

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



Asbury Hills 50th Anniversary Retreat - September 2-5, 2011

- * Activities for the entire family
- * Rudy Mancke nature tour
- * Silent auction
- * Saturday afternoon celebration service
- * Sunday evening concert featuring The Oswald Brothers Band as seen on "The Early Show"

Attend the entire weekend full of adventure and worship or spend a day. Experience camp like never before, no matter your age! **To register or for more information, call 864-458-2017 or visit www.asburyhills.org.**

Just about an hour's drive from Central, Asbury Hills is nestled on 2000 acres off Hwy. 276 near Caesar's Head. Founded as a Methodist camp for children and youth, it functions today as a camp and retreat center for people of all ages. For almost fifty years, Asbury Hills has welcomed guests from across the southeast for Christian Birth, Growth and Renewal. They can host 280 guests in recently renovated, year-round accommodations.



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

Miriam Coffman and I had the privilege of attending the 2011 South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church in Florence from June 8th-12th as representatives of Mt. Zion. We gathered with over 1,600 other clergy and laity during these five days to worship, fellowship, and "conduct the business" of the church.

One key aspect of this Annual Conference was the election of delegates to next year's General and Jurisdictional Conferences held in Tampa, Florida, and Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, respectively. In all, nine clergy and nine laity delegates were elected to each of these conferences making a total of 18 from our state going to the conferences. There were also three alternates selected.

The laity were the first group to successfully select their 18 delegates and were done by Saturday afternoon. It took the clergy until after 11:00 p.m. Saturday night to complete our ballots. Now this may simply be because the laity had to choose delegates among several dozens of candidates while the clergy had to choose between hundreds of candidates (every full clergy member of the conference in good standing is eligible to be elected), but it just might be that the laity was more on the ball!

Why was the careful selection of delegates so important? First, next year's General Conference will most likely be faced with several crucial issues that could possibly impact the future of the United Methodist Church: whether or not to change the *Book of Discipline* to allow for the ordination of gay clergy, whether or not to impose term limits on bishops instead of lifetime appointments, and whether or not to continue the practice of guaranteed appointments for full elders. Second, next year's Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference will vote to elect new bishops, and our Annual Conference's Episcopal candidate has an excellent opportunity of being elected: Columbia District Superintendent, Dr. Tim McClendon.

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KURT'S CORNER (Continued from page 1)

The final session of the Annual Conference was Sunday morning's worship service on Pentecost Sunday where 31 individuals were ordained or commissioned to service as deacons and elders including yours truly. It was very meaningful to have the bishop pray for me by name and present a new Bible from this church.

The conclusion of the service was the fixing of appointments by Bishop Taylor. I am very delighted to be reappointed as pastor to serve Mt. Zion for a fourth year!

In Christ
Kurt

The 2011 United Methodist Annual Conference - Lay Delegate's Report

The 2011 United Methodist Annual Conference was once again held in the booming metropolis of Florence, SC. When 2,100 Methodist hit any town, I would think it would be more than a revelation to the hometown folk. The business and hotel establishments definitely benefit, and so for that small fact, Kurt and I can be proud we were able to assist in the rebuilding of the economy. Now remember, this comment is coming from a resident of the huge metropolis of Central, SC. Guess I better be careful about poking fun at the location for the five days Kurt and I spent amending, voting, and/or participating in analysis of the Methodist doctrines.

The theme this year was the "Principals, Passions, and Practices of the Wesleyan Way". Throughout the week, discussions involved budgeting, affirming new leaders for Christ's Church, electing delegates for General and Jurisdictional Conferences, and overall business of the Methodist Church for the upcoming year. I think it is easily forgotten that God's church must be run as a business in order to meet the financial and spiritual obligations of the nation and world, while trying to celebrate the passionate love God reveals to us every day.

Each day in the midst of the business ordeals and requirements, conference leadership paused to provide us with a time of enlightenment on Wesleyan beliefs as they relate to personal fundamentals, enthusiasms, and applications. These sessions were very compelling, and brought methodology into focus for daily living. We as people of God personally determine the "I Must's" that we select in our lives. We then benefit from these spiritual or personal goals and arrive at new levels of faith as we develop. The passion of our beliefs brings a level of love for God, the Holy Spirit, family, and church family that becomes focused and directed if we set them aside as priorities. The mission must be clear, purposeful, and different from an "I should" or an "I want".

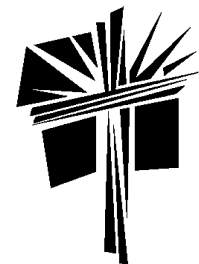
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The role of Christianity has not changed. Our world has changed. We must continue to bear witness to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. How we do that might change. But we must take a clear look at practices in order to clearly understand the needs of our culturally diverse brothers and sisters. Sometimes this is very difficult. There have been and always will be "we don't do it that way here" statements and therefore, hurdles. But our worship must be inspiring and alive. We should always center on the moving of the Holy Spirit, and our connection with God. However, we don't worship worship; the style is irrelevant. The power and presence of God is the drawing factor. To quote John Wesley, "If we catch on fire with enthusiasm; the people will come for miles to see us burn." Let's get the fire extinguishers ready!!

As for the voting process, it took three days and nine votes for the clergy to elect their delegation to General Conference, and I lost count during the Jurisdictional delegate voting. It took the laity three days and eleven ballots to select our entire delegation, but we were finally successful. It obviously was a difficult process simply because the number of legal ballots received at each vote constantly changed, as well as, the vast number of candidates in the pool. These delegates will be representing South Carolina at the national 2012 meetings. These assemblies will be faced with important decisions based on huge cultural challenges. One of the most important challenges will be the United Methodist stand on immigration reform. This discussion was one of the most contested at Conference, and I am sure will continue to be for the nation and church as a whole. The Greenville June 19th paper contained an article on the Southern Baptist Convention and the immigration resolutions being discussed by this denomination. A sad and difficult topic. Please note that all materials are available should anyone like to review my handouts or business documents.

Finally, I must say that witnessing the ordination of Dr. McPherson was by far one of the most moving celebrations I have been fortunate to attend. What was most significant and emotionally moving to me was hearing Kurt respond to the declarations, admonitions, and personal affirmations. The laying of the bishop's hand on Kurt's shoulders was like witnessing a walk with Christ in the truest sense. "No calling is more sacred and yet no privilege more meaningful." (Excerpt from Bishop Taylor's questions) The Methodist body was definitely standing on Holy Ground during that service. What a spectacle to behold for a lowly Christian like myself. I wish you could all have been there. But then you were --weren't you-- in my heart, in my heart.

Respectfully submitted,
Miriam Coffman
Lay Delegate





The Mt. Zion Choir Cookout

Welcome New Choir Director Amy Evans!

Amy Evans (front row, first on the left) is not new to the choir, but now replaces Amber who recently moved. Amy resides in Easley and currently enjoys substituting for Pickens and Anderson County School Districts. She also hosts two days each week at Copper River Grill in Easley. Amy received her B.A. in Music Education from Southern Wesleyan University in December 2010.

Anyone interested in joining the choir should contact her at amy.evans06@hotmail.com or call the church office at 639-2101.

God's invitation can be transforming. Every church and church family has an eternal "we must". Mt Zion United Methodist Church is a point on a map in the huge metropolis of Central, SC and is given God's invitation to have life and have it abundantly if we passionately spread the love of Jesus. This invitation not only can redeem and transform each of us, but can allow us the opportunity of giving to others regardless of race, sex, or social status. God's love is tangible. Our mission, our "must", is to spread authentic faith. We must change intangible beliefs into the personal touch of the Christian heart and hand. The communities of Central and Clemson should know we mean business.

Our passion as a people and a church must be seen in our practices. We must demonstrate humility and relish in the fact that we need God. Nothing comes alone. No power or resource can facilitate growth without the Spirit. We must practice what Kurt preaches. Dr. McPherson reminds us weekly that our loving, friendly dispositions represent the Christian practice. We should all be greeters. God also did not tell his people to sit back and wait to see what happens. He spoke and people listened. His guidance will allow this to happen if we create and act. John Wesley went to the people. In 1 Corinthians, Paul went to the people. The Good Samaritan stopped and initiated assistance.

We must remember that just as no person or action was beneath Jesus Christ, no person, need, or action is too menial for Mt. Zion United Methodist Church. We "must" take our passion to all people. The act of baptism has united us as brothers and sisters in Christ. Just as we visually and verbally commit to the newborns at the baptismal font, we are committed to each other and that provides an insurmountable advantage and strength. For instance, the children at Epworth are counting on their extended families to provide them survival. Donations of \$6 (six) provide care for a child at this home. They need us, and we can and must nurture and love these children and youth so that their lives can be forever changed. How can we lose with this simple yet oh so complex a contract?

The Wesleyan Way can and should be contagious to others. We live by faith and through God, all things are possible. The church can influence even the unknown. Our possibilities are limitless if we have the audacity to discuss faith openly and courageously. The lights through the Mt. Zion windows reflect and shine without a single spoken word to all those who travel beside her each day. What will we as a powerful group do with these reflections? We can and will be rewarded simply because of our faith, our actions, and our beliefs. Nothing comes to a sleeping Christian but a dream.

Conference continued my growth and learning as we discussed the changes required of the church in today's world. Congregations and pastors are now seen as partnerships with our work grounded in faith. Remember we have to have the audacity to be proud and display our faith. We have to stand on something; let it be the word of God. There are churches that are growing. Celebrate that Mt. Zion is one of them. Dr. McPherson continues to lead us through inspiration. But we must also continue to give him the freedom to establish visions for us, and trust him to lead us.

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Neil Smith and family in the death of his mother, Mary Smith.

Bonnie Littrell in the death of her father, Peter Harpin.

The family of George T. Reid, Sr.

The family of Betty Washnok.



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



We will be joining with Lawrence Chapel UMC to have our VBS on July 17-21. It will be held at Lawrence Chapel from 5:30-8:00 p.m. We will begin each night with a light supper and then follow with the evening's activities. The theme this year is "Shake It Up—Where Kids Carry Out God's Recipe".

Mt. Zion will be responsible for serving the supper some of the nights. We are looking for help with the Bible School and we could use help in the kitchen also. If you are able to help in any way, please contact Elizabeth Bowman or Libba Carson.



BIRTHDAYS in July:

Tyler Ferguson (1); Vicki Miesbauer (2); Les Jones (8); Wes Witcher (9); Libba Carson (11); Braelin Cumbie (13); Paige Evatt (19); Nelson Rice (27); Ann Wilbanks (28); Sonny Sims (29); Al Cumbie (30); Sharon Chandler (31)

BIRTHDAYS in August:

Sherrie Youngblood (6); Kyle Owens (7); Larry Wingard (11); Elizabeth Bowman (12); Helen Singleton (16); Sheila Malmgren (17); Ginger Allen (21); Christine McAlister (23); Chandler Coffman (31)

ANNIVERSARIES in July:

Dick & Helen Singleton (2); Kris & Elizabeth Bowman (13); Charles & Pam Baker (22)

ANNIVERSARIES in August:

Bill & Libba Carson (2); Wayne & Miriam Coffman (3); Mike & Catherine Ferguson (5); Dean & Elizabeth Finley (5); Chris & Kathy O'Dell (28)

Please contact the church office (639-2101) if you have been omitted or incorrectly listed. Belated best wishes to the following on their special day.

Birthday:

Benji Cumbie—May 5th
Isaiah Mullinax—June 17th

Anniversary:

Benji and Heather Cumbie—June 5th

Knit and Crochet Circle

Meeting weekly downstairs during the summer on Wednesdays



at 7:30 p.m. Find a fun project and join us as your schedule allows. Please see Lillie

McPherson if you have any questions.

Freedom isn't free...please pray for those in the military.

**Amada Chivers
Jordan Cox
Derek McDonald
Van Mullinax
Chris Smith**

**Wayne Smith
Chris Schwartz
Chris Trumbower
Josh Trumbower
Travis Wilbanks
John Youngblood, Jr.**

