

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church
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The Grapevine
Mount Zion United Methodist Church
Central, South Carolina

"I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit."

John 15:5

Farewell Sunday

On Sunday, June 23, our congregation bid farewell to our pastor, Kurt McPherson, and his family (Lillie, PJ, and Sophie). John Reeves and Charles Baker gave remarks; and Vicki Miesbauer presented Kurt with a gift from the congregation. The special music and presentations made for a bittersweet worship service.



One of the special music presentations was the "Jesus Loves Me Cup Song" performed by Sophie, Paige, Amy, and Melissa.



A special closing hymn, **Go Light Up Your World**, featured solos by Kathy O'Dell and Alan Bomar.



*Happy
Fourth
of
July*

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. (NIV)

Galatians 5:1



Our congregation always takes a few minutes to greet one another.

A covered dish luncheon, following the worship service, was enjoyed by everyone as we bid Kurt, Lillie, PJ, and Sophie farewell.



Phillipians 1:3

I thank my God every time I remember you.
[NIV]

Lay Representative Annual Conference Report (Continued from page 10)

Points of interest involved the amount of funding provided to the Special Ministries the UMC supports. The conference actually voted to write a check immediately for \$5000 per ministry to the 15 different groups we support using “left over funds”. A few of these ministries include The Alston Wilkes Society, Rural Mission, Inc., and Killingsworth, Inc. A complete listing of additional groups is available in conference material should you care to review it. Immigration reform was once again a topic of concern since both governmental agencies and religious affiliated groups have such varied opinions as to how to alleviate or rectify this situation. We were urged to get involved and become knowledgeable regarding this issue.

Important information regarding the UMC Credit Union was also shared. The Credit Union is now available to any Methodist Church member for various loans. They can be reached in Columbia at (803) 532-8814 or SCMCCU.org.

In closing, I must say that witnessing Dr. McPherson’s ordination was a blessed event. He has worked so hard, and I finally am able to say “Well done, my good and faithful servant.” Congratulations to him and his family on a journey complete. I know it has been trying, tedious, and taxing, but he is irrevocably finished. Hallelujah, AMEN. And we all say, “Amen!”

Respectfully submitted,

Miriam Coffman

Lay Representative to Annual Conference



Welcome to Mount Zion

The congregation wishes to extend a warm welcome to our new pastor, Jim Elder, and his wife, Heather. They are coming to us from Zion UMC in Lancaster, SC. Jim is a third generation minister. Jim and Heather are the proud parents of Haley, Cassie and Jonathan.

We look forward to getting to know our new pastor and his family. Reverend Elder will be preaching his first sermon on Sunday, June 30.

Lay Representative Annual Conference Report (Continued from page 9)

if “we were up for the challenge” of being these disciples? Many times this question was hurled with fiery tongue and loud proclamation. While other times, he simply looked you in the eye, figuratively speaking of course, and dared to probe. Your unspoken response typically brought emotion and humbleness regardless of his method of delivery.

Bible Study involved a daily walk through history for a woman of the Bible by Dr. Vivian Fowler, Vice President of Academic Affairs at Wesleyan College. Her focus was to help us discern how the life of a woman was totally dependent on her family, spouse, and the dowry she possessed. Dr. Fowler’s delivery was emotional and forthcoming with intricate details of a female such as Elizabeth in the book of Luke and the women referred to throughout Deuteronomy. Needless to say, life was never easy for the females of a home or family. Dr. Fowler summed up their life by praying, “I don’t understand faith, but I have it. I do not understand Jesus, but I love him.” I hope these vows ring true for each of us in our walk to be disciples of Jesus Christ through our living, giving, and serving regardless of being male or female.

On a business note, the pension plans, and changes to retirement and insurance discussed in depth last year were much improved as a result of the many heated declarations made at the 2012 conference. The voices were definitely heard and the committee worked diligently to meet the budget while solving coverage issues for all positions within the clergy. One specific change is that deductible amounts were raised rather than totally eliminating coverage for specific retirees or part time clergy. Part time ministers do have changes, but are not totally eliminated from pension plans or insurance options as previously planned.

Bishop Holston’s experience and demeanor were definitely felt during the resolution presentations of the business meetings. He would constantly remind members that we were in attendance in Christian faith and constantly interjected precisely delivered humor and light heartedness. He never allowed debates or discussions to become a contest of wit or language. In the past, the number of words one used to describe or debate an issue often muddied the water, and left participants wondering what the original issue really had been. Bishop Holston has a dynamic personality, larger than average presence, and he uses these attributes to manage and encourage others with “pizzazz”. Can’t say that I have used that word to describe Annual Conference before, have I?

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Sacrament of Baptism

Ava Rae Six, four month old daughter of Nate and Sarah Six, was baptized on Mother’s Day, May 12, 2013, by our pastor, Kurt McPherson.

In attendance that day were Ava’s brother, Charlie; her maternal grandparents, Al and Susan Drexler; her paternal grandparents, David and Cindy Six; and her great-grandmother, Rae Romberg.



Allison Kay Mullinax, nine month old daughter of Will and Amanda Mullinax, was baptized on Sunday, June 16, 2013, by Rev. Kurt McPherson. In attendance were Allison’s sister, Aubrey Mullinax; her paternal grandparents, Van and Ginger Mullinax; her uncle, Isaiah Mullinax; her aunt, Lora Mullinax; and her maternal grandparents, Spann and Vicky Cathcart.



United Methodist Women News



On Saturday, May 4, the United Methodist Women hosted a Ladies Spring Luncheon. The theme, "These Women ARE the REAL THING!", was carried out with red "STAR" balloons

fastened to small glass Coca-Cola bottles. The star shaped balloons and red table covers made a very festive dining hall.



Cherylene Amidon, Ann Wilbanks, Virginia Norwood, and Pam Baker, visiting before the meeting.

The food was prepared by the ladies of all three of the circles. As usual, there was enough food to feed an army. Everyone enjoyed the presentations, great food, music, the speaker, and the fellowship.



VBS—Our Joint Vacation Bible School with Lawrence Chapel UMC took place from June 23-26 at Lawrence Chapel UMC. There were 45 children in attendance from the ages of 4 to 18.

Pictured are Amy Evans, Katie Ferguson, Paige Evatt, and Libba Carson. A special thank you to Elizabeth Bowman and Libba Carson for organizing our participation and to all those who volunteered to make this year's VBS a success!



Lay Representative Annual Conference Report

My first reflection of being a part of the 2013 United Methodist Annual Conference needs to be WOW. What a difference a new bishop can make. Please remember that each year's collection of facts, decisions, voting precedents, and worship objectives are unique. So, I must say that Bishop Jonathan Holston has definitely created a new energy and excitement within the South Carolina United Methodist world.

The first night of worship brought an introduction to one of Bishop Holston's primary goals for all of us. He explained that the laity involves children, youth, young adults, adults, and senior citizens, and that "Until all are healed, fed, or clothed- we have work to do." Our mission is to help people become disciples of Jesus Christ and to "dream God size dreams". This goal was referred to throughout the conference as a steppingstone to what we as individuals and Christian groups need to strive for. Bishop Holston constantly asked each of us
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Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays in July: Tyler Ferguson (1), Vicki Miesbauer (2), Les Jones (8), Sam Blackman (9), Wes Witcher (9), Libba Carson (11), Braelin Cumbie (14), Paige Evatt (19), Sonny Sims (20), Tommy Still (24), Nelson Rice (27), Ann Wilbanks (28), Al Cumbie (30), Sharon Chandler (31).

Birthdays in August: Sherrie Youngblood (6), Kyle Owens (7), Amy Evans (9), Larry Wingard (11), Elizabeth Bowman (12), Steve Lee (13), Kathy O'Brien (15), Helen Singleton (16), Alicia Buchanan (17), Sheila Malmgren (17), Ginger Allen (21), Christine McAlister (23), Chandler Coffman (31).

Anniversaries in July: Dick & Helen Singleton (2), Kris & Elizabeth Bowman (13), Tommy & Kathy Still (21), Charles & Pam Baker (22).

Anniversaries in August: Bill & Libba Carson (2), Wayne & Miriam Coffman (3), Mike & Catherine Ferguson (5), Dean & Elizabeth Finley (5), Bill & Alicia Buchanan (12), Chris & Kathy O'Dell (28)



Our sympathy is extended to the families of:

- ✝ Hal Garrett
- ✝ Shirley Kolp

Catherine Carson (Dolly Brock Circle) and Dot Wilbanks (Eloise Gaines Circle) were presented with **Special Mission Recognition Pins** given to each of them by their respective circles. Both Catherine and Dot have been dedicated, loyal members and active participants in church and UMW activities for many years.



Unit President, Elizabeth Finley, and Dolly Brock Circle's honoree, Catherine Carson.



Dot Wilbanks, Eloise Gaines Circle Honoree, receives her corsage.



Sharon Miller and Virginia Norwood were each presented with a "thank you" gift from the unit acknowledging their many years of service to the UMW.

Sharon stepped down from her position as president last year and Virginia is

stepping down from her office as treasurer.



Our pastor's wife, Lillie McPherson, was given a corsage and Pam Baker presented her with a gift from our unit as a memento of her four years at Mount Zion. Lillie, Kurt, and their children P.J. and Sophie, will be missed. They are moving to a new charge in Cheraw, SC.



Lillie McPherson receiving her corsage.



Pam Baker presenting Lillie with a gift from our unit.

Lastly, we wish to thank two others, our choir director, Amy Evans, and our guest speaker, Carolyn Briscoe. Amy sang a lovely solo and Carolyn spoke about mission work in Africa.



The United Methodist Women's organization is looking forward to the new 2013-2016 UMW Handbook, which will contain updated rules and policies for the National, State, District and Local organizations. Once received, Mt. Zion's UMW will be reevaluating our by-laws and policies. The new year

for UMW begins the first day of September, and I hope all our national and local programs will be in place.

The Mattie Mae Allen Circle is our one group of women organized to meet at night. It was formed with the working woman in mind. Our present group is in the process of reorganizing and leaving the United Methodist Women; but the Mattie Mae Allen Circle is still a circle under the UMW of Mt. Zion. There is a critical need for someone to take on the leadership role of this group.

When I took on the leadership role of the failing Eloise Gaines Circle, there was one active member, Dot Wilbanks. It took just a short while to build this circle back up. They have become the most supportive and loving group of women. The same re-emergence may be done for the Mattie Mae Allen Circle.

A leader may be a non-member wanting to join, a member of another circle wanting to branch out and take on responsibility, or a member of the existing Mattie Mae Allen Circle. It only takes two to get a great group re-united. New ideas on when and where to meet are always an option.

If you have the desire to lead and build this group, please contact me. There are many of us that will gladly mentor you in this process. Just grab a friend or two, and let's get started!

Most sincerely,

Elizabeth Finley, President UMW