

Mount Zion United Methodist Church The nter

October 2018 Edition

Our Mission

Touching
Lives
for
Jesus Christ

Our Core Values

To be a
Loving
Christian
Community,
providing
opportunities
for worship,
spiritual
growth,
and service.

Our Vision

Love,
Grow,
Serve



12430 Scaggsville RD
 Highland, MD 20777
 301-854-2324
 410-531-5137
 301-854-2326 (fax)
 office@mtzionhighland.com

Check us out on the web:
www.mtzionhighland.com

Friends:

As pastor of Mt. Zion, I give thanks to God for all the things you do to 'touch lives for Jesus Christ'. I have witnessed this congregation to be one of deep faith, tremendous talent, and one blessed with resources that enable us to be engaged in God's ministry both locally and in the world. God has blessed Mt. Zion in so many ways.

As I begin the second year of my appointment, I am also aware that we have faced many changes. We have experienced changes in our staff. We have given thanks to Belinda Norton and Rev. Tammi Brantley as we celebrated their respective ministries in areas of finance and youth ministry. While we have said goodbye to them and wished them well in their new future endeavors, we also have been blessed to bring on board two new staff members, Rev. Ken Dunnington as Assistant Pastor and Valerie Pierce as our new Treasurer. We are now in the process of searching for candidates that will ultimately help us find someone who possesses the qualities and gifts to provide stalwart leadership as our new Director of Youth Ministry.

I know that you are keeping Mt. Zion in your continued prayers through these changes. Changes are never easy. But as someone once said, "Change is the only constant in life." I pray that we will view such changes as opportunities to grow in our faith and to observe glimpses of God's grace doing a new thing in our midst. I came across the story of how one particular restaurant has looked upon change as an opportunity. They placed a sign in front of their tip jar that read: "If you fear change, leave it here."

I would like to mention a few items that you and I can keep in the forefront of our prayer life.

Continued on page 19

Jena J. Meredith

Director of Children's Ministries

Mark J. Blough

Facilities Manager

Rev. Gary Sheffield-James

Senior Pastor

Mark Dubbs

Director of Music

Moëa G. Futch

Administrative Assistant

Rev. Ken Dunnington

Assistant Pastor

Deb Papavizas

Organist

Chuck Plant

Office Assistant

Chris Fox

Keyboard/Children's Choir Director

Valerie Pierce

Treasurer

BWC UMC Disaster Response to Florence

After Hurricane Florence passes, here's how you and your church can help:

- 1) Donate to UMCOR (<http://ow.ly/rhau30lP5ec>)
 - 2) Build a Cleaning Kit (<http://ow.ly/EcJd30lP1f7>)
 - 3) Build a Hygiene Kit (<http://ow.ly/HXkj30lP59F>).
-

Mt. Zion Social Media

Do you enjoy engaging with others on social media? There are opportunities with the Communications team producing Mt. Zion's social media content across a variety of platforms. See Mt. Zion's Facebook feed for an example. Contact communications@mtzionhighland.com for more information.

Did you know...

Due to the diligence and hard work of Robin Emrich and Lars Olson Mt. Zion has **56** years of the Pointer digitized and available electronically. We also have 10,000's of pictures, videos, bulletins, banners and a host of other media. You can see some of these on the Mt. Zion Facebook page on a daily basis. If you have pictures or video from past events to share with this archive, or your activity has need of any of this historical information, contact communications@mtzionhighland.com for access.

P.S. If you have a copy of the September 2015 edition of the Pointer please send that in. That may be the only one out of the 56 years that is missing.

See what was in the Pointer 25 and 50 years ago – follow Mt. Zion on Facebook.

Pointer...

Page 1 – Message from Pastor Gary
Page 2 – Opportunities to Serve
Page 3 – Worship Leader Schedule
Page 4 – Consecration Sunday
Page 5 – A Way Forward
Page 6 – Children's Ministry
Page 7 – Halloween Science Spectacular
Page 8 – Youth Ministry
Page 9 – UMM
Page 13 – UMM Men at Work Project
Page 14 – UMW Op. Christmas Child
Page 15 – Consecration Sunday
Page 16 – Stephens Ministry
Page 17 – Birthdays and Calendar



**November Pointer Deadline:
Sunday, October 21**

**Mt. Zion News ~ Everyone can
contribute:
Tag Mt. Zion on social media with
[@mtzionhighland](https://www.facebook.com/mtzionhighland) or [#mtzionhighland](https://twitter.com/mtzionhighland).**



Worship Spiritual Growth

Those called to Serve and Lead Worship

	Service Times	October 7	October 14	October 21	October 28
Kid's Time	9:00	Pastor Gary	Chad Hawthorne	Carol Messerly (10:00)	Frances Colvin
	11:00	Pastor Gary	Chad Hawthorne		Frances Colvin
Greeters	9:00	Lynn Jacobson Charles McEldowney	John & Nancy Coonts Debra Fitzgerald	Jerry & Margaret Rose Larry Murdoch	Will & Jill Scott Olivia Yeager
	11:00	Marcy McAdo	Frank Lineberger	Evan Saunderson	Laurie Sheffield-James
Liturgist	9:00	Alberta Sonnemann	Betty Cashmark	Elizabeth Dennis	Lamont Baskett
Projection	9:00	Bonnie Luepkes	Adam Johnson	Bonnie Luepkes	Jill Scott
	11:00	Carol Hill	Carol Hill	Chuck Sehman	Carol Messerly
Sound	9:00	Rob Messerly	Dustin Eidson	Help Wanted	Scott Johnson
	11:00	Al Hill	Bill Ray	Al Hill (10:00)	Bill Ray
Usher Captains	9:00	TBD	TBD		TBD
	11:00	Gary and Pat Heinz			





Spiritual Growth

Consecration Sunday

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's stewardship committee has selected the New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. New Consecration Sunday encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?" During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, educational and other ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an Estimate of Giving Card does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and Church Council members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Your brother in Christ,

David Norton
Stewardship Chair



Spiritual Growth

A Way Forward

Many of you have heard or know about A Way Forward, the recently released report by the Commission on a Way Forward formed by action of the 2016 General Conference of the United Methodist Church. As Bishop Kenneth Carter, President of the Council of Bishops, describes it: “the Way Forward is just that, a path toward the future” of our United Methodist Church. Since 1972, when language was added to the Book of Discipline in regards to homosexuality, there has been a growing number of LGBTQ persons who have sought acceptance within our church, many desiring to serve in the ordained ministry as United Methodist pastors. The Commission’s work is in response to what the report describes as the “increasing harm to one another, and a deepening impasse related to human sexuality and the unity of the church” (p. 1 of the report). The reality is that there has been a growing division and conflict between United Methodists as to the inclusion of LGBTQ persons within all facets of our church’s life and ministry and mission to the world. The Commission’s report offers opportunities for a unified United Methodist Church even amidst a diversity of opinions in regards to LGBTQ persons. A called special session of General Conference will be held in February of 2019 to decide on one of three plans or paths for our denomination.

Your pastors believe that it is important that all the members of Mt. Zion be offered the opportunity to learn about each of the three plans, to ask questions, and to share thoughts and understandings in regards to issues related to human sexuality, all within an environment tempered by Christian hospitality and love for each other. The Small Groups Committee of our church has been planning Conversation/Sharing Sessions to take place during the months of January and February. Four Sunday afternoon sessions will be offered to any who would like to learn more of the background and need for the Commission on a Way Forward, as well as the complexities and ramification of each of the three plans especially as each relates to our congregation.

More information will be coming soon. In the meantime, the entire report of the Commission can be found on the denomination’s website www.umc.org. You can also find the three plans presented as petitions for review to the Judicial Council of the UMC by using the Judicial Council tab on the UMC website. In addition, the recent presentation on a Way Forward by the Rev. Tom Berlin (a member of the Commission) is now available on You Tube (Commission on a Way Forward [NBUMC Townhall] starring Rev. Tom Berlin). More resources and updates will be listed in future Pointers and Epointers. Also pray for our church—Mt. Zion and the UMC—for unity and love to prevail. Our bishops are inviting all of us to join in prayer each day from 2:23-2:26 which corresponds to the dates of General Conference, February 23-26, 2019.

May the Peace of Christ Ever be with You,

Pastors Gary and Ken



Discipleship

Children's Ministry

The Kid's Zone Singers are beginning to work on Christmas Eve.

If you do not attend the 9:00 Kid's Zone and would like to be in the program, please email Jena Meredith.

jenameredith@hotmail.com

We could use some more adult helpers at Kid's Zone at 9:00!!

Please contact Jena Meredith if you can serve 6 times a year in this ministry!

PARENTS THE SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE IS BACK UP AND RUNNING!

CHURCH AT 9:00 WITH KZ, SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10:10 AND CHURCH AT 11:00 WITH KZ.

STILL NEEDING USED BOOKS FOR OUR "LITTLE LIBRARY"!!

I HAVE NOT -RECEIVED BOOKS FROM ANYONE!! PLEASE BRING TO JENA MEREDITH!

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH -

When you decide to stay home on Sunday morning those new visitors do not realize how many people there actually are in each service, or how many children there are registered for Sunday School classes, they may not come back. birthday parties, sleepovers??



Your attendance could mean much to others as well as yourself or your family. What is more important than building your personal relationship with Jesus Christ?? Sports, birthday parties, sleepovers??



Discipleship

Children's Ministry

**All Children are Invited to a
Halloween Science Spectacular**

**Featuring
Wacky
Scientist**



ERIC ENERGY

Sunday, October 28th at 4:00pm

(please arrive at 3:50)

at Mt. Zion's Fellowship Hall

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

This is a non-scary science show for children



Discipleship

Youth Ministry

October Calendar

Sunday, October 7 – Dinner out at Anthony's in Clarksville

Sunday, October 14 – Regular Meeting

Sunday, October 21 – Regular Meeting

Sunday, October 28 – TBD; ROCK deposits due

Looking ahead: Lock-in followed by Breakfast with Santa, Nov. 30-Dec. 1



Rock 2019 is coming up February 8-10. The speaker this year is Ben Glenn, The Chalkguy, and the band is Salvador. Find more information at

<http://www.bwcumc.org/rock/>

The cost we expect for this year is the same as 2018, \$120. In order to purchase tickets and make hotel reservations we need to have a firm headcount and \$75 deposit by the time of youth fellowship on October 28.

Please contact the youth leaders if you have any questions.



Discipleship

United Methodist Men

Mt. Zion and BWC Upcoming Events

6 October 2018 – Mt. Zion UMM Breakfast Meeting (8-930am), Roma's on Shaker Drive

****rescheduled from 14 October due to church conflict****

6 October 2018 – Cars and Coffee (& Hot Dogs) (3-6pm), church parking lot (see poster on page 10)

13 October 2018 – Fall Hike at Owings Mills, Soldiers Delight (see poster on page 11)

20 October 2018 – UMM BWC Annual Conference (8:30am), Fulton UMC Conference Center, Rte. 216, Fulton, MD

9-11 November 2017 – Men's Retreat at Pecometh Riverview Retreat Center, Centreville, MD (see poster on page 12)

Theme: *Breathing Underwater – Spirituality Through the 12 Steps*

17 November 2018 – UMM Central District Prayer Breakfast (8-10am), Asbury UMC, Germantown, MD

9 December 2018 – Christmas Social (6:30pm), at the house of Will & Jill Scott

****Please bring an unwrapped children's gift****

18 December 2018 – (PET) Mobility Worldwide Carts, Mt. Holly Springs, PA

Leave Oakdale UMC at 7am, return by 4pm



The United Methodist Men (UMM) of Mt. Zion have come together to assist those in need – elderly; shut-ins; etc. - around the house. This could be...

- Yard Work - mowing, trimming, maintenance, etc.
- Fixin' of Stuff – light painting, repairs inside/outside the house, etc.
- What do you really need help with? (hint ... just email us, see below)

Please contact **Bryan Meredith** (bryan.d.meredith@gmail.com) and we will figure out how to assist you.

See the latest project story on page 13.



Discipleship

United Methodist Men

Mount Zion United Methodist Men are hosting

CARS,

COFFEE

and Hot Dogs

Saturday, October 6th

3-6pm



Event open to everyone

If you have a vintage, muscle, sporty car, truck or motorcycle bring it to the church parking lot and enjoy the fellowship. Show it off for all to see. No car, stop by anyway.

Contact Ken Sines at ksines57@gmail.com, if you are stopping in with a vehicle for show.

Mount Zion United Methodist Church

12430 Scaggsville Road (Route 216) Highland, MD 20777 301.854.2324



Discipleship

United Methodist Men

UMMen's Fall Hike 2018
Saturday, October 13th 8am - 12pm

**All are invited for a moderate to easy hike
at Soldiers Delight NEA.**

**The trail is approximately 3 miles with
shorter and longer options**

**Meet in the church parking lot to carpool at 8
or at the visitor's center at 8:45**

5100 Deer Park Rd, Owings Mills, MD, 21117

**For more information, please contact Brian Cornell
301-776-3085
bmcornell@comcast.net**



Discipleship

United Methodist Men



Men's Retreat at Pecometh Camp & Retreat Center, Centreville, Maryland

Join us for the word of God, fellowship and good food, all within the confines of a beautiful setting on the Chester River.

This weekend, hosted by the United Methodist Men of Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, allows for relaxation and spiritual growth.

Spaces are limited, sign up early.

Cost: \$230 per person

Please reserve your room for the weekend with Ken Sines at ksines57@gmail.com, if interested.





Service

United Methodist Men

UMM Men at Work

Relocation of a handicap access ramp from the house of Dave Ball across the street for a neighbor to use.
Thanks to Nathan Ball, Art Jacques, Rick Johnson and Ken Sines

If you have a need, see the UMM Men at Work information on page 9.





Opportunities to Serve

United Methodist Women

Operation Christmas Child

The UMW is asking for your participation in OCC again this year, filling boxes to be sent around the world and in the USA to needy children. It would be wonderful if every family in Mt. Zion contributed one or more boxes. Religious material in the language of the child is placed in each box and Mt. Zion's Memorial Committee will pay the \$6 fee to provide the materials for a 12 week Bible study taught by local pastors. Boxes and information pamphlets will be available in both narthexes beginning Sunday, October 7th. Fill the boxes with toys, educational items, small clothing items, but no candy, toothpaste, or liquid items. Read the instruction pamphlet carefully. A check payable to Samaritan's Purse is to be included to cover shipping costs, or you can go on the internet to SamaritanPurse.org, pay the \$9 fee and receive a special label that will track your box(s) and inform you as to their destination. If you have any questions, please contact Margaret Rose (301-854-3558). Please help us exceed last year's total of 90 boxes. The filled boxes may be brought to Mt. Zion on Sunday, Nov. 11, but no later than Sunday, Nov. 18.





Opportunities to Serve

Consecration Sunday

SAVE the DATE

please join us for

c o n s e c r a t i o n
SUNDAY
2018

When: October 21st

**Time: One combined
service at 10am**

**Catered celebration
luncheon to immediately
follow in the
Fellowship Hall.**



Opportunities to Serve

Stephens Ministry

Stephen Ministry: A new class for Stephen Ministry training will be starting on October 7th. 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? Great! Caregiving may seem to come naturally to some, but in truth it 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, 410-531-2271 or ordebbie.burgio@verizon.net

Stephen Ministers: The After People

People often ask, "What exactly is a Stephen Minister?" One way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are the *After People*.

Stephen Ministers are there:

- ... *after* the phone call you hoped you'd never get.
- ... *after* the funeral, when everyone has left and the emotions you've held at bay come crashing in on you.
- ... *after* the relationship falls apart and the bottom falls out of your life.
- ... *after* the doctor says, "I'm sorry, but there's nothing more we can do."
- ... *after* the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, "Welcome to your new home."
- ... *after* the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away—and the house suddenly seems empty.
- ... *after* the gavel comes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.
- ... *after* the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.
- ... *after* you find a pink slip with your final paycheck.
- ... *after* your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

Stephen Ministers are the After People. They are ready to come alongside you—or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives—and provide comfort and support for as long *after* as needed.

www.stephenministries.org

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Mount Zion UMC Highland, Holidays in United States, Mt Zion Mt Zion							Oct 2018 (Eastern Time - New York)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat							
30	9:30am - Playgroup/ 10am - Bible Study 7pm - Maryland	Bulletin 7pm - Finance/CR2 7pm - Worship and 7:30pm - Mary	9:30am - Preschool 9:30am - Seated 12pm - Deadline - 6pm - BS Troop 6:45pm - Chancel 7pm - Adult	7pm - Gospel of 7pm - Praise	5pm - Wedding 6:30pm - CBT 7pm - UMW/CR2	8:30am - CBT/Sanc 2pm - Sanc/Papaviza							
7	Columbus Day 9:30am - Playgroup/ 10am - Bible Study 5:30pm - Stephen 7pm - Fellowship 7pm - Maryland	Bulletin 10:20am - Preschool 7pm - Evangelism&H 7pm - Missions 7pm - Trustees/CR2	9:30am - Seated 10am - Prayer 11am - Retired 12pm - Deadline - 6pm - BS Troop 6:45pm - Chancel	7pm - Gospel of 7pm - Praise	12pm - Sage 6:30pm - CBT	8:30am - CBT/Sanc 2pm - Locust 2pm - Sanc/Papaviza							
14	9am - Baptism of 10am - BP 10am - Pioneer 10am - Sandwich 4pm - Pack 702 Bear 5:30pm - Stephen 8pm - Pack 702	9:30am - Playgroup/ 10am - Bible Study 7pm - Maryland	Bulletin 9am - Tiny 7pm - SPRC/CR1 7:30pm - BS T-702	7pm - Gospel of 7pm - Praise	1pm - Food Pantry 6:30pm - CBT	8:30am - CBT/Sanc 9am - Food Pantry 2pm - Sanc/Papaviza							
21	9am - Consecration 10am - Pioneer 12pm - Stephen	9:30am - Playgroup/ 10am - Bible Study 7pm - Maryland	Bulletin 7pm - Church	7pm - Gospel of 7pm - Praise	6:30pm - CBT	8:30am - CBT/Sanc 1pm - JGL Birthday 2pm - Sanc/Papaviza							
28	10am - Pioneer 1pm - Church 3:30pm - Children's 6pm - Cub Scout	9:30am - Playgroup/ 10am - Bible Study 7pm - Maryland	Bulletin 9:30am - Seated 12pm - Deadline - 6pm - BS Troop 6:45pm - Chancel 7:45pm - Chancel	7pm - Praise	6:30pm - CBT	8:30am - CBT/Sanc 2pm - Sanc/Papaviza							



First of all, we are in the midst of our stewardship drive. We invite you to prayerfully consider how you might increase your level of giving. On October 21st, we will celebrate Consecration Sunday. (You probably have received or will receive more information about this through the mail.) There will be only one service that day at 10 a.m. Rev. Rachel Cornwell will be our quest preacher. Afterwards, we will meet for a luncheon in the fellowship hall downstairs. The stewardship team reminds us that stewardship is more than just focusing on money by itself. Stewardship is also allowing God to use us as instruments in the way we use our time, talents, and presence.

Secondly, I ask that you keep our Youth Ministry in your prayers. We are indeed blessed to have such a lively, active youth group that is supported by caring, committed youth counselors. As your pastor, I have listened to the parents of the youth, their concerns, hopes, and dreams for this important ministry.

Thirdly, we have communicated with you at various times about what is happening at the higher levels of the United Methodist Church. (Please read the article found in this edition of the Pointer submitted by Rev. Dunnington and myself.) This gives us a brief summary of the process on The Way Forward. You are provided as well with the names of various sites on the web that allow you to learn more about this on your own.

In conclusion, we are certainly experiencing powerful winds of change. During the Day of Pentecost that is described in the book of Acts, chapter 2, we are told that God's Spirit descended upon the early disciples as a mighty rushing wind (some translations say a 'violent wind'). From that time onward, the winds of God's Spirit brought to the disciples both changes and challenges. I would imagine the powerful winds of God's Spirit may have seemed rather frightening to the disciples at times, just like they might seem to us. Yet they forged ahead putting their trust and hope in God's grace. I came across this quote by Elizabeth Kubler-Ross: "Should you shield the canyons from the windstorms, you would never see the beauty of their carvings."

As I said at the beginning of my letter to you, I am blessed to serve such a faithful congregation here at Mt. Zion. God's Spirit is still doing creative work in us. I will continue to keep each of you in my prayers as we serve in the name of Jesus Christ.

Grace & Peace,
Gary