



Prayer List

Dock Allen, Chelves Ashby, Gloria Benton, Heather Bowes, Jerry Brand, Pat Campbell, Harry Clayton, Jackie Carter, Chandler, Evonne Chapman, Terry Clayton, Daniel Cole, Robert Crumpton, Virginia Crumpton, Jason Daughenbaugh, Carolyn Davis, Dana Davis, Robert Davis, Al Day, Effie Dowell, Margaret Eidson, D.A. Fields, 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, Flint Oakley, Marvin Paradis, Mike Perry, Frank Poindexter, Richard Poole, Emma Jean Powell, Neil Pennell, Linda Pennington, Logan Rimmer, Dot Roberson, Rebecca Saunders, Nita Sikes, Catherine Smith, Vera Solomon, Hilda Stox, Matt Tuck, Tammy Whitt, Patsy Williams
 Military: Travis Long, Eric Price, and William Price, Jr.

Christmas Love in a Gift Wrapped Shoe Box

On November 5, 2006 the children of Mt Zion will be filling 50 gift wrapped shoe boxes to be sent to the Danville Virginia collection center for Operation Christmas Child. These boxes will be distributed to children around the world who may never have received a present before.

In 1998, Gina Murray shared a video about Operation Christmas Child at the Circle 3 meeting. Each member could bring whatever items they wanted to fill a shoe box. We were able to fill 25. Since then, the process has been streamlined to involve all Church members who want to share in this special time.

“Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations through gift filled shoe-boxes and the good news of God’s love.” Each box is filled with various items including hard candy, hygiene items, small toys, school supplies and gospel booklets written in the child’s own language. A note from the Mt Zion child and their photo will be placed in the box they fill. We have actually received correspondence from children in Laos and Africa thanking the child for the items they received in their shoe box.

The children as well as the adults enjoy this uplifting mission. Circle 3 thanks all who have contributed in some way. If you would like to learn more about Samaritans Purse, visit their website <http://samaritanspurse.org>.

Blessing to you,

Kate Holeman

Mt. Zion Happenings

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

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Faith Sharing Moment Dale Rimmer

When Mike asked me to talk about sharing my faith, I had to stop and think way back. I grew up as a child going to Wheelers and Flat River Primitive Baptist Church with my parents, Clarence and Tellie Rimmer. In the late 1940’s my uncle, Ennis Rimmer, drove the Berry’s Grove Baptist Church bus (an old school bus). We were always told that he had to drive the bus in order to get his family to church. I decided to join them. This is when my Walk of Faith began.

As I started going to Sunday School and Church at Berry’s Grove, I remember Mr. Thomas Crabtree being my first Sunday School Teacher. When I think back, Mr. Thomas probably had the greatest influence on my faith. In the spring of 1952, at the age of 16, I was baptized at Berry’s Grove.

At this time, I was dating a girl from Mt. Zion, Jackie Cates, and I persuaded her to come with me to church. A few years later she moved her membership from Mt. Zion to Berry’s Grove. As many of you know I ended up marrying her and this past July we celebrated 50 years together.

In 1953, my buddy and close friend Clarence Burch and I decided we wanted to get rich by having a tobacco patch. That summer was a real test of my faith as the weather was dry and our crop failed. At the same time my brother Randall was very sick. He had been diagnosed with leukemia in May and died in September, 4 days before his 19th birthday. I was very close to the Burch family and in 1959, Owen and Mary Burch gave us land to build a home. After leaving behind the farming trade and joining my family in the carpentry business, we built our home on that land in 1960 and still live there today. Living in this neighborhood we became very good friends with everyone around us. Most of them went to Mt. Zion, we were asked to join them. Of course Jackie loved going back to her home church, as her parents were there. I liked all of the love and fellowship I felt there.

In 1961 we moved our membership to Mt. Zion. Prior to 1967, Mt. Zion was part of a charge, which included Helena United Methodist Church and Mt. Tirzah United Methodist. In 1967, Mt. Zion decided to go station (solo) under the leadership of Reverend Jerry Juren. In 1968, the parsonage was built with Reverend Lynn Buzzard being the first pastor to move in. With the help of many of you, major renovation took place to the parsonage in June of this year. In 1976/1977 the church decided we needed more space. With the help of everyone driving nails, painting and doing a lot of the work, we built a fellowship hall, kitchen, bathrooms and classrooms for \$90,000. At this time, most of us had cold feet...this was a lot of money for us country folks. We went ahead, bit the bullet and started building, having to borrow half the money. The money borrowed was paid off in 11 months. How amazing! The planning of this building phase was done under Reverend Bill Taylor and the actual construction under Reverend Danny Allen.

In September 2003, I had triple by-pass heart surgery with both main arteries 95% blocked. Actually three years ago today I was discharged from the hospital. I feel God has left me here for a reason. I believe he wants me to help lead Mt Zion through another building program. I have seem my two children grow up here at Mt. Zion and am very fortunate to see and enjoy their growth in faith and leadership. I also have two granddaughters that are growing in faith here. With many young couples and many children here at Mt. Zion, this new expansion is on that we must do. \$900,000, is a lot of money, but with gods help we can get this done, just like we have in the past. I am sure I will be able to say "The renovation of Mt. Zion began the planning phase under the leadership of Reverend Norma Walters in 2004 and hopefully completed under the leadership of Reverend Edgar DeJesus." Thanks Be to God to all of you for the gifts you have given and will continue to give, through your prayers, your presence, your gifts and your service in this Walk of Faith for Mt. Zion United Methodist Church.

Mt. Zion Happenings

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 Mt. Zion United Methodist Church

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Submission Information

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

Deadline for submission of articles is the Friday
 before the last Sunday of the month.
 Issue date is the last Sunday of the month.

PASTOR'S COLUMN

In this season of thanksgiving, I want to share with you Part 1 of my first Pastor's Report to the Charge Conference here at Mt. Zion last October 23, 2006.

We give thanks to God for our first Charge Conference here at Mt. Zion United Methodist Church. Judy & I believed that the Lord called us to be here at Mt. Zion as we faithfully responded to His call in serving this very loving, healthy and growing congregation.

Mt. Zion is a church that is catching God's vision of making disciples of Jesus Christ. The Lord is giving Mt. Zion a vision of His Kingdom right here in our midst, whether it is in our corporate worship life, or in our Sunday School, or in our ministries, or in our fellowship, or in our witness through missions. We are united by our common mission— "to fulfill God's purpose of seeking, inviting, nurturing and sending people into the world to become disciples of Jesus Christ."

Our Welcoming and Hospitality

Mt. Zion is always ready to welcome new folks into God's house as we record visitors and first-time worshippers just about every month. Our Harvest Sale, Brunswick Stew Ministry and Vacation Bible School draw many folks of all ages including children and young families from the community and beyond. We are in the initial stage of forming the Evangelism Committee to develop comprehensive strategies aim in reaching "the lost, the un-churched, and the de-churched". We also organized the Communications Committee seeking ways through available technology (internet, television and other media) to reach the 21st century community.

Our Prayerful Life

Mt. Zion is a house of prayer. We started our ministry here at Mt. Zion bathed with intentional prayers. Recently, the Mt. Zion Prayer Team was organized. It is composed of dedicated prayer warriors inviting all people of God to draw strength in the power of prayer. We are planning a Leadership Prayer Retreat for the upcoming year as a way to renew and reinvigorate our spiritual lives.

Our Worship Life

Our corporate worship life here at Mt. Zion is not "just another Sunday"! We offer authentic, Spirit-filled worship through strong partnership between the laity and the pastor staff. Our worship life provides a sense of belonging as a community drawing upon both the riches of the tradition and the fresh breathings of the Holy Spirit. We plan to continue expanding lay involvement in our worship life and will do Membership Survey and Spiritual Gift Class to discover untapped and willing spiritual gifts. Moreover, we envision to exploring new expressions of worship that may be possible as we complete our new Fellowship Hall.

Our Spiritual Formation

Mt. Zion is blessed with lots of spiritual formation groups of all ages from "cradle to grave". We offer wellspring of spiritual growth, fellowship and accountability from Sunday School classes to United Methodist Women circles, to Ladies Aid, to United Methodist Men, to Junior Organization of Youth (J.O.Y.) and UMYF. With our strong spiritual formation program, many are drawn to Mt. Zion especially children and young families. With the growth of the church, we are currently developing plans to enhance ministries among youth, young adults and young families. Furthermore, with our new Fellowship Hall in the horizon, we envision to develop new forms of Sunday School programs such as Sunday School Rotation and Godly Play.

From Our Mt. Zion Pastoral Staff
(Pastor Edgar, Assoc. Pastor Tony, Duke Interns Mike & Neki)
A CHRIST-CENTERED THANKSGIVING SEASON TO Y'ALL!

Stewing the Church

by Neki Soriano

All of my experiences here in the US have always been a "first" for me. The traditional yearly stew-cooking in Mt. Zion UMC was my 'first' experience of cooking stew. So I was very excited to participate in that stew-cooking activity. While I was there stirring my own pot of stew, I just can't help but be amazed with how every member in the church came out to help and become part of something big. I told myself that if there is anything to describe what makes a church, this is it.

Cooking stew has different parts and different steps to be done. Each step is important and vital for the stew to taste perfectly right. From the cutting of the tomatoes and preparing the beans, to cooking the chickens, to preparing the pot, to stirring the stew until it is transferred to the containers and placed in the basement and all other steps required in making stew, are important steps to produce a stew. Even if the help offered has an indirect or direct involvement in cooking the stew, it still is vital. Mike (Jackson) even remarked that the preparation for stew started way before the actual cooking began. That's just how everybody in the church is involved in cooking the stew.

That's what makes a church. Each one is important to the other. Each one is connected to the other. The task wouldn't be complete if one is missing. Everybody needs to be involved in its activities and become connected to the other member, to be able to 'produce stew'. Not everybody needs to do the stirring, for other people are needed to prepare the ingredients. No task is insignificant because each step must be done. The stew couldn't be cooked unless somebody prepared the tomatoes and beans. It wouldn't be called a stew if nobody donated or cooked the meat. Yet, even if the ingredients are complete if nobody stirred the pot, the stew wouldn't be cooked right.

Interrelation is the key element of the church. Like in stew cooking, even if all the steps in cooking stew were done, if each step was not connected to the other, then still there wouldn't be stew. Somebody somewhere could also be preparing tomatoes and beans but since we did not use those tomatoes – thus not connected to us, then it doesn't become part of our stew. The church would only be a group of people sitting together if they are not interconnected with each other.

The church is more than the building, it is the people inside the building that makes a church. But if each one is detached from each other, it still wouldn't be a church. Each one must be connected to another. We must make ourselves important to another as they are important to us. Each one must become an integral part of the whole church.

At the end of the day, the stew is cooked. I just had my first stew-cooking experience. As I was reflecting of this experience, I wondered if my stirring the pot ever helped. Of course it did, some of you may have eaten part of the stew I stirred. That made me realize that as each one who was involved in cooking the stew is part of the church, my stirring the pot makes me part of the church too – after all, Mt. Zion is now and will always be a part of me being my "first" church assignment.