

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



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*

Kurt's Corner

The word "lent" comes from an ancient word that meant "springtime," that period of the calendar during which the days lengthen. Because the church season always fell at that time of year, the name came to apply there as well. Even after the word "lent" no longer referred to spring, it was still used by the church to describe the season before Easter.

As you know, the season of Lent as currently observed lasts forty days, Ash Wednesday until Easter. The early church celebrated Lent only for a few days before Easter, but, over the centuries, the season grew until it was several weeks long. In the seventh century, the church set the period of Lent at forty days to remind people of the duration of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness. If you go to your calendar and actually count the number of days between Ash Wednesday and Easter, you total 46. Why the discrepancy? The Sundays during Lent are not counted.

"Giving up something for Lent" was a discipline that grew out of the church's preparation for membership. Since Lent was traditionally a time of fasting, the day before it began was always one during which people would use up eggs, butter, and other perishables that would not last through the Lenten season, and "Fat Tuesday" was celebrated with many traditional and tasty baked goods. Then would come Ash Wednesday; no more goodies till Easter.

What does Lent mean for us today? Yes, it is still the church season in which we prepare for Easter Sunday. It is a special time of prayer and reflection, of confession and self-denial. As Bill Reel, a newspaper columnist for the New York Daily news and a Catholic, described it, Lent is "an excuse to be better." I like that idea.

What will Lent 2012 mean for you? The decision is yours. May I offer a few suggestions? In the tradition of "giving up" something for Lent, how about some of these (you might have heard these before, but they bear repeating):

Planning Sessions

On January 22, we held the first of two Planning Sessions. During this time we focused upon Mt. Zion's history and examined our church's DNA. We talked about our high and low points of church attendance, recalled significant events, and remembered influential ministers. We discussed our strengths and weaknesses as well as our challenges and threats. We talked about our community and its demographics and thought about the needs of the community and what we felt God is calling us to do.

On February 5, we held another Planning Session which was future-focused. After a delicious breakfast furnished for the whole church (thank you Men's Group!), we set goals for the coming five years including a vision for worship attendance and missions. We settled on the following goals:

1. Expanding the small group offerings for adults with the immediate start of a second adult Sunday School class.
2. Strengthen the children's Sunday School program by enlisting team teachers and recruiting substitute teachers.
3. Putting renewed energy into the youth Sunday School class by seeking out new leaders to start the class back up.
4. Making strategic efforts to get the word out about our church (website, mass mailings, etc).
5. Expand our parking lot capability (What a great problem to have!).

Thank you to everyone who attended and gave your input. Mt. Zion is an amazing church and I am so honored to be your pastor!

- Kurt

- Give up grumbling. Instead, remember “in everything give thanks”. Constructive criticism is alright, but moaning, groaning, and complaining are not the marks of a Christian.
- Give up 10 to 15 minutes in bed. Instead, use that time in prayer for yourself and others.
- Give up looking at other people's worst points. Instead, concentrate on their best points for a change. We all have faults. It will be easier for people to overlook our shortcomings when we overlook theirs first.
- Give up speaking unkindly. Instead, let your speech be generous and understanding. It costs so little to say something kind and uplifting. Check that sharp tongue at the door.
- Give up your hatred of anyone or anything. Instead, learn the discipline of love. Love does cover a multitude of sins.
- Give up your worries and anxieties. Instead, trust God with them. Anxiety is spending emotional energy on something we can do nothing about...like tomorrow! Live for today and let God's grace be sufficient.
- Give up TV one evening a week. Instead, visit someone who is lonely or sick. There are those who are isolated by illness or age. Give someone a precious gift, your time.
- Give up buying anything but essentials for yourself. Instead, give the money to God. The money you would spend on the luxuries could help someone meet their basic needs. We are called to be stewards of God's resources, not consumers.

It's not a long list. I am sure you can think of other things to add. Let's all take Lent 2012 as an excuse to be better.

In Christ,
Kurt

Up-Coming Events

Administrative Council Meeting on Sunday, **March 4**, 2012 at 7:15 p.m.

Daylight Saving Time begins 2AM, Sunday, **March 11**, 2012.

Church-wide luncheon on Sunday, **March 18**, immediately following the morning worship service. Meat and drinks will be provided by the church. Please bring side dishes and desserts.

Spring Bazaar at Lawrence Chapel UMC, Saturday, **March 24th** from 9AM to 1PM.

The Nursery Gets a Face-Lift

Have you visited our church nursery lately? We are so excited with our recent changes. The door to the room was cut in half to make a “dutch-door”, so we can open the top as needed, but safely keep everyone inside. We have replaced the carpet with a new tile floor and are in the process of getting new area rugs. There is also a new area designated just for our babies. The remaining portion of the room is set up in different “centers”, such as “block”, “kitchen”, “reading”, and “puzzles”, to name a few.



New furniture additions include tables and chairs, a book display, and cubbies for storage and hanging items. We did clean out some of the older items and continue to add new ones from our wish list. If you have not seen all our new changes, please drop by and take a peek!



The nursery is open during Sunday School and the Worship Service!

Submitted by Libba Carson

Clemson Community Care

I just wanted to let you know that your church representative is now serving as President of the Board at Clemson Community Care (CCC) I am pretty sure that this is the first time a church representative from the town of Central has served in this capacity. The term will be for one year.

I am enjoying being your representative. I also appreciate all food and monetary donations from our church family. I know some of you may wonder why it is important to donate to CCC when we have a food pantry at Mount Zion. It is true that our church pantry meets some emergency needs of individuals who need food. That is especially helpful during the times when CCC is not open. Their hours are 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

I like to think of CCC as the organization that not only “gives people fish, but helps teach people HOW to fish.” That is surely a hopeful outlook; but nevertheless, Clemson Community Care has resources not available to local ministries. They do more than just give food to the needy. They help put the needy in contact with more long-term ways to get help. They are connected to other organizations in a way that attempts to prevent those who may be “playing the system”.

In addition, they do good things for children: Secret Santa, the Back to School Workshop, and help with field trip expenses when possible. It is good that Central is represented because actually even though it is a Clemson Community Care, more clients from Central and Pendleton are served than from Clemson. So keep the support coming. Thank you.

Submitted by Vicki Miesbauer



To Wayne Coffman and family on the passing of his sister, Robin Jenkins.

A Tribute To Jack & Helen Wilson

Word has been received of the passing of Jack Wilson. His wife, Helen died August 29, 2007 from lung cancer.

Last October 16th, Dr. McPherson's sermon topic was "The Third Commitment: Serve". In his list of reasons to serve (the church) was included: serve because of love. Jack and Helen Wilson illustrated that. The preacher also said, service and faith go together. If you attended Mount Zion in the 1990's...several years before and a couple of years later, you remember this couple. But, if you weren't here then, their presence at Mount Zion can still be seen and / or felt.



Jack & Helen Wilson

One of them probably served at some time on every committee that existed at Mount Zion. Helen was active in the United Methodist Women, became Lay Representative to Annual Conference in 2000, served as a secretary to the Administrative Council several years, and was Senior Adult Leader when the RAPpers (Really Adult People) was formed. She made curtains, tablecloths and the skirt for the Chrismon Tree. Miriam Coffman remembers that Jack built the huge cornice board that is the window covering in the pastor's study. Miriam and Helen covered it with the fabric that you currently see. Jack was active in the Men's Club, served as church treasurer for several years, was chair of the Building Committee in the late 1990's and chair of the Trustees at the time of major renovations at Mount Zion. He was very concerned about handicap accessibility and the parking lot improvements at that time included the addition of handicap parking spaces. The grab bar that you see at the steps near the piano was put there by Jack.

Outside the church, Jack was involved in Rotary and both he and Helen were volunteers at Oconee Hospital. Helen was active in the Old Ninety-Six Girl Scouts Council. Jack and Helen downsized to a home at Wesley Commons (formerly The Methodist Home) in Greenwood, SC in 2001. They were a joy to work with. Thanks to all of you who "love" God, Mount Zion and "served" with them during that time.

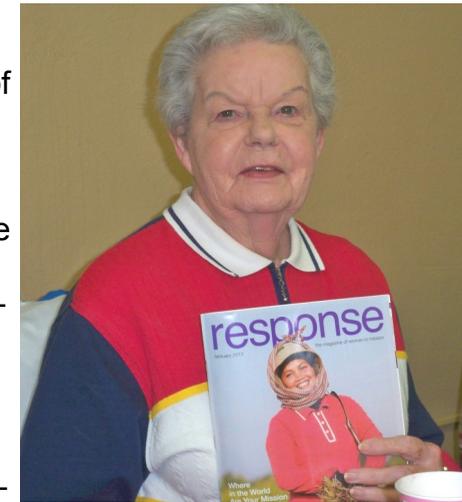
Their son Rick Wilson writes: "Suzy was present when the oncologist told Dad there was nothing more medicine could do for him, and hospice care was prescribed. Dad, true to form, said 'that's OK doctor, there's a girl I've got to see'. Dad was so very positive, all the way to the end." Rick also said that his dad was the most "upbeat, positive and cheerful man I have ever known" and I think that a number of folks at Mount Zion who knew him would agree. I sure would!

Submitted by Sharon Miller

The whole world of United Methodist Women now knows about Mount Zion's Harvest Tasting Luncheon held on November 5, 2011. Virginia Norwood's write-up of this successful fundraising event appears in the February 2012 issue of *Response*, the United Methodist Women's official magazine.

The "Bright Lights" section of each *Response* issue reports on service and fund-raising activities of local United Methodist Women units. Since Virginia wrote a finished piece, her article, unlike the two accompanying reports, was given a by-line. The article, on page 16, includes a color photograph showing five Luncheon attendees and a table of well-laden platters.

The magazine is the church library next to the Pastor's office. You may remember that the Harvest Tasting Luncheon, ably organized by Sharon Chandler, raised over \$500 for mission.



Submitted by Myra Armistead

Editor's Note: Virginia's article was also published in The South Carolina United Methodist Advocate, March 2012, page 26.

I Heard It Through The Grapevine



I am excited about the One Call Now system that we have purchased for the church. I believe it will be a great asset to our members. This will allow us to notify all members about events of the church, such as inclement weather, meetings, status of our members, meals, men's breakfasts, etc. I solicit your feedback (good or bad) and welcome your comments.

If you did not receive a call on February 22, 2012 (regarding the Ash Wednesday Service), please notify the church office to update your phone number.

The message actually follows a little tune, so don't hang up until your hear why Mount Zion is calling!

John Youngblood,
Lay Leader

Ladies of the Church



Mark your calendars for March 24 at 10:30 a.m.! The Mount Zion Unit of the United Methodist Women will be hosting an **Arrival of Spring Luncheon**.

The program will begin at 10:30 a.m. with some words of inspiration by Nancy Wilkinson of Pendleton United Methodist

Church. Nancy is Elizabeth Finley's sister. She will be bringing some of the ladies from the Pendleton Unit of United Methodist Women. Ladies from Bethel United Methodist Church and Central United Methodist Church have also been invited.

Nancy will be followed by our own talented Eileen Nonnenberg. She will demonstrate floral arranging for us novices, giving us some tips and hints as she works on a floral arrangement.

The **free** luncheon will consist of soups, breads, and desserts, provided by the members of our three circles.



Sunday, April 8, 2012 Easter Breakfast for Children and Youth Easter Egg Hunt for Children

There will be a **light breakfast** for all children, youth, and their parents at **9:30 a.m.** on Easter morning. Following the breakfast, there will be an **Easter Egg Hunt** for children up to 12 years of age. The church will provide the eggs. Children will need to bring their Easter baskets. We hope to see all the children and parents attend these special events!



Easter Lilies

Easter lily order forms will be in the bulletin beginning March 4. Easter lilies will be \$16.00 each for placement in the church on Easter Sunday.

In observance of Lent, no flowers will be placed on the following Sundays: March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1. Flowers will be needed for April 15 and 29.



BIRTHDAYS in March:

Karen Martin (5); Gail Wingard (7);
Neil Smith (8); John Reeves (11);
Steve Meisbauer (16); Betty Walters (17);
Mike Ferguson (18); Sadie Atkinson (25);
Allison Wingard (25); Lorelee Mullinax (25);
Scott Smith (28); Elizabeth Finley (28);
Joshua Guptill (30)

BIRTHDAYS in April:

Ronald Nonnenberg (1); Robert Arrowood (13),
Miriam Coffman (21); Aubrey Mullinax (23),
Wayne Coffman (25), Myra Armistead (29);
Jan Miller (30)

ANNIVERSARIES in March:

John & Kristine Reeves (8)
Kurt & Lillie McPherson (8)
Trent & Ginger Allen (13)
Ronald & Eileen Nonnenberg (21)
David & Cherylene Amidon (27)
Scott & Karen Smith (30)

ANNIVERSARIES in April:

Al & Susan Cumbie (7)
John & Sheila Malmgren (8)

God Bless You on your special days!

All church attendees are welcome to submit their birthday and anniversary dates. Please call the church office at 639-2101.

Welcome New Members

A warm Mount Zion welcome is extended to our newest members, Connie Norwood and Kathy O'Brien, who transferred their membership on January 14, 2012, from Dunwoody United Methodist Church, Dunwoody, Georgia. Connie is the daughter of Virginia Norwood and the late Bill Norwood. We will see them more often once they retire and move to this area.



Congratulations to Chelcee Coffman, daughter of Wayne and Miriam Coffman, who won the Miss Blue Ridge Foothills Pageant on February 11. As winner of this Scholarship Pageant, she represents the Taylors area community of Greenville County and will proceed to the Miss South Carolina Pageant on July 14.

Chelcee's platform is promoting literacy in the community, which she is currently pursuing through her work with the Greenville Literacy Association. She hopes to use her scholarship winnings to obtain her Masters of Business Administration degree in the near future.