



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

Pastor Jim's W.I.R.E.D. Thoughts

I'm not sure about you, but I don't typically like new beginnings. Once I'm into "the beginning" I start to be OK with it; but at the beginning of the new beginning, it has a way of wiggling me out (that means, I can get pretty stressed). I doubt I'm the only one that tends to have that reaction.

We all are faced with new beginnings constantly in our lives. We even make a big deal every year about having "a new beginning" with the New Year; but, in truth, there really isn't anything physically new about going from one year to another, from moving out of 2013 into 2014. But, emotionally and spiritually, it can have a great deal of significance. A new year can serve as a new opportunity for us to decide to do some things differently, to make important changes in our lives, or our finances, or in the way we eat or live.

Truth is, everyday we have that opportunity to have a new beginning in our lives. That's what comes to my mind every time I read in Romans 12:1 about giving myself as a "living and holy sacrifice" to God. A sacrifice is something you offer up, let go of, and, if it's "living," well then, it must be something more than once, right? To me, that means, a new beginning.

Scripture tells us that we are a new creation, the old has gone and the new has come, through Christ. A new beginning, a chance to start over, a chance to learn from our past and to make changes in the present so that we will live better in the future. As Christians, and a church, isn't that how we are to go about living our lives and functioning as a church, committed to allow Christ to "change" us and make us new? Isn't that one of the ways we glorify God and, in return, He brings glory to us? (See 1 Thessalonians 1:11-12)

Every time a church goes through the transition of getting a new pastor, they are given another opportunity to have a new beginning, to go deeper in allowing God to make changes and adjustments in how that church goes about bringing glory to God. And for the new pastor, well, trust me, it's a new beginning for him/her as well. Change is never easy, but usually (even most often) necessary for God to continue shaping his people so that they can better bring glory to Him.

As we move into 2014 and go on this journey together, let us determine and commit to one another that we will be open to God's leading as His people, and live for Him. As Paul put it: "So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for Him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what He wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you." (Rom 12:1-2, the Message)

Mount Zion United Methodist Women News



Cherylene Amidon, Myra Armistead, and Kristine Reeves at St. Mark's UMC in Seneca.

The Anderson District United Methodist Women held their annual **Officers' Training session on December 7, 2013** at St. Mark United Methodist Church in Seneca, SC. Rev. Calvin L. Smith, pastor of Central UMC and Bethel UMC in Pendleton was the guest speaker. Our leadership team officers in attendance were: Elizabeth Finley, President; Kristine Reeves, Vice-President; Cherylene Amidon, Treasurer; Sharon Chandler, Secretary, and Myra Armistead, Chair Nominations.



Joint Christmas Pro- ject

The Eloise Gaines and Dolly Brock circles met at the **Sidetrack Café** in Central on December 11, 2013 for a joint December meeting.

This year's project was to collect "Christmas" fleece blankets for the Helping Hands children. We met our goal of collecting 25 blankets so that the children could



Elizabeth Finley and Irene Buchanan count the blankets for the Helping Hands children.

January Birthdays:

Irene Buchannan (3), John Weston Reeves (7), Buddy Evatt (13), Julie Sarasua (17), Ava Rae Six (17), Bobby Garrett (18), Charles Baker (19), Nancy Rice (21), Heather Cumbie (23), Quint Cumbie (23), Amanda Mullinax (26), Ashley Malmgren (29)

February Birthdays:

Peggy Bodie (2), Bill Carson (3), Katie Ferguson (3), Will Mullinax (3), Cherylene Amidon (10), Grayson Bowman (11), Jeremy Sarasua (14), Logan Rice (16), Trent Allen (20), Virginia Norwood (22), Lamar Gibson (28), David Wingard (28), Rea Romberg (29)

January Anniversaries:

Les & Jane Jones (10), Larry and Gail Wingard (26)



Congratulations to:

Myra Armistead and Cory Dodgens
upon the completion of their musical composition: "God Is Good" which is being submitted for publication.

Elizabeth Finley *whose photo of a mourning dove appears in the January-February issue of South Carolina Wildlife magazine.*

John and Kristine Reeves *upon the birth of their second granddaughter, Maya Ruth on December 16th to John Weston and Jenny Reeves.*

Mount Zion members *for outstanding stewardship. You have paid 100% of apportioned funds ("our fair share") to the South Carolina Conference for 2013.*

Thank YOU! Thanks Be To God!

COMMITTEE ON LAY LEADERSHIP – Chair: Pastor, Jim Elder

2014

Helen Singleton
Ansel Miller

2015

Dean Finley
Steve Lee
John Reeves

2016

Bill Carson
Sharon Chandler

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE – Chair: Terry Handegan

On SPRC by virtue of their position: Lay Leader – Dean Finley and
Lay Delegate to Annual Conference – Sharon Chandler

2014

Gail Wingard
Chris O'Dell

2015

David Bullock
Trent Allen

2016

Terry Handegan
Drew Gelder

TRUSTEES – Chair: Ed Martin

2014

Drew Gelder
Ed Martin

2015

Lane Miller
Jill Sims
Karen Smith

2016

Jerry Chandler
Al Cumbie

AGE/LEVEL FAMILY COMMITTEE – Co-Chairs: Libba Carson, Elizabeth Bowman

Wayne Coffman
Catherine Ferguson
Ashley Gelder

Jan Miller
Janet Crenshaw
Randy Martin

Jane Jones
Heather Cumbie
Sara Sarasua

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE – Chair: Sam Blackman

Randy Martin
Elizabeth Bowman
Vicki Miesbauer

Kris Bowman
Ashley Gelder

Heather Elder
Elizabeth Finley

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE – Chair: Sherrie Youngblood

Myra Armistead
Karen Smith
Sheila Malmgren

Cindy Owens
Bonnie Littrell
Elizabeth Bowman (Bereavement)

GROUNDS COMMITTEE – Chair: Mary Handegan

Scott Smith
Bill Carson

Drew Gelder
David Amidon

PARSONAGE COMMITTEE – Chair: Pam Baker

Terry Handegan
Miriam Coffman

Eileen Nonnenberg
Ginger Allen

Elaine Bullock
Wes Witcher

Mount Zion Committees ~ 2014 ~

WORSHIP COMMITTEE – Chair: Gail Wingard

Kristine Reeves (Flower Coordinator)
Vicki Miesbauer (Communion Coordinator)
Amy Evans (Music Director)

Benji Cumbie
Chris O'Dell
Elizabeth Finley

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE – Chair: Pastor, Jim Elder

Cherylene Amidon (Bulletin) Sharon Miller (Newsletter) Sharon Chandler (Website)

LAY LEADER - Dean Finley

LAY DELEGATE TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE - Sharon Chandler

RESERVE LAY DELEGATE TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE - Miriam Coffman

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY – Sharon Chandler

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Chair: Charles Baker

Treasurer: Miriam Coffman
Member at Large: Larry Wingard

On Finance Committee by virtue of their position:

Lay Delegate to Annual Conference: Sharon Chandler

Chairperson of Church Council: John Malmgren

Chairperson of Staff/Parish Relations Committee: Terry Handegan

Chairperson of Trustees: Ed Martin

Lay Leader: Dean Finley

Pastor: Jim Elder

CHURCH COUNCIL – Chair: John Malmgren

Recording Secretary – Sharon Chandler

Member at Large – Sonny Sims

Youth Representative – Mason Sims

On Church Council by virtue of their position:

UMW President – Elizabeth Finley

UMM President – Benji Cumbie

SPRC Chair – Terry Handegan

Finance Chair – Charles Baker

Trustees Chair – Ed Martin

Treasurer – Miriam Coffman

Lay Delegate to Annual Conference – Sharon Chandler

Age Level/Family Ministries Co-Chairs – Libba Carson, Elizabeth Bowman

Lay Leader – Dean Finley

Hospitality Chair – Sherrie Youngblood

Evangelism Chair – Sam Blackman

Worship Chair – Gail Wingard

Parsonage Committee Chair – Pam Baker

Grounds Committee Chair – Mary Handegan

Pastor – Jim Elder

Remembering in our thoughts and prayers:

David Rice and family in the death of his mother, **Frances Rice**.

Virginia Norwood upon the death of her sister, Essie D. Lewis.

The **family of Rev. Ernest Heape**. Rev. Heape served Mt. Zion from 1950-1953. He is survived by his wife, Linda Gladden Heape and three sons.

The **family of Dorothy Peach Reese**. She is survived by her husband, Rev. Fred Reese, three sons and two daughters. Rev. Reese served Mt. Zion from 1957-1962.



Mailboxes for all Mt Zion Committees, Circles, Choir Director, etc., as well as the pastor, are located in the church office. Anyone may communicate via this route. Committee Chairs, etc. are encouraged to check their mailbox regularly.

New in the church library: **THE CROSS**, a DVD of the message from Billy Graham which was broadcast last fall. Even if you saw it on TV, you might want to borrow this for the bonus material included on the DVD.



The **2014 Flower Calendar** is located in the hall through the door next to the organ. At present, all Sundays are open except for the first two in January and Easter Sunday (April 20th). If you would like to provide flowers to the glory of God and in honor/memory of someone on a specific Sunday please indicate so on that date. A special thanks to everyone who contributed poinsettias. Contact Kristine Reeves at 639-6918 with any questions.



How many of us enjoyed this season's lovely Chrismon tree? Now, how many of us could take on the job of getting a 9' fir tree into its place? This involves: driving out to the tree farm, loading up a fir and hauling it to the church, taking a tree stand and hammering its spike lengthwise into the trunk (to repeat: hammering a spike into the trunk), rushing said 9' fir upstairs to the sanctuary, setting it upright, supplying plenty of water to a large and thirsty plant, and climbing a ladder to string lights evenly around the branches.

This huge job gets done each year under the leadership of John Reeves. In 2013, John had the able assistance of Allan Bomar, Chris O'Dell, and Scott Smith. These men, and other assistants through the years, do their work at the exact appointed time, no matter what other pressing matters may crowd their schedules. Gentlemen, we thank each one of you for the work you always perform so faithfully and so well!

Myra Armistead



The children of the church assist Elizabeth Finley with transporting the **Operation Christmas Child** (OCC) shoeboxes to the altar for dedication during the worship service on Sunday, Nov. 17th. From there, 59 boxes went by car to the processing center located at the Samaritan's Purse International Headquarters in Boone, NC. Sharon Chandler and Kristine Reeves helped unload them on Nov. 19th. See [http://www.mtzioncentral.org/](http://www.mtzioncentral.org/OperationChristmasChild.php)

[OperationChristmasChild.php](http://www.mtzioncentral.org/OperationChristmasChild.php) for more photos and details about packing your box for next year. All boxes processed at the Boone facility this year were heading to **Africa**. When delivered, each child will receive a book in his/her native language which explains the good news of Jesus Christ. Thanks especially to Sharon Chandler and ALL who helped this year.



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

Save the Dates:

January 5th—Men's Breakfast, 8:30 a.m. at the church.

6th—Epiphany

7th—UMW Leadership Team, 9:30 a.m. at the church.

7th—Eloise Gaines Circle meeting, 10:30 a.m. at the church.

9th—Prayer Breakfast, 9:00 a.m. at Dyar's Restaurant, Pendleton.

(Note the new date is the SECOND Thursday each month.)

13th—Dolly Brock Circle meeting, 2:30 p.m. at the church.



But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

2 Peter 3:18 (NRSV)