



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

June 2018, Volume XX Issue 6

**"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>

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Jonathan and I are very excited to be appointed as Co-Sr. Pastors at Mt. Zion. I never thought that I would have an opportunity to return to the place where my professional ministry began. Just to make sure everyone knows a little about my history, I served as the Associate Pastor at Mt. Zion from 1991-1997. Mt. Zion was my first appointment after completing my Master of Divinity degree at Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta. I remember my time at Mt. Zion with joy in my heart and look forward to joining all of you in ministry. For those of you who were not here in the early or mid 90's, I look forward to getting acquainted with you, too!

As far as some personal information, I am a native of Mecklenburg County from Matthews. My mother still lives in the house I grew up in in Matthews, and I have numerous family members living in that area. I am a big sports fan and always enjoy pulling for Duke basketball, Panthers football, and Atlanta Braves baseball.



As many of you remember, Jonathan and I were married at Mt. Zion and have just celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary. Some of you may remember that our oldest daughter Elizabeth was born while I was at Mt. Zion and was baptized there. Our youngest daughter Rachel was born a year after I left Mt. Zion. I look forward to sharing about Elizabeth and Rachel more in the near future.



A lot has happened during the last 21 years for Jonathan and me, and I look forward to sharing the details with you in the weeks and months ahead. I also look forward to hearing the story of Mt. Zion and the experiences you have had over the past two decades. Together, we will seek to fulfill our calling as the body of Christ.

Joy & Peace,
Angela Marlowe

(Jonathan will get his turn in the July newsletter)

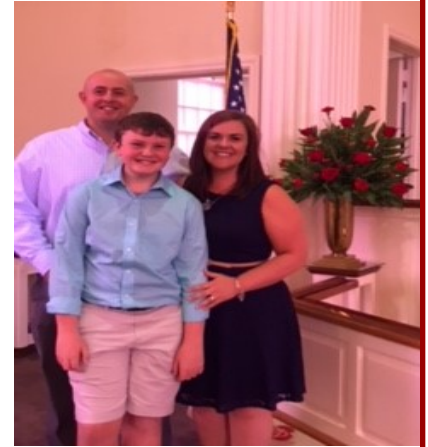
MT. ZION FAMILY CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS!

NEW MEMBERS

Robert, Ivonne, Madison and Ray Reed
8834 Westmoreland Lake Drive,
Cornelius, NC 28031
Joined May 6, 2018

Billy, Leanne and Billy Costello
9022 Glen Ashley Drive
Cornelius, NC 28031
Joined May 20, 2018

Welcome!



May Birth

Hailey Parker Schwab was born on May 11, 2018. Hailey is the daughter of Stuart and Ashley Schwab, the sister of Samantha, and the granddaughter of Hal and Theresa Schwab.

CONGRATULATIONS!



THE SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION IS EXTENDED TO Todd Little and family on the passing of his mother, Nancy Little, on May 7th, 2018.

To the team at Mt. Zion United Methodist Church:

Thank you for providing meals for our students during the May 16 teacher workday. 53 students were able to take meals home thanks to your partnership with Davidson United Methodist Church.

Our entire school community is humbled by your kindness and grateful for your service. We are thankful to have such a thoughtful partner within our community.

Many thanks on behalf of the Vikings at North Meck High School.

Mr. Nermal K. Patel,
Assistant Principal



MAY BAPTISMS



Bugh Thomas Ray was baptized at the 8:30 am service on May 20th. He is the son of Ben and Emily Ray, the brother of Julia, Jack, and Anna Ray, and the grandson of Cindy Ray.

Robert Ray Reed IV was baptized at the 9:45 am service on May 6th. He is the son of Robert and Ivonne Reed and the brother of Madison.

CONGRATULATIONS!

2018 Graduates

High School:

Spencer Carlton Barnes	William Coker
Noah Ellis Combs	Jackson Lee Cooksey
Katie Copley	Kendall Marett Davis
Vernon Christopher Harvell	Jackson Patrick Newton
Elizabeth Lorraine Redmond	Jonathan James Sarver, Jr.
	Julia Wakeman

College

Erin Christine Bauer	Ben Goodson
Amanda Lee Heskett	Bryce Mckensie Johnson
Rebekah Caroline Knight	David Alan Shaw
David Thornton	Mitchell Venator



Beloved disciples at Mt. Zion,

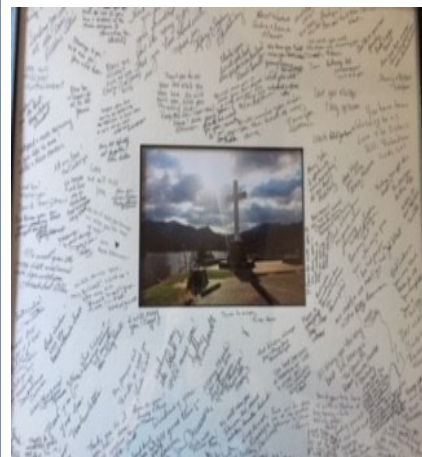
I cannot thank you enough for the outpouring of love that you have given me both during my years as your Senior Pastor and especially the past few weeks. I love words, but they are not adequate to convey my gratitude.

The sight of the over-flowing sanctuary on May 27 was a precious gift of its own. I cherish our worship at Mt. Zion. Especially our last service together. And the after-worship celebration was wonderful. I love the framed picture, the handmade stole, the table full of cards and gifts, the scores of blessings and memories and tributes you shared. What precious time! I treasure every picture and I add them to the hundreds of pictures I have through our six years together.

Thank you for supporting these days in June that I am taking for rest and spiritual renewal, time to visit with my brother as he moves and the normal time that pastors are gone for Annual Conference. You have a truly magnificent lineup of preachers coming to Mt. Zion beginning this past Sunday through July 1. I am so grateful for the Pastoral Care Team that is in place to be sure people receive pastoral care and support during this time that I am gone, Joel is in Taylorsville and Tony is recovering from his hip replacement surgery. You will be well cared for. I will be Mt. Zion's Senior Pastor till July 1, so we will connect as needed.

Just as I am praying for wisdom and grace and healing and an open heart as I go into my new appointment, I urge you to spend these days asking God for a full measure of his wisdom and grace and healing. Pray for open hearts. Pray to cherish every good thing we shared. Pray to learn from every experience of brokenness and resolve to build a stronger future for the church. Be ready to welcome Jonathan and Angela with your whole hearts. Make it a special priority to be present on their first Sunday, July 8. Show them the magnificent people that you are.

I will always love you. I will always be interested in you and in what happens at Mt. Zion. We have a ministerial covenant in the United Methodist Church which I whole heartedly support. I will always be your friend but I will no longer be your pastor. We agree that people are best served when they turn to the clergy who are presently serving them. Jonathan and Angela will be your Senior Pastors. They are the ones to preside over funerals, weddings, baptisms and special occasions in your lives. We are in covenant to not return at all for the first year after the change. And no former pastor is ever allowed to return to a church without the invitation of the present pastors. We are all honor-bound to the same covenant.



As always, there is a purpose behind our procedures. The best pastors to serve you through your high points or times of sorrow are the pastors who are now your pastors. No matter how close we have been in the past, they are the ones who will be with you in the days ahead for your ongoing pastoral needs. Walking through these life experiences together lets you see the gifts they have to offer to you. No former pastor should ever shortchange that opportunity. The privilege of standing by you was extended to me. I cherish our connections. And because of that, I fully support the ministerial covenant.

So I hope you will stay in touch as friends. And with your whole hearts, I hope you will turn to the pastors who will be serving you. If you love me and if my ministry with you has contributed to your Christian growth, then you will continue to bless me by giving Jonathan and Angela your joyful, whole-hearted support and the invitation to share your lives. Accept them for the gifts that they are. Be more committed to the church than ever before.

This church has a great future. Move forward into that greatness. With gratitude, love and prayers, *Mary John*



Summer Bible Study

Many of you look for new ways to get in the Word of God during the summer months. This summer we will be offering a study on the Letter to the Hebrews. The in-depth, verse by verse study, led by Nancy Mattes, will meet on Monday mornings from 10 am till Noon in room #205 in the Education Building, beginning June 4th.

HAPPENINGS AROUND MOUNT ZION

2018 Confirmands

Madison Paige Alexander
Addison Jane Bishop
Jonathan Rice Boger
Caroline Grace Eddy
Francis Croccifixicio Genco
Miles Thomas Gil
Matthew Phillip LaZur
Jason Conrad Pasewaldt
Jackson Davis Seigler
Blakely Elise Sherrill
Hunter Len Sherrill
Lauren Sophia Strom

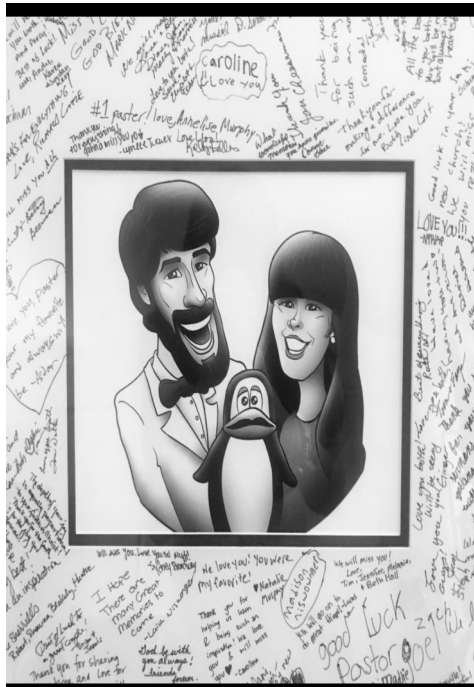


Affirmation of Faith - written for and by the Confirmation Class of 2018

I believe in the merciful God, our Father, creator of the universe and everything in it. I believe that, every day, God gives us a new day to wake up with new opportunities, people and small gifts to show His love. I believe God is always watching over us. God is a large part of my life. I believe in God and will follow the guidelines set for me. I believe in Jesus, God's Son who was a real and living person that we can trust. He suffered brutally for us, had His life ended and rose from the dead. I believe that when I sin, God will forgive and that, when others sin, God wants me to forgive them. I am willing to sacrifice my selfish needs in order to follow God. I am willing to serve others less fortunate than I am. I believe Jesus will return to earth to see who followed His teachings. I trust that I am not alone for God is always with me. I believe in the Bible and it's story. I believe the Bible is a comfort zone that can guide people in dealing with depression and anger. I believe that the teaching of the Bible is not only there to read, but God's word to show us how to live. I believe that a true Christian is not just in your soul but in your actions. I believe the power that praying holds. I believe in the church as a way of helping us live a happy and disciplined life to its fullest. I believe the church is a safe place. I believe that the best way to worship God is not only to go to church, but to spread His word to friends, family and to strangers because everyone deserves to know God as Lord and Savior. I myself believe in heaven. I believe that one day, our bodies will be made new, free of any faults and we will have life everlasting in heaven. Amen

On Behalf of Staff Parish Relations Committee

A Church-wide farewell Penguin Party was held May 16th to honor Joel and Dani Simpson in the Family Life Center. A big crowd came out to join in the fun and wish them all the best!



On Behalf of Staff Parish Relations Committee

On May 27th we had a single service followed by a gathering in celebration of Dr. Mary John Dye's ministry and leadership at Mt. Zion. Several of her grandchildren were on hand to help her serve communion. The service and celebration were very well attended. Thank you Mary John for your service at Mt. Zion for the last six years.



MUSIC NOTES FROM SHELLEY:

SING WITH US!!!!!! (Hopefully I got your attention!)

The Chancel Choir will sing throughout the summer on Sunday mornings in the loft during the 11:00 a.m. services, but we will NOT have rehearsals on Thursday evenings, June 21st-August 9th. Each Sunday, we will meet in the choir room (under the Sanctuary) to rehearse a hymn to sing during the 11:00 service. This gives folks who are curious about being in the choir the opportunity to join us, without committing to Thursday night rehearsals. And, who knows? If you do this, you may just want to commit to being a full time member of the choir! Please give it a try...as there truly is no reason that a church the size of ours does not have a full choir in the loft!

I KNOW there are very good singers in the congregation, because I hear you!



This Babygarten session ended June 2nd, and we will pick back up in September. It has been a wonderful experience, and I am so happy to have added some new babies to the groups on Wednesdays and Saturdays. I will be in touch in August about specific dates for the fall.

Put THIS on your calendars: The next 5th Sunday night "Community Singspiration" will be on **Sunday evening, July 29th, 2018**. I am currently working with area music directors to finalize plans for this event. More to come about this soon.....

Thank you all for your love and support. Make a joyful Noise!

JUNE 24TH-THE MT. ZION GROWTH AND VITALITY TEAM INVITES YOU TO: 1 Service, 1 Church, 1 Purpose = UNITED

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church Sunday 24th @ 10 AM on the Front Lawn
Join us for coffee and pastries in the Family Life Center 9 to 9:45 AM

Graduate Sunday is Sunday, June 10th.

FUEL

Our graduating high school seniors and college seniors will be recognized at the 9:45 and 11am services.

Our annual service trip is approaching! **Appalachia Service Project is from June 17 - 23rd. We have 15 students and 6 leaders participating.** The group will be traveling to West Virginia to serve and love those seeking help on their homes. Please be praying for these youth and leaders as they go with a servant's heart!

Stay Tuned- FUEL Summer Schedule will be emailed to parents in the next week!



Please be praying for Testify Youth Choir as they get ready for their spring concerts and tour: Hope you can join them at one of the following concerts as they present **STAND UP (encouraging teens to take a stand on bullying)**

June 3rd-First Baptist Church in Cornelius - 11 am
June 3rd- Home Concert - Mt. Zion United Methodist Church- 7 pm in the Family Life Center
June 24th-morning -Park Avenue- Mooresville (more details to follow)

Spring Tour -(June 12-16) They will be traveling to Louisville, Kentucky to spread the word of God through music and worship.

Adult Travel Ministries presents a Spain and Portugal Riverboat Cruise This trip starts in Lisbon, Portugal, follows the path of one of the loveliest river valleys on the continent and ends in Madrid, Spain. It takes place over 14 days and includes 11 sightseeing tours, 5 UNESCO World Heritage sights, and most meals. Travel dates are **2019, Sept. 13 - 27**. Deposit of \$500 due July 1, 2018 with final payment not due until June 2019. Trip cost is \$4,367, air from Charlotte is \$674. Pre-booking and Informational party was held on June 3 and if you sign up during that week, \$100 will be taken off the cost of your trip. If paying by check, another approx. \$500 is discounted. From grand palaces and medieval towns to folk music and port wine tastings, you'll experience the rich history, vibrant spirit, and beautiful landscapes of Portugal and Spain on this enriching journey. For more information and to get emailed a complete brochure, please contact Dora Dalmas at 704-737-4859 or at dalmas2@mi-connection.com.



Next 4 weeks at Mt. Zion- You will be cared for....

Sunday, June 10:

Rev. Brian Darr - 8:30 worship- Brian is an elder in the UMC who is in Extension Ministry working with Carolinas Health Care System. He has his Charge Conference membership at Mt. Zion. He and his wife, Ashley are worshippers at the 8:30 service.

Rev. Preston Davis - 9:45 and 11:00 worship services- Graduate Sunday for both services Preston is the Chaplain of High Point University. He was baptized at Mt. Zion and spent his early years at this church.

Sunday, June 17:

Rev. Jan Brittain - all 3 services. Jan is the Senior Pastor of Williamson's Chapel UMC in Mooresville. One of the most gifted preachers in the conference, Jan also served as a preaching mentor for Joel Simpson at Mt. Zion.

Sunday, June 24: ONE SERVICE AT 10 AM on the Front Lawn led by the Church Growth and Vitality Team

Sunday, July 1:

Rev. David Snipes - all 3 services -David is the Director of the United Methodist Foundation. He is an elder in the Western North Carolina Conference and has his Charge Conference affiliation through Mt. Zion. The Foundation has been a gracious host to many meetings for Mt. Zion leaders.

Vacation Bible School: July 9th – 12th from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Please register participants and volunteers at:

vbspro.events/p/mtzionvbs2018

CHILDRENS CORNER



Thanks to all that came out for Kids Club and music with Ms. Shelley in May!



Music and Art Camp: June 18th – 21st from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. is full. Please contact Ashley Sherman at asherman@mtzionumc.net to be placed on the waiting list.

Mid Week at the Mt.: June 13th from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. and July 25th from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Ages 3 years old through 5th grade. Please register at: vbspro.events/p/midweek1 and vbspro.events/p/midweek2

M.O.M.S. Meeting (Mothers Offering Mutual Support) will take place on Tuesday, June 19th in the Parlor at 7:00 PM. All moms are invited!

During the month of May, our preschoolers filled five boxes with food for the Back Pack Ministry! The children were excited to be helping children in our community and being God's helping hands!

Sonshine Preschool is still growing. God is GREAT! Our three and four year old classes have a few spots available for the 2018 – 2019 preschool year. If you know of anyone looking for a great preschool where young children play, learn and grow in God's love, please tell them to contact the preschool office.

Sonshine Preschool Preciousness:

"I wish you could be my teacher forever!" said by a precious graduating four year old.

The staff and children of Sonshine Preschool wish you a Happy "Son"shinely Summer!

Thanks for your prayers, support and love shown during the preschool year! We are blessed!



June Gathering: **Family Movie Night**

(appropriate for all ages) June 20th on the front lawn. Bring your friends and family, a chair or blanket, picnic dinner and enjoy the fellowship! We will provide drinks, popcorn, and sweets. Gather at 7:00 pm and Movie starts at 7:30. Rain plan in the Family Life Center.

These awesome events are sponsored by the Nurture Committee.

The Gathering

Fun, food and fellowship for all ages!

Matthew 18:20
For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.

June 20th - Movie Night
July 25th - Ice Cream Social
August 15th - Game Night
September 23rd - Homecoming
"Celebrate Mt. Zion"

MT. ZION UMC UNAUDITED**FINANCIAL INFORMATION****01/01/2018-5/31/2018**

2018 General Fund Budget: \$1,262,630

Budget Gifts: \$417,122

THANK YOU!

Budget Expenses: \$450,077

General Fund Cash on Hand: \$112,360

Capital Fund Gifts Received: \$2,703

Capital Fund Expenses: \$0

Capital Funds Cash on Hand: \$18,356

Funds Received for Helping Hands
(Pastor's Discretionary Fund) \$1,972Please contact Patti Loner if you have
questions.Please note: These figures are based on
funds received at time of publication. The
monthly Treasurer's Report may be differ-
ent due to funds postmarked by the end
of the month but not received until after
publication.**SPECIAL GIFTS WERE**

GIVEN...IN HONOR OF Kevin and Crystal Parrish a gift was given to the budget. **IN HONOR OF** Debbie Tillis a gift was given to the budget. **IN HONOR OF** Rebecca Caldwell's 2nd birthday a gift was given to the budget. **IN HONOR OF** Joel and Dani Simpson a gift was given to the budget. **IN HONOR OF** Mary John Dye a gift was given to the budget. **IN HONOR OF** Shelley Little a gift was given to the music fund. **IN MEMORY OF** Polly Goodrum's May 2nd birthday a gift was given to the budget. **IN MEMORY OF** Susan Rinehart a gift was given to the budget. **IN MEMORY OF** Carol Ann Cooke a gift was given to the budget. **IN MEMORY OF** Susan Rinehart a gift was given to the cemetery fund. **IN MEMORY OF** Nancy Little gifts were given to the cemetery fund. **IN MEMORY OF** Claudia Bost's May 16th birthday a gift was given to the music fund.

Reminder:

Please send any articles you would like to have included in the newsletter to the church by July 1st. They may be emailed to
kfellows@mtzionumc.net



**Pastoral Care Team –
contact Patti Richardson
704-657-6547 with information
of anyone who needs a hospital
or home visit June through
mid-July**

MAY 2018 ATTENDANCE

May 2: 39

May 6: 8:30: 98; 9:45: 112; 11:00: 164= 374

May 9: 41

May 13: 8:30: 98; 9:45: 113; 11:00: 234= 445

May 16: 116

May 20 8:30: 87; 9:45: 81; 11:00: 249 = 417

May 27 = One 10 am service: 331

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

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Assistant Director

Melanie Kalkan

mkalkan@mtzionumc.net

Director of Christian Education:

Ashley Sherman

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Associate Director Christian Ed

Stacey Mercuri

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Interim Director of Youth:

Conor Mooney

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Financial Officer

Patti Loner

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Kelly Fellows

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Preschool Director:

Patti Goforth

pgoforth@mtzionumc.net

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Non-Profit Org.

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Cornelius, NC



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

19600 Zion Avenue
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 Youth House: 704-892-7825
 Sonshine Preschool: 704-892-0654
 Fax: 704-892-3143
 E-mail: ploner@mtzionumc.net

"MAKING, MATURING, MOBILIZING DISCIPLES FOR CHRIST"

MEN OF ALL AGES ARE WELCOME to attend a **MEN'S COMMUNITY PRAYER BREAKFAST** now meeting on every other Wednesday, 7 am at Bethel Presbyterian Church: 19920 Bethel Church Road, Cornelius, NC 28031. Breakfast will be provided. Dates for June are June 6th and June 20th.

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** small group! Our group meets the first Tuesday of each month at the Galway Hooker Restaurant in Cornelius. We meet at 7:00 pm for fellowship and a devotional program. Please contact us at mzwoz1@gmail.com if you would like more information and to get the monthly meeting reminders. We look forward to seeing you the first Tuesday of each month!

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!