



Prayer List

Chelves Ashby, Gloria Benton, Heather Bowes, Jerry Brand, Pat Campbell, Harry Clayton, Jackie Carter, Cline Chandler, Evonne Chapman, Terry Clayton, Daniel Cole, Wallace Cowan, Robert Crumpton, Virginia Crumpton, Jason Daughenbaugh, Carolyn Davis, Robert Davis, Al Day, Effie Dowell, Margaret Eidson, D.A. Fields, Deborah Fox, Brooke Fuller, John Garrard, Walter Gray, Anthony Green, Janet Guess, Mary Harrison, Crystal Hughes, Charlene & Pete Hunley, Travis Loftis, A.E. Long, Dorothy Long, Dora Anne Maness, Vera Mays, Joe Morris, Flint Oakley, Marvin Paradis, Mike Perry, Frank Poindexter, Richard Poole, Emma Jean Powell, Linda Pennington, Logan Rimmer, Dot Roberson, Rebecca Saunders, Vera Solomon, Hilda Stox, Matt Tuck, Tammy Whitt, Patsy Williams
 Military: Travis Long, Eric Price, and William Price, Jr.

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that pervades everything. And, one needs only to take a quick walk through the buildings and grounds to see the utmost effort put in by everyone involved. All this labor of love has borne fruit in that we are at the brink of our initial building fundraising goal, raising half of the total cost of the project. We are close enough to our goal now that we have formed several subcommittees to begin the more detailed phases of the building process as well as having an April 2nd groundbreaking service to commemorate everyone's efforts to that point. As I stated earlier, all things are possible through God. We have been very busy and imaginative in our fundraising efforts of the past year. These efforts include:

- the inclusion of two Spring stews, one in February and one in March
- the sale of personalized "Walk of Faith" brick pavers
- a yard sale back in April
- a dinner night at Stuart's restaurant
- as I mentioned earlier, our Harvest Sale and upcoming November Stew
- a grilled chicken lunch back in July and many others throughout the past year

Though our fundraising efforts for the new building were great enough to necessitate the formation of a Fundraising Committee, we continued, by the power of God, our typical fundraising efforts. These included:

- donations to various Relief Funds, such as for the Katrina Relief effort
- various community efforts, such as the Christian Help Center
- support for our preschool through sale of the One-Year Bibles as well as several other endorsed ministries and needs

In closing, I don't feel there is any question as to whether or not Mt. Zion will continue its efforts for the upcoming year. I don't feel there is any question that we will continue in a God-filled and prayer-centered manner in all that we do. I don't feel that there is any question that we will expand on our efforts and utilize our gifts in striving to live the life that Jesus wants us to. In short, there is no question that Mt. Zion will continue being Mt. Zion.

— Mike McCulloch

Mt. Zion Happenings

A Newsletter of Mt. Zion United Methodist Church
 December, 2006

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Mt. Zion United Methodist Church Charge Conference—October 23, 2006

Review and Evaluation of the Mission of the Church

We at Mt. Zion are celebrating the church's 220th year! With so many years behind us, one would tend to think the church might start slowing down and showing its age. But, in fact, I feel that we continue to have a child-like energy manifesting itself throughout all our missions and ministries. There is a high degree of passion as well as a strong commitment to service in everything we undertake as a church. I do, however, foresee a change for the future. I foresee, through God's power and will, that we will set the bar even higher. I believe that we continuously prove that we are willing and capable to challenge ourselves and to be challenged by God to display an even higher degree of passion and an even stronger commitment to service. As long as we conduct our efforts in a prayerful manner and remember that it is God's will that is to be done and not our own, Mt. Zion will continue to bring reality to the scripture that teaches us that, through God, all things are possible (Matthew 19:26).

The most evident themes throughout the past year for Mt. Zion have been ones of change and growth. Change, obviously, in that, for the first time since 1998, we welcomed a new pastor into our church family. We have been blessed by the presence of Edgar, Judy and their family. Change, as it is said, can be for the better, and this has been the case within many aspects of church life since their arrival. The addition of Pastor Edgar's enthusiasm and his prayer-centered approach to every aspect of his and the church's life has helped to reaffirm and reenergize our passion and commitment.

The theme of growth has been a double-edged sword for Mt. Zion. It is a wonderful blessing to see growth in the church. The Bible teaches us that there is room in God's kingdom for all. Unfortunately, Mt. Zion has been running out of room for a long while. By the will of God and through the efforts of many within the church, we will begin construction this year on a new, larger facility that will increase our classroom and Fellowship Hall spaces, allowing us to continue with God's charge.

One of the most difficult jobs at Mt. Zion, in my opinion, is recognizing everyone for all that they have done, and continue to do, in God's service. We are a very vibrant and active church, undertaking many opportunities to let our God-given talents shine forth. The Bible challenges us all, as Christians, to strive for a life of perfection as Jesus lived. We all know that we, as sinners, will never attain that perfect life. However, where some might see that as a roadblock, I believe that we here at Mt. Zion see it as an opportunity; an opportunity to always better ourselves in the service of God and to spread the Good News to all who will hear. I truly feel this is the basis of Mt. Zion's passion and commitment. All earthly things are finite. They will all come to an end. But, we all know that we are working, not for our earthly existence, but for the everlasting one paid for by the blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

It is with this spirit that Mt. Zion continues to embrace many opportunities in service to God. We are blessed with an ever-growing group of children all the way up through our young adults. Our older members and past generations have laid a strong foundation to the church. We must, and do, prayerfully continue to build upon this. I feel that we are just as concerned with quality as we are with quantity here at Mt. Zion. No matter how strong the foundation is, if the building itself is weak, it will come crashing down eventually. Our efforts to make a strong building include evaluating all of our children's ministries to ensure our children are growing strong in their faith and are being led along their paths in a strong, sure manner. The children also get to show what

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Submission Information

Please e-mail any items to:
 mtzionhappenings@earthlink.net

Pastor's Column

In this season of Advent, I want to share with you Part 2 of my first Pastor's Report to the Charge Conference here at Mt. Zion last October 23, 2006.

Our Stewardship

*Mt. Zion has been and is being greatly blessed by God. We lived-out our sacred promises when we join the United Methodist church to faithfully offer our "prayers, presence, gifts and service". As a result of the faithfulness of Mt. Zion, our current church finances are healthy and stable. Truly, God has a great vision for Mt. Zion as witness to God's vision of building a new Fellowship Hall. We thank you all, leaders and members of Mt. Zion who resoundingly responded, **we can do it!** And by the grace of God and with your support, it is my prayer that we will be able to complete and dedicate our new Fellowship Hall by year 2008 "**debt-free**"!!!*

Our Lay & Pastoral Leadership

Mt. Zion has been blessed with a dynamic, vibrant and committed lay and pastoral leadership. Last night, we took a big leap of faith when we re-structured our Council on Ministries and developed three new Program Committees (Evangelism, Communications and Prayer Ministry) providing a more cohesive and dynamic organizational structure. We are blessed to report tonight that currently, more than one-third of our church membership is involved in various leadership capacities here at Mt. Zion. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Lay Leader, Mike McCulloch and our Associate Pastor, Tony Moreau, both serving not just as effective leaders, but also as committed partners in the ministry.

Our Witness

Mt. Zion is a church moving and engaging "beyond the wall" by impacting peoples form local, to national, to global level through our prayers, presence, gifts and service. We currently have strong local mission programs such as Mt. Zion Pre-School and Vacation Bible School. We also support community-based ministries such as Relay for Life, Christian Help Center, Person United Methodist Parish, MERCI Center, and national ministries such as Samaritan's Purse, CROP Walk, and Indian Mobile Mission. We plan to expand the scope of work of the Missions Committee in the coming year through partnership with Red Cross, Methodist Home for Children, Habitat for Humanity, Zimbabwe Orphans Endeavor and organizing mission trips to Mississippi, Arizona, among others. Finally, we are currently enhancing our Caring Ministry Committee.

Indeed the Holy Spirit is moving mightily here at Mt. Zion. God is making this place a place of possibility! God is making this place a place of transformation and renewal. I bring back the honor and glory to God who enables me, who strengthens me, who comforts me, who cheers me, and who empowers me to be His faithful servant. Through it all, from the words of Paul: "I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:13-14).

Crowded mall, tight deadlines and out-of stock toys— is this the way you want to remember Christmas? Deep inside, we long for a memorable Christmas that strengthens our families and deepens our faith and relationship among people. As we approach this season of Advent, I invite you all to move beyond the tinsel and twinkling lights and explore with us the deeper meaning of this Christmas— Jesus Christ our Savior.

From Our Mt. Zion Pastoral Staff & Families

**Pastor Edgar & Judy De Jesus, Pastor Tony & Erin Moreau,
Duke Interns Mike Jackson & Neki Soriano**

**A meaningful Christmas
and a blessed New Year to all!**

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they've learned through programs such as our Easter Cantata and Christmas Play. We have begun, and plan to continue, fellowship outings for our young adults. Because our children, youth, and young adult ministries intertwine with many other of our efforts, it is hard to categorize everything we have worked on. In regards to this report, we can group the majority of what we have done in the past year into two main categories, outreach and fundraising, though even these compliment one another.

Since there are such a variety of people within the church, the surrounding communities, and the world at large; we try to reach as many as possible in a variety of ways. Some of our outreach programs that extend beyond our church family include:

- helping at the Christian Help Center through serving meals, cash donation, and the donation of food and clothing
- aid for the Indian Mobile Mission including monetary help, gifts, and the Kool-Aid collection month back in February
- our strong association with Relay for Life through donations and service
- our preschool ministry
- our connectional support through the United Methodist Church
- the upcoming Shoeboxes for Missions
- the continuing efforts of the newly formed Communications Committee to spread the Word using today's technologies
- our VERY popular and well-liked Vacation Bible School and, many other gifts of donations and services

One of our strongest outreach ministries is that of our worship life. We invite those around us to come to the Lord's house by serving as Christian examples in how we live our lives. Once they accept God's invitation, it is our charge to welcome them and help them along their journey into the arms of the Lord. We have many fellowship opportunities for everyone from visitors to our long-term members to get to know their church family. In the past year they have included:

- our ongoing exercise class
- Prayer Study Groups
- song worships with The Malpass Family and the LeBeaus that invigorated the soul
- Revival with Rev. Barry Chambers
- Homecoming with Rev. Eddie Hill
- our Seniors Bash back in May
- Tony's Cajun Dinner and the Dinner at Hog Heaven
- Mt. Zion's prayer team warriors, open to any and all
- our 9/11 memorial service and, several others throughout the past year

Certainly, some of the outreach activities I just mentioned could also be listed under the heading of fundraising. In fact, one of our biggest fundraisers was also one of our biggest and best opportunities for fellowship, the Mt. Zion "Walk of Faith" Gospel Sing. Not only did we have the chance to fellowship with each other there, but we also were able to fellowship with some of the biggest names in Southern Gospel music who were also some of the strongest people in their faith that many of us have met. We are so thankful for all who participated in this from our church family as well as the artists who gave so much of their time and effort. Of course, our biggest, and probably the longest running, fundraising event is that of our Harvest Sale and Stews. One needs only a few minutes stirring a pot to realize the fellowship and good, Christian nature

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