



*The Grapevine*

*I am the vine, you are the branches*

**Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit." John 15:5**

I want to take a small moment of personal privilege to start this message to you. Many of you ask me on a regular basis how my dad is doing and how I am doing. I never really know how to respond other than, "he is progressing." That statement is true, but it is not all encompassing. I am realizing more and more what that progression is leading to. I struggle with wanting my dad around even if he can't really communicate or know who I am. I also don't want for him or my mom to suffer anymore. Dad is in what they call the late stages of Alzheimer's. I don't know how long dad has on this earth, but I know it is coming to an end, whenever that is. It is hard to watch and hard to talk about without tears. The one thing that I cling to is knowing where dad is going. I know that soon he will have full memory. He will be reunited with loved ones. And one day he will be waiting for the rest of us. My faith and the faith of my father gives me this hope and assurance.

Faith is defined as having complete trust or confidence in someone or something. Hebrews tells us that, "faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen." I have faith that even in the midst of all this pain and struggle that I have that God is still there and God can still bring good out of any situation. As I have said before I do not believe that God gave my dad Alzheimer's, but I do believe that God can bring some moments of beauty out of this ugly disease.

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# Nursery Workers

## August

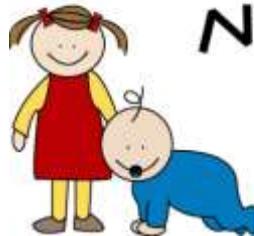
**5th** - Elizabeth Bowman/ Catherine Ferguson

**12th** - Jane Jones/ Janet Crenshaw

**19th** - Help Needed

**26th** - Libba Carson/ Randy Martin

WELCOME to  
NURSERY!



## September

**2nd** - Heather/ Benji Cumbie

**9th** - Jan Miller/Vicki Miesbauer

**16th** - Ashley/Drew Gelder

**23rd** - Haley Lee/Terri Lee

**30th** - Karen Smith/Cindy Owens





## August

Sherrie YoungBlood - **6th**, Kyle Owens - **7th**, Elizabeth Bowman - **12th**,  
Stephen Lee - **13th**, Kathy O'Brien - **15th**, Helen Singleton - **16th**, Ginger Allen  
- **21st**, Chandler Coffman - **31st**

## September

Ed Martin - **1st**, Drew Gelder - **3rd**, Sam Miles - **5th**, Dick Singleton - **10th**,  
Sharon Miller - **14th**, Terri Lee - **15th**, Bonnie Littrell - **20th**, Kathy Still - **20th**,  
Lynn Martin - **25th**, Cecil Rowland - **28th**



## August

Bill & Libba Carson - **2nd**, Wayne & Miriam Coffman - **3rd**, Mike & Catherine  
Ferguson - **5th**, Dean & Elizabeth Finley - **5th**, Cecil & Martha Rowland - **24th**,  
Chris & Kathy O'Dell - **29th**, Doug & Johnnie Walker - **2nd**, John Wisham &  
Lynn Martin- **2nd**.

**PLEASE HELP US  
REMEMBER.**

According to church records, plans were made in 1984 to put up a monument on the site of Mount Zion's first church building. So far, we have found no evidence that a monument was erected. Could it have been stolen? Several "old timers" believe that no monument plan was carried out. If anyone reading this newsletter has direct



recollection of circumstances surrounding the proposed monument or if anyone remembers hearing family members mention this, please let me know.

Thank you,  
**Myra Armistead**

The Alzheimer's/Dementia Support Group will be meeting on the **3rd Monday of the month at 6:30 at the church**. The group is open to all. Our next meeting will be **August 20th**. **Our September meeting will be moved to the 24th at 6:30**. **Jamie Guay from the Alzheimer's Association will be joining us for our September meeting.**



# The Church Calendar

The following take place at the Church unless otherwise indicated. In some cases more details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter and/or will be forthcoming in a church bulletin. Events take place at the church unless otherwise indicated. Note that information for each Sunday's bulletin is due by 5:00p.m. on the Wednesday before. Email the church at: [mtzion@nctv.com](mailto:mtzion@nctv.com) with "bulletin" on the subject line.



**12th** - School Supplies due for Central Academy of the Arts

**13th** - Nominations Committee at 6:30p.m.

**19th** - Blessing of the Backpacks

**19th** - Children's Committee Meeting at 9:45a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

**20th** - Alzheimer's/Dementia Support Group meeting at the Church at 6:30p

**26th** - Tailgate and Water Day at 4:00p.m.behind the Church



**2nd** - United Methodist Men 8:30a.m. and Labor Day Hymn Sing 11:00a.m.

**3rd** - Labor Day (Office Close)

**5th** - United Methodist Women 2:30p.m.

**5th** - SPRC 6:30p.m.

**12th**- Finance Committee 6:30 p.m.

**17th** - Church Council at 6:30p.m.

**24th** - Alzheimer's/Dementia Support Group at 6:30p.m.

# Welcome!

Welcome: New Anderson District Superintendent, Rev. Steve Patterson. Rev. Patterson comes to the District from Lytleton Street UMC in Camden, SC. Before there he served in several South Carolina Methodist Churches and Francis Marion Wesley Foundation. Rev. Patterson was born in Antreville, SC. He graduated from Erskine College in 1985 with his bachelor's degree in biology and Christian education. Patterson was ordained in 1993 following his 1991 graduation from Erskine Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree. Rev. Patterson is married to Debra Deschamps Patterson. He enjoys creative writing and many outdoor activities.

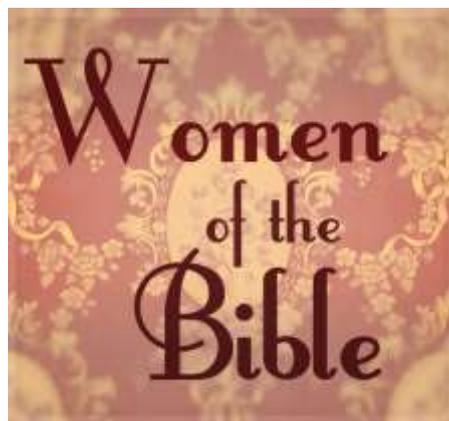


We will have our annual Charge Conference on **Monday October 1 at 6:30 pm** here at the church. Our new Anderson District Superintendent, Rev. Steve Patterson, will be presiding. This is a great time to come and celebrate the ministries of the church as well as meet our new District Superintendent. This is the meeting where we will also set the salary for Pastor Gene, the budget for the next year, and the nominations to the church committees. Please plan on attending and sharing in this important event.

Loretta has a new baby brother!! **Ford Wayne** was born to Haley Lee and Steve Todd on **April 7th**. Proud grandparents are Steve and Terri Lee.



We are embarking on a new sermon series starting August 5 and going through all 4 weeks in August. We are going to take some time to look at some women who encountered Jesus in the Bible. Some of these women are nameless, some don't even speak, but they can have a profound impact on how we see Jesus and how our faith is shaped. Here are the stories that we are going to look at:



**August 5:** A hemorrhaging woman and Jairus's daughter (Mark 5:21-43)

**August 12:** A woman accused of adultery (John 7:53-8:11)

**August 19:** A bent woman, daughter of Abraham (Luke 13:10-17)

**August 26-** The Samaritan woman (John 4:1-42)



### **Deep Sympathy to the families of:**

**Ruth Garrett Wells** - Sister - in - Law of Bobby Carson Garrett

**Sybil Miller** - Sister of Lane Miller

**Lee Johnson** - Uncle of Kate Boyd

We are beginning our **collection of school supplies** for the **Central Academy of the Arts**. You can find a school supply list online. Tish Goode, the principal at Central Academy of the Arts, said the items needed the most are: crayons, construction paper, Clorox wipes, dry erase markers, pencils, erasers, scissors, and lots and lots of tissues. We are going to collect the items by **Sunday August 12th** and deliver them on **Monday August 13th**. We will have our annual **Blessing of the Backpacks** on **Sunday August 19th** the day before school starts for the students.



Mount Zion United Methodist Church would like to give a big thank you to Mrs. Carla Fleming for being our guest pianist on July 15, 2018. Carla is the mother of Katie Aiken, and mother in law of Pastor Gene Aiken. She is also the wife of United Methodist Florence District Superintendent Reverend Terry Fleming. It was a blessing to have Carla come worship with us. She has been playing for churches for a long time and she loves it. Carla filled the room with her gift, such playing that you were moved to tears. We are already looking forward to the next time she will come to Mount Zion United Methodist Church.



Mount Zion is extremely grateful to have Jared Wright as our summer pianist. Jared is a senior at T.L. Hannah High School in Anderson, South Carolina. He is a piano student of Elizabeth Bowen. Jared and his family moved to Anderson from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He has been playing the piano since elementary school. His piano teacher speaks highly of him calling him her “best student” Soon, Jared will be presenting a recital at Anderson University in Daniel Recital Hall. Jared has enjoyed the experience he is getting by playing at Mount Zion United Methodist Church. We look forward to hearing great things from him. Jared is a joy to work with and an awesome young man who has a heart for music and doesn't mind taking on a challenge.

*“Beautiful music is the art of the prophets that can calm the agitations of the soul; it is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us.”*

-Martin Luther

Submitted by: Malek

## Report on Annual Conference from John Malmgren

It was indeed a privilege and honor to represent Mt. Zion at the SC United Methodist Annual Conference in Greenville June 3-6, 2018. The theme of the conference was “A More Excellent Way.” As usual, our Bishop, L. Jonathan Holston, and Conference Secretary kept the meeting moving along; however, the 2019 conference will have an extra day added. The extra day is to allow for voting for representatives, both lay and clergy, to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences. Also, the 2019 conference will be dealing with the outcomes of the 2019 called General Conference which is discussing LGBTQ marriage and ordination within the scope of United Methodism.

As usual, Sunday evening consists of dinner and a worship service.

The business of the conference begins Monday morning through Wednesday. The business sessions consist of committee reports and voting on proposed resolutions. Additionally, there are other annual services: ordination of new pastors, missions celebration, service for retiring ministers, and a memorial service for ministers and spouses who have passed away in the last year.

There were no real controversial resolutions dealt with this year. The ones involving LGBTQ issues were tabled to be discussed after the 2019 called General Conference. In addition, there were morning communion services, Bible studies, and evening worship services each day.

The finances of the conference (pensions, health benefits, and budget) are also discussed at length. The cost of health benefits and pensions are only increasing slightly this year due to good budgeting on the part of the conference. The conference budget also has a slight increase, but it is less than 2%.

The final result of the conference is a “good feeling” about our denomination.



We will be having our annual Tailgate and Water Day on **Sunday August 26th** here at the church. The Water Day will start at **4:00p.m.** with the Tailgate starting at **5:00p.m.** We invite you to bring some chairs and join us as we tailgate in the parking lot and field behind the church. The church will provide the hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks. We ask that you would bring a tailgate dish to share with everyone. We also encourage you to invite others to come and join us for this fun time together.



Our weekly Bible Study will begin back on **Tuesday September 11th at 6:30p.m.** at the parsonage. This is a great time to join us if you have been thinking about it. We will be starting a new book called "Love Wins" by Rob Bell. If you are interested in joining the Bible Study, please let Pastor Gene know, so that he can order you a book.

On **Sunday September 2nd** we will have our annual Labor Day hymn sing. If there is a particular hymn you would like to sing there will be an insert in the bulletin for a couple of weeks before that you can submit a request for, or you can e-mail Pastor Gene. We hope you will enjoy singing the great hymns of our faith.



There is a song by a couple of artists named Shane and Shane called *Beauty For Ashes*. In the song it says, “Beauty for ashes. A garment of praise for my heaviness. Beauty for ashes. Take this heart of stone and make it Yours. I delight myself in the Riches of Fare. Trading all that I've had for all that is better. A garment of praise for my heaviness.” The idea for the song comes from Isaiah 61:3 where we are told that those who mourn will be given beauty or a garland instead of ashes. One of the writers of the song wrote this song after losing his sister. This is the hope that I am clinging on to and that is the hope I think we all should be clinging on to. That God will give us beauty even in the midst of ashes.

I am not here to tell you that I always see beauty in the midst of ashes. Sometimes the ashes are piled high around, and beauty becomes hard to see. Sometimes I struggle with seeing God in this disease that has robbed my dad of his memories. But, even when the ashes are piled high we can catch even just a glimpse of beauty and that is what we have to hold on to. For me it is a moment when he smiles and tells me he loves me or when he is awake and just has the slightest glimmer in his eyes.

I am reading a book right now about leadership and organizations. The book talks about how organizations need to restructure themselves based on collaboration and following the model of ecosystems where everything is interdependent. One of the assumptions is that given the chance, people will choose to be interdependent and help one another. I see that when people stop to ask me how my dad is. We can see that in church. We can see that in times of disasters. We can see that in times of suffering. We can see that more and more in everyday life if we begin to look for the beauty even in the midst of the ashes. We are able to help one another through the tough times in life to help bring the beauty that God has waiting for us.

May we each find beauty in everyday life. May we each find beauty in the midst of ashes. May this beauty lead us to hope, and hope lead us to faith. May we find the evidence of the things unseen.

**In Christ, Gene**

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Central, South Carolina 29630

*Address Correction Requested*

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Everyone knows that it is back to school time, but exact date could be helpful for some readers.) Here are the dates for local schools.

**August 20th** - Pickens County  
Public School - Tri - County  
Technical College

**August 21st** - Southern Wesleyan  
University

**August 22nd** - Clemson University

