



The Grapevine



I am the vine, you are the branches

Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit." John 15:5

As I am writing this we are in the midst of our sermon series talking about the will of God. I have shared with you my reasons behind wanting to preach this sermon series. I have gotten more feedback from this series than any other sermon or series that I preached here at Mt. Zion. There is something about this subject that touches people and gets them thinking about how God works in the world.

God works in many ways some of which are easy to see and some which are mysterious. At times I think for our own comfort we would like to think that God has planned everything out and that all that is happening is going the way that God wants it to. It brings us comfort to think that God has done all of this, that our will and desires can't overcome what God intends. But the fact remains that our will, the free will that we celebrate, can interfere with the intentional will of God. It is a feeling that can leave us uncomfortable.

It can be painful for us to think that our actions can be the cause of harm for ourselves or someone else. Our thoughts and desires can be the cause of pain. I am someone who likes to please people. I love nothing more than to make people happy or bring a smile to their face. The idea that I can bring pain in this world is hard for me to wrap my head around. This is what we are faced with as we face Lent. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14th, which we will celebrate with Lawrence Chapel that night.

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New Born Arrival

Thomas Calvin Baker

Born on December 28, 2017

Parents are Brian & Katy Baker

Grandparents are Charles and Pam Baker (First Grand child)



...Music is well said to be the speech of angels.

Mt. Zion continues to have a wonderful group of children who love to sing for the church and perform appropriate seasonal skits. The choir meets at least twice a month following the children's moments on Sunday mornings. It is hard to believe that last Christmas was our third year in sharing our voices with the congregation. It seems just yesterday that Grayson and Quint did their first readings in front of the church, and we sang, "Jesus, What a Wonderful Child". Thank you parents for allowing your children to participate and helping with memorization and practice. Thank you Miriam Coffman for directing them!



HOMECOMING

Homecoming

We are excited to announce that we will have a Homecoming here at Mt. Zion on Sunday May 20th. We will celebrate in the 11:00 service with a meal following. Rev. Kurt McPherson will be returning to preach for us and hopefully some of the other former pastors will be joining us. We will be sending out a letter of invitation to all

current and former members who we have contact information for. We want you to personally invite as many current and former members to join us that Sunday. We will dig up the time capsule that was buried on grounds and open it that day. The Trustees will be working to make sure the building and grounds are in top shape for that weekend. We will have two Saturday's, April 7 and May 5, for all of us to come together to do some deep cleaning and trimming up the outside to make sure everything will be in the best shape for that Sunday. We will have more information coming in the future about details for the work days and Homecoming.

Back Door Project

We are continuing work on the back door of the church as we are building a covered walkway entry for that door. All of the framing work is done. We are in the process of getting the new sidewalk poured. In the next couple of weeks we will have some rock work done on each of the posts to match the rock work on the outside of the church. We will also have some electrical wires run in order to be able to have light under the walkway and at the end of the walkway. We hope this will make the back door safer, dryer, and more attractive for the church.





Feb Birthdays

Grayson Bowman 1st
 Peggy Bodie 2nd
 Dixie Cloninger 2nd
 Bill Carson 3rd
 Katie Ferguson 3rd
 Will Mullinax 3rd
 Cherylene Amidon 10th
 Gene Aiken 14th
 Taylor Ray 15th
 Logan Rice 16th
 Trent Allen 20th
 Virginia Norwood 22nd
 Mac McWilliams 24th

Mar Birthdays

Karen Martin 5th
 Neil Smith 8th
 Abigail Wingard 9th
 John Reeves 11th
 Mike Ferguson 18th
 Dot Johnston 24th
 Kaitlyn Green 24th
 Allison Wingard 25th
 Scott Smith 28th
 Elizabeth Finley 28th
 Johnnie Walker 29th

Mar Anniversaries

John & Kristine Reeves 8th
 Trent & Ginger Allen 13th
 Ron & Eileen Nonnenberg 21
 David & Chery Amidon 27th
 Scott & Karen Smith 30th



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. Events take place at the church unless otherwise indicated. Note that information for each Sunday's bulletin is due by 5:00p.m. on the Wednesday before. Email the church at: mtzion@nctv.com with "bulletin" on the subject line.



February 4th - Men's Club. Breakfast at 8:30 a.m.

February 7th - UMW, 2:30 p.m. Please Join us for our monthly meeting and lesson. We will be making plans for our annual Valentine Meal.

February 11th - Pot luck, Valentine Meal immediately following 11a.m. worship service. Everyone is invited. (see page 7 & 9)

February 14th - Pancake Supper and Ash Wednesday Service @ LCUMC

February 16th - Southern Wesleyan University Concert @ 7p.m.

February 20th - RAPpers (Really Adult People) first meeting at 12:00 noon at the Village Bakery (see page 7)



March 4th - UMM Pancake Breakfast

March 11th - Daylight Savings time begins

March 18th - "Save the Date" Church wide pot-luck

March 25th - Palm Sunday

March 29th - Holy Thursday Service @ LCUMC

March 30th - Good Friday Service @ Mt Zion

Nursery Workers

February

4th Elizabeth Bowman/Catherine Ferguson

11th Jane Jones/ Janet Crenshaw

18th Help Needed

25th Libba Carson/ Randy Martin



March

4th Heather/Benji Cumbie

11th Jan Miller/Vicki Miesbauer

18th Ashley/Drew Gelder

25th Haley Lee /Terri Lee

Children's Sunday School Teachers

Children's Sunday Schedule 2018

February

Sharon Chandler and Beth McWilliams

Terry Lee and Elizabeth Finley

March

Katie Aiken and Heather Cumbie

Help Needed

Annual Valentine Meal

The **UMW** will be sponsoring its annual **Valentine Meal – A Traditional Pot Luck Covered Dish Dinner** on **Sunday, February 11 immediately following the worship service.** Everyone is invited to attend this fun time of fellowship with the great food



that Methodist women (and men) are known for. It takes all of your contributions to ensure this Valentine's celebration is a success! This meal is being sponsored by the UMW as a fund-raising event for missions, but we need your help. We won't be able to provide meat, so we desperately need your hearty casseroles, pasta, and vegetable dishes. This is one of our favorite meals of the year. **LET US SHARE THE LOVE!** Invite a neighbor or friend

to join us. Donations will be accepted and proceeds will go towards UMW mission work.

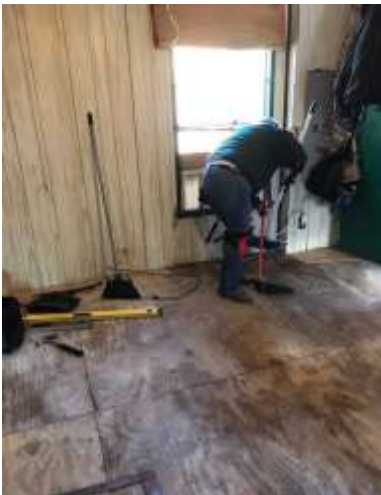
RAPpers Meeting

The RAPpers will have their first meeting of the year on February 20th at 12:00 noon at the Village Bakery and Café in Pendleton. Each person will pay for their own meal. There will be a program after the meal. Guest speaker is Carol Ward a retired English professor from Clemson University.





If you are interested in attending a Salkehatchie Summer Service, but don't have a week to give or the summer to go, another opportunity is currently available in South Carolina and possibly Puerto Rico in the near future. Individuals and teams from within and outside of the state have been working for more than two years helping families whose homes were devastated by the historic flooding of 2015, Hurricane Matthew in 2016 and Irma in 2017. These efforts go on year round. Mt. Zion member Sharon Miller joined a team in Georgetown, SC for three days in early January replacing flooring in a mobile home. The group of 20 was from First United Methodist Church in Chambersburg, PA. They were housed at Trinity UMC in Andrews, SC. Teams of 2-5 were repairing and/or rebuilding in three counties. A range of skills are needed, especially construction. Sharon was mainly a "gofor", but also carried trash and swept. In the photos here you see a bedroom floor after removing the old flooring and her delivering sections of tile to hose laying it. A corner of the new floor is to her right.



How else can you help? Please pray for the safety of those providing relief efforts. Donations to the South Carolina Disaster Response efforts are an ongoing need. For more information about Disaster Recovery Ministries visit: www.umcsc.org/screcovery. To volunteer email: nulmer@umcsc.org





Online Donation

Please remember you can make contributions to the church online. Just go to our website www.mtzioncentral.org, scroll down, and click on the WELCOME icon with the Methodist cross and flame. You can make a one time donation or schedule donations weekly or monthly. You can also specify for funds to go to our general

operations or to the United Methodist Women/Men. This is a great way to make sure your tithe is not missed when you have to miss a Sunday. Thanks for all your contributions!

Bishop's Days

Feb 24th at Clemson UMC, 9 a.m. Bishop L. Jonathan Holston has invited all local church leadership teams to spend a morning with him, thinking about how we equip our congregations to walk faithfully into God's vision for God's church.



The **flower calendar** that is located in the hallway on the wall next to the choir room has empty slots available. You can provide flowers from your own garden or from a local florist to honor or in memory of that special person.



CLEMSON COMMUNITY CARE

There will be a benefit concert for Clemson Community Care on February 16th at 7:00 at the Newton-Hobson Auditorium on the Southern Wesleyan Campus. Dr. Campbell has gathered some choirs from local area churches as well as the Southern Wesleyan University Singers to

perform an evening of music. This event is FREE but an offering will be collected and the proceeds will go to Clemson Community Care. Having attended this event in the past, I can say that this is a great event. It would be a fun outing for a group as well. The choirs will be announced soon. Vicki Miesbauer



REBUILD UPSTATE

We will be working with Rebuild Upstate to plan another work day to volunteer with this organization. The work day last year was a great success. Watch for the date for this event and get your tool belts ready.

FAMILY PROMISE

Mt. Zion has committed to be a support church for Clemson Methodist when they host Family Promise, the Pickens County program for homeless families. There are many opportunities to help with this from adding to a meal, providing breakfast, spending the night, weekend entertaining, set up and break down and laundry. Think of ways you may be able to serve this mission. The weeks we need to help are the weeks of: April 22th, June 3rd, August 26th, November 25th.



We are entering a 40 day period of self-examination where we take a hard look at our life. At least that is the call for us. Many of us will give up something for Lent or we will try to take time to focus more on God. Ash Wednesday is a reminder for us of our brokenness of our humanity. It is a reminder that our will does not always coincide with the intentional will of God. We are meant to spend time in preparation for Easter to remember that we are broken, to remember that sometimes we allow evil to win, to remember that we fall short of the mark God sets for us, to remember we sin. We should take a look at our lives and see where our sin is, admit where it is, and then begin to work on conforming our will more to God's intentional will.

Lent does not end there though, just as God's will does not end with just intention. God's will ends with resurrection, with the ultimate will of God, which is reconciliation. It is my hope that our journey in Lent begins with understanding how we fall short of the intentional will of God, but that we end with celebrating that God is always at work and that God's ultimate will can and will still be accomplished.



**In Christ,
Gene**

Our sympathy to the family of George Schaller who passed away on January 20th, John Malmgren upon the death of his brother, Mark Malmgren, who passed away December 29th. To the family of Frances Snipes who passed away on January 30th.



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Address Correction Requested

Happy
Valentine's
Day

