



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

May 2018, Volume XX Issue 5

**"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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Beloved at Mt. Zion,

Every time a United Methodist preacher begins an appointment, we know we won't be there forever. Methodism has been an itinerant ministry from its very beginning. The gift to us – and to you—is to keep the emphasis/grounding of life where it belongs: the call to be fully faithful to Christ.

On the pastor's side, that means we know we need to give ourselves fully to the unique work we can offer to a church. From the day we step foot in a new place, we know that a change will be coming. We need to make a difference while we can.

On the congregation's side, our itineracy means that the church is the people. No one should join – or leave—a church because of the preacher. Preachers come and go. The call to faithfulness transcends personal ties and in deep and practical ways invites people to true holiness. In addition, across the span of time, Methodist congregations get to have the benefit of different gifts, different styles, different perspectives—each minister uniquely different. What they have in common is a deep commitment to Christ, the credentialing and ongoing supervision of the denomination and that they are sent by the appointment of the bishop and cabinet.

All of this is a parable to life—reminding us not to take things for granted, to make a difference while we can, to cherish the opportunities we have. Every pastor is in covenant to go where they are sent and serve with a full heart. Every congregation is in covenant to accept their pastor with the grace and love of Christ. It is a holy enterprise.

I will look forward to sharing with you in our final month together--especially our closing worship together (one service on May 27 at 10:00). I treasure the many relationships and experiences of our life together. You will always be in my heart. And how I look forward to seeing you grow into the future God is

calling you to!

I have been in this Methodist system all my life. I am deeply convinced it is a holy path. I know it is hard to say goodbye. When I was born, my father was a beloved pastor at Cooper Memorial United Methodist Church in Louisville, Kentucky. My parents made life-long friends there. They not only worshipped and served together, they got together at the parsonage every Sunday night. When I was born, I was the center of attention. I am told I was very cute.

One very dear woman, Lurla Joe Brinkworth, couldn't wait to hold me every Sunday night. She loved me with that amazing unconditional love that is the best of family and Christian love. I was not quite 2 years old when my father was moved to Immanuel Methodist Church in Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky. Lurla Joe was inconsolable. She said that she would never again get that close to a preacher and his family because it hurt too much when they left. I am very sad to say her words were true. She withdrew from church and did not bond with any of the future pastors. Seeing her through the years as friends, although I was just a baby, it used to haunt me that she would not bond with other preachers because of me. It is one of my life's great sadnesses.

With everything in me, I believe that God works in all things for good. And, especially if you have loved me and been close to me, it is my deepest desire that you welcome and open your hearts to your new pastors, Jonathan and Angela Marlowe. Thank God for their lives. Support and free them to joyfully bring their own unique gifts to Mt. Zion for this very, very important time in the church's history. Most of all, live up to your high calling as Christians for this will bring much glory to the Lord. God needs your best for this marvelous moment. Much love. Many prayers. Always. *Mary John*

MT. ZION FAMILY CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS!

New Members
From Left to Right:

Claudia DeLoach
18711 Ruffner Drive 2C
Cornelius, NC 28031

Linda Hughes
18840 Nautical Drive # 56
Cornelius, NC 28031

Margie Waters
19516 Waverunner Lane #102
Cornelius, NC 28031

Susan and Larry Phelps
17812 Coulter Parkway
Cornelius, NC 28031

Joined April 8, 2018

WELCOME!



April Birth:

Ivy Josephine Johnson was born on April 12th. Ivy is the daughter of Chris and Jessica Johnson and the granddaughter of Kenny and Suzie Inman.



CONGRATULATIONS!



The Sympathy of the Congregation is Extended to David and Dora Dalmas and family on the death of their daughter, Liz Dalmas Lloyd, on April 11th, David Hodson and family on the death of his sister, Susan Hodson Rinehart, on April 11th, Gigi Williams and family on the death of her mother, Argyle Smith, on April 16th.

Dear Friends at Mt. Zion,

We are humbled and grateful for the incredible thoughtfulness of the bench given in our honor. It is such a touching reminder of your consideration and caring.

We so enjoyed the time spent together at the lunch! Thanks for the great time...and the great memories.

We truly appreciate the cards, gifts, notes, prayers and kind thoughts. We are overwhelmed and thankful for each and every one of them and for each of you. There was nothing random about your acts of kindness and we are full of thanks. You all make our world a nicer place.

Thank you for all you did to make us feel appreciated.



God bless you now and always,
Margaret and John Langston
103 Bellshire Drive Flat Rock, NC 29731

On Behalf of the Staff Parish Committee

Several months ago our committee honored Dr. Mary John Dye's request for a new appointment and submitted that and our approval to our District Superintendent. Last week we were informed that our request has been granted. May 27th will be Dr. Dye's last Sunday and we will have a single service at 10 AM.

On Sunday, July 15, we will welcome two ministers to Mt. Zion. We will be served by a clergy couple acting as senior co-pastors, Jonathan and Angela Marlowe. Some of you may remember Angela, who served as an Associate Pastor here, straight out of Seminary in the early and mid 90's. She and Jonathan were married in this church. Jonathan's current appointment is Midway-Chapel Hill in Reidsville, NC. Angela is currently appointed to Gethsemane and Bethany in Greensboro.

We look forward to welcoming them to Mt. Zion this summer.



My Mt. Zion Family:

Four years ago, I came to Mt. Zion uncertain about my gifts and uncertain how God was calling me to do ministry in this world. This congregation has been more than anything I could have dreamed. You have believed in me, invested in me, and shaped me in deep and powerful ways.

You have mentored me and at the same time allowed me to be a leader within the church and community. That is a true gift for any pastor to receive. I am humbled and overwhelmed by your love and kindness.

Though I will be moving to a new community, we continue to stay connected and linked in ministry for the rest of this life and beyond. We have forever become bound together in the work of transforming this world with God. When I hear of your love and commitment and passion, I will always remember how you shared those same things with me.

It is at this moment, more than any other, that I understand why the Apostle Paul wrote letters to congregations he pastored throughout his life. His heart always stayed connected to them. Though absent in person, he felt a deep connection to them. He always desired the best for them. He always continued to pray for them. This is how I feel toward you. Even though days, weeks, and years will pass, my love for you will continue. My hope for you will continue. My faith that God is working in you, for you, and with you will continue.

I am more grateful than words can express. My love and prayers go with you. I trust God will continue to work through you in powerful ways. Ways that we cannot even begin to imagine because we serve a God who is able to do abundantly more than anything we are able to ask, believe, or dream. I know this is true because I have experienced this very thing during my time at Mt. Zion.

I have no doubt that my years at Mt. Zion will continue to be a blessing to me throughout my life and ministry. I pray, that in some small way, I have also impacted you.

Yours in love, in thankfulness, and in Christ,

Rev. Joel Simpson

Pastor Joel, Percy, and Wednesday Night

Pastor Joel will be leading the Wednesday Night Worship services on May 9th and May 16th. A church-wide farewell-a Penguin Party-will be held Wednesday night, May 16th, his last day at Mt. Zion. Come join us on May 16th at 6:40 for worship in the Sanctuary followed by a farewell party for him and Dani at 7 PM in the Family Life Center.



Dr. Mary John Dye



On May 27th, which is Memorial Day weekend, we will have a single service at 10 AM, followed by a gathering in celebration of Dr. Dye's ministry and leadership at Mt. Zion.

Look for more details of that celebration in weeks to come!

Worship at Mt. Zion in May

Sunday, May 6th-Church Growth and Vitality Team Leading
Wednesday May 9th-6:40 Worship Service with Pastor Joel
Sunday, May 13th-Mother's Day with children's choir
**Wednesday, May 16- 6:40 in the sanctuary followed by
7:00 PM Penguin Party Farewell for Joel, Dani and Percy**

Sunday, May 20th- Confirmation Sunday
**Sunday, May 27th - Final Sunday and
Celebration for Dr. Mary John Dye -
One Service at 10 AM,
(Celebration Following Worship)**

HAPPENINGS AROUND MOUNT ZION

CONGREGATIONAL CARE TEAM FORMED TO ASSIST DURING PASTORAL TRANSITION

It seems to be the season for transition. All of a sudden, the world around us is turning green with surprising blossoms of bright color. Once quiet, cold mornings are warming up and the rising sun is accompanied by the melody of songbirds. Now the still tranquility of the lake is being replaced with laughter, colorful sails, and family fun. In the coming weeks high school and college seniors will transition into the work force or further their education in new places. Here at Mt. Zion we are experiencing pastoral transition. We will say goodbye to Rev. Joel Simpson and his wife Dani on May 16th and farewell to Dr. Mary John Dye on May 27th. Pastor Tony will continue with us, but he will be having surgery on May 22nd.

To assist Pastor Tony during this time of transition (and his recovery), the staff has assembled a wonderful Congregational Care Team of laity to continue to provide personal, and compassionate support to the people of Mt. Zion. During the transition period our Congregational Care Team led by Patti Richardson, with pastoral assistance from Rev. Arnie Corriher (UMC, retired), will be available to love and support our congregation as needed. If you experience or know of a congregational care need, please call the Mt. Zion church office and our wonderful staff will ensure that the congregational care team is notified. We serve an amazing God who has given each of us incredible spiritual gifts. We are blessed, that during this time of transition, members of Mt. Zion have offered their gifts and time to ensure that our congregational care needs are met. During this time of transition, we ask that you lift up our pastors and the Congregational Care Team in your prayers.



The Nurture Committee is excited to announce the following events throughout the summer. Mark your calendar so that you can join the fun! More details to follow.

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"

GRADUATION SUNDAY IS JUNE

10TH-GRADUATES -We will be honoring college and high school graduates from this school year on **June 10th at the 9:45 and 11 o'clock services.** We will need to gather information on all our graduates. To fill this out please use the QR link provided. www.tinyurl.com/mtziongrads



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. The following dates are available:

May 20 – 1 set May 27 – both sets June 3 – both sets June 24 – both sets
 July 1 – 1 set July 8 – both sets July 22 – 1 set July 29 – both sets
 August 5 – both sets August 12 – both sets

Name _____
 Phone # _____
 Date Requested _____ Number of arrangements _____
 Wording for bulletin _____

MUSIC NOTES FROM SHELLEY:

Happy Spring Church Family! After such a wonderful Singspiration event the fifth Sunday of April at First Baptist in Cornelius, I challenge you to be prayer warriors for the growth of our music program. It was brought to my attention that ten percent of that church's small congregation sings in the choir. All I can say about that is WOW! If we had ten percent of OUR congregation in the choirs at 9:45 and 11:00, we would be busting at the seams...and what a glorious problem that would be! Now is a great time to join us! Contact Melanie (melaniekalkan@mgd.k12.nc.us) for the 9:45 service or me (slittle@mtzionumc.net) for the 11:00 service.

Babygarten has begun and is held on Wednesday and Saturday mornings @ 10:00 through June 2nd. Please email me if you are new to this program.

Please note that the children who are practicing on Wednesday evenings are singing on Mother's Day (May 13th) at the 11:00 service.

I want to share one of my favorite quotes:

"Music is a sacred, a divine, a God-like thing, and was given to man by Christ to lift our hearts up to God, and make us feel something of the glory and beauty of God, and of all which God has made." - Kingsley
As always, thank you for your love, support and prayers for our music ministry at Mount Zion UMC.
Blessings,
Shelley



FUEL

This month for FUEL, here is what is happening:

- May 6th: Discussion groups
- May 13th: No FUEL - Mother's Day
- May 20th: W8less Night (Indoor Trampoline Park!)
- May 27th: FUEL is tentative (Memorial Day)

As the school year progresses, we will celebrate the end-of-year with our Promotion Party! This is a pool party where all middle and high school students are invited, including rising 6th graders. The date and time: Saturday, June 3rd from 3:30-6:30pm. The place: meet at the church and we will take the bus to The Hamptons Clubhouse. Any questions, please email Conor - cmooney@mtzionumc.net.

Senior Day is Sunday, June 10th. 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 servants heart!

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:

June 3rd-morning—First Baptist Church –Cornelius
Evening– Home Concert-Mt. Zion-Time TBA
June 24th-morning –Park Avenue– Mooresville

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



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.**

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 will be held on June 3 and if you sign up then, \$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.

Thank you to all who helped with the Senior Luncheon - the Committee members, setup and decorating crew, our awesome servers, kitchen help, people who helped with music and of course the cleanup crew. It was a huge success with over 80 seniors in attendance and couldn't

have been done without YOU! What a great way to honor our seniors for their dedication to Mt. Zion throughout the years. The Nurture Committee
Thank you, Dora



Wine to Water Mission: This project took place on April 29, 2018 and was a success. We want to thank Sherry Washam for organizing this event and for all that she did. We also appreciate Madison Barker,



Mary Tucker, Denise Howard, Jonathan Boger, all the adults and children that helped assemble the filter kits, other volunteers and those that donated money to this mission during Lent.

M.O.M.S. Meeting (Mothers Offering Mutual Support) will take place on **Tuesday, May 15th** in the **Parlor at 7:00 p.m.** All moms are invited!

CHILDRENS CORNER



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.

Vacation Bible School: July 9th – 12th from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Please register participants and volunteers at: vbspro.events/p/mtzionvbs2018

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



During the month of April, our preschoolers filled our red wagon with handmade cards for children battling tough illnesses at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. We enjoyed a Bike Day while raising funds for St. Jude. Together, we raised \$3,045.00!

Our Mission for May will be the Back Pack Ministry of Ada Jenkins. We hope to fill our red wagon with single serve breakfast items, canned meats, and rice/pasta/potatoes.

The children of Sonshine Preschool will be celebrating their mommies with a special Mothers' Day Tea, May 8. They have been working very hard to make this day super special!

Our preschool families will enjoy a Family Field Day and Picnic, Tuesday, May 22. We will enjoy games with the children, picnic together and thank God for a wonderful preschool year.

It's that time of year during preschool that is bittersweet. Our Four Year Old Graduation will be held Wednesday, **May 23, 7:00pm, FLC.** Come join the children as they sing and say good bye to their preschool years. It has been an honor and pleasure to watch these sweet children grow in God's love.

Sonshine Preschool is still growing. God is GREAT! We have a few spots available in our three and four classes 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:

A four year old classroom teacher asked the children, "How does God see us all the time?" One of the children said, "He has a screen and He can see us all the time through the screen." MMMM – modern technology?!

"God made the summer." Psalm 74:17 May Favorite Bible Words

His special needs ministry is complete for this season but work has already begun for next year (September 2018 – April 2019)! We are recruiting for volunteers and hope you will prayerfully consider becoming a part of this fun-filled program. We will accept as little, or as much as you can offer! A simple e-mail with your contact information will allow us to contact you. Contact: His@mtzionumc.net

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

MT. ZION UMC UNAUDITED**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

3/1/2018-4/30/2018

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

Budget Gifts: \$335,073

THANK YOU!

Budget Expenses: \$335,832

General Fund Cash on Hand: \$137,340

Capital Fund Gifts Received: \$2,163

Capital Fund Expenses: \$0

Capital Funds Cash on Hand: \$17,816

Funds Received for Helping Hands (Pastor's Discretionary Fund) \$1,852

Please 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 different due to funds postmarked by the end of the month but not received until after publication.

THANK YOU- Our family would like to thank our friends at Mt. Zion UMC for all of the texts, messages, calls, cards, visits, food, prayers, and love that you have shared with our family to support us during the extended illness and death of Gigi's Mom, Argyle Beane Smith. Your support meant more to us than you will ever know.

We love you all.

Tony, Gigi, Brittany, Kelsey, Hunter, and Sarah Williams

SPECIAL GIFTS WERE GIVEN...IN HONOR OF Shelley

Little a gift was given to the budget. **IN HONOR OF Joel Simpson** a gift was given to the budget. **IN HONOR OF Fran Conard's** Birthday on April 25th a gift was given to the budget. **IN HONOR OF Cathy Wiese, Pat and Susan Caldwell, Ginger Andersen, Rick and Sherrie Howell, Larry and Jan Horton, and Mike and Debbie Jackson** a gift was given to Sonshine Preschool. **IN HONOR OF Heaven's Reign** a gift was given to HIS Ministry. **IN MEMORY OF Argyle B. Smith** a gift was given to HIS Ministry.

THANK YOU

Dear Anonymous Giver,

Tommy and I really appreciate the gift to the Backpack Ministry in memory of Leslie. It is so special when someone remembers in giving a memorial in her name. We also thank you for your thoughts and prayers.

With Special Love,
Tommy and Beverly Walker

Reminder:

Please send any articles you would like to have included in the newsletter to the church by June 1st. They may be emailed to


kfellows@mtzionumc.net
APRIL 2018 ATTENDANCE

April 1: 8:30: 254; 9:45: 157; 11:00: 357= 768

April 8: 8:30: 100; 9:45: 94; 11:00: 199 = 393

April 11: 42

April 15: 8:30: 78; 9:45: 102; 11:00: 173= 353

April 18: 40

April 22: 8:30: 76; 9:45: 101; 11:00: 243 = 420

April 25 = 45

April 29: 8:30: 106; 9:45: 92; 11:00: 155=353

Staff**Senior Pastor:** Dr. Mary John Dye

mdye@mtzionumc.net

Associate Pastors:

Rev. Joel Simpson

jsimpson@mtzionumc.net

Rev. Tony Moreau

tmoreau@mtzionumc.net

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Patti Goforth

pgoforth@mtzionumc.net

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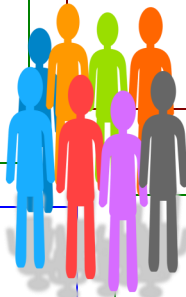
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 Fax: 704-892-3143
 E-mail: ploner@mtzionumc.net

"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 May are May 9 and May 23rd.

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** 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

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.

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!