

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*

When I was a teenager I did what many teenagers do: I decorated my bedroom by putting up posters. I remember two posters very well. One poster was Salvador Dali's depiction of the Last Supper. The second one was very colorful, referring to names from the Bible describing God and Jesus, like "Prince of Peace" and "Wonderful Counselor".

I recalled the latter poster when I recently preached a sermon from John's gospel in which Jesus referred to himself as the Good Shepherd. The seven ways that Jesus refers to himself as "I am" are powerful metaphors for us to consider. Over the next few weeks I will be preaching about these images:

- The Good Shepherd
- The Bread of Life
- The Door
- The Light of the World
- The True Vine
- The Way, the Truth, and the Life
- The Resurrection and Life

A few years ago I taught a Bible Study based on Bishop Reuben P. Job's book, *The Three Simple Rules*. I noticed in the newest Cokesbury Bookstore catalog that he has written a new book called *Three Simple Questions*. These three questions seem basic but incredibly profound: 1) Who is God? 2) Who am I? and 3) Who are we together?

I am hoping that the "I am" sermon series will help us all to consider who God is and who we are. Perhaps you have a friend, relative or neighbor you can invite to church with you who might want to hear about Jesus and his amazing love and grace for all of us.

In Christ,
Kurt

Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, May 6—Covered dish luncheon in honor of high school graduates. The church will be providing the meats and drinks.

Monday, May 7—The Administrative Council Meeting scheduled for May 7 has been rescheduled to Monday, May 21.



Sunday, May 13, 2012—**Mother's Day**

Sunday, June 17, 2012—**Father's Day**



June 10—13 **South Carolina Annual Conference**, Florence, SC

For more information on the General Conference, go to: www.umc.org

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
GENERAL CONFERENCE 2012
APRIL 24 THROUGH MAY 4, 2012 • TAMPA, FL



Sunday School Renovations

Since the beginning of the year, Mount Zion United Methodist Church has been in the process of renovating the Nursery and Sunday school classrooms. These classrooms have a fresh new coat of paint and some have new flooring or carpeting. The Nursery has new furnishings to separate the room into an Infant area and Toddler area. Now that the maintenance is complete, we are in need of new furnishings for some of the classrooms. It is our desire to have the classrooms look uniform and for the furniture to meet codes/standards, so we have selected a couple of companies that will help us with this project.

Several of you have expressed an interest in contributing to our renovation fund. If interested in contributing, make your check out to "**Mt. Zion United Methodist Church**" and denote on your check "**Sunday School Renovations**". Please note that any amount would be helpful in updating our Sunday school classes.

The following are items needed with **approximate** cost:

- 6 tables – 3 round and 3 rectangle (\$225 - \$275 each depending on size)
- 24 chairs – 8 per classroom downstairs (\$160 for a pair)
- 2 shelves - (\$300 - \$500 each depending on size)
- 3 storage units (\$200 each)

This has been an exciting process and we would like to thank you in advance for any contributions you may make.

Congratulations to Our Graduates!

D. W. Daniel High School:

Chandler Coffman, Nancy Rice, Nelson Rice, Jonathan Sarasua

Southern Wesleyan University:

Serena Miles



Up-Coming Men's Club Breakfasts

- Sunday, May 20 @ 8:30 a.m.

The Men's Club will not meet during June, July and August.

United Methodist Women News

The Eloise Gaines Circle met on Tuesday, May 1, 2012 at Panchos Restaurant in Liberty. We credit this circle's leader, Elizabeth Finley, with bringing this circle back from the brink of "folding". After the January 2011 meeting, Elizabeth reported to the church that there were five members.

This group has gradually grown to include 10 members and 3 honorary members. The luncheon at Panchos was a great success with 16 in attendance. This included members and special guests. Being the last meeting before the summer break, the mood was rather celebratory with laughter and talking. Guests included our pastor, Kurt McPherson; Elizabeth's husband, Dean Finley; Beth Bowman's husband, Kris; and Kristine Reeves.

The Eloise Gaines Circle will resume their meetings in September. They meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. All women are welcome to attend, even if you are a member of other circles.

Note: The three circles at Mount Zion do not meet during the summer months of June, July and August.

Opportunities for Women During the Summer

- **2012 SC Conference UMW School of Christian Mission**

Theme: "That All May Have Life", Spartanburg Methodist College, Spartanburg, SC, August 2-5, 2012

The **three** mission studies to **select from** for this year are:

Spiritual Growth: Immigration in the Bible

Social Action: Poverty

Geographic Study: Haiti

More details and registration form are available in the church office and from circle leaders. **Registration Deadline is June 30, 2012.**

- Another opportunity for our local women to help the five South Carolina UMW Missions is to make a few extra jars of jelly, jam or pickles to be donated to the School of Missions Craft Room. Proceeds from the sales of the Craft Room go to the five Missions. Please contact Sharon Miller at 654-1151 by July 29 if you have items you wish to send.
- The Marion Mission Storehouse in Marion, Indiana, which sends much needed items to the United Methodist Church in Africa, is in need of canceled postage stamps which they sell to collectors to earn money for shipping costs. Please trim them to 1/4 inch around the perforation. Place used stamps in the container on the pew at the back of the church. The Marion Mission has been in operation for 44 years and in 2000 alone sent 1 million pair of shoes!

United Methodist Women News

A Day Apart for Spiritual Growth, Anderson District, was held on April 21, 2012 at the Hospice of the Upstate in Anderson, SC. In her welcoming remarks, our District UMW President, Jane Hallums, recognized our Mount Zion Unit for the article written by Virginia Norwood covering our Harvest Luncheon. The article was published in February in the ***Bright Lights*** section of ***Response*** magazine, the official magazine of United Methodist Women. It was with great pride that we were asked to stand for this recognition before the attendees who represented the 48 charges and 75 churches of the Anderson District of the UMW.



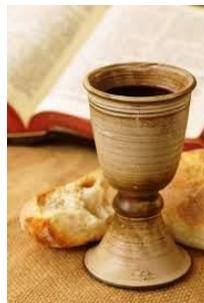
The Mount Zion Unit was represented by Sharon Miller, Sharon Chandler, Kristine Reeves, and Elizabeth Finley.

District Superintendent, Dr. Susan Leonard-Ray, gave the greeting followed by prayer. The keynote speaker was her husband, Rev. Dr. Keith D. Ray, senior pastor at Clemson UMC, who spoke to us about the meaning of Holy Communion.

Dr. Keith Ray's interesting presentation, entitled ***This Holy Mystery: Holy Communion***, was accompanied by a slide presentation which showed how this holy meal is filled with meaning and how this sacrament has transitioned through the centuries. After his presentation, Dr. Ray led us in Holy Communion. “



A significant aspect of Methodist piety since the beginning of the movement, this holy meal is filled with meaning. Like our tables at home, the Lord's Table is a source of nourishment as we seek to live as the people of God.”



Vacation Bible School News

NEEDED---People with Loving, Caring, Sharing Hearts to help with our Summer Vacation Bible School.

We will be having a joint VBS with Lawrence Chapel UMC beginning Sunday, July 15 through Thursday, July 19. It will be from 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Areas to help are varied: decorations, art, skits, recreation, music, science, food (preparing and serving), publicity, and helpers with age groups.

We have some members that have volunteered, but we are seeking more help—you do not have to teach a class to be of help—**everyone** is welcome and your help would be GREATLY APPRECIATED!

If you have questions or are interested, please contact Libba Carson, Elizabeth Bowman, or Kurt---hope we hear from you!

Church Library

The Church Library has received the following donations:

- Twelve volumes of *The Works of John Wesley*, including *Sermons*, in 4 volumes; *Journal and Diaries*, in 7 volumes; *The Methodist Societies: History, Nature and Design*, in 1 volume. (from Kurt McPherson)
- Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Christian Community, by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. (from Betty Walters)

We sincerely thank Kurt and Betty for their generosity and hope that many in our congregation will make good use of these books. **ALL IMPORTANT REMINDER:** Please be sure to check out each item borrowed from the library on a Circulation Sheet provided for the purpose. The Library is next to the Pastor's Office. Thank you for your cooperation.

Please note: The following items will soon be withdrawn from the Library:

- *Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church* (with variant earlier titles), 1934, 1960, 1964, 1968, 1988.
- *South Carolina Conference Journal*. 1975, No. 1; 1991-1996.
- Jesus Video Project. 4 duplicate copies.

If anyone has a use for these items, please see Myra Armistead (639-6240) before June 3, 2012.



A Tribute to Lois Bomar

The following are excerpts from a tribute, *A Cake for Lois*, written by Elizabeth Finley and presented at the UMW Joint Meeting on March 24, 2012.

- Did you know that Lois was in charge of funeral meals for years and years? She planned, called, served, delivered and cleaned up the mess. She did it all!
- Her obituary didn't convey the real spirit of this dynamic woman. Many of you at Mount Zion, like me, knew her devoted spirit and feel the loss.

- Lois was a leader in our church. She was a loyal member to the Dolly Brock Circle. She led the women as our United Methodist Women President. She was once the Chairperson of the Administrative Council.
- Lois printed and folded the weekly church bulletin and mailed copies to our shut-ins.
- She helped with every meal in our kitchen. She tirelessly carried the heaviest tea pitchers ever refilling empty tea glasses. She just showed up ready to work!
- This past summer at Vacation Bible School, I watched as she swept spilled taco meat from under the tables of the kindergarten children. She was 80 years old.
- Singing the Alto parts in the choir was a jubilant joy for her with life-long friendships. Those same friends giggled and teased her for not wearing her hearing aids, often missing instructions and losing her place.
- Even before there was Clemson Community Care, there was Lois. She searched out the needy at school and from the Central Police. She organized a church group to make baskets of food including turkeys at Thanksgiving and Christmas. She delivered them.

Lois, like spilled honey, silently seeped into all our lives modeling the life of a dedicated Christian and her love for Jesus. Not looking to her own interests, but to the interests of others, Lois, we will forever be influenced by your sweet goodness.

Phillipians 2: 3-4

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility, value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interest of others.

Condolences to the following families:

Ginger Allen upon the death of her aunt.

Ann Wilbanks upon the death of her sister, Kathryn Lingfelt.

Gail Wingard upon the death of her sister's husband.

Larry Wingard upon the death of his mother.

Sara Sarasua upon the death of her grandmother.

Wayne Sarasua upon the death of his brother.

Allan Bomar upon the death of his mother, Lois Bomar.

Cory Dodgens upon the death of a grandparent.

Amy Evans upon the death of a grandparent.



Birthdays in May:

Catherine Ferguson (5), Larry Wingard (5), Eileen Nonnenberg (7), Benji Cumbie (8), Anna Bullock (13), David Bullock (13), Sara Sarasua (13), Dave Amidon (14), Robert Allen (15), Jill Sims (18), Jeffery Miesbauer (19), Laura Smith Moore (20), Cindy Owens (24), Cooper Koinskie (25), Stan Owens (27), Allison O'Dell-Jones (29)

Birthdays in June:

Dot Wilbanks (2), Ashley Gelder (2), Bill Clayton (8), Sophie McPherson (8), Ansel Miller (14), Miriam Griffin (15), Jerry Chandler (16), John Malmgren (16), Karen Smith (21), Caroline Carson (24), Randy Martin (26), David Rice (27)

Anniversaries in May:

Ansel and Sharon Miller (11)
Drew and Ashley Gelder (26)

Anniversaries in June:

Benji and Heather Cumbie (5)
Stan and Cindy Owens (8)
Steve and Vicki Miesbauer (12)