

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



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

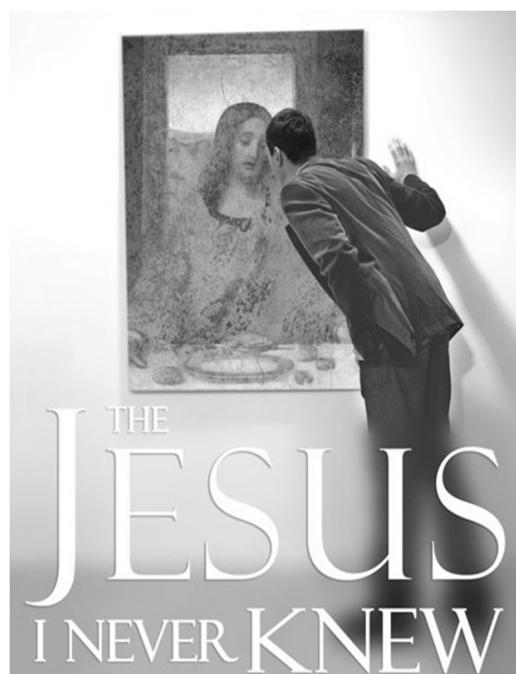
Who is this Jesus that people claim was God in the flesh, who walked upon the earth teaching and healing and causing a stir among religious, political and common people in the first century Middle East? Who is this Jesus that, through His words and actions and very life and death impacted the history of the world and is credited for transforming lives over the centuries? Do we really know who this Jesus was and is?

These questions, and many more, will be some of the topics of discussion during a six-week look at the life and ministry of Jesus, beginning on **Tuesday, March 4 at 6:30-7:30 pm** and meeting at the **Main Street Deli & Coffeehouse in Central**. The study is based on the book, "The Jesus I Never Knew" by Philip Yancey, who strips away the layers of church tradition from the picture we often have of Jesus, and gives us a look at how His ministry must have looked to the people of first-century Palestine. Through these fresh eyes, we are challenged to re-evaluate our relationship to this man who claimed He was sent by God and our relationship to Him. This DVD/book study will allow people to come to a fresh understanding of Jesus' work among the people of His day, and how He continues to work among us today.

The study/discussion is open to all. Participants are encouraged to purchase the participants guide and can be purchased from me for \$10 or purchase a Kindle version from Amazon.com for \$6. Having the book is not necessary. If interested in participating, RSVP by calling 639-2101 or simply show up. If you are interested in being part of a morning or afternoon study, please let me know and I'll see what we can put together.

Join in and prepare yourself for a life-changing encounter with the Jesus of the Gospels...and (re)discover the unpredictable, exciting, and refreshing person who changed, and still changes, lives.

Pastor Jim



March 4 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. & each Tuesday through April 15

At the Main Street Deli & Coffeehouse,
133 W. Main Street in Central, SC

If interested in participating,
RSVP at Facebook.com/MtZionCentral,
or call 639-2101 or simply show up.

Participant guides can be purchased from study leader,
Rev. Jim Elder for \$10
or purchase a Kindle version from Amazon.com for \$6.

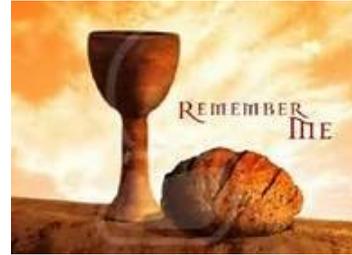
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From the Worship Committee:

On Sunday, February 2nd, three beautiful **silver chalices** were dedicated and used in the communion service that followed. Each was donated by a member of the congregation in memory of a special member of the Mt. Zion family. Vicki Miesbauer honored her husband, Steve Miesbauer. Jan Miller honored her good friend, Beverly Smith. And Gail Wingard honored her fellow chorister, Betty Walters. These chalices will be used whenever communion is served by intinction, a method of taking communion by dipping the bread into the juice. The Worship Committee voted last year to serve by this method for the Christmas Eve service and any other specially designated times during the year.



There are **no flowers** in the sanctuary during Lent. It is a time of self-examination, reflection, and repentance. On Easter Sunday, worshipers are asked to bring flowers from their yard to place on the large cross which will be in the sanctuary. Information is forthcoming in the church bulletin for individuals wishing to purchase an Easter Lily in memory or honor of someone. These lilies will be placed in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday and available for pickup after the service.

Lent, begins on Wednesday, March 5th.



A joint **Ash Wednesday** service will be held at **Central United Methodist Church** on **March 5**. Central UMC is located on the left just as you come into Central from Clemson. Pastor Jim will be preaching at the **6:00 p.m.** service.

A **Maundy Thursday** service will be held **April 17th** at **Mt. Zion**. Rev. Calvin Smith, pastor of Central UMC, will be leading this joint service at **6:30 p.m.**



The family of Van H. Mullinax
October 14, 1952—January 23, 2014

Lifetime member of Mt. Zion.

March: Karen Martin (5), Gail Wingard (7), Matt Watkins (8), Neil Smith (8), John Reeves (11), Mike Ferguson (18), Wanda Miles (20), Dot Johnston (24), Sadie Atkinson (25), Loraalee Mullinax (25), Allison Wingard (25), Scott Smith (28), Elizabeth Finley (28), Ruth Wolinski (30)



April: Ron Nonnenberg (1), Nate Six (1), Robert Arrowood (13), Miriam Coffman (21), Aubrey Mullinax (23), Wayne Coffman (25), Myra Armistead (29), Lance Daum (29), Jan Miller (30)

ANNIVERSARIES:

March: John & Kristine Reeves (8), Trent & Ginger Allen (13), Ron & Eileen Nonnenberg (21), Dave & Cherylene Amidon (27), Scott & Karen Smith (30)

April: Al & Susan Cumbie (7), John & Sheila Malmgren (8)

CONGRATULATIONS to Chelcee Coffman and Luke Baker on their wedding held here at Mt. Zion at 6:00 p.m. on February 1st. Chelcee is the daughter of Mt. Zion members Wayne and Miriam Coffman, and Luke is the son of Steve and Song Baker from Pickens. The couple will reside in Taylors, SC.



We always like to get this kind of “news” from the Hospitality Committee!



March 16th after worship



Note from Finance Committee- Financials for the General Fund for 2013 were very good overall. As you can see, we exceeded budget and did a good job controlling expenditures, all due to the generosity of our church family. But we must point out our concern for the reduced gifting in the December Quarter where gifting dropped below our budget level. This is something we will need to watch closely in the coming months. Thank you to all involved for your dedication that helped make 2013 a good financial year for Mt Zion United Methodist Church.

General Fund 2013

	<u>Dec. Qtr.</u>	<u>Year End</u>
Budget	\$41,142	\$164,564
Expenses	\$33,938	\$152,184
Income	\$39,137	\$173,378

Total Gifting

	<u>Jan-Sept</u>	<u>Dec Qtr</u>	<u>Year End</u>
2013	\$145,340	\$39,385	\$184,725
2012	\$139,336	\$49,820	\$189,156
2013 Better/(Worse)	\$6,004	(\$10,435)	(\$4,431)

Average Monthly Gifting

	<u>Jan-Sept</u>	<u>Dec Qtr</u>	<u>Year End</u>
2013	\$16,149	\$13,128	\$15,394
2012	\$15,482	\$16,607	\$15,763
2013 Better/(Worse)	\$667	(\$3,478)	(\$369)

Request from Finance: All donations to the church are very much appreciated. But in recent weeks, we have had numerous donations made outside the usual categories of General Fund, Missions, Memorials, Flowers, etc. Again, these donations are greatly appreciated, however, they present challenges to the reporting and budgeting process. Please use care in designating funds to categories that have not been generated by the church to the congregation as a whole. For if \$1 is donated to any special fund, we, a limited staff of volunteers, have to make special reports to track within the church and the District. Unless a special need is identified by the church, giving to the church, the General Fund, should support almost all the church needs. Thank you for your consideration.

From the Communications Committee:

Please note the following contact person for the indicated route of church communication. Feel free to contact the indicated individual with any questions/concerns/suggestions that you may have.

Bulletin: (printed weekly for Sunday Worship Service):

Any information for the bulletin should be sent to Cherylene Amidon (868-9068) by 2:00 p.m. Wednesday for inclusion the following Sunday. Please use her personal e-mail address (camidon@clemsun.edu) rather than the church's e-mail. The bulletin also goes on-line on Friday.

Newsletter: (printed bi-monthly)

Information for the newsletter should be sent to Sharon Miller (654-1151) using either her personal e-mail (miller2@earthlink.com) or the church's e-mail (mtzion@nctv.com) by the last Sunday in February, April, June, August, October and the third Sunday in December. Please place "NEWSLETTER" in the subject line.

Website: www.MtZionCentral.org

Information for the website should be sent to Sharon Chandler (882-5224) using her personal e-mail (slchandler4002@gmail.com)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/MtZionCentral

Pastor Jim—tethrdsol@yahoo.com or 803-372-9754.

New office hours: Monday 2:00-5:00, Tuesday and Wednesday 10:00-1:00 & Friday 2:00-5:00

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Drew Gelder is not new to us at Mount Zion, but we welcomed him officially on February 9th as a new member of Mount Zion United Methodist Church. He and his wife, Ashley currently teach the Sunday School Class for ages 5-7. Drew is a graduate of Georgia Southern University and currently works for the SC Department of Natural Resources. He has one daughter, Holly, and other than spending time with family, he enjoys hiking, fishing, and pizza!



RAPpers Lunch



We are hoping to renew interest in our RAPpers Group that has been unable to meet in the last few years. RAP stands for Really Adult People! The RAPpers is our group of individuals that may (or may not) be retired, or may have more extra time than those working full time. Both male and female, there is certainly no age limit with this group. A lunch will be held at the church on **Wednesday, March 12 at 12:30 pm**. The meal will be provided by the Age-Level Family Committee. We hope to see you there and be thinking of any ideas or thoughts for the future of this group!

Saturday, April 26—Central Railroad Festival—10am-6pm

This event will take place in downtown Central, is free and open to the public. Although there will be entertainment, food, music, arts and crafts vendors and rides for children, the festival's main feature is the Central Railway Museum. Located at 108 Werner Street, the museum is the former home of Mt. Zion members: the late B. E. Allen family. For more information go to www.centralrrfestival.org.

April 24-26—100 Year Family Reunion of the Old Pendleton District. Held on Saturday, April 26th at the Southern Wesleyan University Dining Commons, this event is sponsored by several organizations including the Central Heritage Society. At 2:00 p.m. there will be a presentation on "Using FamilySearch.com in Your Genealogical Research". All of the events are free and open to the public. If you are interested in the genealogy of families who have been in this area for at least one hundred years (Mt. Zion has a number of them), you will enjoy the reunion exhibits on Saturday.

On Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m., Dr. Tim Drake will speak on "The Burial Customs of the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries", 7:00 p.m. at the Pickens County Library in Easley. For more information on all events, visit www.100yearreunion.com or call 864-898-0840.

Son of God is taken directly from Mark Burnett and Roma Downey's (both Christians) popular History Channel miniseries *The Bible*. Why tell the tale again? Because, they say, some may not have yet heard it.



The South Carolina Conference UMC has a God sized dream to collect **1,000,000 (1 Million) NEW, age-appropriate books for pre-school and elementary school children by June 3rd, 2014 (Tuesday of Annual Conference).**

- This breaks down to roughly 83,500 books per District and roughly 1,000 books per church.

In addition we will have a celebratory worship service Tuesday Night at Annual Conference that is focused on youth and young adults. We would love to see you at this service to help us celebrate! More information will be coming soon, so please keep checking back.

Why are we doing it?

Illiteracy and poverty often go hand-in-hand. As Christians, it is our responsibility to care for those most in need among us. We will transform the lives of children in our state by equipping them with the tools they need to grow into educated adults.

How will we do it?

Each District Connectional Ministries (DCM) will be responsible for identifying school districts, agencies, and literacy and children's programs within their districts to receive the books.

On June 3rd, 2014 we will collect the books at the Florence Civic Center as well as 3 other collection points around the state. That day volunteers will receive, sort, package, and place bookplates in each book to prepare them for distribution.

What should you do?

- Talk to your UMW, UMM, Sunday School classes and other groups within your church about the project.
- Invite businesses, individuals and other churches within your community to be involved.
- Go ahead and start collecting new, age-appropriate books for pre-school and elementary school children.
- Plan to volunteer at one of the 4 collection sites on Tuesday, June 3rd, 2014.
- Consider additional ways that your church can combat illiteracy and poverty in your community.
- Pray for our Conference and the children we hope to impact.

Our goals are lofty, but not unattainable. We need your help to realize this vision. At Mt. Zion, a box will be located in the sanctuary near the credenza for book donations. Thank You!!



Mt. Zion Choir under the direction of Amy Evans performed at the second annual Musica Ecclesia, a choral festival of area churches, at Southern Wesleyan University on the 21st of February. The choir was accompanied by Ron Goldstein on the piano and Virginia Norwood on the organ. Amy chose three pieces for the choir to perform: “Thou Shalt Know Him When He Comes”, “All to Bring you Glory” featuring a solo performed by Miriam Coffman and “All Rise” with a solo performed by John Reeves.

The purpose of the event being done by Southern Wesleyan University is to provide an atmosphere of mutual respect and support for the many untold hours that are put in every week by the musicians that provide their congregations with a wonderful worship experience. It also gave the members a chance to listen and to learn from the other choirs and what they are doing in their local churches.

The other choirs performing were Trinity United Methodist Church from Anderson, First Baptist Church from Clemson, and Southern Wesleyan University Chamber Choir. All choirs joined together with two songs to open the event and closed with “The Lord Bless You and Keep You”.

It was an amazing experience enjoyed by all and we hope to be able to do it again next year. If you would like to see the performance it was filmed and you can watch it at: <http://www.Youtube.com/swuFineArts>. When the site loads, click on video on the menu line and then click on the Musica Ecclesia event.

Gospel Sunday at Southern Wesleyan University

April 13, 3:00–6:00 p.m.

Newton Hobson Chapel---FREE ADMISSION—SWU Gospel Choir, New Holly Light Gospel Choir, United House of Prayer Gospel Band and Special Guests.

Clemson Blues Festival this year runs April 13-19th. For details of all events, visit www.clemsonbluesfest.org.

Holy Land Trip

Porter 's Chapel UMC in Pickens is organizing a trip for **January 17-26, 2015** to the Holy Land. A deposit of \$500 is required, with a 2nd payment of \$1,415.00 due May 14th and a 3rd payment of \$1,415.00 due September 24th. For information or questions, call Rev. Dick Waldrep at 864-992-8288.



Vacation Bible School

We will be having a joint VBS with Lawrence Chapel UMC again this year. This will be held **June 22-25** at Lawrence Chapel. We are still in the planning stages and more information will come later. If you would like to help us in any way, please be in touch with Elizabeth Bowman or Libba Carson.

Sunday, April 13—9:30 a.m.

Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt for Children

All children through the elementary ages (5th grade) are invited to attend our breakfast and Easter egg hunt. We will begin with a light breakfast for all children and their families. The only thing the children need to bring is an empty Easter basket. In case of rain, we will still have the hunt, but it will be held inside.

We are asking for help from the congregation if you would like to contribute items for the Egg Hunt. You may help by supplying a dozen empty plastic eggs or a bag of individually wrapped candies (no hard candy or candy with nuts or peanut butter). The candy needs to be the size that will fit inside the eggs as a treat for the children. We will place a basket at the back of the church for these items. We will stop collecting items on April 6th.

Nursery Help Needed

We are in need of filling some openings in our church nursery schedule. We are looking for adults that would be willing to be in the nursery on Sunday mornings. On our schedule, you only have that responsibility every other month, or 6 times a year. We also swap times with other nursery workers if you are unable to be there on your assigned Sunday. If you can help us, please be in contact with Pastor Jim, Elizabeth Bowman, or Libba Carson.





The Beverly Smith Guild

The Beverly Smith Guild met on January 15th with honored guests, Beverly's family: Neil Smith, Jason, Laura, and Jaxon Moore.

Vicki Miesbauer began the celebration with a word of prayer and welcoming to all. Jan Miller shared beautiful memories* of her long-time friend, Beverly. Pastor Jim Elder said a blessing over the guild's new name and prayed that the group would follow in the legacy of Beverly Smith, to love God and to embrace Mt. Zion with our whole hearts, our whole mind, our whole being. The Beverly Smith Guild looks forward to the wonderful work that God has in store for us as His stewards to Mt. Zion and our community.

The guild is open to all women of Mt. Zion. While UMW circles focus exclusively on missions for women and children, this group, similar to the Men's Club at Mt. Zion, participates in a variety of activities and missions as stewards of Christ in our own Church and local community. This Fall and Winter season, the group participated in The Minister's Cook-Off, sponsored a family in-need with Christmas gifts, polished the brass at Mt. Zion, and hand-beaded Chrismons for the Chrismon tree. The group meets once a month, most often at members' homes, to have devotional time and plan events and outreach. Subsequent meetings will be announced in the bulletin.—Ashley Gelder

**During the January meeting of the Beverly Smith Guild, the members were pleased to honor and remember our namesake, Beverly Smith. We were pleased to welcome her family; Neil Smith, Laura, Jason and Jaxon Moore to our first meeting and the blessing of our new group by Pastor Jim Elder. Beverly's family and Guild members remembered Beverly and her loving dedication to Mt. Zion United Methodist Church.*

I am so pleased that we get to remember and honor our special friend, Beverly Smith. I want to share a little about Beverly and I thank Laura for helping me remember all that Beverly was involved with during her life. As many of you, I met Beverly at Mt. Zion. We first met in the nursery on Laura's christening day and that is the reason I continue to keep the nursery today. We got to know each other through the Mattie Mae Allen Circle. I say this to let you all know that Mt. Zion was the foundation of our friendship. But most importantly, I want you to know that Beverly loved this church.

If you didn't get the chance to meet Beverly, you should know that she was an amazing and beautiful woman. She cared deeply about her husband, Neil and precious daughter, Laura as well as her brother, sisters, and cousins. And she loved her friends as family, too. I cannot imagine how proud she would be of her grandson, Jaxon. Laura said it best when she said "she would have been a cool grandma." As I looked at Jaxon's one year old picture shoot I could hear Beverly's infectious laugh. It makes me sad that he does not get to know her as a grandson should know a grandmother. But I have no doubt that he will learn to love her because her family keeps her memory alive.

Beverly was a dynamic woman. She was the type of person that could just at ease with a homeless person as with a country music star or a national political leader. She fit in no matter where she was or who she was with. From baking brownies for a group of unwed mothers, spreading mulch with the landscapers, hanging out with Vince Gill or having dinner with governors and congressmen, Beverly made everyone feel special. I have often thought that this church kept her in touch with her roots. She grew up about a mile from the church.

Continued on page 7

As I said Beverly loved Mt. Zion. If there was a need or job to do, Beverly was right on it. When Jan Grubbs decided to move on from Sunday school teacher, Beverly was quick to step in. She then accepted the duties of worship committee chairperson. She spearheaded the renovations/updates that were made to the church in the 1990s. She was so proud of the social hall and restroom and how much nicer those areas looked. No project was too large for Beverly. She also took on the role of the "official brass polisher" in the sanctuary. She really took pride in our beautiful sanctuary. You could always tell how much Beverly loved this church by her attention to the details. She also served as communion steward and was a member of the Trustees at Mt. Zion. Her contributions to this church were based on her love for Mt. Zion and her commitment to always get the job done.

Beverly dearly loved the children of Mt Zion and would always accompany them on various outings. She enjoyed spending time with our youth group and chaperoning the Youth conference and ski trip. She was so much fun to be around and so adventurous.

Beverly was also very concerned about her community. She was involved in the Wings program. WINGS is a program designed to provide support to women in overcoming obstacles, building healthy relationships, parenting effectively, building life skills and personal independence. On the day she went to the hospital, she had been preparing snacks and gathering items such as diapers, wipes, and other baby necessities for young pregnant mothers.

She was also involved in the Pickens County Heart Association for many years. She planned and hosted very successful Heart Fund Balls for many years. Beverly loved to combine her charitable work with fun.

Beverly was active in Laura's school's PTO. She had been PTO President and was in charge of updating Pickens Middle School including the gym sound system, which had been used up until PMS moved to their new location this school year.

Beverly was also an active member of the Pickens Junior Assembly. In fact, after her death they initiated a scholarship in her memory. The 5K run which is held during the Azalea Festival supports the Beverly M. Smith Memorial scholarship. Many young people have been awarded this scholarship to help with their college expenses as a tribute to Beverly's commitment to education.

This is just a glimpse of our friend Beverly Smith. She was a Christian lady who showed her faith through her actions. Beverly made an impact wherever she went. And she is remembered for her kind spirit and outgoing personality. We are honoring her because of her commitment to and love for this church. Neil shared that he and Beverly grew up as Baptists, but after their marriage found that Mt. Zion United Methodist Church was the perfect fit for their family. Neil expressed how much Beverly loved this church and found a church home in this special church family. We are very blessed to name our group in honor of such an amazing woman.

