



Prayer List

Chelves Ashby, Gloria, Benton, Heather Bowes, Jerry Brand, Harry Clayton, Jackie Carter, Cline Chandler, Evonne Chapman, Evan Chris, Terry Clayton, Daniel Cole, Robert Crumpton, Virginia Crumpton, Jason Daughenbaugh, Carolyn Davis, Family of Don Davis, Jimmy Davis, Effie Dowell, Margaret Eidson, Brooke Fuller, John Garrard, Walter Gray, Anthony Green, Janet Guess, Mary Harrison, Ann Hawkins, Crystal Hughes, Pete Hunley, Family of Rev. Vassar Jones, Travis Loftis, A.E. Long, Dorothy Long, Vera Mays, Joe Morris, Flint Oakley, Marvin Paradis, Mike Perry, Frank Poindexter, Sarah Poindexter, Richard Poole, Victor Poole, Emma Jean Powell, Linda Pennington, Logan Rimmer, Rebecca Saunders, Wilbur Solomon, Hilda Stox, Matt Tuck, Tammy Whitt, Patsy Williams
 Military: Travis Long,

Who is on the Mt. Zion Prayer Team?

You are!

Everyone has something to pray for.

- To give praise to God
- To give thanks to God
- To pray for yourself
- To pray for your Family
- To pray for your Church family
- To pray for your Community
- To pray for your Country

From Matthew 18:19-20—Again, I tell you the truth, if two of you on earth agree about whatever you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you. For where two or three are assembled in my name, I am there among them.”

Come and join together in prayer. We can make a difference.

The next meeting is Wednesday February 7 at 7:00 pm. The meeting will last from 7:00 to 7:30 pm.

Mt. Zion Happenings

A Newsletter of Mt. Zion United Methodist Church
February, 2007

Volume 7 Issue 2

Why give?

On February 11, the Mt Zion Mission Team will sponsor a Red Cross Blood Drive in the Fellowship Hall. What comes to your mind when you hear the words blood drive?: Hurricane, auto accident, surgery, life saver, gallon donor, free t-shirt, refreshments, fellowship, transfusion, or love.

The minimum requirements to donate are:

- 17 years or older
- 110 pounds or more
- Basically in good health
- Do not have a cold

You never know when you or someone you love or care about will need a transfusion. Right now the blood bank is at an all time low. Please see the information table next to the secretary. This gives facts on who could receive your blood and why it is so special to donate. Also, information on any questions you may have about donating.

We need volunteers to donate blood, greet the donors, make and serve refreshments. Sign up sheet is on the secretary. To sign up for a time to donate blood, please call Kate Holeman at 336-364-1927 or work 919-684-5502 or email at kate.holeman@gmail.com.

Please tell friends and family about this event as well. Posters advertising the event will be distributed in the community.

Thanks for your support of this event.

Mt. Zion Happenings

A Newsletter of
Mt. Zion United Methodist Church

Submission Information

Please e-mail any items to:
croddgers@baydata.com

Deadline for submission of articles is the 20th of the month.

Pastor's Column

Come February 5, Judy & I including our children, Kristina and Elaine (and my Dad) will be flying back to the Philippines. We are deeply grateful to our Mt. Zion family for giving us this opportunity to 'come home'. We are all 'excited' and getting 'ready' with all our wedding stuff, luggage & boxes (by the way, we Filipinos don't travel light). For those who are not aware, Judy & I have been planning this trip since we were married at the Raleigh Courthouse on February 14, 2002. We agreed to have our dream church wedding that same year. But the Lord had another plan as He gave us Kristina. Then we tried to plan again in the year 2004, but the Lord had another plan for us as He gave us Elaine. We finally gave it up to the Lord until He revealed His master plan for us in His own time to have this trip in February 2007.

What does this trip means to us? For sure, it means a lot. This will be the first time that Judy will see her entire family together (her Dad works in California and her sister lives in Dubai). The last time Judy's family was complete was in 1985. This will be the first time that Judy's family will see her after five years of being away and now married and have two lovely kids. This will be the first time they will see me as well as our children. And this will be my first time to visit my homeland after graduating seven years ago from Duke. Indeed, there are lots of 'firsts' in this trip.

We're coming home! You and I are often saying those words in many situations in our lives. Longing for home is a natural human instinct. And yet beneath this longing is a deep yearning for God. God is just as passionate about us as the prodigal son's father. God waits for us at the end of our walk, longs for us, forgives everything, can hardly wait for us to 'come home'. The Bible calls us to 'return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.' (Luke 8:39). A pastor says,

God is; and waits in love unsearchable, though long you wander in a foreign land,
*Though long your heart is broken as you spend for what you cannot buy,
The call you hear that sounds throughout the ruin of your days,
That beats beneath the bleeding of your hours it is his voice;
Those eyes you see that stare with bright unflinching gaze and tender pain
From all of those most helpless that you serve, they are his eyes.
The strong consoling hands that reach, that hold you to his healing side,
The tears that flood your eyes and touch your soul in unexpected hours: his tears, his hands.*

*And through them all, at last you hear the words, and know the time has come, and rise, and go,
Fall at his feet, embrace at last his grace, the ground of hope, of blessings, and of peace.
The Father waits; in love he calls you home.*

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday this February with a call to repentance literally means to "turn around". If we believe that God is our ultimate home, then the call of Lent is to return home to God. In this season of Lent, get 'ready', be 'excited', and be the 'first' to return 'home' to Jesus with all our hearts and may our gracious and merciful God, like a parent at midnight, welcome us home! Amen.

The Pregnancy Support Center of Person County

The Pregnancy Support Center of Person County is committed to providing caring support, factual information, decision-making assistance and valuable resources to women involved in a crisis pregnancy (unplanned, untimely or unwanted).

Pregnancy Support Needs: wipes, lotion/shampoo, diapers (sizes #0 - #2), blankets, crib, crib sheets, car seat (infant), car seat, walker, bouncy seat, children's clothes (up to 18 months), maternity clothes (size 22)

Office needs: desk, bathroom mirrors (2), file cabinet (2 drawer), chairs & end tables (reception area), clip boards, pens, pencils, copy paper (white & yellow)
They are just opening back up...that's why these items are needed.

Items can be placed on the "Missions Table"...on the left as you enter the Educational Building from the Sanctuary.

Monetary donations can be mailed to:

**Pregnancy Support Center of Person County
P.O. Box 81
750 Martin Street (in old Kiddie Kollege/Wee Care Bldg)
Roxboro NC 27573**

Phone: 597-2927

(Faith Sharing Moment continued)

God's love and perfection. And, herein lies the distinction I made. Since God is perfect in every way, the only true perfection in our lives, we can have perfect faith in Him, a faith that will NEVER fail us. God is everybody's rock and redeemer. With God all things are possible!

Now, I still want to brag on my church family. To do this, I can also point to another dissimilarity between Job and myself. Three of Job's friends decided that he must have done something terrible and generally be a bad person for God to punish him so. They spent their time with him telling him just how bad he must be. They, like his wife, had abandoned Job. Not physically, but abandoned their faith in him and their support for him. Throughout this, Karen and I have had nothing but faith, friendship, and support from all of our friends here at Mt. Zion. To us, this has been another great example of what everyone here can mean to those around you. This is why our continued growth is so imperative. Until our Lord and Savior comes again, there will always be a need for friendship, support, and faith, both kinds of faith.

2007 Lenten Calendar

February 18—Faith Sharing Moment 8:45 am & 11 am Worship Services
February 18—Comfort Ministry Training Begins (12 weeks Lenten Study until May 20)
February 21—Ash Wednesday Service 7 pm
February 25—Confirmation Class Begins, 10 am (every Sunday through April 1)
March 18—One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday 8:45 & 11 am Worship Services
March 18—Faith Sharing Moment 8:45 & 11 am Worship Services
March 25—Membership Sunday
April 1—Palm Sunday with Donkey Walk 8:45 & 11 am Worship Services
April 5—Holy Thursday Communion Service & Stripping of the Altar, 7 pm
April 6—Good Friday County Wide Service, 7 pm
April 7—Children's Easter Egg Hunt, 10-12 noon
April 8—Joint Sunrise Service at Berry's Grove Baptist Church, 7 am
April 8—Easter Cantata & Confirmation Celebration, 11 am Worship Service

Comfort Ministry Training

Dear Mt. Zion Family: I am excited to invite y'all to our 12-weeks Comfort Ministry Training starting on February 18 until May 20. I will personally teach this comprehensive training every Sunday from 2-4pm. During my absence, Pastor Tony will initially lead the class on Feb. 18 & 25. We shall explore opening another class every Wednesday from 10-12 noon as deemed necessary. Registration is \$60 covering the manual & materials. Scholarship provided as needed.

The Comfort Ministry is a confidential ministry that serves as a pastoral support group, assisting the pastor in caring for the congregation and community. It is a care-giving ministry offering Christian Care to those in need of emotional support."

The training focuses on listening skills, Christian care-giving, understanding individuality, patience, grief process, controlling stress and anxiety, managing depression, the power of forgiveness, transition from who you are to whom you want to be, and the most important, spiritual growth.

Kindly see the attached brochure. Please give prayerful time to consider taking The Comfort Ministry Training. To register, please contact Pastor Edgar (336.364.2317) or Pastor Tony (919.767.8050).

Pastor Edgar



Faith Sharing
January 21, 2007
Mike McCulloch

When I originally agreed to do a Faith Sharing testimony, the plan was for me to read an excerpt from one of the reports I gave at the charge conference this past year, the Review and Evaluation of the Mission of the Church. This report, as the name implies, is a summary, of sorts, of all the various kinds of mission work done by the church in the previous year. That's the official reason why this report is given. I, however, take it as an opportunity to, if you will, brag on all the wonderful people that make up our church family and all the God-centered, faith-filled work they do over the course of the year. So, as you can see, this would have been an excellent example, or sharing, of a church's great love for the community, and world, around it. It would have made for an excellent segue into how important our building project is for our continued growth as a church, both physically as well as spiritually. It would have been an excellent testament to the faith everyone here has, not only for each other at Mt. Zion, but for, as Jesus taught us, our neighbors. Since then, however, I have felt led in a different direction, a more personal one, for sharing my testimony of faith; faith in my neighbor, faith in my family, and, ultimately, faith in God.

In order to share something, I believe, you have to understand what that thing is. What is faith? In thinking about this, I came to the opinion that there are really two kinds of faith, earthly and spiritual. Earthly faith, to me, is the faith we have in people, in things, and in ideas. It is a belief or confidence, however strongly felt, that these things will do or act as we believe they will or as they say they will. Though we are made in the image of God, we are, by our own free will, a sinful, and therefore imperfect, people. However reliable someone or something may be, if it is imperfect there is the possibility of the faith in it not being upheld. In the 19th chapter of Matthew, a rich man asks Jesus how he can enter the kingdom of heaven. This man has upheld the commandments Jesus told him must be upheld, and he asks what else must he do. Jesus tells him simply to sell everything, give it to the poor, and then follow Him. Upon hearing this, the man walked away and gave up eternal glory for the price of his earthly treasures. To this, Jesus said that it is harder for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.

Now, some of you may not agree with me, and I don't make this distinction to di-

minish in any way the faith we feel in earthly things. I know I can recount many instances in my life where my faith in someone was proven true. I have a wonderful wife, two wonderful children, a wonderful family and a wonderful church family who have proven this true over and over. No, I made this distinction because I had to. I needed something unyielding to cling to. My thinking about the nature of faith was not in preparation for my faith testimony today. I was made to think about it because of something that happened recently, something at the root of my changing what I was to say today. As many of you know, Karen and I were blessed in November with news that we would be having a baby. Unfortunately, as some of you also know, several weeks later we received the worst news possible, that we had lost the baby. This is what made me think about the nature of faith, my faith. This is what led me to the distinction I had to make, that there are two kinds of faith.

Spiritual faith, as I mean it, is the unyielding, unwavering faith we have in God. After we learned of our loss, I prayed to God for strength and guidance. I prayed to Him that he would help us understand how something like this could happen and why. What first came to mind that day was the story of Job. At the moment we received that terrible news, I felt as if our world would come crashing in around us. I felt as if we were losing more than we, or anybody, ever should have to. I felt like Job surely must have. But, then I remembered just how much Job lost. He not only lost all of his earthly things but he also lost all his children at once. I still have two very special children here with me. He then was stricken with painful sores all over his body and, in effect, lost his wife when she lost her faith in he and God and told Job to "Curse God and die!" I am still healthy and have a very special wife who is always there for me, just as she vowed before God to do almost 12 years ago. Throughout everything Job had to endure, God was with him. When he had either lost or was abandoned by everyone in his life, Job still knew God was his rock. After his wife told him to curse God and die, Job answered her by saying, "Shall we accept good from God and not trouble?"

At first I found myself sad, angry, and confused that I was like Job. But, after reading Job's reply to his wife, I found myself hoping that I was like Job. I knew that I could be only if God's promise would remain steadfast and worthy of my faith in it. In looking back to the gospel of Matthew, I saw where Jesus had said how hard it is for man to enter heaven. But, after His disciples asked just who could enter heaven, Jesus said that with man this is impossible, BUT with God ALL things are possible. It's a simple statement, but one that reminds me of