

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*

Thank You!!! to all those who are currently serving or have served in the military. **Veteran's Day is November 11th.** We especially want to thank Mt. Zion's two World War II veterans: **Bill Clayton and Wes Witcher.** We appreciate what they have done for their country and **Mt. Zion UMC.**

William T. Clayton, or Bill as we know him, was born in 1925 in the white house right next door to Mt. Zion. His grandparents and father were charter members when this church building was built; with his mother soon to follow, when she married and moved to Central. World War II interrupted his college years at Clemson. Bill enlisted in the army and served in the European theatre, including the Battle of the Bulge. When the war ended, Bill returned and finished his undergraduate degree in Agronomy and earned a master's degree in Animal Husbandry. Eventually he took over the family farm while working as a letter carrier for one of Central's mail routes. During this time Bill and his wife, Sara, served on many committees at Mt. Zion. He was a Lay Speaker for a number of years, not only filling in when Mt. Zion's pastor was away, but also for other pastors in our district. Bill served on the Pickens County Planning Commission for 35 years. Due to health concerns Bill has spent most of his time in the past few years with his daughter, Susan, and her family in Atlanta. However, he loves to come back to the farm and to worship at Mt. Zion. He cherishes getting the bulletin and newsletters and encourages everyone to read about the "wonderful, wonderful things that are happening at Mt. Zion.



Come join us to celebrate Advent and Christmas



Sunday, December 7th, 11:00 a.m.

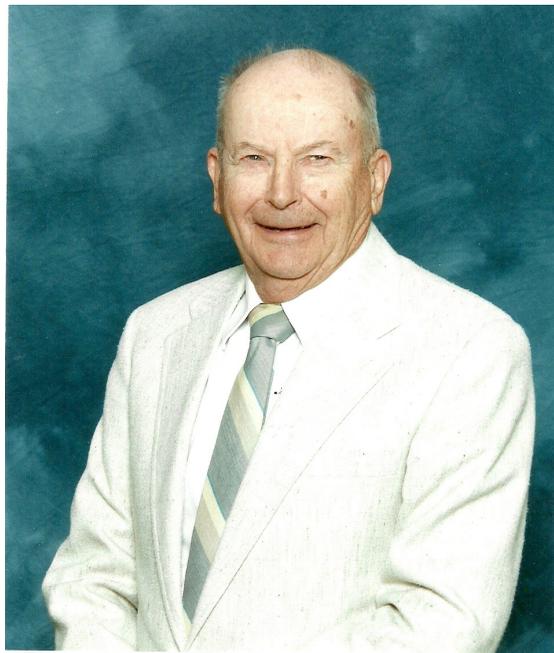
**Sunday, December 14th,
11:00 a.m., Children's Choir**



Wednesday, December 24th, 5:30 p.m.

Wesley “Wes” Witcher, was born in 1923 on a tobacco farm near Whittles Depot, Virginia. World War II interrupted his studies at Ferrum Junior College and in 1943 he volunteered for the Army Air Corps (which later became the Air Force) as an aviation student. After graduating as a 2nd Lieutenant Pilot, he was sent for training in Arkansas and then to Waco, Texas, as a pilot-instructor where he was placed on Secret Orders for overseas deployment. He eventually went to Biak in the Southwest Pacific Area and drew assignment to a radar calibration detachment. Wes flew 45 combat missions in the South Pacific before the war was over. He was released from active duty in November of 1945, but stayed in the reserves until 1972 when he retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in the National Guard AA Artillery (now known as Air Defense Artillery). Resuming his studies at Virginia Tech, he completed a BS in forestry and eventually, a Ph.D. in plant pathology at NC State. In 1960 he moved to Clemson to accept the position as Forest Pathologist at Clemson University. He served in this capacity for 17 years, changed to Vegetable Pathologist for the next 11 years, and retired in 1988. About that time, he had moved the family to a 20-acre farm in Six Mile where he grew and sold peaches for 20+ years. He moved his membership from Clemson UMC to Mt. Zion. Through the years he has served on many committees, was chairmen of Church Council, taught Sunday School, and sang bass in the choir. (He “probably” had something to do with his son-in-law, Ron Goldstein, becoming our current pianist.) His carpentry skills have been shared in projects such as our Habitat for Humanity house, construction of the platform and railing around the organ (when it was moved out of the choir loft) and, most recently, making the little “windows” in the nursery/classroom doors to bring our building up to Safe Sanctuary standards. He just retired from the choir this year, so now look for him in one of the pews. In his words: “I love everyone in church. You have been very good to me.”

(Wes and Shirley still live on their farm in Six Mile, which is currently for sale as they look to downsize.)



Calendar for November and December

The following take place at the church unless otherwise indicated. In some cases more details may be found in this newsletter and/or will be forthcoming in the church bulletin. Note that information for each Sunday’s bulletin is due by 5:00 p.m. on the Wednesday before. Please email events to Chery Amidon at: camidon@clemson.edu

November:

- 2—Men’s Club at 8:30 a.m.; Church Council, 4:00 p.m.
- 4— Women’s Bible Study, 1:30 p.m.
Joint meeting of UM Women Circles at 2:30 p.m.
- 5—Bible Study at the parsonage, 7:30 p.m.
- 8—Fall Festival & Bazaar at Clemson UMC, 9 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.
- 11—Hope and Help for the Holidays & Beyond Conf. at First Baptist Greenville, 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
- 11—Minister’s Cook-off at First Baptist Church Clemson, 5:00- 7:00 p.m.
- 12—Bible Study at the parsonage, 7:30 p.m.
- 13—Prayer Breakfast at Margaret’s Restaurant in Norris, 9:00 a.m.
- 13—Arts Under the Dome at Seneca Presbyterian Church to benefit Our Daily Rest homeless shelter , & 14 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. on Nov. 13 and 10a.m.-2:00 p.m. on Nov. 14
- 16— **Charge Conference Sunday**
8:30 a.m. Pancake Breakfast by Men’s Club
9:30 a.m. Charge Conference in the sanctuary
11:00 a.m. Worship with DS Rev. Susan Leonard-Ray preaching
- 18—Women’s Bible Study, 1:30 p.m.
- 19—Bible Study at the parsonage, 7:30 p.m.
- 23—Operation Christmas Child shoe box deadline and dedication during worship service.
Laity Workshops at First UMC Easley, 3:00- 5:30 p.m.
- 30—First Sunday in Advent, Communion Sunday

DECEMBER:

- 2—Women’s Bible Study, 1:30 p.m.
- 3—Bible Study at the parsonage, 7:30 p.m.
- 7—Second Sunday in Advent, Hanging of the Greens during worship service
Youth Christmas party & deadline for Youth Ski retreat
- 10—Bible Study at the parsonage, 7:30 p.m.
- 14—Third Sunday in Advent, Children’s Choir singing during worship service
- 16—Women’s Bible Study, 1:30 p.m.
- 21—Fourth Sunday in Advent
- 24—Christmas Eve Candlelight service, 5:30 p.m.

SAVE the Date:

January 17-20, 2015 Youth Ski Retreat

New date and location for November Prayer Breakfast :

9:00 a.m. Thursday, **November 13**, at **Margaret's Restaurant** on Hwy 93 in Norris, SC.

New time for the weekly Wednesday night Bible Study at the parsonage is

7:30 p.m. In addition, a **Women's Bible Study will begin this Tuesday, November 4th, at 1:30 p.m. at the church.** We will meet the first and third Tuesdays of each month to discuss the scripture from the previous Sunday's sermon. All are invited.

Hope and Help for the Holidays and Beyond...a free conference on

loss, hope and healing. Tuesday, **November 11th from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**, First Baptist Greenville (847 Cleveland St.) Fellowship Hall. Register by Friday, November 7th. Registration form and complete list of topics in breakout sessions is located on church bulletin board.

Pastor Michael is cooking what sounds like a prize-winning entry in the

Minister's Cookoff on November 11th

from 5:00 -7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall of Clemson First Baptist Church. Members of the Beverly Smith Guild will be his numerous Sous-Chefs. If you have never been to the minister's cookoff, it is great fun. Many people turn out to taste the food made by churches in Central, Six Mile and Clemson. The mayors from each town serve as judges. **The proceeds go to Safe Harbor** which is an organization that provides shelter, clothing and counseling to families dealing with domestic violence.

Carolina-Clemson Challenge to aid campus ministry.

Our youth will be providing a **USC bucket** and a **Clemson bucket** at the end of our worship service on **November 23rd.** Fans of each school are invited to drop in their support (\$) for a friendly competition sponsored by the Wesley Foundation at the University of South Carolina and Clemson University. Money donated will be used to support United Methodist campus ministries at the schools.

Laity Workshops at First UMC in Easley on November 23rd, 3:00 -

5:30 p.m. Descriptions of the 12 different workshops and their leaders may be obtained from the pastor or at <http://anderson.umcsc.org>.

Come Join in Holy Conference

I've got a confession to make to you. I've never been to a charge conference before. I didn't go when I was growing up at St. John's UMC in Aiken. I never went when I was away at college or in the Navy. I didn't even go when St. John's "examined and recommended" me for candidacy for ordination, as I was living in New Orleans at the time. November 16 will be the first charge conference I've ever attended, and now I'm the administrative officer! Now, I wish I had been there to share in our connection. Officially, charge conference is "the basic unit of the connectional system" of The United Methodist Church (*Book of Discipline*, 2012, paragraph 246.1). It is the meeting that makes our spiritual connection in the Holy Spirit to all Christians in our denomination more physical and concrete. Very often we hear about events and ministries of the South Carolina Conference or the General Boards of our denomination. Charge conference is our opportunity to communicate back with the rest of the denomination all of the great things God is doing at Mt. Zion in Central.

The stated responsibility of the charge conference is to "review and evaluate the total mission and ministry of the church...and adopt objectives and goals," (*Book of Discipline*, 2012, paragraph 247.3). This is our chance as a community in Christ to get together and talk about this past year. What were our successes to celebrate? What were our failures to learn from? In the reports and discussion, we discern our way forward into the bright future of our coming Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We elect leadership for the upcoming year and look forward to the new and changing ways that God will call us to God's mission to be God's people in the world.

Have you, like me, never been to charge conference before? You are invited. Been to them all? You are invited, too. You've never been to THIS charge conference. "They" told me that charge conference is just another boring meeting, but I don't know any better, so we can do it differently! We are starting with a pancake breakfast hosted by the UM Men to set the tone of the festivities. We will then all join together in the sanctuary in the time of Sunday School to celebrate, learn, and dream together. Anderson District Superintendent, Rev. Susan Leonard Ray will preside. We will be done in time for the choir to warm up, and then we will all worship God, who has called us to this church and made us a part of this community in Christ. Rev. Leonard-Ray will bring the Word. By

the grace of God, I hope you will be there. *Pastor Michael*

Mt Zion UMC

2014 Financial Summary

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>3rd Quarter</u>	<u>Better/Worse than Budget</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Better/Worse than Budget</u>
<u>Budgeted Expenses</u>	\$14,167	\$14,167	\$14,167	\$42,500		\$127,500	
<u>Actual Expenses</u>	\$19,623	\$10,528	\$18,674	\$48,825	(\$6,325)	\$124,001	\$3,499
<u>Actual Income</u>	\$13,215	\$16,048	\$10,301	\$39,564	(\$2,936)	\$112,093	(\$15,407)
<u>Actual Gain/(Loss)</u>	(\$6,408)	\$5,520	(\$8,373)	(\$9,261)		(\$11,908)	

Expenses were high for the quarter due to our replacing one air conditioning unit at the church and having to remove 2 trees from the property. In addition to the above income and expenses we funded our support to Epworth \$635; Aldersgate \$339; the sound system upgrade, \$704; and dining room furniture for the parsonage, \$750. With our gifting remaining below our budgeted level, we will continue to monitor our finances closely.



The RAPPers went to **Chatooga Belle Farm** at Long Creek, SC on October 9th for their fall trip. They enjoyed the beautiful view of the mountains during a delicious lunch in the open-air café. Also enjoyed was the gift shop where fresh fruit, jellies and other items were purchased. The RAPPER's group is open to anyone in the church and meets once a quarter for a luncheon meeting. The next meeting will be held in January, 2015. [Pictured (L-R) Irene Buchannan, Kristine Reeves, Sharon Chandler, and Jerry Chandler. Photo by John Reeves.]

Thanks to ALL Who Serve During Sunday Worship Service!

Nursery

November

- 2—Heather/Benji Cumbie
- 9—Jan Miller/Sara Sarasua
- 16—Libba Carson/Vicki Miesbauer
- 23—Wayne Coffman/Chandler Coffman
- 30—Karen Smith/Sheila Malmgren

December

- 7—Elizabeth Bowman/Catherine Ferguson
- 14—Jane Jones/Janet Crenshaw
- 21—Sims Family
- 28— Open

Acolytes and Scripture Readers

November

- 2—Jeremy Sarasua and Serena Miles
- 9—James Sarasua and Anna Goldston
- 16—Grayson Bowman and Elizabeth Finley
- 23—Isaiah Mullinax and Amy Evans
- 30—Braelin Cumbie and Ansel Miller

December

- 7—Tyler Ferguson and (Hanging of the Greens)
- 14—Mason Sims and Lynn Martin
- 21—Jeremy Sarasua and Anna Goldston
- 24—Open and Dean Finley
- 28—James Sarasua and John Malmgren

WELCOME Jake Newton...the new face assisting behind the soundboard! We are extremely grateful to Sean Baker for his dedication in enhancing, managing, and training others on our church's sound system before he moved. Others assisting in running sound are Al Cumbie and Scott Smith. Jake is a student at Daniel High School and the son of Reggie and Tammy Newton.



November: Elaine Bullock (2), Joe Dyar (4), Dean Finley (7), Chris O'Dell (13), Kristine Reeves (14), Mary Handegan (15), Carlisle Jones (16), Pam Baker (22), Wayne Sarasua (28), Charlie Six (29), Frances Snipes (30)

December: Susan Drexler (2), Golda Noblitt (3), Kathy O'Dell (9), Ashley Smith-Ray (15), Allan Bomar (19), Robert Musgrave (22), Debbie Cooler (23), Kris Bowman (26), Blake Jones (27), Mason Sims (30), Gregg Miller (31).



November: Steve & Terri Lee, Wes & Shirley Witcher (19), Ed & Karen Martin (27).

December: Jerry & Sharon Chandler (20), Lane & Jan Miller (29), Terry & Mary Handegan (31).



Zach Chandler and Emily Sun who were married September 6th in Las Vegas, NV. Zach is the son of Jerry and Sharon Chandler.

Melissa Heck and Jake Lumsden who were married October 5th in Charleston, SC. Melissa's voice will be missed in the Mt. Zion choir.

Samantha and Brian Hansen on the birth of their son, Robert Harold (Hap), on October 5th. Samantha is the daughter of Dean Finley.



To Ansel Miller and his family upon the death of his uncle, Hobert Miller, in Maine.

To the family of our District Superintendent, Rev. Susan Leonard-Ray, upon the death of her mother, Shirley Leonard, in Greer, SC.

Mission Corner



The “shoeboxes” (instructions inside) are on the back pew in the sanctuary. Grab one or two to help us reach our goal of sending MORE than 59 boxes...our total last year! **The last day to bring your box back is November 23rd when they will be “dedicated” during the 11:00 a.m. worship service.** Each box is an opportunity to take the news of God's love and the true meaning of Christmas to a child.

“**Blessing Bags**” have been prepared by the Beverly Smith Guild to carry in their cars to give to those homeless that they might see when they are out and about. Bags are also at the church and can be given to someone coming by the church looking for food. The zip-lock bag is filled with food for a day for one person. Each bag also contains a Bible provided by the Evangelism Committee and information on services for more long-term assistance. Also at their meeting in October, they made plans to assist some needy members of our community for the holidays, explored some new options for the Chrismons collection, and decided to continue their tradition of shining the sanctuary for the holidays. Information on a holiday dinner will be forthcoming. If you are interested in a service organization for local mission and like to have evening fellowship, please consider joining us.

Women Who Are a Blessing to Mt. Zion

One channel of giving by the United Methodist Women (UMW) is a donation for mission work through the United Methodist Church in honor of a specific recipient. Nine women received Special Mission Recognition at a recent worship service for their past work in a number of capacities at Mt. Zion UMC. UMW president, Elizabeth Finley presented awards to:



Cherylene Amidon
Elizabeth Bowman
Libba Carson
Sharon Chandler
Jane Jones

Kathy O'Dell
Vicki Miesbauer
Kristine Reeves
Ann Wilbanks