

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



**May 5, 2011 is National Day of Prayer
Meet at Central Town Hall
Central, SC—12:00 Noon**

2011 National Prayer
by Joni Eareckson Tadea

Almighty God, you are our Mighty Fortress, our refuge and the God in whom we place our trust. As our nation faces great distress and uncertainty, we ask your Holy Spirit to fall afresh upon your people—convict us of sin and inflame within us a passion to pray for our land and people. Grant the leaders of our country an awareness of their desperate need of wisdom and salvation in You until sin becomes a reproach to all and righteousness exalts this nation.

Protect and defend us against our enemies and may the cause of Christ always prevail in our schools, courts, homes and churches. Lord God, send a spirit of revival and may it begin in our own hearts.

Remember America, we pray. Remember the foundations on which this country was built. Remember the prayers of our nation's fathers and mothers, and do not forget us in our time of need. In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, Amen.



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

This June at the 2011 South Carolina Annual Conference in Florence I will be commissioned a provisional elder. Several people have asked what this specifically means and therefore I must tell you how I got to this point in this journey.

I want to begin with the start of the process which dates back to February of 2008. In order to become a member of the United Methodist clergy there are certain standards that have to be met. To be approved for service in the South Carolina Conference I had to pass a psychological assessment, a medical check up, a credit check, a criminal background check, and be interviewed by the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. When I successfully met those criteria I was appointed to serve as a pastor.

For the past three years I have met with clergy mentors and gone before the Anderson District Board of Ordained Ministry for yearly interviews. I have taken two intensive and rather lengthy courses in church polity and Methodist history. Just recently I completed a Bible study on the book of Matthew, wrote and preached a sermon on the Good Samaritan passage from Luke, and wrote responses to questions regarding theology, doctrine, call to ministry and disciplined life. I then went before the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry in February of this year to be interviewed regarding the Matthew Bible study, my sermon, theology and doctrine, and call and disciplined life. In addition to this I had to undergo another credit check, a criminal background check, another medical check up, and supply transcripts for all of my academic work dating back to college.

Just last month I went back before and successfully passed the theology and doctrine committee. I will be one of twelve individuals in our conference to be approved to be commissioned a provisional elder. Since I was ordained by another denomination in August of 1990, the conference will recognize my ordination. I will serve as provisional elder for three years and then much of the same process (Bible study, sermon, answering theological questions and being interviewed again.).

The most meaningful part of the commissioning service will be the Bible which will be presented to me from Mt. Zion. Once again I will be reminded of the loving grace of God which is so evident in this church and how blessed I feel to be your pastor.

In Christ,
Kurt

Clemson Community Care News

Each Board Member on the Clemson Community Care (CCC) Board is asked to sign up for a month for their organization to be responsible for canned food donations. I signed Mt. Zion up for the month of May.

We will be doing a canned food drive along with Lawrence Chapel UMC. CCC is in great need of food right now. The children sent food in December that was put to great use. There will be a donation site at Mt. Zion. I will be happy to deliver any monetary donations you have as well. Those are tax deductible.

If you have any student neighbors, (Clemson or SWU) please ask them as they move out to give leftover canned food items to you for CCC. From working last summer, I found that lunch items for children were a great need. Things like juice, canned fruit, peanut butter and cereal. These kids accustomed to getting school lunch and breakfast are left out during summer vacation. I thought a focus on these items might be very helpful and help CCC prepare for the upcoming summer. Ansel Miller uses his pickup truck to transport Walmart food donations on Monday mornings year round.

Please bring your donations to church or drop them by CCC. I will deliver any brought to the church. Thank you in advance.

THE GOLDEN RULE

Our successful Christmas collection for Clemson Community Care got me to thinking. I was a sponsor for the Service Learning Club when I recently taught at the middle school. With student members from each home room we would have at least one food drive for Clemson Community Care. This is a good time to put into action the golden rule, do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Unbelievable to me were rusty cans of food long past the expiration date mixed in with the good food donations. Who wants that stuff? Another donation among the collection was a twelve pack of Coca Cola. Hummm. Everyone likes a Coke now and then. But some on lookers would comment, "Who gave that Coke? Poor people don't need Coke." What kind of logic is that?

Do you do unto others as you would have them do unto you? Do you want to eat expired food or drink Coca Cola? It is the decisions that we make in our everyday lives that pass the test with Jesus. Don't clean out your cabinets with

UMW School of Christian Mission set for July 21-24 in Spartanburg

The S. C. Conference annual School of Christian Mission theme for 2011 is "All Things Made New". The three courses this year are "Joy to the World: Mission in the Age of Global Christianity", "Haiti" and "Coming Out on the Side of Grace: Reconciliation". **Spartanburg Methodist College is the location and registration deadline is June 30th.** Forms and additional information is located in the church office. Questions? Contact Mt. UMW president, Sharon Miller at 654-1151. Also available on-line at www.umcsc.org/umw (click on the "newsletters" tab, then "March 2011" and see page 13).

A Special Mission Recognition

Congratulations to Myra Armistead who received Mt. Zion's UMW's Special Mission Recognition for this year. A donation, in her honor, for mission work was sent to the Women's Division, General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. Myra was presented a certificate of recognition and a small, gold lapel pin with a cross. Thank you Myra for all you do for Mt. Zion.

Thanks to the Congregation

Thanks to all who helped cook, bake or eat for the soup and cornbread lunch/bake sale on April 10th. A total of \$452.72 was raised for the Salkehatchie Summer Service Camp plans of Mt. Zion's youth and their leaders Ed and Karen Martin. Special thanks to Sharon Chandler for overseeing that event.

More thanks go to all who will help cook, serve and/or pay for the evening meal for approximately 100 college students on Sunday night, May 1st, at Clemson United Methodist Church. Mt. Zion, under the direction of Elizabeth Bowman, will provide the spaghetti dinner. Clemson Wesley is one of eight campus ministries in South Carolina. Their small building is located across from the campus on Hwy. 93 in downtown Clemson. Clemson UMC is the location for their Sunday night, student-led worship service which starts at 7PM (supper at 6:30).

What's Coming Up?

May 8th: Mother's Day. Offering taken for Epworth's Children's Home.

Epworth Children's Home provides group residential care for children and youth from all of South Carolina. They provide child care, counseling and related services to families and children without regard to race, religion, national origin or ability to pay.

This is the record of giving at Mt. Zion for the past three years.

YEAR	Total given	Membership	Average per person
2010	\$1,395.00	168	\$ 8.30
2009	\$ 913.00	157	\$ 5.82
2008	\$2,315.00	158	\$14.84

The average given for *ALL* South Carolina United Methodist churches last year was \$4.48 per member. This year's GOAL is \$6.00 per member. There are two donation dates: Mother's day, May 8, and Annual Work Day, Sept. 11. As you can see, our contributions have been on the plus side. Let us all help keep Mt. Zion a church with this commitment for giving. Information taken from www.epworthchildrenshome.org.

June 5th: Lunch after Sunday morning worship service.

June 5th—August 28th: Summer Worship Services at Historic Providence United Methodist Church. These informal "come as you are" services begin at 9AM and last about 45 minutes. Different pastors from the Anderson district will be taking a turn in the pulpit. Everyone is invited and welcome to attend. The church is located at 1642 Providence Church Road, Anderson, 29626.

June 19th: Father's Day

Deuteronomy 5:16 (one of The Ten Commandments)

Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God commanded you, so that your days may be long and that it may go well with you in the land that the lord your God is giving you.

garbage for others; give your best food as well as the sweet drink of Coke. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Remember, the children are learning by your example. In Matthew 7:12 Jesus say "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets."

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Finley

The Eloise Gaines Circle

The **Eloise Gaines Circle** will meet at Pixie and Bill's restaurant on May 3rd to commemorate new friendships and the continuation of **the oldest running circle** at Mt. Zion. The next meeting will be held in the fall and we will be anticipating interested women joining our morning group.



The Eloise Gaines Circle members: Dot Wilbanks, Irene Buchanan, Elizabeth Finley, Golda Noblitt, and Betty Washnok.



Les and Jane Jones and family in the death of Les' father.

The family of Mary Vandyke Chaka.



Congratulations to:

Chris and Carrie (Cumbie) Gentry upon the birth of their son. Tanner Paul is the grandson of Al Cumbie and Debbie Cooler.

Will and Amanda Mullinax upon the birth of their daughter. Aubrianna Lee is the granddaughter of Van and Ginger Mullinax.

BAPTISM

Charles Nathaniel Six was baptized on April 3rd. Son of Nathaniel and Sarah Six, he is the great nephew of Mt. Zion members Steve & Terri Lee.



Congratulations to Mason Sims, son of Sonny and Jill Sims, upon completion of Confirmation Classes with our pastor Kurt McPherson.

Mason was accepted into the membership of Mt. Zion on Sunday, April 17, 2011. Please welcome Mason as the newest member of our Mt. Zion family!

Our very best wishes go with Amber James as she moves to Winter Haven, Florida. Her time as choir director and one of the musicians at Mt. Zion has truly been a blessing.



NOTE:

The weekly **Bible Study** will resume meeting in the fall.



BIRTHDAYS in May:

Catherine Ferguson & Terry Wingard(5); Eileen Nonnenberg (7); David Bullock & Anna Bullock (13); Dave Amidon (14); Robert Allen (15); Jill Garrett Sims (18); Jeffery Miesbauer (19); Laura Smith Moore (20); Cindy Owens (24); Cooper Koiniskie (25); Stan Owens (27); Allison O'Dell Jones (29)

BIRTHDAYS in June:

Dot Wilbanks (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)

ANNIVERSARIES in June:

Stan and Cindy Owens (8)

Steve and Vicki Miesbauer (12)

God Bless You all on your special days!

Please call the church office (639-2101) with additions and/or corrections or you may use the Birthday Calendar which is located at the back of the church (use the



The Flower Calendar is located at the back of the church between the water fountain and the Youth Sunday School Class (use the door on the left). There are several openings in May.

Just as a reminder, flowers for the first Sunday of the month should be white for Communion Sunday.



The Grief Support Group meets on Wednesday mornings from 10:00—11:00 a.m. Please see Dr. David Connor or the pastor for more information.



A BIG thanks to David Rice who, at present, is single-handedly keeping up with Mt. Zion's Adopt-A-Highway section of Highway 93.