



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

March 2017 Volume XIX Issue 3

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

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 - Fax 704-892-3143
- Youth House 704-892-7825
- Sonshine Preschool 704-892-0654
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- <http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/84673593>

Since the meetings to introduce prospective new facilities for the main campus of Mt. Zion, The Building Committee has completed interviews with highly recommended fund raising groups. Each group has a process for a time-tested stewardship study to determine the financial feasibility of plans. A group has been selected and will be reviewed in March by Trustees, Finance Committee and the Administrative Board. After those approvals, there will be more information about the time frame and scope of the study.

Dear disciples at Mt. Zion,

There are many great things about Mt. Zion. One of the most important is the church's mission statement. Mt. Zion is about DISCIPLES – Making, Maturing and Mobilizing Disciples for Jesus Christ. I have never known a church to have a better mission statement.

We are, first and foremost, welcoming all to follow Jesus. In a hurting and confused world, Mt. Zion, extends the love of Christ to all. We also recognize the importance of maturing as disciples – or, as Methodists have said from the beginning, “moving on to perfection”. We know that maturing is a life-long process so we especially welcome the honest self-evaluation that the season of Lent emphasizes. We know that disciples show love in action – so mobilizing is one of the primary emphases of the church. We don't just talk about faith. We put faith into practice. The church opens many doors for making a difference in the world.

Lent is the most important season in the church year.

It is not the most sentimental season. That is probably Christmas. But Lent is the season where we remember the culmination of the gift of the baby Jesus — His death on a cross for our salvation. Lent is a set-aside time when we are challenged to be honest — very honest about ourselves and our sins and shortcomings. We can fearlessly be honest because of the fundamental premise of Christian faith: **While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us and for our salvation.** We don't earn God's love. We live into God's love. We are free to look at the sin-soaked crevices of our lives because God's love for us is not dependent on our perfect behavior. We can be honest and ask for God's help.

There are many things that call for our attention in life. Many of them are good things, worthy causes and high principles. There is no walk more important than Jesus' call to discipleship.

During Lent, we will offer a number of different ways for us to grow in discipleship and move closer to Christ. Everyone will be challenged to develop a personal plan of holy intention for spiritual growth during these 40 days. I invite you to make the most of the Lenten observances. Like anything else in life, the more you give, the more the benefit.

Every Sunday will be a new milestone in moving us toward Christ. I thank God for a church – and for a denomination that is squarely centered on making disciples. It is the path of abundant life now and eternal life forever. Let us keep a holy Lent. I am blessed to be your pastor and to walk with you as a disciple, *Mary John*

Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel. LENT is

a season of self-examination—searching one's soul, facing brokenness, and seeking to know the boundaries God intended for us. Let us keep a Holy Lent by self-examination and penitence, by prayer, by giving up something for Lent, by reading or meditating on the Word of God, by sacrificial giving. You can find a plan to guide your Lenten practices in the Narthex, Adult Sunday School Classrooms and the Family Life Center Gym.



3rd Sunday Food & Fellowship will meet on March 19th at Zapata's at 19905 W. Catawba Avenue in Cornelius. We will meet after the 11:00 service between 12:15-12:30. Hope to see you there. It's a good way to meet fellow church members.



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MT. ZION FAMILY CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS!



February Baptisms

Harrison Michael Pomeroy was baptized at the 11:00 service on February 12. He is the son of Brittany & Michael Pomeroy and the brother of Ella Pomeroy.

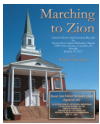
Elliott Grace Fox was baptized at the 11:00 service on February 19. She is the daughter of Kelsey & Andrew Fox and the granddaughter of Suzie & Kenny Inman and Wendell & Terri Fox.



COMING - **SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2017 - 9:00 AM -12:00**, in the gym of Mt. Zion UMC - **"RISE AGAINST HUNGER!"** This is the new name of "Stop Hunger Now." This will be our 8th year to fund and host this missions event. In 2010, our children sponsored the first SHN food packaging event at Mt. Zion to send food to children in schools and in disaster areas in many other

countries. So far, we have sent 182,466 meals to El Salvador, Sierra Leone, Mozambique, and Dominican Republic. Our church members have contributed \$46,466 to this effort. (A single meal costs 29 cents.) We hope you will help us meet our goal of raising **\$5,085** to package **17,534 meals**. This will put us at 200,000 meals and \$50,000 in eight events. We also need you to sign up to work at the packaging event. This is a family-friendly, hands-on, two-hour mission. Anyone from Kindergarten through 100 years old can help. Begin saving your quarters and dollars during the next two months. The Ash Wednesday offering has also been designated for "Rise Against Hunger." Sherry Washam is the coordinator for this event and will be providing additional information during the coming weeks.

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.



THE SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION IS EXTENDED TO ...JoAnn Young and family on the death of her husband, Will Young, on February 10.

SPECIAL GIFTS WERE GIVEN... IN HONOR OF Clyde Caldwell, a gift was given to the Cemetery Fund; **IN HONOR OF** Shelley Little, a gift was given to the Music Fund; **IN HONOR OF** Elliott Grace Fox, Andrew & Kelsey Fox and Wendell & Terri Fox, a gift was given to the Budget; **IN HONOR OF** Debbie Jackson, Debbie Tillis and Sharon Washam, a gift was given to the Budget...**IN MEMORY OF** Will Young, gifts were given to the Budget, a gift was given to the History Room, a gift was given to the Capital Fund and a gift was given to Missions; **IN MEMORY OF** David Sims, a gift was given to the History Room; **IN MEMORY OF** Nancy Lackey, a gift was given to the History Room.

An Update on United Methodism

A number of different people are wondering what is going on with the connectional church that we are part of. There are — and, for some time, have been—rumors of a split in the denomination based on differences of opinion on issues of human sexuality. These rumors are not new and for years, people with passionate feelings have been nurturing the idea that we need to break up the church along the lines of differing beliefs.

The stress on the denomination is at a heightened pitch now because of the organized groups on both extremes. On behalf of the conservative tradition, lobbying groups have been organized for 50 years. On behalf of the more progressive positions, lobbying organization has become equally intense in recent years. Both extremes are vehement in their positions. Both ends of the spectrum fiercely believe they represent the best of Christian tradition and appeal to the Bible as their source of wisdom and authority. Both sides have adopted names that, on the surface, have broad appeal. By name alone, people cannot discern the history or motivations that have gone into groups on either side. Both sides have been applying visible and intense pressure on General Conferences for the last 20 years. In 2014, conservatives officially organized and publicly called for a split in the denomination.

General Conference 2016 was no exception. The fighting between the two very different extremes has foraged a trail of anger and hurt. There are people across the range of opinions who see this as a battle for the ultimate integrity of the church. On both extremes, they are unwilling to yield. Both sides have carried out actions to publicize their positions. And in our high voltage media world, statements and actions generate reactions. And, with the extremes feeding the frenzy, the atmosphere becomes increasingly polarized. Statements/publicity from groups that depend on financial contributions from people for their basic organization will tend to highlight opposition to the other side. The more outrage, the broader their base. Publicity from the United Methodist media (www.umc.org) will consistently be the best source of accurate coverage and perspective.

Across the denomination, there is an increasing feeling that the church is bigger than any one issue. With the conservative side formally organizing to encourage churches to leave the denomination (even though the official stand of the church is consistent with their beliefs), the church is experiencing a more urgent call to find a constructive way to move through – and past—the battle. Local churches are more focused on missions, growing as disciples and personal relationships than our policy-making bodies. Although people in local churches do not usually have the same kind of open debate, almost every church has members who mirror the broad range of differences of opinions when it comes to positions on sexuality, marriage and homosexuality.

The General Conference has called on leaders to bring a recommendation to a called session of General Conference (the date is yet to be set). This group has been named by the General Conference in accordance with its purpose: The Commission on A Way Forward. It is a new group that has not been part of the battle of the last few years. The group includes United Methodists from all across the world. The full range of conservative and progressive convictions are represented. As they do their work, all United Methodists are asked to undergird their work with prayer. As recommendations are formed and information is available, it will be highly publicized.

Going into the most recent meeting this February of A Way Forward, Bishop Ken Carter (Bishop in Florida who is a pastor from Western North Carolina) wrote this prayer as a model and inspiration for all United Methodists to be praying:

“We pray for the light that shines in the darkness, the radiant light that we see in the face of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Give us the faith to grow into his likeness, and give us the confidence to follow him.

We pray for the faithfulness of the church—that we would walk in your ways, trusting in your providence, listening for your voice.

We pray for the fruitfulness of the church—that we would make new disciples of Jesus Christ, in new places and in new ways, for the transformation of the world.

And we pray for the unity of the church—that we would live with a heart of peace and insofar as it depends on us, that we would seek to live in peace with all people.

May the work that is done by the Commission on A Way Forward and the Council of Bishops be a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to you. And may we, the people of the United Methodist Church, more fully offer to the world the grace that we have received, the grace that has brought us safe thus far, and the grace that will lead us home.

In the name of Jesus, our teacher and healer and for the sake of his body, the church. Amen.”

Mary John

Leaving Egypt

Wednesday Night Worship

6:40pm

Wednesday Night Worship

During Lent, we will be journeying through the single most important part of the Old Testament: The Exodus from Egypt. It is this story that defines the Jewish people. It is this story that reminds us of who God is. It is this story that tells us what God desires from us. It is this story that reminds us we are trapped and oppressed in Egypt and need God to save us. Join us Wednesday Nights at 6:40 pm as we learn about Leaving Egypt.

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 March on the 9th and 23rd. For more information please contact Rev. Tony Moreau.

CASTING CALL! The Lenten Season is here and Holy Week is on its way. Pastor Tony is seeking thespians (actresses and actors) of all ages to perform skits on Wednesday evening, April 12th, as part of our Holy Wednesday Lamb Meal and Skits Evening. Please contact Tony at 828-447-8992 (voice or text) or via email at tmoreau@mtzionumc.net.



LENTEN PRAYER: You are invited to join with others to pray in the Mt. Zion Sanctuary each Thursday morning during Lent between 8:30 and 9:30 am. Pastor Tony will begin the hour with an Invocation Prayer, a Prayer of Confession and a Scripture Reading with the rest of the hour a time of personal prayer and will close the hour with A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition. Feel free to come at any time during the hour and stay for as long or as brief a time as you need or are able.

Adult Travel Ministries is planning a local History, Foodie and Music Adventure for Saturday, May 20, 2017. We will be journeying to The Presidential Culinary Museum at the Inn of the Patriots in Grover, NC, Kings Mountain National Park, and to the music treasure house of Earl Scruggs, a pioneer of bluegrass music. We will end our day at the beautiful Owl's Eye Winery. Cost is \$58 per person. Lunch, dinner-snack, tour fees, and gratuities are included. Reserve to the church office by March 27 with a deposit of \$30 and final payment due by May 8 (Please put *Spring trip* in memo section). This trip is limited to 44 persons. For more information, please contact your group leader, Dora Dalmas at 704-737-4859 cell or dalmas2@mi-connection.com



Children's Ministry News

- **Wednesday Night Kids Club** continues through April 5th, **6:30-7:30 pm** in the Education Building! **No registration necessary**, come when you can! Elementary class (K-5th) in Room 214, Preschool (2's-4's) in Room 103 and Childcare in the Nursery Room 101.
- **Sonshine Preschool** has a limited number of openings in the 2's and 3's class. Please email Director Becky Metzger at sonshinepre@bellsouth.net if interested.
- **Children's Choirs** every Sunday at 4:30 pm through April 2nd.
- April 8th **Easter Egg Hunt**
- June 12- June 15 **Vacation Bible School**



Mt. Zion has a very proud history of ministries that serve children both within our church family, and in the community. An important feature of the children's ministry at Mt. Zion UMC is Sonshine Preschool, our week-day ministry for preschoolers. This program provides a Christian environment for young children to develop spiritually and emotionally in preparation for starting school.

We would like to announce that our Preschool Director, Becky Metzger has given her resignation, upon completion of the end of the 2016-2017 school year. We are grateful to Becky for all of her years of service, and wish her the best in her new ventures. She has given much love and direction to Sonshine and its families over the years, and she will be missed!

We have a committee in place to start interviews in March and this team will be led by our Director of Christian Education, Crystal Parrish. Our goal is to have a new director hired sometime in May. The job description can be found on the Mt. Zion website, Sonshine Preschool page. Please direct any questions and send any applications to Crystal, cparrish@mtzionucm.net.

"MUSIC NOTES from Shelley and Melanie"

The Chancel Choir rehearsals are held on Thursday evenings @ 7:00 and if you love to sing and are curious about being in the choir, come to a rehearsal and give us a try!

The Adult Hand Bells rehearse on Monday nights @ 7:00 pm and would love to have new members join the group before they take a break for the spring. They played for the congregation on February 26th, and it was absolutely wonderful.

The Youth Hand Bells practice on Sunday afternoons @ 3:30. We encourage teens to get involved with this ministry even if you don't read music. You can certainly learn how and enjoy this unique way to share in the music ministry.

The Praise Team, which sings at the 9:45 services in the Family Life Center, is currently in need of more singers. If you are interested, please contact Melanie Kalkan @ melaniekalkan@mgdsd.k12.nc.us, or please call 704-491-1624.

The youth choir, TESTIFY, is working hard in preparation for their spring concerts and summer tour. They are doing a wonderful job, and we feel sure you will be blessed by their performances.

The children's choirs will continue their rehearsals on Sundays at 4:30 through March, and then we will resume later in the year during the Sunday school hour on Sunday mornings with Shelley. Hopefully this will encourage participation, as it will eliminate Sunday afternoon rehearsals.

The first 6-week session of Babygarten was so much fun, and you will be informed of the next session, which will start up in May.

We certainly appreciate all of the encouraging support we receive from our church family. There is so much hidden talent in this congregation, and we would love to expand our programs, so don't be shy!

Blessings always,
Shelley and Melanie



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:

March 12 (1 set)	August 20 (1 set)	December 24
March 19	September 3 (1 set)	
April 23	September 17	
April 30	September 24	
May 7 (1 set)	October 1 (1 set)	
May 28	October 15 (1 set)	
June 11	October 22 (1 set)	
June 25	October 29 (1 set)	
July 2	November 5	
July 23 (1 set)	November 12	
July 30	November 19	
August 6	December 3	
August 13	December 17	

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

**MT. ZION UMC UNAUDITED
FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

1/1/17 - 2/28/17

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

Budget Gifts: \$ 153,649

THANK YOU!

Budget Expenses: \$ 167,888

General Fund Cash On Hand: \$136,010

Capital Fund Gifts Received: \$2,040

Capital Fund Expenses: \$0

Capital Fund Cash On Hand: \$13,342

Funds Received for Helping Hands (Pastor's Discretionary Fund) \$ 157

Please contact Margaret Langston if you have questions.

THANK YOU

Words could never express how I feel about my Love INC (In the Name of Christ) friends who have become my Love in Christ Family who have given me help, love, peace, and joy. Thank you to: Matt and Julie Sherrill, Lori and Kurt Pasewaldt, Andrew and Christina Mayse, Noreen and Mike Morris, Curt and Barbara Needham, Patti Richardson, and Marsha Cashion. *Judy Aho*



Cub Scouts...

When- Tuesday nights

Time- 6:30

Where- Mount

Zion UMC Gym

For more information contact

Mauricio Restrepo at restrepom1@gmail.com



2016 impacted families in many ways; some good and some bad. I write to express my thanks to each of you for your personal support of our families. It is hard to imagine the impact YOU made. Your love, generosity, care and concern allowed families to close out the year with food, gifts, love and laughter, bringing hope and a fresh start to the New Year. Through your generosity, Thanksgiving meals were provided to 480 families. Over 730 family members experienced a very special Christmas morning. In addition, 19 families were blessed with financial assistance to help pay a bill. Thank you again for all that you do. I wish you a return on all the love and support you have shown the Ada Jenkins Center and the families we serve. The Ada Jenkins Center truly touches and changes lives and all of it is possible through people like you! Janice Hinton, Director of Human Services
"The most truly generous persons are those who give silently without hope of praise or reward."

FEBRUARY 2017 ATTENDANCE:

February 1: 72

February 5: 8:30: 103; 9:45: 130; 11: 186=419

February 8: 47

February 12: 8:30: 102 9:45: 118; 11: 209 = 429

February 15: 55

February 19 : 8:30: 105; 9:45: 105; 11: 180 =390

February 22: 47

February 26: 8:30: 105; 9:45: 112 11: 249 = 466

Pancake Supper: 130

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

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msherrill@mtzionumc.net

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mlangston@mtzionumc.net

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mwestmoreland@mtzionumc.net

Part Time Assistant: Ginny Wilkins

gwilkins@mtzionumc.net

Custodian:

Donnelly Sherrill (pt security)

Preschool Director: Becky Metzger

sonshinepre@bellsouth.net

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Youth House: 704-892-7825

Sonshine Preschool: 704-892-0654

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

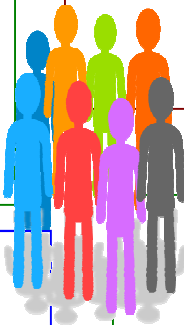
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 Fax: 704-892-3143
 E-mail: mlangston@mtzionumc.net

"MAKING, MATURING, MOBILIZING DISCIPLES FOR CHRIST"

MEN OF ALL AGES ARE WELCOME to attend a **MEN'S COMMUNITY PRAYER BREAKFAST** held each Thursday from 7 -8 am at Acropolis in Cornelius. 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.



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

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.

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!