prepare for the 2019 General Conference special meeting. Various other ministries, such as UMM, Congregations for Children, Crossnore School & Children's Home and Council on Campus Ministries that Mt. Zion supports through the WNCC reported on their works.

It was inspirational to be able to participate in the worship services celebrating the addition of 16 Provisional Members to serve as church leaders, the ordination of 3 Deacons and 17 Elders in Full Connection.

The WNCC of the United Methodist Church continues to leverage opportunities and meet the challenges to deliver on the mission to go and make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The time to enjoy fellowship with friends old and new among the over 2,000 clergy and lay delegates attending was a gift. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to serve Mt. Zion as your lay representatives.

Sherry Washam, Alex Weaver, Deana King—Mt. Zion's elected Lay Delegates to Annual Conference

June 2017 Letter from Building Committee Regarding Feasibility Study

As was reported in the May 2017 Special Edition of the Mt. Zion Newsletter, the Building Committee engaged Horizons Stewardship Co. ("Horizons") to conduct a financial feasibility study to test the Church's readiness to conduct a capital campaign to provide funding for the \$7.5 million Main Campus project as outlined in the six presentations given to the members of Mt. Zion in January 2017. Also as communicated in the Newsletter, if the project was determined to be financially feasible, the project would then move forward through the specific approval process as outlined in The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church.

Horizons delivered its feasibility report to the Building Committee and the Capital Campaign Committee Leadership on June 19th. The study was conducted by using outside demographic information on our community as well as historical data provided by the Church, and reviewing the responses of the confidential 14-question survey completed by officers and families in the Church, including 20 face-to-face interviews during the period May 10th to May 20th. The survey proved to be very valuable to our process and as part of our pledge to be transparent, we would like to share the results using what we think are the most likely "Frequently Asked Questions" regarding the results.

Was there a significant response to the survey and was it representative of the congregation?

Yes, 212 surveys were completed with 49% indicating they attend 11:00 am worship service and 25% and 18%, respectively, attending the 9:45 am and 8:30 am services. 43% indicated they were most involved in Sunday School with the other areas (children, music, youth, outreach/missions, Bible studies / small groups) generally equal among the remaining respondents. Horizons indicated that "we are hearing from involved and committed members in the Church."

What were identified as the top five greatest strengths of the Church?

Clearly the children's ministry and music program are the greatest ministry strengths in the eyes of Church members and they also expressed the Church's warm and welcoming nature. Rounding out the top five were Church Staff and missions / outreach. Horizons noted that new facilities will likely enhance these ministries and grow some of those that didn't rank in the top five.

What are you most and least excited about regarding the proposed new facilities?

Clearly the children's facilities are a priority for the Church. The other top answers for most excited were a gathering space, preserving the features of the current campus and improved accessibility; however, the top two answers for least excited were the clear and identifiable entrance as well as the proximity of activities in the Church. There were many questions in the interview process about the need for keeping the current sanctuary.

Did respondents indicate they currently support the Church's annual budget and were they willing to consider a financial commitment to the project?

Results here were mixed. While 92% indicated they currently provide financial support, only 37% said they would consider supporting the project with a multi-year commitment. Moreover, 32% said they would not be willing to even consider making a commitment with 31% indicating they were not sure and needed more information. This low level of potential support was both surprising and extremely disappointing to the Building Committee / Capital Campaign Committee Leadership. Horizons noted the 32% amount is generally higher than the norm.

What does the low financial commitment mean in terms of raising funds for the project?

It is the conclusion of Horizons that the expected total of a three-year capital campaign gifts to be between \$600,000 and \$1,000,000. However, a high number of respondents in the survey chose not to express their intent to give, making forecasting difficult. Horizons believes the Church possesses the capacity to surpass this estimate, but for this to occur, it would be heavily dependent upon early surfacing of significant leadership gifts at a level well beyond what has been stated in the survey.

What is likely driving the unexpected low level of potential fundraising?

Horizons indicated there is a great range of emotion on the current state of the Church with most responses in the 3 to 5 range (1 is optimistic with 7 being pessimistic) which is considered neutral. Those who leaned in the pessimistic range noted concern about a trend of lower attendance and lower giving. In addition, other factors conveyed were the direction of Church leadership, the large scope of the project (despite seeing the need for new facilities), now not being the time for a building project (despite a good plan) and concern over the future of the United Methodist Church as a whole.

Based upon the findings, what is Horizons recommending?

See page 6 for continuation of letter.

Good news for the dreams of the Mt. Zion Senior Campus!

For years, the Senior Campus Board has been researching and planning and praying about developing the Senior Campus to be a blessing for senior citizens in our church and community. The ambitious vision has been to develop a community where people at a vulnerable stage of life could receive care (Autumn Care), people could have housing in a community near the church (residential housing component) and the church would open up a new dimension of ministry to seniors in the community through a Senior Ministry Center (to be built and funded from the proceeds of the residential development).



After years of working through proposals to developers based on leased land, the Senior Campus Board realized that leasing was not going to be feasible to get a developer. So the Senior Campus Board, convinced that the wisest course of action was to find another way to reach the vision plan, asked for permission to sell approximately 8.4 acres of the property that would be the residential portion of the Senior Campus development. The Called Charge Conference June 26 approved their request by a large majority.

The Senior Campus Board will now begin a new phase of securing a developer. Please pray for this new start to accomplish the long-held vision.

The Senior Campus Board will continue to report to the Building Committee – which reports directly to the Administrative Board. We will also communicate in a variety of ways with the congregation as soon as we have something definite to share. Through the years of working on developing the property, there have been many possibilities that did not work out. To have shared those prematurely would have been a roller coaster of misinformation for people to absorb. No one wants to share updates and good news more than the Senior Campus Board! We are also committed to the information shared being accurate and something people can count on. Look for good news! Pray for us.

Barbara Broadway and Corinne Hendrix
Co-chairs of Mt. Zion UMC's
Senior Campus Board

BOOK BAG DRIVE

Mt. Zion is partnering with the Ada Jenkins Center for its annual Book Bag Drive for the LEARN Works Program. The Center is in need of 90 book bags for this coming school year. If you are interested in providing book bags for elementary school children, please leave the filled book bag in the Church library by Sunday, August 13th.

Listed to the right are the items you need to include in the book bag you purchase:

Spiral Bound Notebooks
Pencils
Highlighters
Crayons/ markers/ coloring pencils
Glue Sticks
Bottles of glue
1" 3-ring Binders
Construction paper
Composition notebooks
Multi colored sharpies
Scotch tape
Small post-its
Hand sanitize
Pencil sharpeners
Pencil bags
Erasers
Rulers
Protractors



*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 for individuals with developmental disabilities ("special needs") starting THIS September. This ministry was created to promote awareness, inclusion, accessibility, advocacy, and additional opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities. **His** ministries will include:

The Feast –	An alternative worship service – Every 3rd Sunday 11:00 starting October
Just As I Am –	A spiritual and leisure enrichment group – Every 2nd Sunday 4:30 starting September
Sustain –	A support group for parents/families – Every 1st Tuesday starting October
JEDI Night –	A fun night with FUEL Youth – Every 4th Sunday 4:30 starting September
Agape Sunday School –	Every Sunday 9:45 – now!
A Place For Us –	A quiet, dedicated worship livestreaming space dedicated for times when privacy is needed/desired - Every Sunday 11:00 – starting October

Participants/Families: All information will be on the website – www.mtzionumc.net – and brochures will be in the church office by August 1st.

Volunteers – We need WHATEVER you can give – one time volunteering or many time, a little help or a lot! We will need food, musicians, dancers, story tellers, craft supplies, crafters, group volunteers and one-on-one shepherds. Whatever gift you have, we can use! Volunteer contact is His@mtzionumc.net. Please help us promote and pray for this new ministry! With love, Gigi Williams

Children's Ministry News

Thank you to all of the volunteers who made Vacation Bible School a huge success!! We served 110 kids and had a total of 190 people on campus! And we raised a total of **\$2213.74** for our Mission, the Shoe That Grows!! This will buy 147 shoes for children in need!

A special thank you to Women of Zion, George Kelly, Sonseekers and the Journey Sunday School classes who provided awesome meals all week long for our volunteers!



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Please join us in welcoming Cathy Wiese as the new Administrative Coordinator of Sonshine Preschool!

Cathy grew up in Forest City, NC. She graduated from Appalachian State University with a BS in Exceptional Children and a minor in Psychology. She has 16 years teaching experience, 9 of which were at Sonshine Preschool.

She has been a member of Mt. Zion for over 20 years. She and her husband John live in Davidson. They have three children- Perry, Sarah and Landon.



UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:

- July 12th and July 26th MidWeek at the Mt.
- August 18th Summer Sleepover
- August 27th Promotion Sunday and Teacher Training



THE ALTAR FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY DURING THE MONTH OF JULY ARE...

July 9: The flowers on the right of the altar are to the glory of God and in loving memory of Ted Harviel on his birthday July 10th, given by Lou, Kelly, Ernie, Bennett and Samantha.

July 16: The flowers on the right of the altar are to the glory of God and in celebration of 30 years on July 18 with my soul mate and true love, Jan Sipe. I love you! I am blessed! Given by Alan Sipe.

The flowers on the left of the altar are to the glory of God and in honor of the wedding anniversary of Mike and Noreen O'Reilly Morris who were married at Mt. Zion 20 years ago.

July 23: The flowers at the right of the altar are to the glory of God and in memory of James and Ann Blakely, given by their children and grandchildren.

The flowers at the left of the altar are to the glory of God and in honor of the 50th wedding anniversary of Rich and Sandy Moore on July 29.

July 30: The flowers at the right of the altar are to the glory of God and in celebration of the 48th wedding anniversary of Jim and Sandy Welch on July 26th.

June Baptism

Emerson Worth Stanford was baptized at the 11:00 worship service on June 11th. He is the son of Geoff and Jessica Hollingsworth Stanford, the grandson of Joe & Becky Hollingsworth and the great grandson of Katy Hollingsworth.



PRAYER CONCERNS: Judy Aho, Sandy Archer, Billie Bost, Gail Brackett, Dixie Cashion, Mack Cashion, Ruby Cook, Dot Fidler, Lagette Goodrum, Lilyan Hunter, Jim Jackson, Margi Kyle, Faye Long, Avery Masters, Cathy McAlister, Stephen McMakin, Martha Miller, Sandy Moore, Nancy Neal, Lisa Oxidine, Dave Reaves, Phyllis Sherrill, Alina Sosamon, Elizabeth Westmoreland, Rodney Whisnant, Todd Wissinger



SPECIAL GIFTS WERE GIVEN... IN HONOR OF Katy Hollingsworth's 90th birthday, gifts were given to the Budget; **...IN MEMORY OF** Kenneth Cooke, a gift was given to the Budget; **IN MEMORY OF** Wes Southern a gift was given to the Budget.



THE SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION IS EXTENDED TO

Marla Sherrill Willis and family on the death of her husband, EB Willis, on June 2 and to Minerva Bullock and family on the death of her son, Peter Bullock, on June 20.

A Couple of Notes from Your Director of Music:

First of all, I just want to extend a HUGE thank you to all of the participants who were involved with the Music and Arts Camp June 19th-22nd. The faithful volunteers were amazing, and events like this absolutely could not happen without YOU! We had a great week. It was a great learning experience for me and a lot of fun.

Have YOU Thought About Joining The Choir?

Maybe you are just a little curious about what it feels like to sit in the choir loft each Sunday and participate in singing the Introit and the Anthem. Maybe you enjoyed singing as a youth and miss it, but you haven't pursued getting involved in a group as an adult, because you think life is too busy. Maybe you have never been in a choir at all, but you just love to sing.

Whatever your situation may be, I have a very low-stress way to get involved with the choir on Sunday mornings. For the whole month of July, we will NOT have rehearsals on

Thursday evenings, and we will NOT be wearing choir robes for the 11:00 services, yet we will be singing in the loft on Sunday mornings. Anyone who wants to sing with us is requested to be in the Choir Room (under the Sanctuary) at 10:40 am prior to the service to go over the two selections we will need for that service, and then we will proudly present them to the congregation! The selections will be very familiar old hymns, which I will rearrange a little bit to make them sound more like anthems.

Black folders and music will be waiting for you, so try it for a few weeks. You may just decide that you want to join us indefinitely. We would love to fill those comfy chairs in the loft each Sunday!

Thank you all for your support of the music ministry.

Blessings,

Shelley Little



Continued from page 3...Based upon the findings, what is Horizons recommending?

Overall, the results of the survey are mixed. It is positive that Church Staff and the Building Committee have done a great job of communicating with members, especially about the project being considered, so that everyone knows the need for updated facilities especially for the children. On the other hand, there are many who do not think now is the time for a project of this magnitude. Horizons recommends and, as noted below, the Building Committee agrees that we put the campaign and project on hold until there is more clarity on the future of leadership at Mt. Zion and the United Methodist Church as a whole.

What is the Building Committee going to do as a result of the study and Horizons' recommendations?

After developing what the Committee believes is a bold plan to make needed improvements to our facilities, unfortunately the results of the Horizons study show that the proposed project is not financially feasible at this time. Thus, as the Building Committee has consistently promised to the congregation, we will not be bringing the proposed project forward for a vote of the congregation at this time and will put the project on hold. Given the need for new facilities will continue, the Committee will focus its attention to the needs identified by Church members to put the Church in a stronger position to support its ministries and, at a later date, build new facilities.

What will the Building Committee work on now?

The Building Committee will continue to meet to oversee the work of the Senior Campus Board. In addition, it will continue to focus on next steps and re-evaluate the proposed project. Based upon the findings of the study, it is not likely that a revised project concept would be presented for consideration within the next 12 months while the Church seeks to build a culture of generosity that will put the Church and future projects in a stronger position. Under the Committee's belief there are Church members with a desire to give to the construction of new facilities, we have recommended to the Finance Committee that a designated account for "New Facilities" be established so that those who wish to make contributions to future building projects will have a mechanism by which to do so.

Please don't hesitate to contact any member of the Building Committee if you have questions. For those that are interested, the Horizons feasibility study is available in the Church Office for review.

In closing, we are reminded of one of the Building Committee's three theme scriptures, Jeremiah 29: 11-13, which says: "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." The Building Committee hopes everybody will keep the future of Mt. Zion, its ministries and its facility needs in prayer over the coming months.

On behalf of the Building Committee, **Mark Keener, Chair**

When kids jump off the diving board, they want to make a big splash. At the splash park, the excitement is provided by the bucket that constantly refills and then dumps with a splash, the bigger the better. When kids are in the pool, they have great fun splashing each other.

Well, you made a big splash on behalf of kids with your contribution of \$975.00. Because of you, we can provide the opportunity for our kids who receive scholarships to be a part of our programs, including all the splashing. Even more, you make it safe for them to do so, with scholarships for swim lessons and our free Safety Around Water program, which helps kids who live in apartment complexes with unguarded pools learn how to safely manage themselves around water. On behalf of all those kids and all their parents, thank you! Gratefully, Mary C. Tucker Director of Development YMCA of Greater Charlotte

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

**MT. ZION UMC UNAUDITED
FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

1/1/17 - 6/30/17

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

Budget Gifts: \$ 486,307

THANK YOU!

Budget Expenses: \$ 486,446

General Fund Cash On Hand: \$150,110

Capital Fund Gifts Received: \$4,760

Capital Fund Expenses: \$3,458

Capital Fund Cash On Hand: \$12,604

Funds Received for Helping Hands
(Pastor's Discretionary Fund) \$ 1,634

Please contact Margaret Langston if you
have questions.

JUNE 2017 ATTENDANCE:

June 4: 8:30: 92; 9:45: 89; 11: 325
= 506

June 11: 8:30: 91; 9:45: 154; 11:
176 = 421

June 18: 8:30: 140; 9:45: 72; 11:
142 = 354

June 25: 8:30: 86; 9:45: 94; 11:
209 = 389

The Family of Kenneth J. Cooke express their heart-felt gratitude to the members of Mt. Zion for their support during Kenneth's recent passing.

Kay, Carol Ann, and Chris Cooke



**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 on Sunday or mail it to the church office. 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:

The dates available are:

July 30 (1 set) October 1 (1 set)

August 6 (1 set) November 5

August 20 (1 set) November 12 (1 set)

September 3 (1 set) December 3

September 17 December 17

December 24

Staff

Senior Pastor: Dr. Mary John Dye

mdye@mtzionumc.net

Associate Pastors:

Rev. Joel Simpson

jsimpson@mtzionumc.net

Rev. Tony Moreau

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Donnelly Sherrill (pt security)

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mduncan@mtzionumc.net

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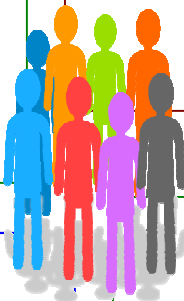
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"MAKING, MATURING, MOBILIZING DISCIPLES FOR CHRIST"

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.



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 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: bbroadway47@gmail.com 704-996-7000 or Shirley Ranson:
 email: Shirley@ransonteam.com 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 missionaries to take our dresses around the world. You may contact Robin Lambert for information. rllambert96@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!