

Dear Members of Mt. Zion,

It is said that Rudyard Kipling, during his time, was such a famous and wonderful writer that people paid him by the word. Two students, seeking to be humorous, once wrote Kipling asking to buy two of the most inexpensive words. He wrote back – “Thank You.”

While it doesn't cost us much to say “Thank You”, it is very important for us to do so. This coming Sunday we will have an opportunity to say “Thank You” to two of our staff members who have made significant contributions to the on-going mission and ministry of Mt. Zion church. Belinda Norton served as church treasurer for 11 years. Rev. Tammi Brantley led the youth ministry for the last five years. Ms. Norton is now working at Westminster UMC. Rev. Brantley will be undertaking a new assignment to be the pastor overseeing the youth ministry of three churches that are diverse and multi-cultural.

We will recognize them at both services on Sunday morning – 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. A reception will be held in the fellowship hall downstairs between the two services at 10 a.m. This will give us the opportunity to personally share our thanks to them for their leadership over the years.

Grace & Peace,

Gary

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

Shepherding Team #8 Is On Call This Week, July 15th to July 21st. Contact Joyce Saunderson.

Snacks needed for VBS Volunteers during the week of July 23rd!! Please bring to the kitchen. Thanks so very much!! Jena Meredith.

A Shoe box to collect Box Tops for Education is being placed in the church entry way. The local elementary school collects them to earn money to purchase items for their school. They will be collected and donated. Thank You, Marcy McAadoo.

Bible Study offered for Adults during Vacation Bible School. Mt Zion is excited to offer adults 2 opportunities to grow in faith and love of God in July. Pastor Ken will be facilitating a short term bible study based on the video study *In The Dust of the Rabbi*. Filmed in Israel and Turkey, these powerful DVD sessions explore what it meant to follow Jesus in the first century—and what it means to follow him today. This study requires no prep work or homework – just show up and join the discussion. The study will be presented in Conference Room 1 from 6-8 pm on 7/22 - 27/26. You are welcome 1 day or all 5 days. **Please Let us know you will be coming to either session by signing your name on the 'Welcome to Worship' information sheet in your bulletin.** Collection will be made to order light dinner/snacks for those attending. The study will also be presented in Conference Room 1 from 9:30 – 11am on Monday 7/23 – Friday 7/27.

The Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) is pleased to announce that Valerie Pierce will be joining Mt. Zion in the position of Treasurer starting the week of July 16. Valerie holds an MBA in Finance and has decades of experience, including positions with American Baptist Churches USA, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, and most recently Cherry Lane Nursing Center in Laurel, Maryland. She has also served as an adjunct professor at Strayer University. A small group, including members of the SPRC, the chair of the Finance Committee, and a church auditor, interviewed several candidates for the Treasurer position before selecting Valerie. Please join us in welcoming her to the Mt. Zion family.

Man on the Street Videos - The small groups committee is putting together a video to highlight all the things we do with and for Mount Zion. We will be looking for volunteers to provide a 10 second answer to the questions - what do you do with the church and why that is important after services during July. We want to hear from everyone! Please see Debra Leiss or any member of the Small Groups committee in the West Narthex or the library.

Family Movie Nights - Finish your summer out with Family Movie nights. The Small Groups Committee is sponsoring family movies Saturday evenings in August starting at 7pm in Fellowship Hall. Bring the kids and a snack to share. The movies include:- 8/4 Zootopia,- 8/11 CoCo,- 8/18 Wrinkle in Time.

Drop In Class in August - Movies today have wonderful plots, turns and twists. Many touch on biblical themes and values. The Sunday following Family Movie Night - the Drop In Sunday School class will discuss the previous nights movie and how film can be a medium for spreading the gospel message.

The Care Giver's Group meets the 3rd Sunday of every month between services, in the church library.
Contact Judy H. Johnson.