

Dear Members of Mt. Zion,

Labor Day reminds us that summer is coming to close. It triggers a time of transition - young people are returning back to school, families are beginning to store their beach equipment in the garage, high school graduates are entering for the first time schools of higher education, and places of work are gearing up for a busy fall season. For many of us, Labor Day weekend is the last time we can take a little time off before the busy schedules begin.

We also know the schedule of the church gets busier, i.e., Sunday school begins, Bible study opportunities are offered, and choir members start to return to their weekly rehearsals, our fall stewardship campaign gets implemented, the youth program ministry continues, special worship services are developed, our Stephen Ministry enters its ninth year fulfilling the purpose of caring for others in Christ's name, mission opportunities call us forth to serve, seizing opportunities to share the good news of Christ (evangelism) present themselves, our trustees will continue their excellent stewardship in caring for our physical site, the finance committee, using wisdom and discernment, will manage fiscal matters and develop budgets, the committee on Lay Leadership (nominations) will seek people to use their God-given talents and gifts to serve Christ's church, our communications team will be calling on all our ministry teams to provide information in a timely manner so that we can promote our activities on the website and social media.

It's always dangerous to create a list like this because you will most likely forget to mention other important ministries. Please accept my apologies in advance. Mt. Zion is a wonderful place to serve. I thank you for your faithfulness and commitment to serve others and be instruments of Christ's love in our community and world. I am honored to serve you and alongside you.

Grace & Peace,  
Gary

**Sunday Worship**

August 26, 2018

Scripture Lessons: Ephesians 6:10-20/ John 6:56-69  
Message: "The Armor God Gives"

**UPCOMING NEW MEMBER SESSIONS** – For those interested in joining Mt. Zion Church, new member classes will be held on the following Sundays - September 9, 16, 23 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. To register for the sessions, please email [pastorgary@mtzionhighland.com](mailto:pastorgary@mtzionhighland.com) or speak to Pastor Gary on Sunday mornings.

**PARENT/YOUTH FORUM** - Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m., parents and youth are invited to attend this forum to discuss the future direction of our youth ministry of Mt. Zion. We will present a preliminary calendar of planned events, report on the results of the Survey Monkey Questionnaire concerning the youth program (60 people completed the questionnaire – Thank You!), and share with you on where we are in the process of searching for a candidate to hire a future Youth Leader. Please email the church office or Pastor Gary at [pastorgary@mtzionhighland.com](mailto:pastorgary@mtzionhighland.com) to let us know you will be attending. Thanks for your feedback and your support of the youth ministry at Mt. Zion.

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

**Shepherding Team #5 Is On Call This Week, August 26th to September 1st.** Contact Frances and Roger Colvin.

**On Sunday, Sept. 2 after church**, join us for a Pot Luck luncheon in the Fellowship Hall featuring delicious Greek cuisine. The main entrees will be provided, but please bring an appetizer, salad, side dish, or dessert to

share. Think Greek! Try a new recipe like Tzatziki, Spanakopita, Greek Salad, Rotini Pasta Salad, or Baklava! Family favorite dishes are always good, too!

**FALL BIBLE STUDY ON THE GOSPEL OF MARK.** Join with Pastor Ken Dunnington as he begins a series of studies entitled *There Has to Be a First*. The first in our series of firsts is the Gospel of Mark. We will take an in-depth look at the first written gospel and discover its meaning for us today as the followers of Jesus Christ. In addition, you will gain insight as to how the Bible is ordered and why Mark isn't placed first among the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. So bring yourself and your Bible and join us on 8 Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:30 pm starting Thursday, September 13 in CR1.

**SAGE Brigade September 14<sup>th</sup> at noon for lunch and a speaker.** Bryan Miller from VitaScript will be sharing his knowledge on the **Connection Between Your Brain and Gut Health**. Please join us for lunch. Everyone is welcome. I will bring the Chicken and Salad Greens. Please bring another topping for the salad or something else to share. RSVP to Debbie Burgio.

**Understanding 'the Way Forward' with Tom Berlin Sept.15.** The United Methodist Church is at a crossroads as it lives into a season of discernment and choosing. In February, a special session of the General Conference will be held to consider the work of the Commission on a Way Forward and how the denomination will address homosexuality. It is a time, some say, for the church to decide if we will walk together loosely or part with a blessing.

On Sept. 15, the Rev. Tom Berlin, a member of the Commission on a Way Forward, will discuss the different options facing the church in a session, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Nichols-Bethel UMC, 1239 Murray Road in Odenton. The final reports of the Commission and a video of Rev. Berlin's presentation to the BWC in May is online. [Learn more.](#)

**Stephen Ministry:** A new class for training Stephen Ministers will be starting on October 7<sup>th</sup>. Have you found yourself thinking that Stephen Ministry is a ministry that you would like to be a part of? Do you find yourself drawn to caring for others and wanting to improve your skills? Yes, caregiving is composed of skills that can be learned and learned well. Please contact any of the Stephen Leaders or Pastor Gary to let them know that you are interested in joining this year's class of Stephen Ministers. Applications are available on the Bulletin Board or from a Leader. Contact Debbie Burgio

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

**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 McAdoo.