



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

It is good at times to sit back and take stock of where you are in life and where you have been. I want to take that time now to look at where we are as a church and look back over where we have been in the past year. I have been here almost a year now and we have done a lot in that year.

One of the pieces of advice that pastors often get is to not change anything in a new appointment for 6 months and then do small things only for the first year. I think I blew that idea out of the water with the change in the sanctuary. We came together to improve and enhance the sanctuary and make it more accessible for people as well as more functional. I think we accomplished both things. In the midst of all of the construction some really great things happened. I have heard a lot of members talk about how they liked worshiping in the Fellowship Hall and how that intimate space made it feel like everyone was family. We also had the opportunity to do a worship service outside under the tent for Easter which is an experience I will never forget.

We took on a visioning process that left us with three goals to work on for the next 5 years. The first goal is to grow our Children's Program and double it in size over the next 5 years. In the past year we have enhanced our Children's Program and continue to develop it. We have a Children's Choir now that meets regularly and has sung for us twice in worship. We are starting to have monthly children's events that are hopefully going to help us draw in other children as well as continue to grow our own children. We are planning on starting a second Children's Sunday School class as well as a big Children's Day on August 27th.

The second goal for our congregation is to grow in missions especially in hands-on missions. Since my arrival last June we have been involved in supporting Salkehatchie and Clemson Wesley Foundation with meals.

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Nursery Volunteers:

June:

- 5—Elizabeth Bowman & Catherine Ferguson
- 12—Jane Jones & Janet Crenshaw
- 19—Ginger Mullinax & Isaiah Mullinax
- 26—Libba Carson & Randy Martin

July:

- 3—Heather Cumbie & Benji Cumbie
- 10—Jan Miller & (help needed)
- 17— Libba Carson & Vicki Miesbauer
- 24—Sharon Chandler & Terri Lee
- 31—Karen Smith &



“And he took the children
in his arms, put his hands
on them and blessed them.”

Mark 10:16

Scripture Readers

June:

- 5—John Reeves
- 12—Elizabeth Finley
- 19—Serena Miles
- 26—Lynn Martin

July:

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

Acolytes to be scheduled.
Check with Benji Cumbie.



The dedication plaque (*not pictured*) is located on the side of the ramp facing the pews. It reads:

**Sanctuary Renovations
In Memory of
Claud and Christine McAlister
2016**

Anderson District Superintendent, Susan Leonard Ray, led the dedication during the worship service, May 22. The late Claud and Christine McAlister were natives of Central and active, long-time members of Mt. Zion. Their photo (above) is from the 1997 church directory.

Birthdays in June: Dot Wilbanks (2), Ashley Gelder (2), Hailey Nielubowicz (5), Bill Clayton (8), Elizabeth McWilliams (8), Holly Gelder (14), Ansel Miller (14), Miriam Griffin (15), Jerry Chandler (16), John Malmgren (16), Isaiah Mullinax (17), Ann Michelle Aiken (20), Anna Ray (21), Karen Smith (21), Randy Martin (26), David Rice (27)

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)



Anniversaries in June: Benji & Heather Cumbie (5), Stan & Cindy Owens (8).

Anniversaries in July: Dick & Helen Singleton (2), Kris & Elizabeth Bowman (13), Tommy & Kathy Still (21), Charles & Pam Baker (22), Gene & Katie Aiken (28)



In Memory:

Rev. Fred Reese, pastor of Mt. Zion 1957-1962. Retiring in 1998, Rev. Reese was living in Columbia and wrote for the *Advocate*; most recently a few days before his death. (“Reflections on Annual Conference”, May 2016)

Report from the Finance Committee: Chris O’Dell

	January	February	March	April	YTD
Contributions	11,897.00	15,495.00	9,649.00	13,374.00	50,415.00
Operating Expenses	(8,541.00)	(13,879.00)	(14,563.00)	(8,391.00)	(45,374.00)
Net Contributions in Excess of Operating Expenses	3,356.00	1,616.00	(4,914.00)	4,983.00	5,041.00
Budgeted Monthly Expenses	13,569.00	13,569.00	13,569.00	13,569.00	54,276.00
Actual Monthly Expenses	(8,541.00)	(13,879.00)	(14,563.00)	(8,391.00)	(45,374.00)
Under (Over) Monthly Budgeted Amount	5,028.00	(310.00)	(994.00)	5,178.00	8,902.00

From the Trustees

Much of what the trustees do is behind the scenes and often church members never realize their functions. What are a trustees' basic responsibilities?

- Oversee, maintain, and supervise church property
- Create and submit a report to the charge conference about the state of the church's property, equipment, and investments
- Receive and administer gifts made to the congregation and to make certain that all funds of the congregation are invested properly
- Ensure that the articles of incorporation are kept up-to-date
- Be responsible, in conjunction with the pastor, for all use of the church buildings and grounds
- Maintain adequate insurance coverage on all church property
- Submit to the committee on finance the annual budget requests for insurance, property maintenance and improvement
- Trustees are accountable to the charge conference and to the church council

As trustees, we must ensure that our facilities are accessible to all persons. The recent sanctuary remodeling project is an example of the Trustees, with input from the congregation, using a memorial gift to make our church more handicapped accessible. After all the work is completed, we should have approximately \$13,000 remaining in the Claud & Christine McAlister Memorial Fund.

Throughout 2015 and 2016, the trustees have been working to improve the energy efficiency of the church. In 2015 we added insulation in the attic over the sanctuary and installed remotely controlled programmable thermostats on all HVAC units in the church. In our 2016 budget, money was allocated to finish insulating the church attic, install a water heater timer, and install LED bulbs in the front porch lights. All of these changes will make a significant difference in our electric and gas bills. This is an example of being good stewards with God's money.

If you see anything at the Church that is broken or not working properly, please contact one of the Trustees so that these issues can be repaired in a timely manner.

Your Trustees for 2016 are Jerry Chandler (Chairman), Al Cumbie (Vice-Chairman), Steve Lee, Virginia Norwood, Kathy O'Dell, and John Wisham.

Submitted by Jerry Chandler, Chairman

***"Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved, but abides forever."***

Psalms 125:1 (NRSV)

Welcome to Our New Choir Director

Malek McDuffie is a native of Sumter, South Carolina. He started playing the drums at age 12 and considers music his hobby as well as his career. He is currently a sophomore at Anderson University studying Music Education. Malek is a 2014 and 2015 South Carolina All-State Chorus participant. In 2015 he scored among the top 5 male voices who participated in All-State. This past February, he was the winner of the Freshman Men Category at the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) meeting at the College of Charleston in Charleston, SC.

In Sumter, Malek did a lot of work in music ministries at various churches with traditional and contemporary worship styles. He has done many workshops and classes with topics based around "Singing in Church" and "Importance of Church Music".



Mt. Zion has been blessed by wonderful pianists this past year, as we sought to fill the vacant position. Unfortunately due to health issues, Donna Abercrombie has had to resign. We appreciate Rebecca Pape, a rising senior at

Anderson University, who has filled in, but has currently gone home for the summer. It is a pleasure to have Jack Russell from Travelers Rest, SC, be with us and, of course, our own Virginia Norwood. We just won't let her retire after 50+ years at the piano or organ.

SPRC Still Searching

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) continues its search for a pianist and part-time secretary. We are grateful for the wonderful pianists that we have had to fill in for us, but we are still searching for someone who will fill that position on an every-week basis. We are also currently searching for a part-time secretary to help with many of the administrative duties in the office. If you know of anyone who may fit either of these roles please let Pastor Gene or Sonny Sims know.



Note: There will be no Tuesday night Bible Study at the parsonage beginning June 28. There will also be no UMW Circle meetings, Men's Club, or Vacation Bible School. Check the weekly worship bulletin for details on upcoming events.

June 19th—Father's Day

July 4th—Freedom isn't free. Please help us update and pray for those on our active military list: John Holmes, Alex Martin, Amanda Chivers, Chris Trumbower, Josh Trumbower, Derek McDonald, Jordon Cox, Travis Wilbanks and John Youngblood, Jr.



Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord,... Psalm 33:12 (NRSV)

July 5th— Provide spaghetti supper for Salkehatchie at Pendleton UMC.

SAVE the dates!

August 14—Church Council meeting, 3:00 p.m.

The Age Level Committee will be sponsoring a **Children's Day** for Mt. Zion's children as well as children of the community, here at the church, on **Saturday August 27th**. Also that weekend we will have the **Tailgate** at the parsonage on **Sunday afternoon, August 28th**.



The 44th Annual Meeting of the Anderson District **United Methodist Women** will meet on **Saturday, October 1, 2016** at **St. Luke UMC** in Walhalla

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We have collected school supplies for Central Elementary. We were the organizing church for Clemson area United Methodist churches collecting supplies for flood victims in Columbia. We have collected food for Clemson Community Care and blankets for the Mercy Center. We collected more shoeboxes in November than we had in the past, to support Operation Christmas Child. We are continuing to look for hands on ways that we can support missions around Clemson and our state.

Our third goal was for us to be more involved in the ministries of Mt. Zion. To that end we have had so many people step up when it came to feeding Salkehatchie and Clemson Wesley. We had a great group of people come and clean the sanctuary before we moved back in after the construction. We had a number of people who helped with the setting up and taking down of the Easter service outside. We continue to have people who volunteer their time to do administrative duties, as well as leading ministries within the church. We will also have opportunities that are coming up to continue to help and volunteer. We are working on starting a second children's Sunday School class in the fall and will need volunteers. We are going to need volunteers to help with the Children's Day on August 27th. We will have opportunities for us to do hands-on missions in the area.

This is really just a snapshot of what all we have done as a congregation in the last year. I didn't even get to mention things like the tailgate, movie nights, UMM, UMW, fellowship meals, etc. I am proud to be the pastor here at Mt. Zion and I can't wait to see what God has in store for us.

In Christ,

Gene





John Reeves receives this year's Special Mission Recognition from Mt. Zion's United Methodist Women.

Elizabeth Finley, UMW President, made the presentation during the worship service on May 22nd.



There is virtually no aspect of Mt. Zion that John has not been involved with at sometime over his lifetime of membership and service. Thank you, John for ALL the things that you have done and continue to do for Mt. Zion.



The Upstairs Adult Sunday School Class will begin on Sunday, June 5th, a **new three-month study titled "Toward a New Creation"**. June's lessons deal with "Judgment and Salvation"; July with "A World Gone Wrong" and August with "Life on God's Terms". All are welcome.



Several Mt. Zion members served dinner and visited with Family Promise guests at Clemson UMC on Monday and Thursday night, May 16 & 19th. Mt. Zion is now a support church for this organization. Towels and sheets were also donated. If you'd like to get involved, Clemson UMC will host Family Promise quarterly. Our next week of support is **September 18-25th**. There is always a need for volunteers in the evenings and on Saturdays.

-Ashley Gelder

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church
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The 2016 South Carolina
Annual Conference
will be held June 5-8, 2016 at the
Civic Center in Florence, SC.
A More Excellent Way: Making Space for God to Work.
Ed Martin is Mt. Zion's Lay Delegate this year.

Mt. Zion's United Methodist Women thanks all those who supported the Soup Luncheon in February. The \$463 proceeds will be sent with Pastor Gene to Annual Conference's \$1 million goal for Imagine No Malaria (INM) campaign. "Every 60 seconds, malaria claims a life in Africa. It kills more than 655,000 people each year, most of them young children and women. The INM campaign is about connecting with people across the globe to end deaths by malaria."
(*The Advocate*, April 2016)