

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 186
310 Church Street
Central, South Carolina 29630
Address Correction Requested



Men's Club Church-Wide Pancake Breakfast

In lieu of the first Sunday of the month Men's Club meeting, the Mt. Zion Men's Club and Youth will be hosting a church-wide pancake breakfast at **8:30 a.m.** on **January 9, 2011**. This fundraiser will be held in the church dining room to raise money for our youth to participate in the Salkehatchie Summer Service Project. A donation of \$5.00 per plate will be appreciated.

What is **Salkehatchie**? This service program of the South Carolina Global Board of Ministries consists of a number of work camps for United Methodist Youth in South Carolina. During the week participants physically improve homes of needy families and reach out to these families and one another in friendship.

Many of our neighbors in South Carolina live in homes needing repair and Jesus has called us to love our neighbor (Luke 10:29-37). South Carolina United Methodist Youth need to experience Christian servanthood. "And he said to all 'If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.'" (Luke 9:23).

For more information <http://www.salkehatchie.org>



The Grapevine

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church

"I am the vine, you are the branches

Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit."

John 15:5

One of the reasons our church grew as much as it did last year was that so many of our members told their friends and neighbors about how much they enjoyed Mt. Zion. Being a part of a warm and caring fellowship makes all the difference in our daily Christian walk. Paul even told the church in Hebrews 10:25 that we "should not forsake meeting together and encouraging one another." Just recently one of our members, Ron Nonnenberg, sent me the following story which emphasizes this point.

THE SILENT SERMON

A member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the pastor decided to visit him.

It was a chilly evening. The pastor found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his pastor's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited.

The pastor made himself at home but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, the pastor took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone then he sat back in his chair, still silent.

The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead.

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The pastor glanced at his watch and realized it was time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow, once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the pastor reached the door to leave, his host said with a tear running down his cheek, "Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I will be back in church next Sunday."

Let us not forsake the importance of meeting together and encouraging one another.
Make it your frequent habit this new year.

In Christ,

Kurt

Parsonage Remodel

You may have heard that a remodel of Mt. Zion's parsonage kitchen and den is in process. Our current parsonage was built in 1971 when my father-in-law, Rev. Donald R. O'Dell, was pastor at Mt. Zion. The property that it was built on was donated by the late Leland Brock. The late Glenn Carson and R. B. Smith presided over the planning and building of the parsonage. Catherine Carson and the late Sara Clayton played a major part in the decoration of the parsonage's interior. Bishop Paul Hardin presided over a consecration ceremony on November 7, 1971 with an open house following the ceremony.

The parsonage is spacious with a huge basement. We have been blessed that our parsonage has been so well maintained and still functions quite well for the families that live there. The kitchen, though, was due for some updating, especially the cabinets.

On December 27, we will gut the kitchen to the studs. New sheetrock and cabinets will be installed. The cabinets are made with all plywood construction and solid maple fronts. They will also have some organizational features to maximize the space. New vinyl flooring and laminate countertops will be installed. A deep-welled sink and new faucet will finish out the countertops. Canned and under-the-counter lighting will brighten the kitchen and give more balanced lighting to the space. The den paneling and trim will be painted the same color as the kitchen uniting the two rooms.

We are really excited about this project. We feel that it will add to the livability and functionality of the parsonage. We also appreciate the patience that Kurt and Lillie have shown with the inconvenience that this project has entailed.

If you should decide that you would like to help defray the cost of this project, you can make an additional donation by designating that it is for the parsonage remodeling.

Kathy O'Dell,
Parsonage Committee

Any woman who meets program requirements will receive a certificate and will also earn credit for the local UMW unit. Others (women, men, and young people) who are not seeking credit may simply be interested in the books from this updated list. Contact Myra Armistead (639-6240) for the necessary reading program materials.

BIRTHDAYS in January:

Buddy Evatt & Kurt McPherson (13);
Bobby Garrett (18); Charles Baker
(19); Ben Carson & Nancy Rice (21);
Ashley Malmgren (29).

BIRTHDAYS in February:

John Youngblood (2); Bill Carson,
Katie Ferguson & Will Mullinax (3);
Chery Amidon (10); Grayson Bowman
(11); Logan Rice (16); Trent Allen (20)
Virginia Norwood (22); Lamar Gibson
(28)

ANNIVERSARIES in January:

Les and Janes Jones (10);
Larry and Gale Wingard (26)

ANNIVERSARIES in February:

None

God Bless All of You On Your Special Days!



Our sincere sympathy goes out to Buddy Evatt and his daughter, Paige, in the passing of his mother and her grandmother, Annie Ruth Williams Evatt, on November 17th.



Congratulations December 2010 Graduates

† Amber James, Master's Degree
University of Georgia

† Amy Evans, Bachelor's Degree
Southern Wesleyan University

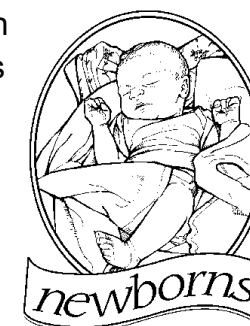
Please call the church office (639-2101) if we have overlooked you or a family member.



Congratulations to
Will Mullinax and
Amanda Cathcart who
were married on
November 13th at
Mt. Zion.

Congratulations to John and Kristine
Reeves on the birth of their first
grandchild, Sadie Kathryn Reeves,
who was born on November 17th at
2:40 a.m.

Sadie weighed in
at 7 lbs. 7 oz. and is
the daughter of
John Weston and
Jenny Reeves who
live in Jacksonville,
Florida.



UMW Continued...

of the three circles previously mentioned. If you are not already a member of a circle, please feel free to visit any or all of the circles to see which circle might help you grow in your faith.

If you are asking yourself, why should I join? The answer is that you become part of a **national membership organization** that offers:

- ♥ A community of women
- ♥ Spiritual growth
- ♥ A creative & supportive community
- ♥ Education & transformation through programs.

We Won!

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church won first-place in the Comfort Food category at the eighth annual Minister's Cook-Off held in November of 2010. Kurt, Lillie, P.J. and Sophie, along with Mattie Mae Allen members, prepared a Brunswick Stew.

This annual event raised \$8,525 for the Safe Harbor II which is an emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence who live in Pickens, Oconee and Anderson counties.



United Methodist Women Reading Program

The 2011 Reading Program is now under way. Several new selections readily available in the Pickens County Library include:

- 📖 **Five Minute Bible Stories.** Lois Rock. (for children)
- 📖 **Half the Sky. Turning Oppression Into Opportunity for Women Worldwide.** Nichola Kristof.
- 📖 **Inheriting the Trade. A Northern Family confronts Its Legacy As the Largest Slave-trading Dynasty in U.S. History.** Thomas Norman DeWolf.
- 📖 **The Noticer.** (recognizing the miracles in our moments) Andy Andrews.
- 📖 **Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid.** Jimmy Carter.
- 📖 **This Child Will Be Great: Memoir of a Remarkable Life by Africa's First Woman President.** Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.



United Methodist Women

The Dolly Brock Circle:

The Dolly Brock Circle will have it's first meeting of 2011 on Tuesday, January 11th, at 7:00 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room of the church. Ann Wilbanks will conduct the program as well as host the refreshments.

The Eloise Gaines Circle:

The Eloise Gaines Circle will have its first meeting of 2011 on Tuesday morning, January 4th, at 10:30 a.m. in the downstairs meeting room of the church. Come if you would like to be a member of a small group built on the characteristics of biblical fellowship and to continue the historical heritage at Mt. Zion UMC. Hope to see you there!

The Mattie Mae Allen Circle:

The holiday season has been busy for our circle. We helped prepare our sanctuary for the Advent season by polishing the brass on and around the altar. We made some new Chrismons which were added to our Chrismon tree. We decorated a patriotic tree at the Morgan House, giving Mt. Zion a representation in our community. After all the work, we

celebrated with a circle holiday dinner at Pixie and Bill's. We enjoyed wonderful fun and fellowship during this season and look forward to an exciting 2011.

Some Interesting Facts:

Did you know that you don't have to be a member of our church to join a circle? All women who are interested in attending a circle are welcome. You don't even have to be a member of our denomination to become a member! As taken from the UMW website:

The United Methodist Women welcomes **all women** who commit themselves to our Purpose.

- ♥ You don't have to be a member of The United Methodist Church to join.
- ♥ Our **membership is diverse**: women of many races, cultures, languages, young and old.
- ♥ There is no minimum age requirement <http://new.gbqm-umc.org/umw/join/>

The UMW Purpose is "to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

The Mt. Zion Unit is composed

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Pickens County Meals on Wheels

Pickens County Meals on Wheels has always relied on donations to support its services. In 2010, the organization provided some 50,000 meals to elderly and disabled county residents. In 2011, cuts in United Way funding will require even greater reliance on donations from the community. Just \$20 will feed a meal recipient for one week. Truly, every dollar makes a difference. If you can help with a tax-deductible donation, please mail it to the Pickens County Meals on Wheels, PO Box 184, Easley, SC 29641.

Volunteer drivers are essential to the program. At present, all regular driver slots are filled in the Central-Norris-Six Mile area; but that situation could change suddenly with one resignation. Substitute driving is a possible volunteer opportunity at this time.

Learn more about Pickens County Meals on Wheels by visiting



Coming Soon!

The day, time, location, etc. open to suggestions. Please contact John

Clemson Community Care (CCC)

Many thanks go to the children and everyone for their gifts of food under the Christmas tree for CCC. These gifts will certainly be put to good use.

As your representative to the CCC Board, I would like to thank you for this opportunity to serve. Next year, I will be serving as the vice-president of the board. This has become a passion of mine, to serve those who are needy in our community.

CCC sends out regular statements of timely and current needs which Kurt usually puts in the bulletin. Please note that I will be happy to deliver any donations.

Vicki Miesbauer (654-5766)



2010 Church Website Statistics

Site Visits: 1,185

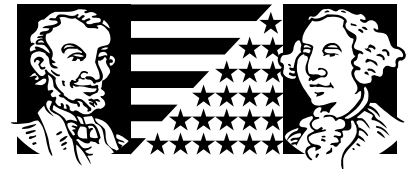
Page Views: 4,210

April and September were the busiest months for both page views and visitors. If you haven't visited our website, the address is:

<http://www.mtzionumc-sc.org>

A Thankful Attitude for the New Year

I learned in my teaching experience that students of all ages develop a fondness for George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. Surely this has to do with the extensive instruction students receive concerning these two famous past presidents.



Recently, I was teaching a group of eight elementary students a social studies lesson. The lesson took us to the state of Alabama, then Rosa Parks, then to Bill Clinton. In 1996, President Bill Clinton presented Parks with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest honor given by the U.S. executive branch. The students had past instruction with Rosa Parks so there was an air of confidence in our discussion. So when I asked again at the end of the lesson, "Now who was the president that gave Rosa Parks the Medal of Freedom?" each child shouted in unison either George Washington or Abraham Lincoln. Oh well!

Researching Thanksgiving I read where George Washington was quoted:

"...our duty as a people, with devout reverence and affectionate gratitude, to acknowledge our many and great obligations to Almighty God, and to implore Him to continue and confirm the blessings we experienced..."

Abraham Lincoln proclaimed, by Act of Congress, an annual National Day of Thanksgiving "a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our...Father who

Pictorial Directory of the Mt. Zion Family

The new directory is ready! Pick up your copy from the table at the back of the sanctuary. If you are unable to come by, please contact the church office at 639-2101.