

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church  
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Central, South Carolina 29630  
Address Correction Requested



**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*

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!!

D. W. DANIEL HIGH SCHOOL—May 31st

**Haley Lee**

**Julie Sarasua**



A luncheon is planned for them by the Hospitality Committee after the worship service on Sunday, June 1st. Everyone is welcome to come and celebrate with Haley and Julie. Watch the church bulletin for more details closer to the date.

**"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."** **Jeremiah 29:11 (NRSV)**

## VBS — June 22-25th

We will be having a joint Vacation Bible School (VBS) with Lawrence Chapel UMC again this year. For **ages K5-5th grade**, it will be held at Lawrence Chapel UMC (2101 Six Mile Hwy., Central), Sunday-Wednesday, **5:30-7:30p.m.** A **lite dinner** will be served.



**Volunteers are still needed to assist with crafts.**

Please be in touch with Elizabeth Bowman (885-2223) or Libba Carson (639-6522). Age/Level Family Committee.

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The 2014 South Carolina Annual Conference  
will be held June 1-4 at the Florence Civic Center

Theme: A More Excellent Way: Creating Corridors of Faith, Hope and Love.

"Corridors" is an allusion to the Conference's push to combat poverty, particularly among children and particularly among children in South Carolina's rural towns along the I-95 "Corridor of Shame". Conference leaders are hoping to rename it the "Corridor of Hope".

Thanks to all who have contributed books thus far for the Million Book Effort (MBE). **You may continue to bring books to the box in the sanctuary through the last Sunday in May.**

Mt. Zion's Lay delegate to Annual Conference this year is Sharon Chandler. To read the resolutions which will be voted on, visit:

[www.umcsc.org/home/resources/2014-annual-conference](http://www.umcsc.org/home/resources/2014-annual-conference)

Speak to Pastor Jim or Sharon Chandler if you have thoughts/concerns about upcoming key legislation impacting our denomination in South Carolina.

## Congratulations go to:

**Jackie Wilbanks Chaka, Golden Apple Award Winner for WYFF** on February 19. Jackie is the daughter of **Ann Wilbanks**.

**Chris and Kathy O'Dell** on the birth February 19th of their granddaughter, Eva Naomi Jones. Proud parents are Allison and Tyler Jones. Allison grew up at Mt. Zion.

**Bill and Libba Carson** on the birth April 23rd of their first grandchild, Cohen Kennedy Wheeler. Proud great grandmother is **Catherine Carson** and proud parents are Caroline and Sam Wheeler. Caroline grew up at Mt. Zion.

**Andy and Whitney Sheriff** on the birth of their son, Miller James Sheriff, on April 29th. Proud grandparents are Kenny and Donna Sheriff & Ronnie and Brenda Stepp.



**Birthdays in May:** Catherine Ferguson (5), Larry Wingard (5), Eileen Nonnenberg (7), Benji Cumbie (8), Terry Handegan (12), David Bullock (13), Sara Sarasua (13), Dave Amidon (14), Robert Allen (15), Jill Sims (18), Cooper Koinskie (25), Stan Owens (27), Mary Nichols (30), Heather Elder (30)

**Birthdays in June:** Dot Wilbanks (2), Ashley Gelder (2), Bill Clayton (8), Holly Gelder (14), Ansel Miller (14), Miriam Griffin (15), Jerry Chandler (16), John Malmgren (16), Isaiah Mullinax (17), Karen Smith (21), Randy Martin (26), David Rice (27)

**Anniversaries in May:** Ansel and Sharon Miller (11), Drew and Ashley Gelder (26)

**Anniversaries in June:** Benji and Heather Cumbie (5), Stan and Cindy Owens (8)



Our heartfelt sympathy to **Wanda Miles and family** in the death of her sister.

I was handed a walking stick to steady myself and then they all slowed the pace to match mine.

We trudged along and a couple miles later I was doing OK, tired, but my legs were working again. Feeling bad about the incident, I apologized to my friends. "What do you mean?" one said, "It's just pay-back for the times you've carried our stuff." I still felt foolish for not staying hydrated, but I left it at that, and just said a word of thanks.

Lessons from the day had me thinking not just about hiking, but also about life together as God's family in the Church. First of all, check the route and distance for yourself! Are you relying on someone else's preparations for life or have you taken care of it yourself?

Secondly, stay hydrated! I thought I was doing fine, but my body desperately needed water. Likewise, in our faith walk, a lot of people think they can do without worship and Bible study, and still maintain spiritual strength. Guess who's going to end up with spiritual cramps?

Thirdly, be honest with your companions. I had to stop, admit my mistake and say, "I can't keep on like this." That opened me up to receive the help they were glad to offer. But how often in our church life do we mistakenly keep the problem to ourselves out of pride, stubbornness, or whatever?

And finally, be ready to step in and take action. Truthfully, my companions had to "take" my pack from me. With dehydration and the early stages of hypothermia, one's thinking isn't always clear and rational. They took a no-nonsense attitude with me to get me back on track.

Admittedly, this is a tough one in the church. Most of us don't want to "intrude" or seem to be judgmental. Yet, there are times when our companions are obviously not thinking clearly, times when we see they've neglected the basics, or maybe times when their behaviors signal a pending crisis. Is God's grace strong enough in us to step forward and risk involvement? For the sake of the other person, are we willing to do as my companions on the trail did for me? It's amazing the difference one person makes.

(Check out Rev. Taylor's blog at <http://taylormadereflections.wordpress.com>)



## From our Pastor...

In lieu of my writing something for this newsletter, I have asked a minister friend and hiking buddy of mine, Rev. Stephen Taylor, if I could use something he had written for his blog, and he graciously said "yes." I want to use it because he so eloquently captures the group he and I are a part of and connects one particular hiking experience we had recently to the church in such a clear and revelatory way. I hope you will enjoy what he wrote, and even more, I hope you will take to heart what he had to say.

Grace, peace and power to you and His people at Mt. Zion, through Jesus the Christ, our living Lord and Savior - Pastor Jim Elder.

Earlier in March, I spent a day with my Clergy Covenant Group hiking a portion of the Palmetto Trail. All ministers are expected to be involved in continuing education and one option is to be part of a monthly small group gathering of peers for discussion of ministry issues and mutual support. My group prefers to have its discussions outdoors while on the trail, or sitting around a fire or dinner table afterwards.

Our coordinator's email said the hike would be strenuous, but only 3.5 miles long, which was good since the weather called for a mixture of rain and sleet for the area. Actually the Blue Wall passage is 13.5 miles long. He forgot to type the "one", and we just went right along with it.

So, our two to three hour hike up and down a mountain turned into an all day hike, half of it in mist and half in light sleet. For me, it was a real struggle. About six miles into the hike my thigh muscles began to lock up with cramps. It became painful to take each step. I had made a common amateurish mistake – in the cold weather I didn't keep drinking water and my body had become dehydrated – and thus, my leg muscles rebelled.

If I had been alone, I would have been in a crisis situation in the wet cold. Fortunately, my fellow hikers stepped in to see me through. One took my back pack to carry and another took my camera. Another replaced my bottle of plain water with one containing electrolytes, and someone gave me a banana to eat.

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## Mt. Zion Choir

The Health Care residents at Clemson Downs enjoyed the caroling at Christmas so much that they asked if the choir would come back and sing for them again. The choir decided it would be nice to go after Easter and sing some of the special songs that were sung during morning worship during the Lenten Season and Easter morning. When the choir members arrived, the residents were eagerly awaiting. You could see the excitement in their eyes. Some of them joined in with the singing as they recognized a few songs. The residents truly enjoyed the singing and asked us to please come again. It was a special time for the members of the choir to see the enjoyment on the residents faces and to know we were bringing a little joy to their lives and also telling the marvelous story of a risen Savior in song. We had a special guest join us in song as we sung to the residents, **Pastor Jim.**

Afterwards the choir joined together at **John and Kristine Reeves** for pizza, salads, and all kinds of baked goodies. It was a great time of singing Our Lord's Praises, fellowship and fun.

**Sean Baker, son of Charles & Pam Baker**, has been working to improve the sound system in the sanctuary of the church. You will see him on Sunday mornings in the back at control central. Sean is a recent graduate of Savannah College of Art and Design with a BFA in Sound Design. He has formed his own company called **Sonic Solutions** and is available to anyone who needs help with sound design, audio system operations, wedding videos, highlight videos, audio mixing and audio consultation.

## IS YOUR TITHE UP TO DATE?

### Mt. Zion UMC 2014 Financial Summary (1st Quarter)

<u>General</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Quarter</u>	Better/Worse <u>than Budget</u>
Budget	\$14,167	\$14,167	\$14,167	\$42,501	
Expenses	\$10,212	\$10,917	\$14,929	\$36,058	\$6,443
Income	\$12,521	\$13,142	\$14,856	\$40,519	(\$1,982)
Gain/Loss	\$2,309	\$2,225	(\$73)	\$4,460	

### 2013 March

<u>Qtr Income</u>	\$14,125	\$14,877	\$17,370	\$46,372
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### 2014

<u>Better/Worse</u>	(\$1,604)	(\$1,735)	(\$2,515)	(\$5,853)
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## UMW Summer Mission Project

An article in the Interpreter told about "The KITS are Coming" to missionaries in Nigeria. The kits from UMCOR meant life would now have a little joy and it was just like Christmas for the people that received these kits. These kits (health, sewing, and school) are assembled by church groups and then sent to UMCOR for distribution in the United States and throughout the world. The UMW would like to focus on one kit and the health kits are easy to do and are not that costly. The health kits help sustain everyday life for people in a time of crisis. These kits give access to needed essential supplies. The UMW welcomes anyone; man, woman, and child to participate in this very worthwhile project. We will collect the kits through September 7<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to do a kit, the items are listed below and also the assembly directions. Once assembled, please leave them on the back pew of the church. If you have a question, please contact Cherylene Amidon (868-9068). Thank you.

### Health Kit Materials

1 hand towel  
15" x 25" to 17"x 27"; NO Kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels.  
1 washcloth  
1 comb (Comb needs to be sturdy and at least 8" long; No pocket combs or picks; Rattail combs and combs without handles are acceptable.)  
1 metal nail file or nail clippers no emery boards or toenail clippers please.  
1 bath-size soap 3 oz. and larger sizes only; No Ivory soap due to moisture content; Do not remove from original packaging.  
1 toothbrush Adult size only; Do not remove from original packaging.  
6 adhesive bandages ¾" to 1"-size; Common household Band-Aids.  
1 plastic bag One-gallon size sealable bag only.  
\$1.00 to purchase toothpaste

### Assembly Directions

Set the \$1.00 for toothpaste aside to be included in a separate envelope, plus \$1 to help UMCOR with their shipping costs. Lay out the hand towel flat on a table. Lay the washcloth flat in the center of the hand towel. Place all remaining items on top of the washcloth. Fold over the sides of the hand towel to cover all of the items. Fold over one end of the hand towel so that it covers all of the items. Grasp the bundle of items tightly and roll over the remainder of the hand towel tightly. Place the tightly rolled bundle in the plastic bag. Remove as much air as possible and seal the bag.

## A Day Apart for Anderson District Women

The Anderson District UMW hosted the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Day Apart for Spiritual Growth on April 5, 2014. Held at Hospice of the Upstate in Anderson, SC, the theme was **Prayer for Mission**. The keynote speaker was Sue Stout, author, motivational speaker, and teacher. Our Anderson District Superintendent, Susan Leonard Ray, served Communion. Attending from Mt. Zion were: Elizabeth Finley, President; Kristine Reeves, Vice-President; Sharon Chandler, Secretary; Cherylene Amidon, Treasurer; Myra Armistead, Chair-Nominations Committee; and Irene Buchanan, Eloise Gaines Circle.

## Cookies for the Festival

Thanks to all women who made cookies for the United Methodist Women (UMW) to sell at the Central Railroad Festival on Saturday, April 27. We sided up to the Barbeque that the men were having.

Our intent was more of an opportunity to reach out to the community instead of making money. We sold the cookies in bags of two for 50 cents. Although the ingredients in most cases out cost the value we put on them, the price made the cookies accessible to everyone. There was keen interest in choices to make as we had a huge variety: chocolate chip, oatmeal, brownies, Rice Krispy treats, huge sugar cookies, peanut butter, macadamia nut, caramel popcorn, date nut and pecans, just a huge variety and all so delicious.

It was great to greet and talk with people from our community. Many had questions about our church and its' history. The cookies themselves were such a wonderful way of reaching out to our community to people of all ages and denominations. Even our new Central Police Chief stopped by for a visit.

The past few weeks the UMW has been discussing a UMCOR summer mission project that would require a certain amount of postage. The postage will be 65 dollars. And how much money did we make? 65 dollars! Elizabeth Finley

## Welcome New Member!!

## Alexander Scott Martin

Originally from Virginia Beach, Virginia, Alex moved to this area about a year ago. He joined the Mt. Zion family on Easter Sunday.

A graduate of the University of Virginia College at Wise, Virginia, with a BS in Criminal Justice, he will be married at Mt. Zion on May 3rd to Barbara Smith. Barbara is a junior at Coastal Carolina majoring in Early Childhood Education. They will reside in Myrtle Beach; however, Alex has joined the Marines and will report to Parris Island on May 27th. A former football player, they both are big football fans.

