



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

Spring is Coming by Pastor Michael Goldston

Song of Solomon 2:10-13

- ¹⁰ My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away;
¹¹ for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.
¹² The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.
¹³ The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance.
Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

As I write these words, a snowstorm looms on the horizon, preparing to blow in frosty temperatures and drop a half-foot on us. We have already been through weeks of cold and ice. In the dark, depth of winter, it is difficult to imagine days when it will be warm again. Yet before the next newsletter, the grass will be green, the azaleas will be in full bloom, and we will have celebrated Easter, the resurrection of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ.

When we are caught up in the winter struggles of life, it becomes very difficult to see and imagine the blossoming warmth of a new life and new future coming to us. When we suffer illness and pain, it is hard to remember life without it. When things that we love are taken from us, whether a job or a friend, a spouse or a child, the cold darkness can seem to go on forever. When our church is struggling, there seems no end to the strife.

These verses from Song of Solomon, God's love song to God's people, remind us that God is always coming to us from a bright future where singing has resumed, health has been restored, and new life is abundant. Our Lord Jesus promises in John 14:18 "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you." Jesus is with us in the winter, and Jesus is coming to us, bringing new life of spring, of Easter, from the promised future God has prepared for us. The winter is short, but our time of rejoicing in God's steadfast love will endure forever.

Mission Corner

The United Methodist Women (UMW) of Mount Zion held a **Valentine's Soup Luncheon** as a fundraiser for missions on Sunday, February 15, immediately following the worship service. The tablecloths, decorations, soups, bread, cornbread, desserts, tea and coffee were provided by the ladies of the church. The UMW wishes to thank everyone who contributed to this worthwhile event which raised \$266 for missions! It was a great meal that provided a wonderful opportunity for fun and fellowship.



Imagine No Malaria

The UMW is going to sponsor a mission project this spring which shall carry over into the summer months—*Imagine No Malaria*. In 2008, the United Methodist Church, as a denomination, committed to join the global fight against malaria with a goal of raising \$75,000,000. The Global Fund has received \$8.5 million from this campaign while UMCOR has directly implemented over \$6 million for education, prevention and treatment programs for affected communities, for revitalizing health facilities, and for support of hospital and health care human resource development. A mosquito net that covers a bed that the entire family sleeps in costs only \$10. A net for two, \$5.50. One for a baby crib, \$3. A small contribution can make a

world of difference. We hope to raise the consciousness of our community by



beginning this worthwhile campaign at our UMW table at the Central Railroad Festival on April 22.

Sharon Chandler

Members of the **Beverly Smith Guild** are going to buy a small supply of Meals Ready to Eat (MREs). Our hope is that if an individual comes to the church door during office hours, Pastor Michael will be able to supply the person with informational pamphlets about Clemson Community Care, Catbus schedule, a Bible and/or other Christian literature, and an MRE- something to eat that is high-calorie, doesn't take up a lot of space, and has a long shelf-life. The Guild is also providing some family meal bags for when the person seeking assistance has a family. We are only just beginning this service, so for now, we will monitor and adjust as needed. We look forward to sharing more news about this endeavor in the future.

Ashley Gelder

2014 Financial Summary-

	December Quarter	Year To Date
General Fund		
Budget	\$42,500	\$170,000
Actual Expenses	\$38,350	\$162,351
Actual Income	\$56,206	\$170,799
Actual Gain/(Loss)	\$17,856	\$ 8,448

We are pleased to report that, for the first time in four quarters, we have received gifting that exceeded our budget. Thank you to everyone for your generosity and support of Mt Zion UMC. We are truly blessed! And our committees did a great job of being good shepherds of the church money and controlled spending under the budgeted level. Mt Zion paid 100% of its Apportionments to the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church for 2014.

Charles C Baker, Finance Committee Chairman

Upcoming Events:

March 6

March 8— Lunch after Worship Service.

Bring your favorite side and/or dessert.

Bring

March 12-15—Upcountry Reunion. Four days of events, lectures and field trips, this event is sponsored by several organizations including the Central Heritage Society. Most of the events are free and open to the public. If you are interested in the genealogy of families who have been in this area for at least one hundred years (Mt. Zion has a number of them), you will enjoy the reunion exhibits in the Southern Wesleyan University Dining Commons on Saturday. For a complete schedule and more information on all events, visit www.100yearreunion.com or call 864-898-0840.



Sunday, March 22, at 4 p.m. the Mt. Zion RAPPers will attend the Easter drama “Journey to the Resurrection!” at Trinity UMC, 1809 North Main St., Anderson. The walk-through takes about 1-1/2 hours. It is free, but you must have a ticket. Contact Kristine Reeves (639-6918) for ticket and travel plans with the RAPPers.

April 19, 3:00-5:00 p.m. Gospel Sunday at Southern Wesleyan University’s Newton Hobson Chapel. This free event is part of the Clemson Blues Festival. It will feature area gospel choirs singing the old time religion so closely associated with the Blues.

Saturday, April 25, Central Railroad Festival, 10:00—5:00. This event will take place in downtown Central, is free and open to the public. Although there will be entertainment, food, music, arts and crafts vendors and rides for children, the festival’s main feature is the Central Railway Museum. Located at 108 Werner Street, the museum is the former home of Mt. Zion members: the late B. E. Allen family. For more information go to www.centralrrfestival.org.



The Mt. Zion United Methodist Men will be selling barbecue plates in conjunction with the Central Railroad Festival. Come, park at Mt. Zion, eat some barbecue, and walk over to the festival! Benji Cumbie

Opportunities For Growth in Grace

All adult Sunday School classes will meet in the Sanctuary during Lent for a special Bible study led by Pastor Michael. See the last page of this newsletter for the specific topics.

Monthly Prayer Breakfast continues at **Margaret's Restaurant** on Hwy 93 in Norris, SC . Tuesdays, March 3rd and April 14th at 9a.m. **All Welcome!**

Weekly Bible Study resumes on a new day of the week. **Tuesdays, 7:30p.m. at the parsonage.** In addition, the **Women's Bible Study** resumes on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month, 1:30 at the church. All are invited.

Thank You!!

- ♥ **Remember the Carolina-Clemson Challenge** to aid campus ministry donations that our youth collected on **Nov. 23rd** to support United Methodist campus ministries at Clemson and USC? Mt. Zion was one of the seventeen churches across the SC Conference that accepted the challenge. "Clemson supporters won the challenge by a margin of \$750; however the total amount raised was \$5,858.95! The money will be split between the schools and help offset the costs for college students going on mission trips and retreats."
- ♥ The Lawrence Chapel/Mt. Zion UMFY raised over \$1000 for their summer retreat and mission trips during the pancake dinner at Lawrence Chapel on Feb. 22nd. Special thanks to Ed Martin and the Flapjack Joe's crew for their support. If you would like to get involved with our youth, please contact Pastor Michael or come to Lawrence Chapel on Sunday nights 5:30-7:30.
- ♥ Mt. Zion has given up its Adopt-A-Highway section of Hwy. 93. Thanks to all those who helped during the past fourteen years and especially to **David Rice** who usually cared for it alone during the past couple of years.

Thanks to ALL Who Serve During Sunday Worship Service!

Nursery

March

- 1—Heather/Benji Cumbie
- 8—Jan Miller/Jill Sims
- 15—Libba Carson/Vicki Miesbauer
- 22—Wayne Coffman/Chandler Coffman
- 29— Karen Smith/Sheila Malmgren

April

- 5—Elizabeth Bowman/Catherine Ferguson
- 12—Jane Jones/Janet Crenshaw
- 19—**Help needed**
- 26—Anna Goldston/Randy Martin



Acolytes

March

- 1—Isaiah Mullinax
- 8—Grayson Bowman
- 15—Mason Simms
- 22—Braelin Cumbie
- 29—Isaiah Mullinax

April

- 5—Grayson Bowman/Quint Cumbie
- 12—Mason Simms
- 19—Braelin Cumbie
- 26—Quint Cumbie

Scripture Readers

March

- 1—Sharon Chandler
- 8—Ansel Miller
- 15— Anna Goldston
- 22—John Reeves
- 29—Serena Miles

April

- 5—John Malmgren
- 12—Wayne Coffman
- 19—Elizabeth Finley
- 26—Dean Finley



BIRTHDAYS:

March: Karen Martin (5), Gail Wingard (7), Matt Watkins (8), Neil Smith (8), John Reeves (11), Mike Ferguson (18), Wanda Miles (20), Dot Johnston (24), Loralee Cassell (25), Allison Wingard (25), Scott Smith (28), Elizabeth Finley (28)

April: Ron Nonnenberg (1), Nate Six (1), Robert Arrowood (19), Miriam Coffman (21), Aubrey Mullinax (23), Wayne Coffman (25), Myra Armistead (29), Lance Daum (29), Jan Miller (30)



ANNIVERSARIES:

March: John & Kristine Reeves (8), Trent & Ginger Allen (13), Ron & Eileen Nonnenberg (21), Dave & Cherylene Amidon (27), Scott & Karen Smith (30)

April: Al & Susan Cumbie (7), John & Sheila Malmgren (8)

Congratulations to:

Pastor Michael and Anna in the birth of their son, Jack Ford, on January 21st. He weighed 8 lbs. 2 oz. and was 21 inches long.



Our Sympathy is extended to the fami-

lies of:

Christine Dobson McAlister—longtime member of Mt. Zion who had in recent years moved to Texas to be near her daughter and family.

Lauren Baldwin—daughter of Anne Walters Baldwin and granddaughter of the late Deran and Betty Walters, long-time members of Mt. Zion

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church
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Lenten Sermon and Bible Study Series

Preparing Good Soil: Jesus and Women in the Gospel according to Mark

Lent is a season of forty days for preparing our lives to receive the word of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, which we celebrate at Easter. In the parable of the sower, Jesus describes people whose soil is not prepared to receive the word and people whose soil is. During the season of Lent, using this parable as a guide, we will explore the stories of women who, by their faithful encounters with Jesus, are prepared to receive his word. We will seek to understand what these women teach us about preparing good soil, so we may “hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop.” (Mark 4:20)

- March 1 – Mark 5:21-43 A woman with hemorrhages and a young girl
- March 8 – Mark 7:24-30 The Syrophenician woman
- March 15 – Mark 14:3-9 The anointing at Bethany
- March 22 – Mark 15:22-24, 40-41 The women at the cross
- March 29 – Mark 11:1-11 Palm Sunday
- April 2 - Maundy Thursday – At Central UMC, Rev. Peggy Garland to preach
- April 3 - Good Friday – At Mt. Zion UMC, Rev. Calvin Smith to preach