

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

October 2017 Volume XIX Issue 10

"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

Dear friends at Mt. Zion,

One of the first things that impressed me when I came to Mt. Zion was the amazing dedication and talent of the lay leaders of this church. I have said it over and over, no church has better leaders than Mt. Zion. And one of the most distinguishing characteristics of the leaders of this church is that they are thorough.

As you know, the need for new facilities at the church is obvious. Beginning in 2004, Mt. Zion has been engaged in visioning for the church's needs. Researching the needs and planning the best possible plan for new facilities is important to the present and the future of the church. The Building Committee has led a very thorough process of planning and developing facilities to meet the needs of the church. That plan was presented in January and through the spring. The next step was to research the financial feasibility of the plan before going any further.

Feasibility studies are designed to get a broad base of input from across the congregation. What we learned in the feasibility study is that while people recognize the need for new facilities and liked the plan, before making a commitment to the new facilities, people expressed more immediate concerns – support of the church budget, attendance at worship, concerns about the direction of the church and the denomination.

These are all subjects we are grateful people are concerned about! And we will look forward to discuss these concerns to address the things on people's minds. We want to take one step in that direction by having a Listening Circle where people are invited to share their concerns about the church. We will meet in the Parlor from 3:00-4:30, Sunday afternoon, October 15. There will be representatives from Staff Parish, lay leaders, the Building Committee and staff to listen to what is on people's hearts. For the purpose of everyone having a chance to share in a conversational setting, we will ask people to sign up ahead of time and take the first 15 people who want to come. We want everyone who comes to have the opportunity to share. Other settings will be planned as long as there is interest. We want to hear what people have to say. You can call the church office to sign up.

The concerns that the Feasibility Study revealed are all important to the church and they are concerns that are not new for staff, leadership and people in the congregation. We welcome this – and other—opportunities to talk together.

Grace and peace, blessings and prayers, Mary John

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A "BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS" will be SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8 @ 3 pm on the front lawn (weather permitting)!

** FREE LUNCH ** FREE LUNCH ** FREE LUNCH

**

In appreciation for 35 years of Mt. Zion's support,

Boy Scout Troop 10 will be hosting a FREE LUNCH on the front lawn (in the FLC if inclement weather)

Sunday, October 15th after the 11:00 Worship Service. (Food will also be available after the 9:45 Service and Sunday School hour.)

Menu: Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Chips, Drink, Cobbler (variety of flavors) and Ice Cream



Bishop Paul Leeland, who has just completed his first year as Bishop to the Western North Carolina Conference will be preaching at Mt. Zion Sunday, October 29. Bishop Leeland came to Western North Carolina September,

2016 after serving 8 years as Bishop of the Alabama-West Florida Conference. He is eager to get to know the churches of Western North Carolina and we hope all members will make a special effort to get to know him as well.

MT. ZION FAMILY CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS!

Joining on September 24, 2017:

Nancy Mason 7606 Woods Lane #13 Cornelius 28031 336-242-7144

Janice Lobdell 7608 Woods Lane #11 Cornelius 28031

WELCOME TO THE MT. ZION FAMILY!





KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS: Judy Aho, Sandy Archer, Billie Bost, Gail Brackett, Dixie Cashion, Mack Cashion, Ruby Cook, Dot Fidler, Lagette Goodrum, Lilyan Hunter, Brenda Maddox, Avery Masters, Cathy McAlister, Jane Molle, Nancy Neal, Lisa Oxidine, Diana Russell, John Schloot, Phyllis Sherrill, Alina Sossamon, Brenda Stallard, Elizabeth Westmoreland, Rodney Whisnant, Todd Wissinger and all of those that have suffered the loss of a loved one.



MT. ZION FAMILY MISSION OPPORTUNITY

Due to the recent hurricanes, UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) has a need for Disaster Cleanup Buckets and Hygiene Kits to send to the many areas in need. This is an invitation to help fill this need. Journey class would like to invite you to help. We will be **collecting specific items from now until Wednesday, October 11th** to make these relief kits. The list of items and the size is **SPECIFIC** for the items to meet the distribution/shipping guidelines with UMCOR. These kits may be shipped to various areas to aid in relief. Please reference the link below for items and guidelines. These items can be dropped off in the various labeled boxes in the common areas at Mt. Zion. To view your sign up page, go to:

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/5080E4DACA72BA20-hurricane

We will be assembling Clean-up buckets and Hygiene Kits again on: Thursday, October 12th, 6:30-8:30 pm in the Family Life Center. Come one and come all....Please join us for this Family Mission! All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it. 1Corinthians 12:27 (NLT)

Shared by the SPRC with the congregation on Sunday, October 1: Good Morning! My name is Lee Rice and I am the Chair of the Staff Parish Relations Committee here at Mt. Zion UMC. I know many of you worry any time that the SPRC chair wears a suit to church. However, we did email this news earlier this week so hopefully it is not a surprise announcement.

I am the mother of 3 children under the age of 8. One blessing that I can say I am EXTREMELY grateful for is the children's ministry here at Mt. Zion. For the past two years, we have been extraordinarily blessed to have Crystal Parrish as our Director of Children's Ministry. She has brought boundless energy to developing a wonderful ministry to our children. I speak from firsthand experience about children excited to come to church, excited to help serve God and also tell me about what they learned in unique and fun ways.

So we were very sad to learn of Crystal's resignation last week. Her husband, Kevin, has just accepted a new job in Greensboro and their family will be moving there very soon to get Thomas settled in school.

While Crystal has been the Director of Children's Ministries, we have been blessed by the wonderful support of Kim Webb, the Assistant Director of Children's Ministries. Kim is not moving, but because of family responsibilities, she is stepping down from the staff position when Crystal leaves. She will continue work with children as a parent and member whose love of children shows in everything she does. She will be a welcomed familiar face and help in the transition.

Staff Parish has a team of people who will be working to hire new leadership for our children's program. Crystal has agreed to continue to coordinate through a transition and train a new children's director. All children's ministries and activities will continue strong and uninterrupted. SPRC always evaluates the needs and prayerfully works through the hiring process to find strong and dedicated people to help serve our congregation and community

Please pray for Crystal, Kevin and Thomas as they move to Greensboro. Please pray for Staff Parish as they work through the interview process. Please pray for Crystal and Kim in the transition time and the many different adults who work with our children's program.

Hello Mt. Zion Friends,

My family and I have enjoyed a wonderful 9 years as members of Mt. Zion UMC, and it has been a great pleasure for the last two years to serve all of you as a member of the staff. I will cherish my time as the Christian Educator of our church, and truly appreciate all of the love and support that I have been given by the **church members** and **incredible staff**.

It is with great sadness, that I am resigning from this position as our family is moving back to Greensboro. Kevin has accepted a new position with a company there, and we will be relocating quickly in order to get Thomas enrolled into his new school.

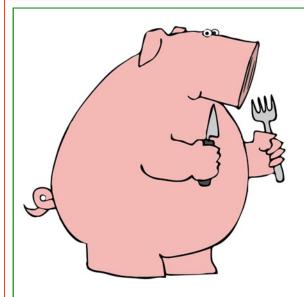
I am grateful to God and all of you for allowing me to spend time loving, praying and most especially laughing with your kids! They are a weekly inspiration to me, and spending time in their presence gives me more joy than you could ever imagine. If you've ever spent time with us in Children's Ministry you know that we often refer to it as "Crazy Town", and I wouldn't have it any other way! I hope that your children have had fun learning that Jesus is their friend, reading the Bible is important, and that they are loved by their church family!

I could never say enough thank you's to each of you for supporting the Children's Ministry at our church. Kim and I have had so much fun sharing God's great big love with the kids, and have enjoyed working together as a team! God's plan for us to share this adventure as friends and ministry leaders was a great blessing to us both, and I will miss her great big smile, and great big heart! Please see a note from Kim below, and the Staff Parish committee as she has made the decision to transition out at this time as well.

Rest assured that we will continue to help coordinate to ensure that children's programming continues until someone new gets the opportunity to have this AWESOME job! Love, Crystal

It is with a heavy heart that I am deciding to step down from my role as Associate Director of Children Education. I have loved every minute of working with your children and will miss greeting their sweet faces during kid programs, events and Sunday mornings. The time with them energized my soul and made me realize a passion for teaching. And as I helped foster these little one's relationship with Jesus, it in turn deepened my own relationship with God.

However, my first priority is to my own family. David's work responsibilities have become increasingly demanding since January making it difficult to manage and balance home life. I have been giving my best to the church but now it is time to give my best to my family. I will continue to volunteer and help our Children's Ministry as we transition forward. I love Mt. Zion, especially the children of Mt. Zion. Love, Kim



78th Annual Mt. Zion UMC BBQ Saturday, November 4, 2017 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM (or the food is gone!)

This is a **CHURCH WIDE mission event** sponsored by the Sonseeker Class - <u>100%</u> of the proceeds support missions and we get an opportunity to serve/work/play together! Entertainment is provided along with good food, even better fellowship.

The Sonseekers want <u>EVERYONE</u> to be included in this annual event! We have several ways you can be involved:



VOLUNTEER: We need volunteers – no amount of time or effort is too small! Work has already started. Come the day of the BBQ or work in the days leading up to it. You can sign up on the website – www.mtzionumc.net (www.tinyurl.com/mzbbq2017). Any questions, information, or requests can be forwarded to mzbbq@outlook.com.



DONATE: We need desserts to share! Desserts can be dropped off at the Family Life Center from 9:00 – 5:00 Friday, November 3rd, or as you arrive the morning of November 4th.



ATTEND, INVITE OTHERS, and ENJOY:

Food is available in the country style dining room or through our take out line. Our talented Mt. Zion UMC musicians will provide entertainment for your enjoyment during lunch time (11:30-1:00).



BE A SPONSOR: Your \$25 Donation entitles you to name a flying pig and sponsor the event by helping to offset costs. Sponsorship dollars (along with your pig's name) can be given to any Sonseeker member – we will name your pig and proudly display him or her on BBQ day!

The Holy Land Experience, Cape Canaveral and other Florida attractions

Feb. 26 - March 2, 2018 Cost: \$430/per person, double occupancy

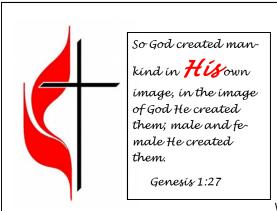
\$550/single occupancy

We are once again traveling to warm and sunny Florida in the winter! It is a 5 day/4 night trip with the Holy Land Experience a highlight. Walk through a Jerusalem street market, see Herod's Temple and experience re-enactments of Jesus' life and death. The next day we are off to Cape Canaveral and the Cocoa Beach pier. We will learn about Florida's Orange Juice and Citrus industry and will go to Davidson of Dundee Citrus Candy Factory (highlighted on The Food Network). Our visit is made complete with a stop at the peaceful Bok Tower Gardens with its magical singing carillon bell tower.

Cost includes motor coach pickup at Mt. Zion, hotel, meals (all breakfasts and dinners) and gratuities. Excitement (did I mention the gators we will see?), fellowship, and insight into Jesus' time on this earth, awaits us in Florida!

Reserve by sending a check for \$75 to the Mt. Zion UMC church office (704-892-8566) (19600 Zion Avenue, Cornelius, NC 28031). Please put "Florida Trip" in the memo section of your check. Trip insurance is available for \$35.

For more information or to be emailed a complete flyer, contact Dora Dalmas at dalmas2@mi-connection.com or 704-737-4859 cell.



We kicked off the **His** Ministry with the Flip Flop Hop followed by the first Jedi

Night for this year and both were wonderful - thanks to the efforts of many! It is a very exciting October as all of our **His** programs start:

Tuesday Oct. 3 - Sustain
Sunday Oct. 8 - Just As I Am
Sunday Oct. 15 - The Feast
Sunday Oct. 15 - The Feast
-support group for caregivers, families, etc.
-fellowship, devotions, music, fun - It's Fall Ya'll!
-an alternative worship service for families

Sunday Oct. 22 - **JEDI Nigh**t -fellowship with Youth

Every Sunday - Agape Sunday School

Every Sunday - A Place For Us -a quiet, dedicated worship space with livestreaming

Participants/Families: All information is on the website – www.mtzionumc.net – and brochures are available in the church office. The only program asking for registration at His@mtzionumc.net (for planning purposes - food, supplies, etc.) is Just As I Am – don't forget to let us know you are coming!

And yes, volunteers are still needed and welcome!

Did you know...One in six American children now has a developmental disability. <u>Developmental disabilities</u>:

Originate at birth or before the age of twenty-two

Occur in people of all racial, ethnic, educational, and socioeconomic backgrounds

Are attributable to a mental and/or physical impairment

Are expected to continue indefinitely

Result in limitations in three or more areas of life activity (self-care, language, learning, mobility, self-direction, capacity for independent living, economic self-sufficiency)

A person is not a developmental disability. An individual can be a person who has a developmental disability. Examples of developmental disabilities include but are not limited to: Autism, Behavior Disorders, Brain Injury, Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Intellectual Disability, Spina Bifida, Hearing Impairment, Vision Impairment.

Invitation To Attend

PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT

Thursday, October 19, 2017; 7:00 PM Williamson Chapel UMC 575 Brawley School Road, Mooresville NC



HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN OUR CITY

The average age of "entry" into this life of abuse is 13 years old!

Come learn about Human Trafficking and its' affects on those living in and around the Charlotte area. Attendees will walk away:

- Clear understanding of what trafficking is (not what the movies portray it as;
- Knowledge of how it happens and tips to protect your child;
- How Social Media Plays into victimization;
- Warning Signs to watch for;
- And much more...





TO REGISTER: www.presentageministries.org/events FOR MORE INFORMATION: info@presentageministries.org

"COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS:" PERSONAL GROWTH IN A WORLD OF DIVERSITY. You are invited to participate in a four-week discussion/conversation group on Monday evenings, October 2, 9, 16, and 23, 2017, from 7-8:30 pm in Room 209 in the Christian Education Building. Our resource is the book, "Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race," by Debby Irving. Facilitator will be Sherry Washam. The book is available in Kindle format through Amazon.com. Paperback may be ordered through Barnes and Noble or Amazon.com or contact Sherry if you need her to order you a book. Please sign up by calling the Mt. Zion church office at 704-892-8566.

NEW BIBLE STUDY ON THURSDAY MORNINGS! Join Rev. Arnie Corriher (WNCCUMC Retired) on Thursday mornings for an insightful look into Scripture. Class begins this Thursday, October 5 at 10 am in the Education Building, Room 205. Please use the Ramp Entrance to the 2nd floor to access the building. Please contact Pastor Tony Moreau (828-447-8992 or tmoreau@mtzionumc.net) for more information.

SUSTAIN, clergy-led support group that seeks to offer blessing and support to the parents/families/ caregivers of individuals with special needs. It is hoped that this small group opportunity will provide a safe place to talk/cry/laugh/share, prevent feelings of isolation, and facilitate the sharing of information about issues and solutions. Begins Tuesday, October 3rd, 6:30-7:30 pm. Sustain will meet the 1st Tuesday of each month in the Church Parlor. Please contact Pastor Tony Moreau (828-447-8992 or tmoreau@mtzionumc.net) for more information.

Children's Ministry News

- Wednesday Night Kids Club was a blast! The children learned about the godly characters of Purity, Wisdom and Honesty while enjoying s'mores! Thanks for sharing your children with us! The nursery will be open for Wednesday Night worship.
- Coming up in October, kids can join Ms. Shelley for some <u>Children's Choir</u> fun. October 18th, November 15th and November 22nd at 6:30 pm in Room 107 in the Education Building.
- First graders and 4 year-olds will be presented with a Bible on Sunday, October 15th at all services!













UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER:

- October 15th Presentation of Bibles
- October 17th MOMS meeting 7 pm in the Parlor
- October 18th Children's Choir starts

- October 25th Trunk or Treat
- November 21st MOMS meeting 7 pm in the Parlor

A Message from Stewardship:

We are asking every member of the church to give generously to the budget. The church has no means of financial support other than the giving of its members. As we go into the final quarter of the calendar year, the goal of supporting our ministries and financial obligations for this year is supremely important for the whole church.

We are part of a great church that makes a difference in so many ways. Every ministry in the church depends on financial support.

Here are a few of the things possible because of giving to the budget:

The budget of the church makes the ministry of Mt. Zion possible.

It is the budget that supports the things we cherish most: the children's program, youth program, the music program, the Christian education, outreach and fellowship activities in the church.

- It is the budget that provides for children's Sunday School, makes sure our children are cared for in the nursery, supports Sonshine Preschool, Wednesday night programming for kids, Vacation Bible School and every special activity for children.
- It is the budget that pays for music at Mt. Zion from infants and toddlers learning music in Babygarten to children's choirs, to the youth Testify choir, to the Praise Team and Chancel Choir; directors and accompanists for every worship service. Every time we hear music, we hear the budget at work.
- It is the budget that pays for confirmation class, for Sunday night youth programs, for all the creative special event activities of the young people.
- It is the budget that undergirds the Christian Education program of the church Sunday School material and small group studies.
- It is the budget that pays for fellowship events like Homecoming, the Veterans' Lunch, the Spring Senior Lunch in honor of our seniors.
- It is the budget that funds the Welcome tables and classes and experiences for people to get to know Mt. Zion.
- It is the budget that pays for maintenance, heat, air-conditioning, lights and the essential costs of our buildings where we gather. Anytime the Scouts meet or youth or children or circles or mission events or the barbeque or rehearsals for any music groups meet, family reunions, funerals, bereavement meals and a host of other activities budget money has made that possible.
- It is the budget that supports communication worship bulletins, newsletter, emails.
- It is the budget that undergirds our mission outreach.
- It is the budget that funds our vision planning.
- When a friendly voice answers the phone in the office, a church member needs a pastor to confide in, people come to a class or an activity that has been prepared for by a staff member, records of the church have been kept or the church has been cleaned, it is budget support that has made that possible.
- It is the budget that pays our support of United Methodist ministry in the conference through our "fair share" apportionments.

Every worship service, every study group, every children's activity, every small group and youth activity, every hospital visit and pastoral call, every funeral, every baptism, every place we meet -- all these ministries are possible because of the budget.

Everyone in the church benefits from the budget. We are asking all members to give generously to the budget for the coming months as we finish up the calendar year. Please pray about your contributions and your influence as an example in encouraging others to give. Share with people the many ways the budget makes the ministry of Mt. Zion possible and how the church makes a difference in your life.

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

MT. ZION UMC UNAUDITED FINANCIAL INFORMATION

1/1/17 - 9/30/17

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

Budget Gifts: \$ 713,967

THANK YOU!

Budget Expenses: \$735,608

General Fund Cash On Hand: \$128,608

The amount owed YTD for apportionments is \$63,777. The amount remaining for the year is \$91,702. We also owe an additional \$49,732 for project consulting fees for the main campus.

Capital Fund Gifts Received: \$7,045

Capital Fund Expenses: \$5,812

Capital Fund Cash On Hand: \$10,519

Funds Received for Helping Hands (Pastor's Discretionary Fund) \$ 1,847 Please contact Margaret Langston 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.

SPECIAL GIFTS WERE GIVEN...IN
HONOR OF Jim Morton, a gift was
given to the Budget and IN HONOR
OF Shelley Little, a gift was given to the
Music Fund. IN MEMORY OF
Stephen McMakin, gifts were given to
the Budget.



THE SYMPATHY OF THE CONGREGATION IS EXTENDED TO ... Carol Jackson and family on the death of her brother, Robert Morris, on September 1; to Mardi McMakin and family on the death of her husband, Stephen, on September 6; to Buddy Phillips and family on the death of his father on September 19; to Elizabeth Vaughan and family on the death of her father on September 24 and to Susan Creed and family on the death of her husband, Don, on September 25.

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SEPTEMBER 2017 ATTENDANCE:

September 3: 8:30: 104; 9:45: 106; 11: 183 = 393

September 10: 8:30: 94; 9:45: 108; 11: 194 = 396

September 13:47

September 17: 8:30: 91; 9:45: 98; 11: 190 = 379

September 20: 42

September 24: 8:30: 88; 9:45: 114; 11: 151 = 353

September 27: 36

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

Director of Youth: Matt Sherrill

msherrill@mtzionumc.net

Office Manager/Treasurer:

Margaret Langston mlangston@mtzionumc.net

Administrative Assistant:

Mary Ellen Westmoreland

mwestmoreland@mtzionumc.net

Part Time Assistant: Ginny Wilkins

gwilkins@mtzionumc.net

Custodian:

Donnelly Sherrill (pt security)

Interim Preschool Director: Patti Goforth

pgoforth@mtzionumc.net

Church Phone: 704-892-8566

Fax: 704-892-3143

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 WEL-COME to attend a weekly MEN'S COMMUNITY PRAYER BREAKFAST now meeting on Wednesdays, 7 am at Bethel Presbyterian Church: 19920 Bethel Church Road, Cornelius, NC 28031. Breakfast will be provided.

All women of the church and community are invited to join the WOMEN OF ZION on the first Tuesday of each month (location to be determined). We meet at 7:00 pm for fellowship and a devotional program. Please contact us at mzwoz1@gmail.com if you have questions or need more information. We look forward to seeing you the first Tuesday of each month! To receive meeting reminders, text the message

@womenofz to 81010.

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

We have something going on all the time!

Contacts: Barbara Broadway:

email: <u>bbroadway47@gmail.com</u> 704-

996-7000 or Shirley Ranson:

email: Shirley@ransonteam.com 704-

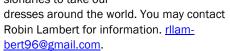
904-0973

lost a spouse.

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



The ladies of the **PRAYER SHAWL MINIS-TRY** 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!