



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

November 2016 Volume XVIII Issue 11

WORSHIP EACH SUNDAY AT 8:30, 9:45 and  
11:00 AM & WEDNESDAYS AT 6:40 PM

**“Making, Maturing, Mobilizing  
Disciples for Christ”**

Dr. Mary John Dye; Senior Pastor, Rev. Joel Simpson and  
Rev. Tony Moreau; Associate Pastors

- Church Office 704-892-8566
  - Fax 704-892-3143
- Youth House 704-892-7825
- Sonshine Preschool 704-892-0654
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- <http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/84673593>



**SOME OF THE  
NOVEMBER  
EVENTS HERE AT  
MT. ZION:**

Dear ones at Mt. Zion,

I know that Christmas decorations have been up in the stores for months. And, while I too will start thinking about the holidays (and how wonderful it will be to be back to my normal self!), I hope we do not overlook the gifts of November – the opportunity to give thanks.

Our lives are so full of negative examples that we often forget to cherish and thank the saints who have encouraged and inspired us.

We are so weary of the negativity of the election season that we often forget to thank God that we live in a country of freedom.

We are so frustrated with years of war and the fears that come with terrorist destruction that we often forget to thank those who protect and defend our nation and our ideals.

We are so stressed and over-scheduled and stretched that we often forget to be thankful for the many blessings that God has given us in creation, in our families, in friends, in the lifeline of faith, the fellowship of the church and the opportunity to be of service to others.

We need balance. And it is ours for the taking. But balance doesn't come automatically. We have to seek it in prayer and praise, in practices that bring us close to God, in listening to hear God's voice.

As we look at our bitter and divided nation (this is written the day before my surgery, October 25), I am asking for the wisdom of this family of faith. Before we start the Advent season, would you be willing to share your ideas about how our Christian faith can be a witness? I would love to hear your answers to these questions:

What Scripture comes to your heart and mind to guide us to a place of healing (as individuals, families, church, community, nation)

What positive steps would lead toward healing (again – for individuals, families, church, community, nation)

If you click on this link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NTTQR2M> and share your thoughts, that will be a blessing. What you submit will be anonymous. We will compile what people send as we go into the Advent season. I would love to read your wisdom.

November is the last month in the Christian year. May it be our best month as we head into the wonder and joy of the Advent season. I am grateful to serve you. Mary John

**NOVEMBER 5: ANNUAL BBQ**

**NOVEMBER 6: ALL SAINTS DAY**

**NOVEMBER 8: SANCTUARY  
OPEN FOR PRAYER 7 AM—6 PM**

**NOVEMBER 13: VETERANS  
CELEBRATION AND LUNCH**

**NOVEMBER 18 & 19—  
CHRISTMAS CRAFT SHOW**

**NOVEMBER 21: THANKSGIV-  
ING SERVICE**

**NOVEMBER 30: ADVENT  
WREATH FESTIVAL**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Food and Fellowship** will be at Zapata's Restaurant on November 20<sup>th</sup> at 12:15 -12:30 after the 11:00 service. Located at 19905 W. Catawba Avenue, #102, Cornelius. Hope to see you there for food and fellowship!



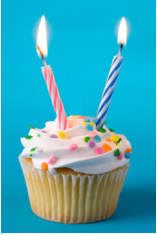
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CHRISTMAS 5**

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PARISH**

## MT. ZION FAMILY CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS!



### October Births

Esta Rae Little was born October 1. She is the daughter of Lauren Little, the sister of Gracyn and the granddaughter of Don & Rhonda Little.

John Craven Casavecchia was born October 18. He is the son of Matt & Jessica Casavecchia and the grandson of Gayle & Dave Casavecchia.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Sarah Jean Puckett and Hunter Williams were married on October 16 at Vesuvius Vineyards. Hunter is the son of Tony and Gigi and the brother of Brittany and Kelsey Williams.

Don Duncan & Maya Hieronymi were married in the Sanctuary on October 28 with the Rev. Jill S. Smith presiding.

Barbara Broadway Lackey & Joe Taborek were married in the Sanctuary on October 30 with the Rev. Joel Simpson presiding.


Congratulations and Best Wishes to all!

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**ATTENTION MT. ZION VETERANS:** Sunday, November 13th Mt. Zion will honor our Veterans. We are asking all Veterans to meet on the front steps of the church that Sunday at 10:30 so that you may enter as a group. After the 11:00 service there will be a meal for our Veterans and spouse and spouses of deceased Veterans in the family life center. **Please call the church office (704-892-8566) no later than Monday, November 7th** to reserve your seat.

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Sunday, November 13th our church will be honoring our Veterans with a meal after the 11:00 service. If you are able to help set up, serve or clean up please call Jan Horton (704-737-2786). Time frame for the day's activities are 10:30 until 2:00. In advance, I thank you for your help.

*Jan Horton*

**THE SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION IS EXTENDED TO** ...Jerry "Booty" Little and family on the death of his brother, Howard "Shorty" Little on October 10...Joe Goforth and family on the death of his brother, Robert "Bobby" Goforth, on October 17...Doris Sims and family on the death of her son, David E. Sims, on October 22...Alex Weaver and family on the death of his wife, Karen, on October 25...the family of Inez Sherrill, who died on November 1.

**SPECIAL GIFTS WERE GIVEN... IN HONOR OF** Woody Washam for 50+ years as the church organist, gifts were given to the Music Fund, a gift was given to UMCOR and a gift was given to the Praise Team... **IN HONOR OF** Shelley Little, a gift was given to the Music Fund and a gift was given to the History Room (Chrismon Fund)...**IN HONOR OF** Louise Cashion, a gift was given to UMAR...**IN MEMORY OF** Karen Sims, a gift was given to the Cemetery Fund; **IN MEMORY OF** Shorty Little, gifts were given to the Cemetery Fund, gifts were given to the Budget, a gift was given to the Music Fund, a gift was given to the History Room and a gift was given to the Capital Fund; **IN MEMORY OF** David Sims, a gift was given to the Capital Fund, gifts were given to the Budget, gifts were given to Helping Hands and gifts were given to the Cemetery Fund; **IN MEMORY OF** Karen Weaver, gifts were given to the Budget and a gift was given to the Capital Fund; **IN MEMORY OF** Anja Cheek, gifts were given to the Sonshine Preschool Scholarship Fund... **IN MEMORY OF** Nick Brown, a gift was given to the Budget.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT WORSHIP

Located in the Sanctuary at 6:40 pm, the Wednesday Night Worship service is a contemplative service that offers a unique opportunity to slow down and be refreshed. Each week there is a variety of music led by acoustic instruments and/or piano. Communion is served at the kneeling rail each week. The message is different from Sunday mornings. The service runs from 6:40-7:30.

Last Wednesday Night Worship this Fall is November 16<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday Night Worship will resume in January.



### COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Mt. Zion will be hosting the Cornelius Community Thanksgiving service on **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup> AT 7 PM IN THE SANCTUARY**. This service brings community churches together for worship. The choir will be made up of choirs from surrounding Cornelius churches and pastors from churches in the community will help lead the service. A guest preacher will preach that evening.



### ROOM IN THE INN

THE ROOM IN THE INN is a ministry that Mt. Zion participates in during the winter months in partnership with the Urban Ministry Center. The simple goal is to keep homeless people from freezing on cold winter nights. New this year, we will run this mission on only the 1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesday nights from December – March. On these nights, we open the doors of our Youth House and our hearts to a population of homeless people that continues to grow here in our own community. Something as simple as sharing a meal and a conversation could be one of the most rewarding experiences for you and the Neighbors!

Each week we need several volunteers to make this ministry successful. **Our greatest volunteer need is for Mini Bus Drivers and Innkeepers.** Please consider helping with this wonderful mission. If you would like to know more about this mission, please contact Lisa or visit the RITI page on the Mt. Zion website at <http://mtzionumc.net/room-in-the-inn>. You can also sign up online at that link.

There will be an informational meeting on **Tuesday, November 15th at 7:00 pm** at the Youth House. Come and find out about the different opportunities there are available. Email Lisa Strom at [mtzriti@gmail.com](mailto:mtzriti@gmail.com) to RSVP.

We also have a wishlist of things that we need for this ministry: travel size deodorants (men's & women's), travel size shaving cream (men's & women's), combs, CFL light bulbs, silverware and cereal bowls. Donations can be dropped off at the Youth House. Due to generous donations and limited space, we **CANNOT** accept shampoo, conditioners or soap.

Jesus said "For I was hungry, and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink... when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me." - Matthew 25:35,40

Contact: Phone: Lisa Strom, 704-277-3687

Email: [mtzriti@gmail.com](mailto:mtzriti@gmail.com)

Web: <http://mtzionumc.net/room-in-the-inn>

## *Children's Ministry News*

**Thanks to everyone who came out, enjoyed and helped with The Great Pumpkin Dinner and Trunk or Treat!! It was a huge success and a lot of fun!!**



**Please join us in welcoming Ashley Sherman to the Children's Ministry team as the new Childcare Coordinator.**

Ashley graduated from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro with a Bachelor of Science degree in Deaf Education. She taught for a short time in the CMS school district before becoming a mother and staying at home with her daughter.

Ashley has been teaching Preschool and Early Elementary Sunday School for the past several years. She also recently began teaching the Special Needs Sunday School class.

Ashley and her husband, Jonathan, have been members of Mt. Zion since 2008. They have two children, Caroline and Jackson.



### **Acolyte Training**

**Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 am, Education Building**

**All children 3<sup>rd</sup> grade through 7<sup>th</sup> grade**

### **Advent Wreath Festival**

**Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>**

**6:00 pm-7:30 pm, FLC Gym**



## Helping Families at Christmas

Would you like to serve a needy family this Christmas? Mt. Zion supports two ministries that do exactly that. *Repairers of the Breach* serves local families, and *Magical Mountain Christmas* serves families in Jonesville, VA. Both of these ministries provide gifts of clothing, toys, and household items to needy families being served by local agencies. There are several ways you can support one or both of these wonderful ministries!

### ***Repairers of the Breach***

*Tom Russell, coordinator*  
*tom@moisturewarranty.com, 704-507-2493*

Repairers of the Breach works with the Ada Jenkins center to serve families in Cornelius, Davidson, and Huntersville. Families receive a box of food as well as clothes and toys for their children. Here are ways you can help:

1. A monetary donation of \$150 will provide everything for one family.
2. You may donate gifts for a family. Contact Tom for specific information.
3. We need help with wrapping and packing. Volunteers are needed from Nov. 1- Nov. 13 on

Wednesdays from 6:30-8:30, and Saturdays from 11:00-2:00. Beginning November 13, volunteers are needed Monday-Thursday evenings and Saturdays at the same times. 9630-A Sherrill Estates Road, Huntersville. (Near Showmars)

### ***Magical Mountain Christmas***

*Elizabeth Coker, coordinator*  
*elizabethcoker73@gmail.com, 704-957-9727*

Magical Mountain Christmas works through the Appalachia Service Project to provide gifts and a Christmas party for families in Jonesville, VA. Volunteers from Mt. Zion travel to Jonesville and host the families for lunch and a party on December 10.

1. A monetary donation of \$100 will sponsor a child, and a donation of \$50 will cover the cost of family gifts.
2. You may shop for gifts for a specific child or family. Let Elizabeth know if you'd like to be contacted when this information is available.
3. We need help with wrapping, packing, and shopping. Most of this will be done the week of December 4th. Watch for more information and specific dates and times in the coming weeks.
4. We are looking for a few more volunteers to travel with us to Jonesville from December 9 to December 11. Contact Elizabeth for more information.

## Music Notes

We have many opportunities for you to share the joy of the holidays through the music ministry at Mt. Zion UMC. Please mark these dates on your calendar and join us as we celebrate Thanksgiving and the birth of Jesus through music.

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21**      **7 pm:** Mt. Zion UMC Sanctuary      Community Thanksgiving Service      featuring a combined choir from area churches, hand bells, organ and piano

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

**9:45 am:** Family Life Center      Mt. Zion Testify Youth Choir      presenting their Christmas program  
**11:00 am:** Sanctuary      All children's choirs singing      Choristers will be presenting the musical "Miracle Christmas Café"  
**7 pm:** Family Life Center      Mt. Zion Testify Youth Choir      evening presentation of Christmas program

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11**      **8:30 & 11:00 am:** Sanctuary      Chancel Choir, Hand Bells & Orchestra      "Go Sing it on the Mountain" by Pepper Choplin & favorite Christmas Carols

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18**      **8:30 & 11:00 am:** Sanctuary      Youth Hand Bells      Ringing Christmas Carols  
**9:45 am:** Family Life Center      Praise Team      Christmas Program

### CHOIR RETURNING TO NEW YORK

The Chancel Choir was invited again this year to join Pepper Choplin in the performance of his new Christmas work "Go Sing It on the Mountain". Thirteen members of the Chancel Choir will be in rehearsal and performances from Friday, November 25 through Tuesday, November 28. We will be singing this work at Mt. Zion on December 11, 2016. We are very excited and honored to be asked by the composer to return with him. The concert will be in Alice Tully Hall of Lincoln Center.

## Notes from the Staff Parish Committee



The Staff Parish Committee is excited to announce that Shelley Little has accepted the offer to be our new Minister of Music. Shelley has a long musical history with Cornelius and Mt. Zion. She has been working on the transition with Marcy the past few weeks and will continue to do so through the rest of the year. Please

join us in welcoming her aboard officially in 2017!!

Staff Parish would also like to extend an invitation to the congregation to say thank you and congratulations on her retirement to Dr. Marcy Mittelstadt on December 18th after the 11:00 service. If you are interested in helping with the celebration, please contact Mary Goodson at [mlhall@hotmail.com](mailto:mlhall@hotmail.com).



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



Come help us serve at the **MT. ZION CHRISTMAS SHOW, NOVEMBER 18 AND 19**, as we open our doors to area vendors, crafters and the community. The Journey class needs your help in the Christmas Café! We will be serving breakfast, lunch and supper to all those that are participating and those who are just passing through for food and fellowship. Please take a look at the sign-up genius below and take a shift or two. We are excited to serve with you. Sign-up here or Call Shawna Sherrill at 704-728-9757 [www.SignUpGenius.com/go/5080E4DACA72BAB9-journey1](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/5080E4DACA72BAB9-journey1)



All 1st through 5th graders are invited to join Cub Scouts...

When- Tuesday nights

Time- 6:30

Where- Mount Zion UMC Gym

For more information contact

Mauricio Restrepo at [restrepom1@gmail.com](mailto:restrepom1@gmail.com)

Jeanine Eisley 703-395-0926 or [Jeanine.eisley@gmail.com](mailto:Jeanine.eisley@gmail.com)

## MT. ZION UMC UNAUDITED FINANCIAL INFORMATION

1/1/16 - 10/31/16

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

Budget Gifts: \$ 827,076

THANK YOU!

Budget Expenses: \$ 896,030

General Fund Cash On Hand: \$153,019

Capital Fund Gifts Received: \$13,785

Capital Fund Expenses: \$9,556

Capital Fund Cash On Hand: \$21,778

Funds Received for Helping Hands  
(Pastor's Discretionary Fund) \$5,775

Information reflects contributions post-marked prior to November 1 and received as of date of printing.

Please contact Margaret Langston if you have questions.

## OCTOBER 2016

### ATTENDANCE:

October 2: 8:30: 104; 9:45: 96; 11: 206 = 406

October 5: 42

October 9: 8:30: 94; 9:45: 116; 11: 297=507

October 12: 49

October 16: 8:30: 111; 9:45: 91; 11: 205 = 407

October 19: 38

October 23: 8:30: 96; 9:45: 86 ; 11: 236 = 418

October 30: 8:30: 83; 9:45: 75; 11: 205=363

The mission of MT. ZION UMC STEPHEN MINISTRY is to provide confidential and compassionate lay ministry to our congregation and community who face difficult life transitions; enhancing and bridging the Christian care provided by our clergy. Please pray for those serving in this ministry and those being served. **Please call the church office or talk with any of our Stephen Ministers or Pastors if you or someone you know is in need of a Stephen Minister.**



## Staff

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

[mdye@mtzionumc.net](mailto:mdye@mtzionumc.net)

### Associate Pastors:

Rev. Joel Simpson

[jsimpson@mtzionumc.net](mailto:jsimpson@mtzionumc.net)

Rev. Tony Moreau

[tmoreau@mtzionumc.net](mailto:tmoreau@mtzionumc.net)

### Director of Music Ministries:

Dr. Marcy Mittelstadt

[mmittelstadt@mtzionumc.net](mailto:mmittelstadt@mtzionumc.net)

### Assistant Director

Melanie Kalkan

[mkalkan@mtzionumc.net](mailto:mkalkan@mtzionumc.net)

### Director of Christian Education:

Crystal Parrish

[cparrish@mtzionumc.net](mailto:cparrish@mtzionumc.net)

### Associate Director Christian Ed

Kim Webb

[kwebb@mtzionumc.net](mailto:kwebb@mtzionumc.net)

### Director of Youth: Matt Sherrill

[msherrill@mtzionumc.net](mailto:msherrill@mtzionumc.net)

### Office Manager/Treasurer:

Margaret Langston

[mlangston@mtzionumc.net](mailto:mlangston@mtzionumc.net)

### Administrative Assistant:

Mary Ellen Westmoreland

[mwestmoreland@mtzionumc.net](mailto:mwestmoreland@mtzionumc.net)

### Part Time Assistant: Ginny Wilkins

### Custodian:

Donnelly Sherrill (pt security)

### Preschool Director: Becky Metzger

[sonshinepre@bellsouth.net](mailto:sonshinepre@bellsouth.net)

**Church Phone:** 704-892-8566

**Fax:** 704-892-3143

**Youth House:** 704-892-7825

**Sonshine Preschool:** 704-892-0654

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 Sonshine Preschool: 704-892-0654  
 Fax: 704-892-3143  
 E-mail: [mlangston@mtzionumc.net](mailto:mlangston@mtzionumc.net)

***"MAKING, MATURING, MOBILIZING DISCIPLES FOR CHRIST"***

**MEN OF ALL AGES ARE WELCOME** to attend a **MEN'S COMMUNITY PRAYER BREAKFAST** held each Wednesday from 7-8 am at the Cook-house Restaurant located at 20936 Torrence Chapel Road in Cornelius. It is led on alternate weeks by the ministerial staffs of Mt. Zion UMC and Bethel Presbyterian.

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](mailto: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.

**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.

**COAP = Children Of Aging Parents** will meet the 3rd Wednesday night in November (16th) at 7:30 pm in the Parlor. All our circumstances are different with parents at different stages of care and need. The shared goal of giving them the best support possible for this stage of their lives is the common bond of those who gather to share and pray. All 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 Lackey:  
 email: [bbroadway47@gmail.com](mailto:bbroadway47@gmail.com) 704-996-7000 or Shirley Ranson:  
 email: [Shirley@ransonteam.com](mailto: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](mailto: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!