

“The Spirit has given each of us a special way of serving others. Some of us can speak with wisdom, while others can speak with knowledge, but these gifts come from the same Spirit. To others the Spirit has given great faith or the power to heal the sick, or the power to work mighty miracles. Some of us are prophets, and some of us recognize when God’s Spirit is present. Others can speak different kinds of languages, and still others can tell what these languages mean. But it is the Spirit who does all this and decides which gifts to give to each of us.”

- 1 Corinthians 12:7-11

To the folks and friends of Mt. Zion,

As pastor, I am the chairperson of the Lay Leadership Committee (aka – **Nominations Committee**). This committee is responsible for matching people’s skills and passions to certain ministry areas that will help utilize those gifts to build up the church.

Mt. Zion is a church of many talented, committed people. I am a witness to this observation in my work with the various ministry areas of the church. Soon our committee (Nominations) will be contacting people who are now serving on the various committees and work areas of Mt. Zion to thank you for your contributions, to inquire about your willingness to continue, to get feedback about whether you would like to serve in other areas, and to ask for your help to identify people who have the skills to serve on the committees that you are now serving.

Our Church Conference (former known as **Charge Conference**) will be held Saturday, October 28th at Emory United Methodist Church in Olney, Maryland. Your help with our committee will enable us to perfect our Leadership Report which is to be presented at that time.

God has blessed each of us with a gift. To embrace that gift is to embrace God in the everyday stuff of life. As Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote: *“What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us.”*

Grace & Peace,

Gary

Here are some **events and opportunities** for you to get connected in the church:

Shepherding Team #1 Is On Call This Week, September 17th to September 23rd. Contact Jill Scott.

In response to hurricanes Harvey and Irma, UMCOR is in great need of flood buckets. Missions plans to assemble at least 10 flood buckets from materials donated by members. Signup sheets for contributions of specific items required in the buckets will be in the West Narthex by next Sunday and perhaps by this Sunday, September 17. Please sign up to help fill our buckets.

TAMPICO Grill from 4:00 – 9:00pm for Ted McWithey’s Eagle Project: Please come out for dinner Thursday September 14th to benefit Ted’s Eagle Project. Tampico will donate 35% of the evening’s receipts. For his project, fencing around the recycling area by the FH kitchen at Mt. Zion will be rebuilt. For more information about Tampico Grill, please go to www.tampicogrill.net We hope you come!

5K Domestic Violence and Prayer Walk Saturday, October 14th - As part of Domestic Violence Awareness month, several of area churches are participating in a Prayer walk to support the Hopi-Tewa Women’s Coalition to End Abuse. Walk will consist of sharing statistics and information regarding domestic violence and times of prayer through out the walk. Walkers are asked to contribute \$20 per person. Donations from non-walkers also accepted. For more information please see the attached flyer or contact Belinda Norton at Belinda.norton@verizon.net.

UMM is hosting a bike ride along the BWI Trail on Friday, 15 September. The ride is open to all. The entire route is approximately 12 miles around the airport. We will meet at the observation parking area along Route 176 (airplane landing/takeoff viewing). It is important that all riders are on their bikes and ready to ride by 6:30 pm. This will allow time for completion of the ride without darkness. Come on out and join the fun.

Starting Sunday September 17th you can begin dropping gifts of in the West Narthex for the 2017 Secret Santa Shop. We are accepting new and items that can be re-gifted. We are in need of 100 Items. The most popular items needed are toys for siblings, pet gifts, dad gifts, mom gifts, and gifts for teachers. We will collect all items starting Sept. 17th-Nov. 26th.

The Ginny White Circle will meet in Conference Room 2 at 11:30 on Wednesday, September 20. Suzanne Perry is Chairman and in charge of devotions. Please RSVP Suzanne. Following the meeting, we will have lunch at Hudson Coastal in Maple Lawn.

SAGE Brigade: September 22nd We will start with a lunch at noon and the speakers will begin at 12:30! Guest Speaker from HoCo Department of Aging and Independence, Karen Hull. Please bring your sandwich and a dish to share (appetizer, side dish, dessert, or drinks). Questions and RSVP to Debbie Burgio.

Trinity Choir's first rehearsal will be Sunday September 24th, from 5:00 - 6:00pm. We rehearse in the choir room every Sunday afternoon. Trinity choir is for young people in grades 6 - 12. Come try it out, no audition necessary. For more information, contact Lynne McWithey..

Fellowship Café in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to stop by between the two Sunday morning services for food and fellowship. We hope you will join us often and we always appreciate donations of food or cash so that we can nourish everyone's mind, body, and soul.

The Open Doors Food Pantry needs your help with putting feathers on our Grateful Gobbler! The feathers represent a Thanksgiving meal for a food pantry client, and they cost \$30 each. Please help dress our Grateful Gobbler! We'll be in the West Narthex or the Fellowship Hall after/between services. Any questions, ask Carol Hill or Laurie Norwood at opendoorsfoodpantry@gmail.com
Please also see the attached flyer for more information.

Mt. Zion UMM Upcoming Events 2017:

November 10-12 Mt. Zion UMM Men's Retreat, Pecometh Riverview Retreat Center, Centerville Md.

2018 Giving Envelopes – If you currently do not have a set of predated & pre-numbered envelopes and wish to order a boxed set of Giving Envelopes for 2018, or if you have received envelopes in the past and do not wish them to be ordered for you next year, please contact Belinda Norton, Treasurer in the church office Monday-Friday at 301-854-2324. (If you are someone who writes offering checks on a regular basis to the church, please consider using the prenumbered weekly giving envelopes as this saves our Sunday counters time and energy when completing the Sunday count.) All requests for changes need to be submitted by September 30, 2017 as the order for 2018 Envelopes will be placed the first week of October.

Help transport Food Pantry leftovers to Ames UMC in west Baltimore. Every third Saturday, the Food Pantry has leftover produce which is taken to Ames UMC. We need people to join the pool of drivers as we set up a regular rotation throughout the year. Loading starts at 11:15 AM, and you should be back by about 1:30 PM. You will have plenty of help loading and unloading. Contact Fred Towner.

PowerPoint Team needs more volunteers to help prepare and project the slides for both the 9:00 am and 11:00 am services. Training will be provided. Please contact Jill Scott if you would like to serve or for more information.