



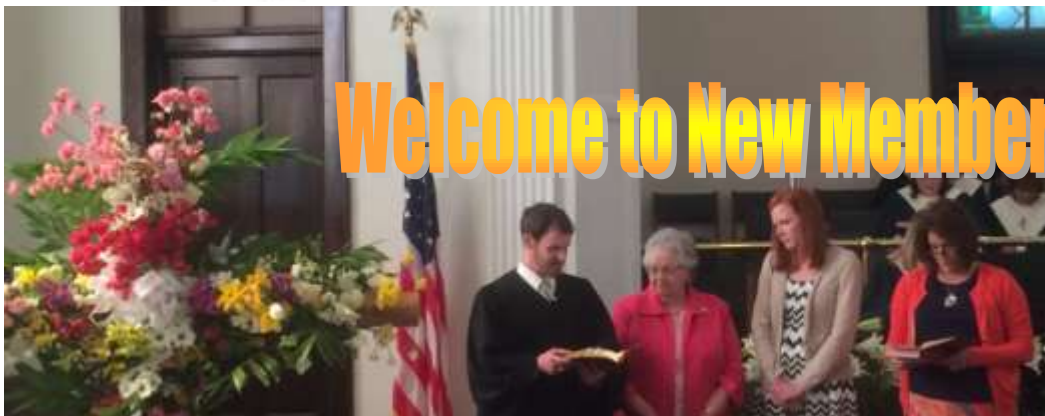
The Grapevine

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



Since the last newsletter, five individuals have joined our church, coming forward as an outward and visible sign of their belief in Jesus and their commitment to Mt. Zion. **Irene Buchanan** is an active member of Eloise Gaines Circle, RAPPers, and the prayer breakfast. She is also grandmother to our prayer list missionary, Kat Luan. **Ashley Gelder** is in the Beverley Smith Guild and chair of Evangelism. She and her husband Drew are extremely happy to be raising their children Holly and Lucy in this church family. **Lynn Martin** recently married long-time church member John Wisham, teaches the downstairs Sunday School, and serves as Lay Leader.



David (Mac) and Beth McWilliams originally joined Mt. Zion in the early 80's when Raymond Brock was the minister. Their children Jessica and Graham were baptized at Mt. Zion. They are very happy to be back at Mt. Zion and feel at home.

Thanks by Pastor Michael Goldston

I assume everyone knows by now that I am being moved from Mt. Zion. The Bishop, in consultation with Rev. Susan Leonard-Ray, determined that I can be in more effective ministry in another church. I am sad that our paths will separate as we all continue our journey to Christ Jesus. As I look back on this past year, I am so thankful for the faithful church here that gathered around me and my family to love and support us as I was seeking to love and serve you as your pastor. As Paul wrote in his letter to the Philippians, “I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel.”

I thank God when I remember Sharon and Ansel Miller, who amazed me again and again with their wisdom, with their willingness to help me, and with the sheer volume of ministry with which they are involved. I thank God when I remember Ed Martin, whose steady leadership as Trustees Chair and now as Church Council Chair modeled for me how to lead meetings and get things done while respecting and treating everyone fairly. I thank God when I remember Steve and Terri Lee, whose eager enthusiasm to help and serve in whatever way they can is refreshing. I thank God when I remember Dot Wilbanks. Her honest sharing of her life with me showed vulnerability that takes great courage, and her sweet concern for my family showed great love. I thank God when I remember Ashley, Drew, Holly, and Lucy Gelder. They embraced my family like old friends and allowed me the privilege of baptizing Lucy, a service of such joy and thanksgiving I will never forget. I thank God when I remember John Reeves, who leads this church through humble service wherever he is needed. I thank God when I remember Sharon Chandler. Every time I turned around, she was leading the church in a new mission or a new effort to reach out in electronic media. I thank God every time I remember the children’s ministers and nursery workers who love and serve our children, sacrificing their own worship time. I thank God when I remember everyone who shared the love of Christ with my family at the coming and birth of our son Jack, who threw a shower that made us feel like part of the family and made us dinners that continue to serve us when we need it. I thank God for Quint, Braelin, Taylor, Grayson, Isaiah, and Mason. Their enthusiasm for Jesus in worship, especially communion, and their willingness to serve inspired me weekly.

This is a great church. Mt. Zion has much to offer Central and the world in the service of our Lord and savior Christ Jesus. Let’s talk about what happened so we can take responsibility and become a healthier church. I challenge you to do the work to heal divisions and prepare to love and accept your new pastor. Rev. Aiken is coming to love you, serve you, lead you, and join with you in a partnership in the gospel. Please prayerfully consider how you can help make his ministry with you long and fruitful.

From the Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)

On Sunday, April 19th, the Mt. Zion SPRC announced that the Bishop made the decision that it will be in the best interest of Mt. Zion and Michael that Michael receive a new charge and that we be assigned a new pastor. Neither Michael nor the SPRC requested this change to be made. It is very unusual to have a one-year appointment, much less two in a row. Mt. Zion needs your support and prayers at this time of change. Our new pastor will be Rev. Gene Aiken.

Welcome Mt. Zion's New Pastor

Pastor Gene was born and raised in Aiken, South Carolina where he attended St. John's United Methodist Church. Gene graduated in 2002 with a Secondary Education degree from Clemson University! He will be graduating Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in May, and will be commissioned at Annual Conference in June. Gene has been



serving the Jackson Charge as a full-time Local Pastor since 2010. Gene married Katie in July of 2007 after meeting at Salkehatchie. Katie is currently employed at Aiken County Adult Education as the Testing and Technology Co-



ordinator. Gene and Katie welcomed Ann Michelle in 2010 and Lily in January of 2014. Both girls love anything princess, pink, or Disney. Ann Michelle is looking forward to Clemson football games, and any excuse she can find to wear her Clemson cheerleading outfit.

Women's News

The **Beverly Smith Guild** met on Wednesday, March 11, at the church. Representatives from the Dream Center and Family Promise shared information about volunteer opportunities. Family Promise is a Pickens County Program for the homeless that is supported by the Dream Center and churches in Pickens County. We discussed what it would take for Mt. Zion to become a support church for Family Promise.



Members of the Beverly Smith Guild are invited to a salad supper at the home of Vicki Miesbauer on May 6th at 6:00pm. Everyone brings a salad to share, and it is a great time of fellowship.

The **United Methodist Women** will have their last meeting before summer recess at Poncho's in Liberty. That will be May 5th at 11:30a.m. All women are invited to attend this Dutch-treat lunch .



Thanks to Dean and Elizabeth Finley for delivering the cookies purchased by the UMW for the Kairos Women's Prison Ministry. They also delivered cookies for the UMM support of the Kairos Men's Prison Ministry.

R-A-P-per's News

On Sunday, March 22, five Really Adult People and one youth, attended the “Journey to the Resurrection” at Trinity UMC in Anderson. We received “gold” coins (shekels) to spend at the marketplace which featured booths and live animals. The journey itself took us through transformed Sunday School rooms where different scenes from Jesus’ journey to the cross were enacted by volunteers. No talking and no photography was allowed which set the somber mood for the last week that Christ experienced before the resurrection. The photo was taken in the marketplace where all the volunteers were in costume. This production is in its twelfth year and takes 250 volunteers to pull off. It was a remarkably realistic and moving experience for all who attended.



Imagine No Malaria

The UMW is sponsoring a church-wide mission project this spring which will carry over into the summer months—*Imagine No Malaria*.



Our kick-off took place on Sunday, April 12, during the morning worship service. Children gave out small canisters of M&Ms to congregants who were encouraged to replace the candy with coins (it can hold 54 quarters). 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. Be aware of future opportunities to raise the consciousness of our Central—Clemson community with informational brochures, *Imagine No Malaria* bracelets and temporary tattoos for the children.



Congratulations!

Tyler Ferguson and Mason Sims upon their graduation from Wren and Daniel high school, respectively. Tyler is Clemson University bound and Mason has decided on Central's own Southern Wesleyan University.

David and Allison Wingard on the birth March 10th of Abigail (Abby) Lane Wingard. Allison is the daughter of Lane and Jan Miller and grew up in Mt. Zion. David is the son of Larry and Gail Wingard. This is the first grandchild for Lane and Jan. ALL are doing fine!

Miriam Griffin, one of Mt. Zion's nonagenarians. Her birthday is June 15th. If "nonagenarian" is a new word for you, Mrs. Griffin gave permission to reveal that a nonagenarian is a person between the age of 90 and 99.



Birthdays in May: Catherine Ferguson (5), Larry Wingard (5), Eileen Nonnenberg (7), Benji Cumbie (8), Terry Handegan (12), David Bullock (13), Dave Amidon (14), Robert Allen (15), Jill Sims (18), Lucy Gelder (23), Cindy Owens (24), Cooper Koinskie (25), Stan Owens (27), Mary Nichols (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), Mac and Beth McWilliams (24)



Our heartfelt sympathy to the family of David Six.

Thanks to ALL Who Serve During Sunday Worship Service!

Nursery

May

- 3—Heather/Benji Cumbie
- 10—Jan Miller/Jill Sims
- 17—Libba Carson/Vicki Miesbauer
- 24—**Help Needed**
- 31— Karen Smith/Sheila Malmgren

June

- 7—Elizabeth Bowman/Catherine Ferguson
- 14—Jane Jones/Janet Crenshaw
- 21— Ginger Mullinax/Amanda Mullinax
- 28— Randy Martin/**help needed**



Acolyte

May

- 3 - Grayson Bowman
- 10 - Braelin Cumbie
- 17 - Mason Simms
- 24 - Isaiah Mullinax
- 31—Quint Cumbie

June

- 7— Braelin Cumbie
- 14— Grayson Bowman
- 21— Mason Simms
- 28— Isaiah Mullinax

Scripture Reader/Prayers of the People

- Serena Miles
- BJ Skelton/John Reeves
- Benji Cumbie
- John Reeves
- Sharon Chandler/Sharon Miller

- Lynn Martin/Benji Cumbie
- Serena Miles
- Ansel Miller
- Benji Cumbie

Mount Zion UMC COMMITTEES 2015 (Revised)

*** Committee has changed. New members are in bold.**

Interim leaders approved by Church Council until next Charge Conference.

**** Member completing a term.**

Lay Leader – Lynn Martin (interim)	Lay Delegate to Annual Conference - Sharon Chandler
Membership Secretary – Sharon Chandler	Alternate Lay Delegate to AC – Sharon Miller (interim)
Sunday School Superintendent – TBD	Boy Scout Coordinator – Ansel Miller
Native American Coordinator – David Connor	Epworth Coordinator – Elizabeth Finley

***COMMITTEE ON LAY LEADERSHIP** – Chair: Pastor, Michael Goldston

<u>Class of 2015</u>	<u>Class of 2016</u>	<u>Class of 2017</u>
Ansel Miller**	Bill Carson	Chris O'Dell
John Reeves	Sharon Chandler	Myra Armistead
<u>On Lay Leadership by virtue of position:</u>		
Lay Leader – Lynn Martin (interim)		

***STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE** – Chair: Trent Allen

<u>Class of 2015</u>	<u>Class of 2016</u>	<u>Class of 2017</u>
David Bullock	Terry Handegan	Sonny Sims
Trent Allen	Drew Gelder	Myra Armistead**
<u>On SPRC by virtue of position:</u>		
Lay Leader – Lynn Martin	Lay Delegate to Annual Conference – Sharon Chandler	

TRUSTEES – Chair: Jerry Chandler; Vice-Chair: Al Cumbie; Secretary – Lane Miller

<u>Class of 2015</u>	<u>Class of 2016</u>	<u>Class of 2017</u>
Lane Miller	Jerry Chandler	Steve Lee
Jill Sims	Al Cumbie	Virginia Norwood
Karen Smith		

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE – Chair: Sherrie Youngblood

Myra Armistead	Cindy Owens	Sheila Malmgren
Karen Smith	Bonnie Littrell	Elizabeth Bowman (Bereavement)

AGE/LEVEL FAMILY COMMITTEE – Co-Chairs: Libba Carson, Elizabeth Bowman

Jan Miller	Jane Jones	Randy Martin
Catherine Ferguson	Janet Crenshaw	Heather Cumbie
Kristine Reeves (RAPpers)		

***EVANGELISM COMMITTEE** – Chair: **Ashley Gelder** (interim)

Randy Martin	Kris Bowman	Vicki Miesbauer
Elizabeth Bowman	Elizabeth Finley	

continued on page 7

***PARSONAGE AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE – Chair: Bill Carson (interim)**

Scott Smith	John Wisham	Drew Gelder	Mary Handegan
Terry Handegan	Eileen Nonnenbeg	Elaine Bullock	
Ginger Allen	Wes Witcher	Buddy Evatt	

***WORSHIP COMMITTEE – Chair: Benji Cumbie**

Kristine Reeves (Flowers)	Gail Wingard	Chris O'Dell
Elizabeth Finley	Vicki Miesbauer (Communion/Altar)	

On Worship by virtue of position:
Music Director – **Serena Miles** (interim)

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE – Chair: Pastor, Michael Goldston

Sharon Chandler (Web)	Cherylene Amidon (Bulletin)	Sharon Miller (Newsletter)
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WEDDING COMMITTEE - TBD

Myra Armistead

SAFE SANCTUARY COMMITTEE – Chair: Ed Martin

Terri Lee	Jill Sims (Trustee rep.)
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***FINANCE COMMITTEE – Chair: Ansel Miller (interim)**

Treasurer – Chris O'Dell (interim)	Member at Large – Larry Wingard
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On Finance Committee by virtue of their position:

Lay Delegate to Annual Conference - Sharon Chandler	Church Council Chair – Ed Martin -interim
SPRC Chair – Trent Allen	Trustees Chair – Jerry Chandler
Lay Leader – Lynn Martin (interim)	

***CHURCH COUNCIL – Chair: Ed Martin (interim)**

Recording Secretary – Sharon Chandler	Member at Large – Sonny Sims
Vice Chair - John Reeves	Youth Representative – Mason Sims

On Church Council by virtue of their position:

UMW President – Elizabeth Finley	UMM President; Worship Chair – Benji Cumbie
SPRC Chair – Trent Allen	Finance Chair – Ansel Miller (interim)
Trustees Chair – Jerry Chandler	Treasurer – Chris O'Dell (interim)
Lay Leader – Lynn Martin (interim)	Hospitality Chair – Sherrie Youngblood

Evangelism Chair – Ashley Gelder (interim)	Parsonage/Grounds Chair – Bill Carson (interim)
Lay Delegate to Annual Conference – Sharon Chandler	
Age Level/Family Ministries Co-Chairs – Libba Carson, Elizabeth Bowman	

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

LTSS Seminarian Partnership

Partnership entails prayer, support, and a \$500 scholarship for the student (paid this year by the seminary), and introduction to the life of a seminarian for us. We are partners with Daniel Eplee, a junior at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia. From Daniel: A junior in seminary does not mean that I have one year left, it means that I am just starting seminary. I will be here for three years, and plan to go on in the ordination process of the United Methodist Church in the South Carolina Conference. I graduated from the University of South Carolina Upstate in May of 2014 with a Bachelor's of Arts in Communications and a Minor in Business. Before coming to seminary, I worked ESPN3 productions for two years while at USC Upstate. I have been married now for 4 months, and my wife's name is Summer. We have two dogs, an English Bulldog named Dixie and a Boxer Bulldog named



Caroline. My life verse is Colossians 3:17, "And whatever you do in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

Daniel will be appointed as a student pastor in Pomaria at Annual Conference.

Welcome Mt. Zion's Interim Choir Director

Serena Miles has been a soprano in Mt. Zion's choir since 2011. A 2012 graduate of Southern Wesleyan University, she has a Bachelor of Arts degree in music with a concentration in voice. In addition to a beautiful voice, she plays the violin. Serena writes that the choir reflects the congregation so that, "The music has reminded the church of this community of the members that surround God both here and above, binding all together in a strong core and foundation that endures all that could happen. It is beautiful." Her parents, Sam and Wanda Miles are Upstairs Sunday School Class members.

Save the dates!!

May 2 - Youth Car wash - ACE Hardware Clemson, 8-a.m.-12

May 3 - Communion Sunday - UMM breakfast 8:30a.m.

May 5— UMW at Poncho's in Liberty, 11:30a.m.

May 10 - Epworth Children's Home Mother's Day offering. Special offering for Epworth.

Also, the church will give Bibles to our children.

May 12 - Prayer breakfast at Margaret's, 9a.m.

May 15 - Children's Movie Night, 6-8 p.m. In the Fellowship Hall. Now showing: "UP".

Pizza, drinks and popcorn provided. Please bring a bean bag, blanket or chair.

May 16 - Central PD Community Day, coordinated by the UMM.

May 17 - Imagine No Malaria dedication. Special offering taken. Don't forget to bring your M&Ms container back containing your donation. imagine nomalaria.org

Also, Advocate Awareness Day *

May 24 - UMM lead the church in a special offering for [Stop Hunger Now](#).

Lunch after church to honor 2015 graduates. More info forthcoming.

June 7—UMM breakfast, 8:30a.m.

National Day of Prayer

June 7-11 SC Annual Conference

June 14—After church, all ages with parents going to the Greenville zoo and picnicing.

June 14-17, 5:30-7:30p.m.—Children are invited to attend VBS at Lawrence Chapel.

June 29—Mt. Zion providing spaghetti dinner for Salkahatchie. Volunteers to cook and help serve will be needed. More information forthcoming from Elizabeth Bowman.

**The South Carolina United Methodist Advocate, otherwise known as The Advocate, has been connecting Methodists in South Carolina since 1837. It has won 64 awards from the South Carolina Press Association (SCPA) since 2010. Most recently it won second place for Best Newspaper Publication. Subscriptions are \$15/year for the print and on-line version and \$8/year for the on-line only version. Print version is delivered by US Mail before the first Sunday of the month.*

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



The 2015 South Carolina United Methodist Conference in coordination with Stop Hunger Now, are hosting the SC Hunger Project event on Tuesday June 9th during Annual Conference at the Florence Civic Center.

We need your help to raise **\$86,000** to buy the supplies to **package over 285,000** meals that are scheduled to be delivered to Haiti. Mt. Zion's UMM will lead the church in a special offering for Stop Hunger Now on May 24th. For more information go to: <http://www.umcsc.org/home/resources/2015-annual-conference/2015-stop-hunger-now/>.

Mt. Zion's Lay Delegate to Annual Conference, June 7-11, is Sharon Chandler. If you have thoughts or concerns about issues to be addressed, contact her or Pastor Michael.

