



## 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 can hardly believe that we have already reached the Advent season and that Thanksgiving is behind us. I keep hearing people tell me that time flies, and I think the older I get the more it seems to fly by. My grandfather used to always say that you need to, “stop and smell the roses” from time to time. I am thankful that his reminder is still with me as I stop to give thanks for all I have. As I continue to give thanks for all that God has done for me I am reminded just what it is I am also looking forward to in the Advent season.

I am drawn to my favorite Advent hymn, “O Come O Come Emmanuel.” We sing this hymn during the Hanging of the Greens and at other times during Advent. I find it to be the most complete Advent hymn for me and I would love to take a minute and tell you why. To understand this, you have to know where the words to the hymn come from. They are adapted from the *O Antiphons* which are used as vespers the last seven days of Advent in the Western Christian world and in the Catholic Church. Each verse starts with the participle “O” and then a name of Christ. The names of Christ that are used are: Emmanuel (Matthew 1:23), Wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:30), Lord of might (Isaiah 9:6), Root of Jesse’s tree (Isaiah 11:1), Key of David (Isaiah 22:22), Dayspring (Luke 1:78), and Desire of nations (Haggai 2:7). Each of these names corresponds to a verse in O Come, O Come, Emmanuel and each tells of the significance of that name for us.

This is what Advent is about, it is about the coming of Christ the anticipation. The hymn reminds us what we are in anticipation for. We are awaiting with anticipation of being brought back into right relationship with God, to be brought home.

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**MOUNT ZION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**COMMITTEES**

**2018**

**Lay Leader** – Lynn Martin

**Membership Secretary** – Sharon Chandler

**Lay Delegate to Annual Conference** – John Malmgren

**Epworth Coordinator**- Elizabeth Finley

**COMMITTEE ON LAY LEADERSHIP (NOMINATIONS)** – Chair: Pastor, Gene Aiken

**Class of 2018**

**Class of 2019**

**Class of 2020**

Heather Cumbie

Scott Smith

Irene Buchannan

Kristine Reeves

Pam Baker

Steve Lee

On Lay Leadership by virtue of position:

Lay Leader – Lynn Martin

**STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE** – Chair: Doug Walker

**Class of 2018**

**Class of 2019**

**Class of 2020**

Karen Martin

Ginger Allen

Mary Handegan

Myra Armistead

Doug Walker

Drew Gelder

On SPRC by virtue of position:

Lay Leader – Lynn Martin

Lay Delegate to Annual Conference – John Malmgren

**TRUSTEES** – Chair;; Vice-Chair;; Secretary –

**Class of 2018**

**Class of 2019**

**Class of 2020**

John Wisham

Trent Allen

Mac McWilliams

Kathy O'Dell

Miriam Coffman

Buddy Evatt

Cecil Rowland

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM** – Co-Chairs: Elizabeth Bowman, Ashley Gelder

Jan Miller

Jane Jones

Randy Martin

Catherine Ferguson

Janet Crenshaw

Heather Cumbie

Libba Carson

**MISSIONS & EVANGELISM COMMITTEE** – Chair: Vicki Miesbauer

Randy Martin

Kris Bowman

Vicki Miesbauer

Elizabeth Bowman

Johnnie Walker

**HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE – Chair: Sherrie Youngblood**

Myra Armistead  
Karen Smith

Cindy Owens  
Bonnie Littrell

Elizabeth Bowman (Bereavement)

**PARSONAGE AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE – Chair: John Wisham**

Scott Smith

John Wisham

Drew Gelder

Buddy Evatt

Elaine Bullock

Jill Sims

Ginger Allen

**WORSHIP COMMITTEE – Chair: Kristine Reeves**

Kristine Reeves (Flowers)

Katie Aiken

Chris O'Dell

Elizabeth Finley

Ginger Allen

Vicki Miesbauer (Communion/Altar)

On Worship by virtue of position: Music Director – Malek McDuffie

**FINANCE COMMITTEE – Chair: Benji Cumbie**

Treasurer – Chris O'Dell

On Finance Committee by virtue of their position:

Lay Delegate to Annual Conference - John Malmgren

Church Council Chair – Ed Martin

SPRC Chair – Doug Walker

Trustees Chair –

Lay Leader – Lynn Martin

**CHURCH COUNCIL – Chair: Ed Martin**

Recording Secretary – Sharon Chandler

Member at Large – Kris Bowman  
Dean Finley

Vice Chair - John Reeves

Youth Representative – Mason Sims

On Church Council by virtue of their position:

UMW President – Elizabeth Finley

SPRC Chair – Doug Walker

Trustees Chair –

Lay Leader – Lynn Martin

Missions and Evangelism Chair – Vicki Miesbauer

Lay Delegate to AC – John Malmgren

Children's Ministry Co-Chairs – Ashley Gelder, Elizabeth Bowman

Parsonage/Grounds Chair – John Wisham

Hospitality Chair – Sherrie Youngblood

Treasurer – Chris O'Dell

Finance Chair – Benji Cumbie

UMM President – Benji Cumbie

Worship Chair – Kristine Reeves

**Note:** The Pastor is an ex-officio member of all committees, with full vote on all except Trustees.



## Children's News

**During October**, we enjoyed a trip to Denver Downs. Many fall activities and a successful trip, with a map, through the corn maze was fun for all.

## During November

Scott and Karen Smith hosted our annual bonfire and hayride. We also enjoyed pizza and s'mores around the toasty fire.

## December Happenings

We will be having our Children's Christmas party on **Sunday, December 10th**. We will begin at **9:30 a.m.** in the fellowship hall with breakfast for all children and their families.



## January News

We are planning a trip to go ice skating at Ice on Main in Greenville on **Saturday, January 13th**. This is a new activity day for us all and may prove to be easier for the children than the adults. Tickets are \$10 and the church will be paying for the children to skate.

We are seeking to follow in the ways that the wisdom of God would have us go. We stand in awe of God and seek to live in accordance with God's desires. We seek to follow the King which we talked about this past Sunday. We are looking to that day when heavens' doors are opened to us and we stand with the saints who are robed in white. We are trusting that this Emmanuel who we anticipate will be the one who overcomes the power of death. And finally, we trust that this Christ will be the one who brings salvation and delivers us. This is what the hymn reminds us that we are in anticipation of, what we are waiting for.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel is the cry of my heart this time of year. I am seeking the Christ who will do all that he has promised and all that I know and have faith in. I know that through Christ I have hope, peace, love, and joy. May we all seek Christ this Advent and Christmas season. My we all sing with hearts full of joy, Rejoice, Rejoice Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.

A Letter  
from our pastor

In Christ,

Gene

### Pastor and Family Invite

Gene, Katie, Ann Michelle, and Lily invite the church to a **Christmas drop-in at the parsonage on Sunday December 17th from 4-6pm**. We will have light refreshments as we join together to celebrate the Christmas season.





## **December**

Golda Noblitt - 3rd  
Kathy O'Dell - 9th  
Allan Bomar - 19th  
Kris Bowman - 26th  
Blake Jones - 27th  
Mason Sims - 30th  
Gregg Miller - 31st

## **December**

Chandler, Jerry & Sharon - 20th  
Miller, Lane & Jan - 29th  
Handegan, Terry & Mary - 31st

## **January**

Jones, Les & Jane - 10th  
Wingard, David & Allison - 16th

## **January**

Lily Aiken - 2nd  
Irene Buchannan- 3rd  
Buddy Evatt Jr. - 13th  
Ava Ray Six - 17th  
Bobby Garrett - 18th  
Charles Baker - 19th  
Nancy Rice - 21st  
Heather Cumbie - 23rd  
Quint Cumbie - 23rd  
Amanda Mullinax - 26th  
Ashley Malmgren - 29th



# 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.

## DECEMBER

**December 3rd** - Hanging of the Greens at 11:00a.m.

**December 6th** - UMM will have their December meeting and Christmas luncheon at the little Bistro in liberty at 11:30 a.m.

**December 10th** - Children's Christmas Party at 9:30a.m. and Cantata by the Choir at 11:00a.m. service.

**December 17th** - Gene, Katie, Ann Michelle, and Lily invite the church to a Christmas drop-in at the parsonage on Sunday December 17th from 4-6p.m.

**December 24th** - Christmas Eve Service at 5:30p.m. and Mt Zion Children Choir will sing at 11:00a.m.

**December 31st** - The Upstairs Adult Sunday School class will discontinue meeting after December 31st, 2017.

## January

**January 13th** - The children are planning to go Ice Skating at Ice on Main in Greenville, SC on Saturday. Tickets are \$10 and the church will be paying for the children to skate.

## Nursery Workers

### December

3rd - Elizabeth Bowman/Catherine Ferguson

10th - Jane Jones/Janet Crenshaw

17th - Benji & Heather Cumbie

24th - Libba Carson/Randy Martin

31st - Karen Smith/Cindy Owens



### January



7th- Heather/Benji Cumbie

14th- Jan Miller/Vicki Miesbauer

21st - Ashley/Drew Gelder

28th - Haley Lee /Terri Lee

## Children's Sunday School Teachers

### December

Drew and Ashley Gelder

Gene Aiken and Randy Martin

### January

Karen Smith and Cindy Owens

Ginger and Trent Allen



**The 15th Annual Minister's Cook Off** is in the books. Mt. Zion once again was a winner. Gene shared his recipe for Chicken Spaghetti. The Beverly Smith Guild provided "support" in his endeavor. The chicken was loved by all those who tasted it. The farm themed decorations were a hit too. In fact Mt. Zion won second place in table decorations. We made a ton of chicken. There was enough left-over to feed the Wesley Foundation the following Sunday. No one had signed up for that particular Sunday so it was a blessing. (This was in addition to our regular Wesley dinner donations.) The true winner was Safe Harbor. The committee for the Ministers Cook Off sent a check for 12,025.00 to them from the proceeds of this fun event. Thank you to Gene and to all who participated.



**The Beverly Smith Guild** had a sanctuary work day on **Friday December 1st**. The brass was polished and the sanctuary was prepared for the Advent season. We adopted a family to help with their Christmas gifts. Gifts will be purchased, wrapped and delivered to Ashley Gelder who knows the family. See her if you would like more information. Our Christmas Dinner will be held on **December 13 at 6:30 at Pixie and Bills in Clemson**. We welcome ladies to join us for fun and fellowship.



**Elaine Bullock and family** upon the death of her husband, David Bullock.



## Baby Arrival

**Clara Vivienne Jones** was born **September 14th at 8:30 am**. She weighed **10.5 lbs. and was 21 & 1/4** inches long. Her parents, Tyler and Allison Jones and sister, three year old Eva, are doing well. Proud grandparents at Mt. Zion are **Chris and Kathy O'dell**.



**Matthew Elijah O'Dell** was welcomed by parents, Matthew and Kaci O'Dell, and sister, Jade, on **October 17th**. Elijah weighed **6 lbs. and 14oz**. They live in Columbia, SC. Proud grandparents at Mt. Zion are **Chris and Kathy O'dell**.

## Happy Wedding

**Congratulations to Paige Evatt and Bailey Campbell** who were married at **Lawrence Chapel on August 19th** by Pastor Gene. Paige is a dental assistant at David McInnis Orthodontics and Bailey is a Firefighter in the Parker District Fire Department. They reside in Easley. Paige grew up in Mt. Zion and is a daughter of Buddy Evatt who sings in the choir.





The **UMW** will have their **December meeting and Christmas luncheon** at the **Little Bistro in Liberty** at **11:30 a.m.** on **Wednesday, December 6, 2017**. As we have done in the past, **our mission project** will be to collect

**fleece blankets for the children at Helping Hands**. Please bring these blankets with you to the luncheon so that Elizabeth may deliver them before the holidays. **All are invited to attend.**



### The UMW “Elves” Are Hard at Work!

Did you know that the United Methodist Women turn into “elves” once a year? They start in September by purchasing school supplies at rock bottom



prices and they purchase the OCC Shoeboxes that we all enjoy using. In October they assemble over 100 shoeboxes: 50 for their use and 50+ for the congregation to use. Then in November the fun begins! They put on their “elf” hats and fill 50 boxes with gifts for children all over the world. There is nothing

more rewarding than giving to those who have less. This year the congregation generously provided 63 boxes filled with joy and love, to make a grand total of 113 boxes! Thank you to everyone in the congregation for sharing God’s love!



Hello faithful volunteers! Our next **Family Promise host week** at Clemson UMC is **Sunday, December 3 to Sunday, December 10**. We currently have one family who is relatively new to the program. Mother is Sabrina and sons, Alexander (20) and Hayden (7). Both Sabrina and Alexander are working. They will be staying in the Habitat House and we will eat in the overflow room in the main sanctuary, using the "old" kitchen in the main sanctuary building. Overnight volunteers can choose to sleep in the Habitat House (on the other side not being used by the family) or in the overflow room of the main sanctuary.



Sign up for evening, overnight and Saturday volunteers plus laundry and move-in/move-out crew:

**1) Click this link to see our SignUp on SignUp.com: <http://signup.com/login/entry/777021676789784090>**

**2) Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like.**

**3) Sign up! It's Easy - you will NOT need to register an account or keep a password on SignUp.com.**

**Sign up for meals: Visit this link: <https://mealtrain.com/6go9ly>**

Note for Saturday, we also need breakfast and lunch (not listed). We also need a few breakfast items that can be heated in the microwave in the Habitat House easily (and the refrigerator is very small). We have enough other snacks to feed a small army so we are primarily looking for breakfast and bottled water. If you are interested in bringing this meal or breakfast items, please let me know directly! Thanks Kristin!

**An update from Kat:** In partnership with other long term workers and local believers, our team has been part of an **evangelistic and Bible distribution project reaching over 23,000 remote homes in three districts. North America has 5,110 Christian workers per million people; the Buddhist peoples have 4 Christian workers per million people.** The labor is plentiful, but the laborers are truly few.

**As Paul writes in Romans 10:**

- How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard?
- And how will they hear without a preacher?
- How will they preach unless they are sent?

Having lived in Nepal for 8 months already, I am learning to adapt to the rigors of life in this mountainous region and the difficulties of walking for days to reach remote villages. I am studying Nepali full time for the 1st two years. Knowing Nepali allows me to quickly break past barriers and share the Gospel of Jesus in the heart language of the Hindu and Buddhist peoples. The great work of Missions is prayer. Knowing this, we have established a House of Prayer that currently has two-hour prayer meetings five days a week.

To further devote myself to this work, I need to be financially supported by people who are eager to see the Gospel of Jesus cover the earth. If you are able to help, please send your gift to YWAM, 1015 Atlantic Blvd. #303, Jacksonville, FL 32233. Make check payable to YWAM and put my ID # of 45000 on the For line. Your donations are tax deductible (NOT my name) If you want to send a check, my name, for tax reasons, can't be on there anywhere, only my ID #. Thank you!



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*Address Correction Requested*

