



# 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*

We will soon be entering the season of Lent. That is right it is almost time to start looking towards Easter once again. We will begin this Lenten journey by celebrating Ash Wednesday with our friends at Lawrence Chapel UMC. During the season of Lent we will be studying the book *24 Hours That Changed The World* by Adam Hamilton. The book looks at the last 24 hours of Jesus life from the Gospel of Mark. There will be an opportunity for you to purchase a 40 day devotional that goes along with the series, and we will make that available for pre-order soon.

I wanted to take a moment to share with you a little about Lent. Some of you may have grown up with Lent your whole life and know all about it. Some of you may have grown up with it your whole life and know nothing about it. And yet, some of you may have never heard of it or really know what I am talking about. Lent is really a season of preparation and self-examination. We begin Lent with Ash Wednesday which is a time for us to think about our own sin and our own mortality. It is a chance to confess where we have gone wrong in our lives. Confession is always the first step toward repentance and forgiveness. We must first recognize our own faults.

Lent then moves for 40 days not counting Sundays as a time for us to look at our lives. In the early church Lent was a 40 days not counting Sundays preparation for baptism. People would study Scripture, pray, fast, and prepare themselves for being born anew in Christ. For some Lent is a season to make a sacrifice. If that is your tradition I encourage you to do that in a way that honors a focus towards Christ. I always encourage people to take up something for Lent such as a prayer time, devotional time, Scripture reading time, or some other spiritual discipline to draw us closer to God.

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## UMW Valentine's Dish meal—Sunday, February 12

The **UMW** will be sponsoring its annual **Valentine's Church wide covered Dish meal** on **Sunday, February 12th**. Come join us for this fun time of fellowship and great eats immediately after the worship service. It takes all of your contributions to insure this Valentines celebration is a success!! **This year we will not furnish a meat so consequently we are looking for**



**some meat dishes.** Pictured above



are some of the beautiful deserts from last years' event. This is one of our favorite meals of the year. **LET US SHARE THE LOVE!** Invite a neighbor or friend to join us. Donations will be accepted and proceeds will go toward UMW mission work!

*Submitted by Elizabeth Finley*

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The **Eloise Gaines and Dolly Brock Circles of Mt. Zion's United Methodist Women (UMW)** met on Wednesday, December 7, 2016 at the Little Bistro in Liberty, SC, for their annual Christmas Luncheon. We were pleased to have pastor Gene Aiken join us. Besides enjoying each other in Christian fellowship, the ladies signed Christmas cards for our shut-ins and purchased fleece blankets to be delivered to the children at the Helping Hands of Clemson before they celebrated the Christmas Holidays. Their first meeting of the new year was on Wednesday January 4th This group meets the first Wednesday of each month at 2:30. All women are invited to join us. The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 1st.

# Good News Club

Additional **Volunteers** are needed for the **Good News Club** for the second half the school year at Central Elementary school. Meetings resume at 2:30-4:00 on Wednesday, **January 18th and end April 5, 2017**. For more information, please Contact Lucy Arthur at 506-0293 or rcarthur@bellsouth.net



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## JOINT ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

We will be joining Lawrence Chapel UMC for our Ash Wednesday service. The service starts at 7:00 PM and will be at Lawrence Chapel. Please come and join us for the service as well as the pancake meal before the service. The meal begins at 5:30 and will benefit the Lawrence Chapel Youth Ministry. Ed Martin, Lynn Martin, and John Wisham will be cooking their world famous pancakes for us!!!!

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sympathy

**We extend our sympathy and prayers to Peggy Bodie and her family with the loss of her beloved husband Henry on January 22nd.**

**We also extend our sympathy to Bonnie Littrell on the loss of her grandfather.**



# Happy Birthday

**February** - 1st Grayson Bowman, 2nd Peggy Bodie, 3rd Bill Carson, 3rd Katie Ferguson, 3rd Will Mullinax, 10th Cherylene Amidon, 11th BJ Skeleton, 14th Gene Aiken, 15th Taylor Ray, 16th Logan Rice, 17th Cole Parsons, 20th Trent Allen, 22nd Virginia Norwood, 24th Mac McWilliams, 28th David Wingard, 29th Rae Romberg.

**March** - 5th Karen Martin, 8th Neil Smith, 9th Abigail Wingard, 11th John Reeves, 18th Mike Ferguson, 20th Wanda Miles, 24th Dot Johnston, 25th Allison Wingard, 28th Scott Smith, 28th Elizabeth Finley, 29th Johnnie Walker.



Congratulations to **Will and Amanda Mullinax** on the birth of their son **Van Anderson Mullinax**. He was born on January 11th. Anderson is the grandson of **Ginger Mullinax**

**February** - Harold and Donna Abercrombie.

**March** - 8th Johnnie and Kristine Reeves, 13th Ginger and Trent Allen, 21st Ronald and Eileen Nonnenberg, 27th David and Cherylene Amidon, 30th Scott and Karen Smith.



## The Church Calendar



**February 5th** - Men's Club Pancake Breakfast at the Church at 8:30a.m.

**February 12th** - Valentine's Soup Luncheon sponsored by the UMW for Sunday, February 12th, immediately following the worship service.

**February 12th** - Bon fire/Hayride at 5:30 pm at the home of Scott, Karen

**February 26th** - Community Appreciation concert Come join the fun! Free Concert! Sunday at 3:00pm located at Clemson United Methodist Church 300 Frontage Road Clemson, SC

**February 15th** - UMM Shopping for Clemson Community Care



**March 1st** - UMW meeting at 2:30 at the Church

**March 1st** - Ash Wednesday Service and Pancake supper at Lawrence Chapel

**March 5th** - UMM Breakfast

**March 3rd** - World Day of prayer

**March 5th** - Men's Breakfast at the Church at 8:30a.m.

**March 12th** - Set clocks (Daylight saving time begins)

**March 15th** - UMM Shopping for Clemson Community Care



# Those Who Serve

## Nursery

### February

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

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

**19th** - Ginger/Isaiah Mullinax

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

### March

**5th** - Heather/ Benji Cumbie

**12th** - Jan Miller/Vicki Miesbauer

**19th** - Ashley/Drew Gelder

**26th** - Sharon Chandler/Terri Lee



## Children's Sunday School Teachers

**February** - Drew, Ashley Gelder and Gene Aiken and Randy Martin

**March** - Sharon Chandler, Beth McWilliams, Terry Lee and Heather Cumbie.

## **Scripture Readers**

**February** - 5th Sharon Chandler, 12th John Reeves, 19th Elizabeth Finley, 26th Lynn Martin.

**March** - 5th Serena Miles, 12th Benji Cumbie, 19th Sharon Chandler, 26th John Reeves.

Lent ends with Holy Week. On Holy Thursday we remember the Last Supper Jesus had with his disciples. We take communion together and some churches even wash each other's feet. On Good Friday we remember the crucifixion and the darkness that it left the disciples in. The person they have followed and put their faith in is now dead and it feels as if their hope is dead. We need to experience this moment so that we can fully rejoice in the resurrection of Easter Sunday. That is a day to celebrate. It is a day that we revel in the majesty of a Christ who has conquered death. It is a day we celebrate grace, love, joy, hope, forgiveness, mercy, victory, and so much more. I want to encourage each of you to take this journey during this season of Lent. Join us for the different services. Spend time preparing yourself for the joy of Easter.

In Christ,      Gene





Many of you at Mt. Zion may not have met Kat Laun who is listed as a missionary on the back page of our worship service bulletin. She is Irene Buchanan's granddaughter. A graduate of Westside High School in Anderson and Anderson University, she has worked with "serving the least of these", The LOT Project, in Anderson and with Youth With A Mission (YWAM) in Puerto Rico, Spain and Morocco. YWAM is a global movement of Christians from many cultures, age groups, and Christian traditions, dedicated to serving Jesus throughout the world. Founded in 1960, its focus today is still on youth, but people aged 9 to 90 are currently working in more than 1,100 locations in over 180 countries. Kat recently graduated from their School of

Frontier Missions and will leave in March for a two-year mission trip to Nepal. Please pray for Kat as she responds to God's call and becomes a part of what He is doing in this part of our world. If you are able to assist with her fund raising, donations are tax deductible and may be sent to YWAM, 1015 Atlantic Blvd. #303, Jacksonville, FL 32233. Please make payable to YWAM, and put 45000 on the memo line. **Submitted by Sharon Miller**



## CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Our children's choir worked hard to present their Christmas Music Program on December 11, 2016.

They are pictured here right before the program started. There may have been a little stage fright.

Many thanks to Miriam Coffman for all her hard work.



## CHILDREN'S NEWS

### **Bonfire and Hayride:**



We will be having our Bonfire/Hayride at the home of Scott and Karen Smith on Sunday, February 12 at 5:30 PM. The church will be providing pizza, drinks, and S'mores. Come and enjoy the fun and fellowship. You may want to bring a chair to sit around the bonfire.

### **Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast:**

We will have our Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 2. We will begin at 9:30 with a breakfast for all the children and their parents. The children only need to bring a basket to collect their eggs.



### **Disney Movie Series:**



We will begin a Disney Movie Series where we will show a different Disney movie on four consecutive Friday nights. These movies are for the entire congregation to enjoy, as these will be the basis for the sermon on the following Sunday. The dates for these movies are: April 28, May 5, May 12, and May 19.

**Join  
the  
Fun**

## Mount Zion United Methodist Church Logo

On Sunday January 29th the Administrative Council adopted this logo to be used for publications, promotions, and in the community. Hopefully you will see it more and more. Thanks goes to Ashley Anderson who worked with the Administrative Council to design the logo.



On **Saturday April 1st** the Clemson Wesley Foundation will host their second annual golf tournament at Boscobel. The captains choice tournament will have a shotgun start at 1pm. The cost is \$65 per person to participate and that includes a lunch before the tournament. Also they are looking for hole sponsors at \$50 per hole. If you are interested in playing for sponsoring a hole please let Pastor Gene or Steve Simoneaux know. Steve's contact is [steve@clemsonwesley.org](mailto:steve@clemsonwesley.org). Last Year we had two groups from Mt. Zion and we would love to have more this year.



**The Administrative Council** met on Sunday January 29th. One of the items considered was a proposal by the Trustees for construction of a handicapped bathroom in part of the main office. The Council discussed and agreed that there is a need for the handicapped bathroom but decided some other factors need to be considered before we take on this project. Most importantly, relocation of the church office and the internet and phone lines that would be displaced by the construction. The Council voted to form a committee that would create a long range plan for the use of our facility, including the placement of a handicapped bathroom while taking into account our current and future needs for office, classroom, storage, and bathroom space. The Council directed Pastor Gene to create a Long Range Planning Team that will consist of 5 members and Pastor Gene. Their goal will be to come up with a comprehensive facility use plan taking into consideration needs and limitations of the space we have. We encourage you to pray for this team. The members have not yet been determined. If you have interest in serving on this team, contact Pastor Gene.



**Congratulations to Mr. And Mrs. Gregg Miller** who were married by Pastor Gene on October 21, 2016 in Mt. Pleasant, SC. Mrs. Miller is the former Kim Yost of Mt. Pleasant. They are residing in Greenville, SC. Gregg grew up in Mt. Zion and is the son of Lane and Jan Miller.

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*Address Correction Requested*

