



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

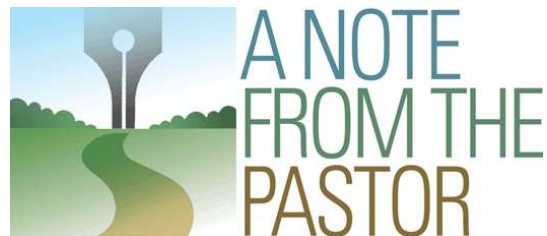
I recently shared in a sermon that when I was first appointed to Mt. Zion there was some trepidation within me about the appointment. I want to say now that I can't imagine myself anywhere else. I continue to be energized about where we are headed as a church and the things we have been able to accomplish.

As I am writing this, we have just finished worshipping under a tent for Easter! I was nervous and excited about worshipping in the Fellowship Hall and a tent while we are out of the sanctuary, but in some small ways I think this has been good for the church. I have heard a number of people share how they feel a stronger bond with others in the church since we have had a more intimate worship setting. We will soon, sometime in April, be back in the sanctuary. It is my hope that this feeling of closeness continues when we get back to the sanctuary.

I told you in the last Newsletter that we had set some goals and that we were going to talk about more extensively in the future. Well now is that time. We are going to turn our focus towards attaining the three goals we have set in children's ministry, missions, and congregational involvement. We will begin to look down the road and see what it is God has planned for us. This work will require all of us to accomplish the goals, but my hope is that we can all do this together. I hope that when faced with a chance to serve and follow the call of God that we as a church and individuals may respond like Isaiah did and say "Here am I, send me."

In Christ,

Gene



May is Older Adult Month

The Grapevine would like to recognize Mt. Zion's homebound members in this issue. Although they are unable to attend church any more, they keep up by way of the Sunday worship bulletin, this newsletter, and visits and calls from members. Please make a special effort to remember them soon. They have blessed us with their wisdom, mentorship, and grace in many ways...for many years.

Catherine Carson, Bill Clayton, Bobby Garrett, Golda Noblitt, Frances Reid

The following is taken from the poem "Beatitudes for Friends of the Aged" by Ester Mary Walker. It was printed in a Mt. Zion church bulletin January, 1990.

Blessed are they with a cheery smile, who stopped to chat for a little while.

Blessed are they who know the ways, to bring back memories of yesterdays.

Blessed are they who make it known, that I'm loved, respected and not alone.

Isaiah 46:4 (NIV)

⁴Even to your old age and gray hairs I am He, I am He who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.

Watch the bulletin for upcoming **RAPPers** activity. Although many of those participating are **Really Adult People**, they aren't necessarily senior citizens. Have a suggestion for an outing? Contact Kristine Reeves (639-6918).



“Gospel Singing” Sunday, April 17, from 3:00-5:00 p.m. at Nell Hobson Newton Chapel on the campus of Southern Wesleyan University. Come listen to inspirational music by some of the area's finest gospel choirs. This free event is part of the Clemson Music Festival. For more information go to: www.clemsonbluesfest.org



Birthdays:

April: Ron Nonnenberg (1), Nate Six (1), Robert Arrowood (19), Miriam Coffman (21), Aubrey Mullinax (23), Wayne Coffman (25), Myra Armistead (29), Lance Daum (29), Jan Miller (30).

May: Catherine Ferguson (5), Larry Wingard (5), Eileen Nonnenberg (7), Benji Cumbie (8), Terry Handegan (12), David Bullock (13), Dave Amidon (14), Robert Allen (15), Jill Sims (18), Lucy Gelder (23), Cindy Owens (24), Cooper Koiniskie (25), Stan Owens (27), Mary Nichols (30).

Anniversaries:

April: Al & Susan Cumbie (7)



May: Ansel & Sharon Miller (11), Drew & Ashley Gelder (26)



Baptism:

Abigail Laine Wingard (Abby) was baptized on Sunday, February 21st. The daughter of David and Allison Wingard, she is the granddaughter of Lane & Jan Miller and Larry & Gail Wingard.



Our thoughts and prayers to the families of:

Sheila Owens Malmgren, mother of Ashley Malmgren, wife of John Malmgren and sister of Stan Owens.

Dr. William H. Lee, father of Ginger Mullinax.



From the Age/Family Committee

- Elizabeth Bowman



The egg hunt and breakfast for the children was held on Palm Sunday! Thank you so much to our congregation for donating the eggs and our Age/Level Committee members for cooking breakfast.

Movie night Friday April 15 at 6:00

p.m.watching *Inside Out*. Pizza dinner will be served to everyone! Ages birth through 5th grade. Parents are invited too! Bring sleeping bags, pillows, blankets, or beanbag chairs!



**Clemson UMC will host Family Promise on these dates:
May 15-22, September 18-25 and December 11-18.**

- Ashley Gelder

If you are interested in volunteering, Ashley Gelder can share orientation forms that were given at the training in February. You can also contact the Clemson UMC coordinators, Kirstin Goodenow at kristig@clemson.edu or Stefani Goodenow at sgoodeno@gmail.com to arrange a time for training. They have even offered to meet with new volunteers half an hour before their shift starts, if need be, to show you around. The biggest way we can help is by volunteering to spend time at the church while they host. Typically evening activity volunteer shifts are from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; overnight volunteers from 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. Saturday during the day can be any-time you are willing to come. Benji, Heather, Quint, and Braelin Cumbie along with Vicki Miesbauer participated when Family Promise visited Clemson UMC at the beginning of March.

Central Railroad Festival will take place from **10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturday, April 23.** All events take place on Main Street, are free and open to the public. Along with the food and entertainment, two museums within a block of Mt. Zion will be open to the public with no admission charge.



The **Central Railroad Museum** is the former home of the late B. E. Allen family. Mrs. Mattie May Morgan Allen is the author of *The Story of Mount Zion Methodist Church 1830-1967.* (WANTED: someone to write a sequel and bring us up to date.) The photo above shows one of the displays in a room of the Allen's home.

The **Central History Museum** is the former home of the Jephtha Morgan family. Both of these families were long-time members at Mount Zion. The photo to the left was taken in the living room of the Morgan house during a visit by the RAPPers.



Mount Zion's Men's Club will be serving their famous Bar-B-Q plates during the Railroad Festival at the church on the front lawn during lunch time on the April 23rd.



The Church Calendar

The following take place at the church unless otherwise indicated. In some cases more details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter and/or will be forthcoming in a church bulletin. Note that information for each Sunday's bulletin is due by 5:00 p.m. on the Wednesday before. Email the church at: mtzion@nctv.com with "bulletin" on subject line.

April

3—Men's Club, 8:30 a.m.

Bring nonperishables for Clemson Community Care

5—UMW Circles, 2:30 p.m.

Bible Study, 6:30 p.m. parsonage

6—Finance Committee, 7:00 p.m.

12—Bible Study, 6:30 p.m. parsonage

15—**Children's Movie Night**, 6:00 p.m. (see page 4)

19—Bible Study, 6:30 p.m. parsonage

23—**Central Railroad Festival**, Main Street; **Men's Club Bar-B-Q**

26—Bible Study, 6:30 p.m. parsonage



May

1—Men's Club

Bring nonperishables for Clemson Community Care

3—UMW Circles, 2:30 p.m.

Bible Study, 6:30 p.m. parsonage

5—National Day of Prayer

8—Mother's Day

10—Bible Study, 6:30 p.m. parsonage

15—Church Council, 3:00 p.m.

15-22—Family Promise at Clemson UMC

(see page 4)

17—Bible Study, 6:30 p.m. parsonage

24—Bible Study, 6:30 p.m. parsonage

29—Deadline for June/July newsletter

30—Memorial Day

31—Bible Study, 6:30 p.m. parsonage



Those Who Serve - Thank You!

Nursery

April:

- 3—Elizabeth Bowman & Catherine Ferguson
- 10—Jane Jones & Janet Crenshaw
- 17—Ginger Mullinax & Isaiah Mullinax
- 24—Libba Carson & Randy Martin

May:

- 1—Heather Cumbie & Benji Cumbie
- 8—Jan Miller & (help needed)
- 15— Libba Carson & Vicki Miesbauer
- 22—Sharon Chandler & Terri Lee
- 29—Karen Smith



Scripture Readers

April:

- 3—B. J. Skelton
- 10—Sharon Chandler
- 17—John Reeves
- 24—Elizabeth Finley

May:

- 1—Serena Miles
- 8—Lynn Martin
- 15—Benji Cumbie
- 22—B. J. Skelton
- 29—Sharon Chandler



Mt. Zion United Methodist Church
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Address Correction Requested



The United Methodist Church's top legislative body will meet at the Oregon Convention Center, the largest convention center in the Pacific Northwest, on **May 10-20, 2016**. **General Conference** is the top policy-making body of The United Methodist Church and meets once every four years. The conference can revise church law, as well as adopt resolutions on current moral, social, public policy and economic issues. It also approves plans and budgets for church-wide programs. The South Carolina Annual Conference is sending 8 laity and 8 clergy to the conference. Our own District Superintendent Susan Leonard-Ray is one of the delegates to the conference. I encourage you to be in prayer for those who are going to be there. I pray that God may guide their discussions and decisions. *Pastor Gene*