



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

As I am writing this, my house is covered in boxes, bubble wrap, packing paper, and tape. It was four years ago that I was doing this same process preparing to move here to Central. I was not sure what I was stepping into and who I would meet, but there was excitement as I prepared to come here. In the last four years I have come to love this community, and the people of Mt. Zion. I have been challenged and I have grown over the last four years. We, as a congregation, have found healing and have begun to really understand what it means to care for one another and share in ministry together. We have started to reach beyond our walls. We have learned to listen to one another even when we don't agree. My family has come to love Central (and Clemson) and Mt. Zion. I will miss getting to have The Tiger come to church functions. I will miss getting to wear an orange bathrobe for a church service. I will miss the many visits in homes, hospitals, nursing homes, and everywhere in-between. I usually say that I will not miss a place, but most of you know me enough to know that I will miss the Central/Clemson area. Most of all I will miss the people. Although we may not have always agreed, I think we have always tried to love one another, the way that it is supposed to be. I have been honored to be your pastor for the last four years and I look forward to what God has in store for you and for Mt. Zion. Jonathan Harris will soon be here and will take over the role of being your pastor. He is excited and enthusiastic about what is coming. I know that you will make Jonathan and his family feel as welcome as you did us. He and his family will be a great addition to the Mt. Zion family. There is so much to look forward to at Mt. Zion and such a bright future. While I no longer will be your pastor, I will always care for you and pray for you and this wonderful church that I have had the gift of serving.

In Christ,

Gene

Happenings at Mt Zion

The families of Mt. Zion enjoyed a beautiful Easter egg hunt and breakfast. Everyone was all smiles as they opened the candy filled eggs, and squeals of delight when they discovered a special prize inside the "big" eggs.

Join us for a family movie night **June 28 at 6:00 pm for Lego Movie 2**. Be sure to let Elizabeth Bowman or Ashley Gelder know how many people are coming from your family as we will be providing pizza, popcorn, and drinks for the families. Kids can come in pajamas and bring a sleeping bag, pillow, and blankets to get cozy downstairs in the fellowship hall.



Nursery Schedule

June

2nd - Elizabeth Bowman/Catherine Ferguson

9th - Jane Jones/ Janet Crenshaw

16th - Libba Carson/Randy Martin

23rd - Ashley/Drew Gelder

30th - Karen Smith/Cindy Owens



July

7th - Heather/Benji Cumbie

14th - Jan Miller/Vicki Miesbauer

21st - Ashley/Drew Gelder

28th - Haley Lee/Terri Lee

Acolytes

June

2nd - Grayson Bowman

9th - Braelin Cumbie

16th - Ethan Green

23rd - Ann Michelle Aiken

30th - Taylor Ray

July

7th - Quint Cumbie

14th - Holly Gelder

21st - Grayson Bowman

28th - Braelin Cumbie



June

Ashley Gelder **2nd** - Dot Wilbanks **2nd** — Elizabeth McWilliams **8th** - Holly Gelder **14th** - Ansel Miller **14th** - Jerry Chandler **16th** - John Malmgren **16th** - Edith Wishram **17th** - Isaiah Mullinax **17th** - Ann Michelle Aiken **20th** - Anna Ray **21st** - Fred Cone **21st** - Karen Smith **21st** - Randy Martin **26th** - David Rice **27th** - Douglas Walker **12th**

July

Tyler Ferguson **1st** - Vicki Miesbauer **2nd** - Les Jones **8th** - Sam Blackman **9th** - Wes Witcher **9th** - Libba Carson **11th** - Braelin Cumbie **14th** - Paige Evatt **19th** - Sonny Sims **20th** - Loretta Lee Todd **23rd** - Tommy Still **24th** - Nelson Rice **27th** - Ann Wilbanks **28th** - Al Cumbie **30th** - Sharon Chandler **31st**



June

Benji & Heather Cumbie - **5th**
Stan & Cindy Owens - **8th**
Mac & Beth McWilliams - **24th**

July

Dick & Helen Singleton - **2nd**
Kris & Elizabeth Bowman - **13th**
Tommy & Kathy Still - **21st**
Charles & Pam Baker - **22nd**
Gene & Katie Aiken - **28th**

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 with "bulletin" on the subject line.

NOTE: No Men's Club, United Methodist Women or Children's Sunday School during the summer months.



2nd - Pot-luck lunch after worship service. (church provides meat/drinks)

Celebrating the graduates and farewell to the Aikens and Malek.

2nd - 6th Annual Conference at Greenville (TD) Convention Center,
1 Exposition Drive, Greenville, SC.

2nd—Annual Conference evening worship service, 7:30.p.m. Bishop
Holston preaching; Malek leading the music. Everyone welcome.

23rd - Malek's last Sunday at Mt. Zion

28th - Children's Ministry at **6 p.m.** Movie night (Lego Movie 2) and pizza will be served



1st - Salkehatchie meal, 6 p.m., Pendleton UMC, Pendleton, SC

Congratulations!



Malek McDuffie graduated from Anderson University with a Bachelor of Music Education with a concentration in Choral Music. He has accepted a position at Lower Richland High School in Columbia, SC. where he will be teaching Chorus classes along with some general music courses.

Nelson Rice graduated from The Citadel, Charleston, SC with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and a minor in German.



Mason Sims graduated from Southern Wesleyan University with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry. Mason will further his education at Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy at East Tennessee University this Fall where he will be pursuing a Doctorate of Pharmacy (PharmD).

Mt Zion Active Military List

John Holmes
Alex Martin
Amanda Chivers
Chris Trumbower
Josh Trumbower
Derek McDonald
Jordon Cox
Travis Wilbanks
Wayne Smith
John Youngblood, Jr - Retired



In order to update our **Active Military list**, please notify Sharon Miller by July 4th if you know anyone above who should remain in the list or have someone to add. She can be reached at 654-1151, miller2@earthlink.net or via note in the offering plate.

2 Chronicles 7:14 New King James Version (NKJV)

If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Obituary for Pastor Gene's father—

William "Bill" Marion Aiken, Jr., 78, passed away on May 29, 2019. A native of Langley, son of the late William Marion Aiken, Sr. and Dorothy Matheny Aiken, he was a retired employee of AB Beverage, a US Air Force Veteran and a member of Advent United Methodist Church.



With Deepest Sympathy

Surviving are his wife, Brenda Tutterow Aiken of the home; two sons, William Marion Aiken, III (Jennifer Gossett) of Greer and Eugene Aaron Aiken (Katherine Fleming) of Central; one sister, Ann Aiken Edmundson (Stan) of Raleigh, NC; one sister-in-law, Beverly Aiken of Statesville, NC and three grandchildren, William Marion Aiken, IV, Ann Michelle Aiken and Lily Carolyn Aiken. Mr. Aiken was predeceased by one brother, Eugene Martin Aiken.

A memorial service will be held 1:00 p.m. Friday, June 7, 2019 at St. John's United Methodist Church, Aiken, SC conducted by Rev. Ken Nelson and Rev. Michael Turner. Visitation will be held after the service in the fellowship hall. The family is at the home of the son, Will Aiken.

Special thanks to caregivers at Oakleaf Village and Open Arms Hospice. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Alzheimer's Association, 301 University Ridge, Suite 5850, Greenville, SC 29601 or St. John's United Methodist Church, 104 Newberry Street, NW, Aiken, SC 29801. Online condolences may be made at www.thewoodmortuary.com.

From the SPRC Committee

Ginger Allan , Chairperson

A few weeks ago, I was saddened to hear from our district superintendent that our pastor, Gene Aiken, would be leaving us for a new position at Memorial United Methodist Church in Greer, SC. The last four years with Gene and his family have been such a blessing to Mt. Zion. Gene came to us in a tumultuous time for our church. He quietly worked to settle the congregation down and make us closer and stronger as a church. We will be eternally grateful for that. Many of us in the congregation have suffered major losses in the last few years and Gene has been by our side and helped us grieve and try to heal. It is with a heavy heart that we have to say goodbye to Gene, Katie, Ann Michelle, and Lily, but we are excited for them as they move closer to Gene's family and to a much bigger congregation. **The Aikens will always hold a special place in the heart of our church and we wish them much success and happiness in Greer. We love you and will miss you all.**

The day we have feared is approaching for us. Malek McDuffie, our choir director extraordinaire, has graduated from Anderson University and will be leaving us soon. He has taken a job as a chorus teacher at Lower Richland High School in Hopkins, SC. Hearing Malek sing one song is a blessing, but having him sing and lead our choir for four years has been a blessing beyond measure. His talent is truly given by God and to know he will be able to share this gift with countless students in the years to come makes his leaving a little easier. **We love you Malek and hope you will stay in touch with us and we will pray for you as you embark on the next chapter of your life.**

Our new minister, Jonathan Harris, is coming to us from First United Methodist Church in Myrtle Beach, SC where he has served for six years as an associate minister. He is a native of Rock Hill, SC and a graduate of Winthrop University and Candler Seminary at Emory University. He and his wife, Marissa, have two sons; Isaac who is 6 years old and Micah who is 3. Jonathan is excited for a chance to have his own church and we are looking forward to the many blessings we hope to share together. **Welcome to the Harris family.**

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

Address Correction Requested

“Seeking a More Excellent Way” is the 2019 conference theme. For your free app, Live Streaming and/or program of each day’s events, go to:

www.umcsc.org/ac2019.

You don’t have to be clergy or a church delegate to attend, or read any of the information on the website. Designated areas are available for visitors in the business sessions. The conference will return to Florence, SC next year.

