



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

New Children's Sunday School Class

We are excited to say that we have a growing Children's Ministry, and we need another Children's Sunday School class. We would like to split our children into two classes, a younger and an older. Right now in the one class we have children from Kindergarten through 5th grade. The good news is that we have the space and the curriculum for this transition. The other good news is that the children need you! We have talked as a church about how we want to grow the children's ministry and we want people to be more involved, and this opportunity has both. We are looking for four sets of teachers for each class. The teachers will teach for a month and then have three months off. Having this many teachers also means that there are plenty of back-ups. As of the writing of this, we have at least one person in 5 of the 8 slots for the two Sunday School classes. I want to encourage you to sign up and help if you are able. You don't have to be great with children, you just have to love them and want to share with them. Even Preacher Gene is signing up for a rotation.

Mark 10:14-16 (NRSV) *But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And He took them up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them.*

(Picture is the stained glass window between the front doors of Mt. Zion United Methodist, Central, SC.)



What is a Good News Club?

After-school Good News Clubs are Bible classes children may attend once a week after school hours. This action packed club includes songs, Scripture memory, a missions story and review games and other **activities focused on the Bible lesson's theme.**

Club Benefits

Under the direction of Child Evangelism Fellowship, Central First Baptist Church sponsors a Good News Club at Central Elementary to supplement the children's education with Biblical principles. Sound Bible teaching not only helps children grow spiritually, it also has a positive impact on their personal & home life, school performance and decision-making skills.



Time & Day

Wednesdays
2:30—4:00
September 14 –
April 5
(only days school is in session)

How Can I Get Involved?

Grade Shepherd

- Hand out name tags, check attendance, give snacks
- Help with dismissal, listen to verses

Teacher Assistants

- Lead songs
- Tell missionary story
- Lead Review Games

Contact: Lucy Arthur at 506-0293
rcarthur@bellsouth.net

Nursery Volunteers:

August:

7—Elizabeth Bowman & Catherine Ferguson

14—Jane Jones & Janet Crenshaw

21—Ginger Mullinax & Isaiah Mullinax

28—Libba Carson & Randy Martin

September:

4—Heather & Benji Cumbie

11—Jan Miller & Vicki Miesbauer

18— Ashley & Drew Gelder

25—Sharon Chandler & Terri Lee

Scripture Readers

August:

7—Serena Miles

14—Lynn Martin

21—Benji Cumbie

28—B.J. Skelton

September:

4—Sharon Chandler

11—John Reeves

18—Elizabeth Finley

25—Serena Miles

Acolytes to be scheduled.

Check with Benji Cumbie.





August: Joey Parsons (6), Sherrie Youngblood (6), Kyle Owens (7), Amy Parsons (10), Elizabeth Bowman (12), Steve Lee (13), Kathy O'Brien (15), Helen Singleton (16), Ginger Allen (21), Chandler Coffman (31).

September: Ed Martin (1), Drew Gelder (3), Sam Miles (5), Dick Singleton (10), Sharon Miller (14), Terri Lee (15), Bonnie Littrell (20), Kathy Still (20), Chelcee Coffman-Baker (22), Ginger Mullinax (23), Allison Mullinax (24), Lynn Martin, (25)

August: Bill & Libba Carson (2), John Wisham & Lynn Martin (2), Robert & Shannon Musgrove (2), Wayne & Miriam Coffman (3), Mike & Catherine Ferguson (5), Dean & Elizabeth Finley (5), Chris & Kathy O'Dell (28).

September: Joey & Amy Parsons (13), Sam & Wanda Miles (21), Henry & Peggy Bodie (22)

Please notify the church office (639-2101)

if we have overlooked your special day.



Graduation Congratulations to:

Chandler Coffman and Isaiah Mullinax

Chandler graduated from Clemson University with a B. S. degree in Computer Engineering and began work July 11th with KeyMark, Inc., Liberty.

Isaiah graduated from Madison High School in Norcross, Georgia. He is working with Mullinax Tree Service, LLC, Central.



We are happy to announce that Pastor Gene has been re-appointed to Mt. Zion for the 2016-2017 conference year by the South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

From the Pastor....

I have tried each newsletter to let you know about what is coming up here at Mt. Zion or share special moments that I have experienced. I feel it is important for you to know what I get to see or how much being here at Mt. Zion is a great experience. With all of the things going on in this world where people are full of hate and dislike for one another my heart breaks. I talked about this a couple of weeks ago with the shootings that are happening of civilians and police officers alike. I watch the vile talk that comes from both sides of a political process in America. I sometimes even ask myself, where is God in all of this? I then have to remind myself of the good things that are happening and hold onto those God moments. I wanted to share some of those with you and encourage you to think about where you see God in your world.

- Easter service outside in the field
- Malek singing the first solo he sang in the fellowship hall
- Watching our new acolytes learn and be a part of the service
- The church taking a lead in collecting supplies for the flood victims, collection of school supplies, collection of Operation Christmas Child Boxes
- The Children singing in church
- The Young Adult small group coming together to eat and fellowship to get to know one another
- Hearing stories of how people in the church are reaching out to one another and visiting one another
- Having people come and ask questions about God

This is more of a reminder to myself and to you that God is still at work in the midst of everything going on. Sometimes it may seem to us or we may feel that God is not there or that God has abandoned us. I want to reassure you that God is there. In the midst of darkness, God is there. In the midst of strife, God is there. In the midst of heartbreak, God is there. In the midst of trouble God is there. Jesus' last words to his disciples in Matthew are, "Look I myself will be with you every day until the end of this present age." May we find peace in the midst of the chaos of this world and find our refuge in Christ.

In Christ, Gene

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. Note that information for each Sunday's bulletin is due by 5:00 p.m. on the Wednesday before. Email the church at: mtzion@nctv.com with "bulletin" on the subject line.



7-13—Family Promise at Clemson UMC

14—Blessing of the Backpacks, 11a.m. service. (see page 7)

Baptism of Anna Ray, 11a.m. service

Church Council, 3p.m.

Young Adult Small group will be meeting on Sunday, August 14th, at 5:30pm at the home of the Gelders (109 Jasmine Lane, Pendleton). We will have food and a time of fellowship. We also will be making plans for a missions outing in September

27—Kids Day, 2-5:00p.m. (see page 12)

28—Tailgate at parsonage, 5p.m., 203 Joseph St., Central (see page 8)



7—UMW resumes. 2:30p.m. NOTE! CHANGE OF DAY. (1st Wednesday)

11—Men's Club resumes, 8:30a.m.

New Sunday School Class starts at 9:45a.m. (see page 1)

20—The Bible Study on Tuesday nights at the parsonage will start back up on Tuesday, September 20th at 6p.m. We will be starting a new book for this study, and it will be a great time for new people to join. Please contact Pastor Gene if you are interested.

22—RAPpers, 12N

24—Kids Movie Night

25—Deadline for October/November newsletter submissions.

NOTE: Parsonage phone has been discontinued. Feel free to call Pastor Gene's cell phone at 864-952-9537

Blessing of the Backpacks and Collecting School Supplies

We will have a Blessing of the Backpacks on Sunday, August 14. This will take place during our morning worship service. Students in Pickens County begin school on August 16 and we are collecting school supplies for Central Elementary through August 14. Please place the supplies at the back of the sanctuary as you bring them. A detailed school supply list for Central Elementary is available at Walmart for those who wish to see it, but listed below are supplies that were mentioned on many lists and are always needed.

glue sticks (regular or large size)
crayons (twistable or regular) 24 count
student scissors (they like Fiskars)
notebook paper (wide or college rule)
large pink rectangular erasers
dry erase markers
Kleenix & hand sanitizer
Clorox or Lysol wipes (no baby wipes)
yellow #2 pencils
zipper pencil pouch
composition notebooks



School supplies collected and Blessing of the Backpacks last year.

Tailgate at the Parsonage

The Age Level and Hospitality Committees are sponsoring our annual Tailgate at the Parsonage on Sunday, August 28 at 5 p.m.. As always, hamburgers, hot dogs, their fixins', and drinks will be provided. We ask that you bring your favorite side or dessert.



You may also want to bring a chair for sitting outside.

We look forward to this fun and fellowship every year and do encourage you to wear your team colors.

(photos from 2015)



Report on the S.C. Annual Conference

The United Methodist Church

(Making Space for God to Work)

As an elected delegate by Mount Zion United Methodist Church, I along with Rev. Gene Aiken, attended the S.C. Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. It was held in Florence, South Carolina on **June 5-8, 2016**. This was a new experience for me making it very interesting to learn about the politics and interactions of our conference.

On day one, Sunday, most of the day was spent traveling, but I was able to attend orientation and the opening worship service held in the main coliseum. In orientation, we learned about procedures on reports, recommendations, resolutions and petitions. Worship began at 7:30pm led by Bishop L. Jonathan Holston. His message, “Just One More Thing”, was very moving and inspired me to think about doing one more thing for God and my church. The service was ended by a touching and somber communion service.

On day two, Monday, we started with a service of word and table. The Rev. Jason Everson delivered the message, “Playing in the Dirt”, followed by communion. Most of the day was spent covering the election of officers, finance and resolutions. The resolutions were presented during the day which I will cover later. The evening service was a Commissioning and Ordination Service presided by Bishop Holston. Rev. Michael Goldston was among the candidates ordained.

On day three, Tuesday, we started with a service of word and table. The Rev. Geneva Stafford brought the message “It’s for the Lord’s Glory” followed by communion. Many reports were given throughout the day on Connectional Ministries, Hispanic Ministry, Congregational Development and Imagine No Malaria, just to name a few. There was also a service to recognize retiring ministers titled “Passing of the Mantle”. In the evening there was a concert for Imagine No Malaria where Rev. Gene Aiken presented our check from Mt. Zion’s congregation.

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On day four, Wednesday, we started with a service of word and table. The Rev. David L. Anderson delivered the message “A Second Chance” followed by communion. Wednesday is the day in which voting occurs on items such as the consent agenda and resolutions. Everything passed including three resolutions, a Resolution for an Assessment, and Plan of Action for the African American Historical Methodist Flagship Churches of the S.C. Annual Conference, Responsibilities for Eradication of Racism Resolution and Resolution to oppose Discrimination Against Transgender People. It took a little over two hours to work through these resolutions. There was a sad note in that 11 church charges were dissolved in South Carolina including one in the Anderson district, the North Anderson Charge. And on a good note Rev. Gene Aiken was appointed to Mt. Zion next year. We then adjourned, Amen

Thank you for your support in allowing me to represent our congregation this year.
Ed Martin.

Ed Martin (second row, right), accompanied Will Altman, the Lawrence Chapel Director of Youth Ministries (first row, right), and several LCUMC members on a Salkehatchie mission trip to Winnsboro, SC.

Thanks to all those who supported any of their fundraisers.



Grand Prize Winner

For several years, the Pickens County Library System has held a Bookmark Design Contest which is open to all users. "This competition allows our patrons to express how the library has been a positive influence on their lives and in their communities." The bookmark shown on page 3 of this newsletter is one of two selected for printing and distribution by all branches of the Pickens County Library System this year. The artist for this bookmark is our own, Serena Miles. Serena is a member of Mt. Zion's choir, therefore, many of us know that she has a beautiful voice, but who knew that she was an artist? Serena has submitted entries to the Library's bookmark competition for several years, but never won. Of several she prepared this year, her dad, Sam Miles, selected this one, entered it, and won!! Sam is shown here holding the bookmark and his certificate for the 2016 Adult Category Grand Prize Winner.



Full time choir members are needed and welcome.

Choir practice is a 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings. In the Choir Room. There are also opportunities for individuals who are unable to serve full time, but are willing to share their musical talents, vocal or instrumental, on an occasional basis.

Anyone interested in our musical program should contact the Choir Director, Malek McDuffie, or Pastor Gene.

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

Kids Day

The Age Level and Evangelism Committees are sponsoring a Kids Day at the church on Saturday, August 27 from 2-5 p.m.. We will have a water slide, water balloons, and other water games. This will be for children up through the elementary grades. Refreshments will be served. We are needing volunteers to help with this day and a sign-up sheet is on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Parents may want to bring chairs for sitting outside. We look forward to our children and our "children-at-heart adults" spending a fun afternoon together as we end up our summer activities.

