



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

Each year when Advent comes around my thoughts usually gather around one idea in particular. This year it is one of the four ideas we celebrate during the season of Advent and that is hope. Recently we had the bishop join us in the Anderson District and the goal of the day was to offer hope to the pastors and leaders in the district. Hope was the answer to the question of the day: How do we continue to live out our calling to discipleship in a world that seems to be divided and in conflict? Our answer is that we offer hope to the world.

It is not lost on me that the motto of our state, South Carolina, is "While I breath, I hope." I find that to be pretty profound for us as Christians. While we have breath here in this life, we find hope and offer hope in Christ. Isaiah 60 reminds us of that hope, "For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; But the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn." Even when hope may seem lost and our way seems dark, Christ will be the light that leads us.

As we come to this season of Advent I pray that we may find hope. Hope when this season puts a strain on families. Hope when we see families who are in need. Hope when this season is just not the same as last year. Hope when this season just seems to be an endless list of things to do and places to be. Hope when this season becomes more about the presents than about the one true gift. Hope when we are gathered around the table with family and things are the way that should be. Hope in the joy of faces, as we exchange gifts and share love with one another. Hope in the birth of a Savior who is the source of all our hope.

In Christ, Gene

Operation Christmas Child 2018

The Operation Christmas Child mission project, sponsored by the UMW, is an annual event at Mount Zion. It begins with the ladies from the joint circles assembling the shoeboxes.

This year we had extra help from Pastor Gene and Ann Michele who assisted us in the box assembly process!

The UMW shopped for and then filled 50 shoeboxes for 25 girls and 25 boys. The congregation and church friends filled an additional 61 shoeboxes, making our grand total for this year 111! On November 11, Pastor Gene had the Blessing of the Shoeboxes with the assistance of the children of the church. This year we had extra help from Pastor Gene and



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The boxes were given a second blessing by the volunteers at Clemson Presbyterian Church. We are sure that this will not be the final blessing, as the boxes will be blessed again in Boone, NC and many more times on their journey to the children of this world.



CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Pastor Gene, Katie, Ann Michelle, and Lily invite you to a Christmas drop-in at the parsonage on **Sunday December 16th from 4-6 p.m.** We will have light refreshments and enjoy fellowship together

FOR UNTO
—US A—
CHILD
—IS—
BORN,
UNTO US





December

Ansley Green **2nd** - Golda Noblitt **3rd** - Kathy O'Dell **9th** - Allan Bomar **19th** -
Kris Bowman **26th** - Blake Jones **27th** - Ethan Green **30th** - Mason Sims **30th** -
Gregg Miller **31st**

January

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



December

Pressley, Danny & Susan **1st** - Chandler, Jerry & Sharon **20th** -
Miller, Lane & Jan **29th** - Handegan, Terry & Mary **31st**

January

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



Our love and prayers to the family and friends of
Miriam Beasley Griffin, age 96, the widow of Carl Griffin.
A long-time member of Mt. Zion, she was a hairdresser
for many years at Elrod's Beauty Shop in Central.

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 with "bulletin" on the subject line.

DECEMBER

2nd - Men's Club, 8:30 a.m. at Ed Martin's barn

Hanging of the Greens and children sing at Worship Service

Potluck meal and children's play following worship service.

9th - Children's Christmas party during Sunday School. Please let Elizabeth

Bowman, Ashley Gelder or Gene Aiken know if you plan to come.

Christmas Cantata during morning service.

16th - Christmas drop-in at the parsonage on Sunday from 4-6 p.m.

20th - Informational session on A Way Forward.

21st - "Longest Night" worship service with Lawrence Chapple, at 6 p.m. here at Mt. Zion Church

24th - Christmas Eve Service on Monday at 5:30 p.m.

24th—Jan 2nd - Church office closed

January

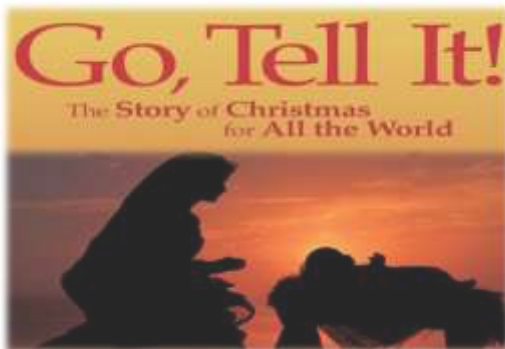
6th - Men's Club, 8:30 a.m. We celebrate Epiphany in worship

13th - We celebrate Baptism of the Lord Sunday in worship.

20th - Pastor Gene will host an informational session focusing on the United Methodist Commission on A Way Forward

Christmas Cantata

The Mount Zion United Methodist Church Choir is excited to present ***Go, Tell It! The Story of Christmas for All the World*** by Marty Parks as our Christmas Cantata music this year. This is the second year that we are presenting music by Marty Parks. The Cantata will feature the choir along with some invited guests. We are honored to have Mrs. Carla Fleming all the way from Florence, South Carolina as our guest accompanist and Lynn Martin as the narrator. ***Go, Tell It!*** has an outreaching focus, centered around reaching all who listen. It challenges us to share Christmas as a life-changing event and keeping the essence of the Great Commission. It presents the birth of Christ in a way that is fresh and relevant. It will move those who sing it and those who listen. The songs consist of traditional and contemporary moments. It will make you clap, and it will make you cry. You will walk away knowing the story of Christmas. You will definitely want to proclaim it, sing it, shout it and most of all you will want to ***Go, Tell It!*** The Christmas Cantata will be on **December 9**, during morning worship service at 11am.



Baptism

At the worship service on **October 28th**, the sacrament of Baptism was celebrated for **Ford Wayne Todd**. Ford is the brother of Loretta Rae, son of Haley Lee and Steven Todd, and grandson of Steve and Terri Lee.



Mt Zion Church Happenings

Are you struggling with pain and grief this Advent season? Not everyone finds it easy to be joyful in the days leading up to Christmas. The heaviness of grief after losing a loved one, losing a job, the loss of a relationship or even the darkness that often hovers after being diagnosed with a disease can make it difficult to participate fully in the Christmas festivities. You are invited to come



find sacred space to reflect, pour out your soul before the Lord, acknowledge your pain, and express your desire for healing and hope in the **"Longest Night" worship service** on **December 21 at 6 p.m.** here at Mt. Zion in cooperation with Lawrence Chapel UMC.



We will have our **Christmas Eve Service** on **Monday December 24th at 5:30 p.m.** We will celebrate communion and end the service in candlelight. We invite you to come and bring family and celebrate the birth of Jesus with us.

Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed from **Monday December 24th till Wednesday January 2nd.** Pastor Gene will be available and you can contact him on his cell phone (864-952-9537) for any needs.

MOUNT ZION UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

COMMITTEES

2019

Lay Leader – Lynn Martin
Chandler

Membership Secretary – Sharon

Lay Delegate to Annual Conference – John Malmgren
Alternate Lay Delegate to AC – Jane Jones

Epworth Coordinator- Elizabeth Finley

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

Class of 2019

Scott Smith

Kristine Reeves

Class of 2020

Irene Buchannan

Steve Lee

Class of 2021

Sonny Sims

Catherine Ferguson

On Lay Leadership by virtue of position:

Lay Leader – Lynn Martin

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE – Chair: Ginger Allen

Class of 2019

Ginger Allen

Doug Walker

Class of 2020

Mary Handegan

Drew Gelder

Class of 2021

Kathy O'Brian

Martha Rowland

On SPRC by virtue of position:

Lay Leader – Lynn Martin Lay Delegate to Annual Conference – John Malmgren

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

Class of 2019

Trent Allen

Miriam Coffman

Cecil Rowland

Class of 2020

Mac McWilliams

Buddy Evatt

Class of 2021

Heather Cumbie

Pam Baker

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

Jan Miller

Catherine Ferguson

Jane Jones

Janet Crenshaw

Randy Martin

Heather Cumbie

MISSIONS & EVANGELISM COMMITTEE – Chair: Vicki Miesbauer

Randy Martin	Kris Bowman	Vicki Miesbauer
Elizabeth Bowman	Johnnie Walker	

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE – Chair: Sherrie Youngblood

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

PARSONAGE AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE – Chair: Scott Smith

Scott Smith	Drew Gelder	Buddy Evatt
Elaine Bullock	Jill Sims	Ginger Allen

WORSHIP COMMITTEE – Chair: Janet Crenshaw

Janet Crenshaw (Flowers)	Katie Aiken	Chris O'Dell
Elizabeth Finley Altar)	Ginger Allen	Vicki Miesbauer (Communion/
<u>On Worship by virtue of position:</u> Music Director – Malek McDuffie		

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Chair: Benji Cumbie

Treasurer – Chris O'Dell	Member at Large – Dean Finley
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On Finance Committee by virtue of their position:

Lay Delegate to Annual Conference - Martin	John Malmgren	Church Council Chair – Ed
SPRC Chair – Ginger Allen		Trustees Chair –
Lay Leader – Lynn Martin		

CHURCH COUNCIL – Chair: Ed Martin

Recording Secretary – Sharon Chandler	Member at Large – Kris Bowman
	Dean Finley
	Youth Representative – Mason Sims
Vice Chair - John Reeves	

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On Church Council by virtue of their position:

UMW President – Elizabeth Finley

SPRC Chair – Ginger Allen

Trustees Chair –

Lay Leader – Lynn Martin

Missions and Evangelism Chair – Vicki Miesbauer

Lay Delegate to Annual Conference – John Malmgren

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

Parsonage/Grounds Chair – Scott Smith

Hospitality Chair – Sherrie Youngblood

Treasurer – Chris O’Dell

Finance Chair – Benji Cumbie

UMM President – Benji Cumbie

Worship Chair – Janet Crenshaw

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

A Way Forward

On Sunday, **January 20th**, Pastor Gene will host an informational session focusing on the United Methodist Commission on A Way Forward. This commission was created at the 2016 General Conference. The mission of this commission is to address the issue of human sexuality in regard to marriage and ordination in the United Methodist Church. The commission has finished their work and there will be a special General Conference in **February of 2019**. The General Conference will look at and debate the three proposed plans for the United Methodist Church. The informational session is intended to give you an idea of where the church has been and where we are now. We will look at all three plans and be able to ask questions about the plans. If you would like information ahead of time or have any questions, you can look at <http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/commission-on-a-way-forward> or contact Pastor Gene.



Fun Times in the Fall

On **Oct. 21** the children, friends, and family of Mt. Zion enjoyed a farm-tastic afternoon at Denver Downs. It was a beautiful day for getting lost in the corn maze, petting goats, and swinging into hay stacks! This annual visit gets more fun every year.



The annual bonfire and hayride at the Smith home was **Nov 18th** with pizza and smores for



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

Address Correction Requested

