

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*

### Dr. Stillwell Retires



*The following letter  
was sent to the congrega-  
tions in the Anderson  
District.*

"By now, most of you have probably heard that Bishop Taylor will appoint The Reverend Susan Leonard-Ray to the Anderson District as superintendent in June. Susan is a gifted, energetic and visionary leader. She and I have been friends and colleagues for a long time, and she does have and will have my unqualified support.

I will retire on June 30th, a year earlier than I had originally planned. The prospect of what would inevitably be a short-term appointment did not seem wise. My second coronary stent in late February caused me to realize that a reduction in stress might not be a bad idea.

As I indicated to Bishop Taylor in my letter requesting retirement:

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### Welcome to Our New Anderson District Superintendent

Our new district superintendent is Susan Leonard-Ray, a native of Greer, SC. She is an ordained Elder in the South Carolina Annual Conference where she has served for 20 years. She served Monaghan UMC in Greenville and was the Campus Minister at Furman University from 1992 -1997. Following that appointment she served as an Associate



Pastor at Buncombe Street UMC. In 2001, Susan was appointed to serve Advent UMC in Simpsonville, SC where she has lived out her ministry and calling for the past nine years.

In addition, Susan has served on the Greenville District Committee on Congregational Development, the Board of Ordained Ministry, the Executive Committee on the Annual Conference, and the Equipping the Body of Christ Committee on Episcopacy."

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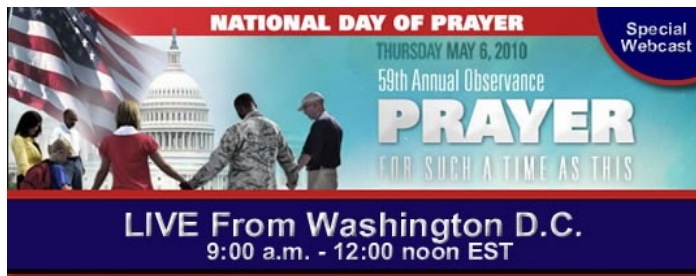
**May 6, 2010 is National Day of Prayer  
Meet at Central Town Hall  
Central, SC**

**12:00 p.m. to 12:45 p.m.**

This is a call for special prayer—a prayer for a moral rebirth in America. It is a time where we join with government leaders and people in towns and communities all around the country to lift our needs and concerns for America before the Lord.

Now, more than ever before, it is imperative that we, as God's people, remain on our knees for our nation and fellow citizens. The critical challenges facing the United States and the culture at large call for faithful intercession not only on the National Day of Prayer but throughout the year.

Come join us at Central Town Hall. It is time we stand up publicly for the values that have made our country strong. Let us unashamedly take our Light from underneath the basket and set it on a table.



Dr. Stillwell Retires....

*"I need now to lay aside a prescribed appointed calling to wait for a season until God reveals in what new or renewed ways I can continue to be active in building up and equipping the Body of Christ."*

Marion and I will be living in Seneca and eager to help the Anderson District expand vital outreach and ministry. We have peace about this decision and we covet your prayers over the next three months."



### Fishing Stories in Sunday School?

"People love to tell stories of their fishing adventures. When it comes to faith, however, most people clam up. Why is it we can't talk about what God has done in our lives as naturally as we can spin fishing tales?" Three weeks ago, the Kirkley-Duckett Adult Class (located next to the pastor's study) started a six-Sunday study led by Andy Stanley, via DVD, titled *Go Fish*. Class member Elaine Bullock is facilitating the study. Rev. Stanley "explores the motivation behind sharing your faith". Anyone is welcome to attend the class for the remaining sessions: **May 2nd, Fishing Buddies; May 9th, Muddy Water** and **May 16th, The One That Got Away**. Sunday School starts at 9:45AM. The study will be available for checkout from the church library after May.

Welcome to Our New Superintendent....

Susan was the 1995 recipient of the Denman Evangelism Award.

She is married to Rev. Dr. Keith Ray who is also an elder in the South Carolina Conference. They are blessed with three children: Rebecca, Jonathon and Elizabeth.

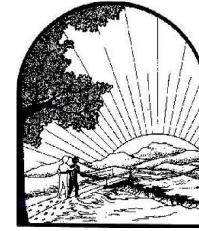
Susan did her undergraduate work at Carson-Newman College before completing her Masters of Divinity degree at Candler School of Theology, Emory University.



The South Carolina United Methodist Church **Annual Conference will take place on June 10-13** in Florence, SC. This year's theme is "For the Least of These" (Matthew 25:31-46).

Representing Mt. Zion at the Annual Conference will our pastor, Dr. McPherson and our lay delegate, Miriam Coffman.

Please be in prayer for our Annual Conference as critical issues are addressed. Please pray for God's guidance in this process and discernment of God's will for the United Methodist Church. If you would like more information, go to: [www.umcsc.org](http://www.umcsc.org)



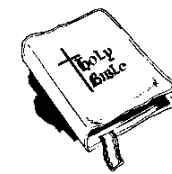
### Healing

All healing is of God. The Church's healing ministry in no way detracts from the gifts God gives through medicine and psychotherapy. It is no substitute for either medicine or the proper care of one's health. Rather, it adds to our total resources for wholeness.

God does not promise that we shall be spared suffering, but does promise to be with us in our suffering. Trusting that promise, we are enabled to recognize God's sustaining presence in pain, sickness, injury, and estrangement.

The greatest healing of all is the reunion or reconciliation of a human being with God. When this happens, physical healing sometimes occurs, mental and emotional balance is often restored, spiritual health is enhanced, and relationships are healed. For the Christian, the basic purpose of spiritual healing is to renew and strengthen one's relationship with the living Christ.

From *The United Methodist Book of Worship*



*May grace and peace be yours in abundance in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.*

*2 Peter 1:2*

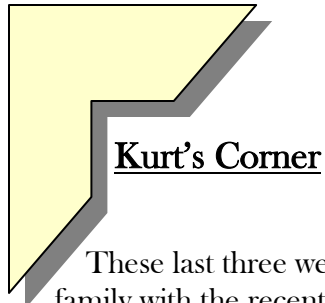


**May 9th  
Mother's Day**

**June 20th  
Father's Day**

**Epworth Children's Home Offering will be taken at Mt. Zion on May 9th.** Epworth has a goal of receiving \$6 per South Carolina Methodist this year. While districts surrounding Epworth might appear to have more reason to support the children's home, Epworth's President said there are children being cared for from 11 of the 12 United Methodist Districts now and all districts have had children there during the past year. The current issue of the *Advocate* lists those churches in Anderson District which had an average of less than a dollar per member or zero in 2009. (Mt. Zion is NOT in that list, but neither is it in the list of the top three most generous churches.) The most generous was the Zion UMC in Walhalla which gave an average of \$93.75 given by its 8 members! The trend seems to be that the larger the Church, the smaller contribution. The Average contribution in Anderson District Was \$4.66/per member.

*(The South Carolina United Methodist Advocate, May 2010)*



### Kurt's Corner

These last three weeks have been an extremely difficult time for our church family with the recent passing away of three cherished people: Geneva Watkins, Susie Hautala, and Jo Holly Funchess. These women were influential in shaping many lives, both young and old. Despite their different personalities and backgrounds, they impacted our lives for the better. I, for one, will treasure the limited time I was able to share with them. Sometimes they made me laugh, sometimes they made me cry, but they always were able to provide a certain level of inspiration as they shared their life's passions and experiences.

As I have reflected upon their lives, I have thought about the various lessons they have taught me. First, we must never underestimate the influence and impact our lives have on others. The attendance at their funerals was evidence of this fact. Much like throwing a stone into a pond and watching the ripples that result, the same can be said about our lives. Our time upon this earth surely results in influencing others.

Second, every day we are alive is a gift. The hospice I worked for in Florida had this as their motto: We should live every day as if it is an opportunity from God to make a difference in this world. Susie, Geneva, and Jo Holly certainly did.

Finally, our lives are a mystery. None of us knows how long we will live. Life truly is fragile, but it is God who sustains us. We are never alone. God promises to walk with us and guide along the way, no matter how difficult. Geneva, Susie, and Jo Holly placed their faith in Him. We should too.

We will miss them; I am sure of that. I know I will never forget them.

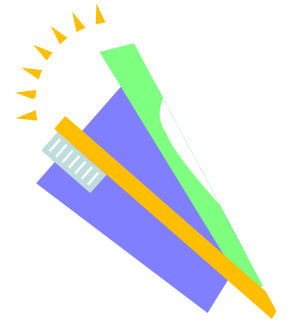
In Christ,

### UMW NEWS

- ✚ Mt. Zion UMW was represented by Ann Wilbanks and Sharon Miller at the Anderson District UMW Day Apart at Hospice of the Upstate in Anderson, SC on Saturday, April 17. This year's theme was "Fit to Serve". The keynote speaker was Rev. Peggy Garland.
- ✚ This year's SC Conference **UMW School of Missions** will be **July 22-25**. The theme is "*Faith, Hope, Love in Action*". Three courses of study will be offered. The geographical study, "The Beauty and Courage of Sudan: Why a Dream of Peace is Possible" will be on Sudan; the spiritual growth study is on John's Letters and the mission study is "*Mission in the Age of Global Christianity*". It will be at Spartanburg Methodist College. Registration forms are in the church office. Roommates need to mail their forms together. The absolute registration deadline is June 30. The approximate cost of attending is \$155 which includes 9 meals and 3 nights of lodging.
- ✚ The **Dolly Brock Circle meets at the church at 7:00 p.m. on May 11**.
- ✚ Circles do not meet during the summer months, but UMW members (and any others who wish to participate) are asked to put together "Shelter Kits" for SAFE Harbor, a temporary haven for abused women. (See the next column for items to include)
- ✚ For more information, contact Mt. Zion's UMW president, Frances Snipes (639-2417)

### Welcome Kits for Safe Harbor

- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Soap
- Washing Puff
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Lotion
- Deodorant
- Cotton Balls or Q-Tips
- Hairbrush
- Bag for above items (gallon size Zip Loc)



### Newsletter's "New Look"

Thanks to Sharon Chandler for sharing her computer skills with Mt. Zion!!

### **Kairos**

Thanks to everyone who wrote notes of encouragement, baked cookies and/or prayed for the Women's Kairos Prison Ministry in April. Mt. Zion sent 20 dozen cookies.

*"I was in prison and you visited me." Matthew 25:36*



## In Memory

Laura Shoemaker (Cherylene Amidon's mother), age 103, passed away on March 26, 2010 in Fall Creek, Wisconsin.



# You Can Help!

Our food pantry here at Mt. Zion is running low on laundry detergent, dishwashing detergent and canned meats, but any nonperishable items are appreciated. Help us replenish our shelves with your donations! Dot Wilbanks (639-6042)

Sarah Geneva "Gene" Jones Watkins, age 80, passed away on April 6, 2010.



Vacation Bible School will be held at Lawrence Chapel United Methodist Church on **July 25-29**. Mt. Zion and Central United Methodist are joining Lawrence Chapel to provide activities for our local children with a program in the evening. Watch the bulletin for more information.

### Grief Support Group

The Grief Support Group meets on **Wednesdays from 10-11AM** in the classroom next to the pastor's study. Please use the rear entrance to the church. For more information, contact Dr. David Connor (654-3346) or the pastor.



Martha Sue (Susie) Gaines Hautala, president of the Eloise Gaines Circle, passed away on April 16, 2010. Susie is the mother of Elizabeth (Mrs. Kris) Bowman and grandmother of Grayson Bowman.



Jo Holladay Funchess, 27, passed away on April 23, 2010. Parents: Mark H. and Jane Garrett Funchess. Grandparents: Hal and Bobbie Carson Garrett.



### BIRTHDAYS in May:

Catherine Ferguson (5); Eileen Nonnenberg (7); David Bullock (13); Anna Bullock (13); Dave Amidon (14); Robert Allen (15); Jeffrey Miesbauer (19); Laura Smith-Moore (20); Cooper Koinskie (25); Allison O'Dell-Jones (29); Greg Padgett (29)

### BIRTHDAYS in June:

Dot Wilbanks (2); Bill Clayton (8); Sophie McPherson (8); Ansel Miller (14); Miriam Griffin (15); Jerry Chandler (16); John Malmgren (16); Jane Burnette (19); Karen Smith (21); Caroline Carson (24); Randy Martin (26); David Rice (27)

### ANNIVERSARIES in May:

Ansel & Sharon Miller (11);

### ANNIVERSARIES in June:

Steve & Vickie Miesbauer (12);

Greg & Betty Padgett (13)

### God Bless You all on your special days!

Please call the church office (639-2101) or fill in the birthday calendar on the bulletin board next to the pastor's study with additions and/or corrections.

## 2010 Graduates



Congratulations to Amanda Chivers who is graduating from Clemson University.

Please call the church office (639-2101) if you or a family member is graduating from high school or college this spring or graduated last December or last summer.

### From the Choir Director

Come support your church choir at the Clemson Community Care Benefit Concert on Sunday, May 23, at 4:00 p.m. located at the First Baptist Church in Clemson. Many different choirs from area churches will be featured in this concert.



### CONGRATULATIONS!

Sharon and Jerry Chandler are the proud grandparents of William Alexander Reid, who was born to George and Ashley Reid on April 18th.