



Mount Zion United Methodist Church

The P*oint*er

July 2019 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



July 2019

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Pastor's Message

“As you read over what I have written to you, you’ll be able to see for yourself into the mystery of Christ. None of our ancestors understood this. Only in our time has it been made clear by God’s Spirit through his holy apostles and prophets of this new order. The mystery is that people who have never heard of God and those who have heard of him all their lives (what I’ve been calling outsiders and insiders) stand on the same ground before God. They get the same offer, same help, same promises in Christ Jesus. The Message is accessible (underlining is mine) and welcoming to everyone, across the board.” Ephesians 3:2-6 - The Message, by Eugene Peterson

Friends,

In political news today, we read words like scandal, secrecy, leaks, cover-ups, deception and plausible deniability. We remember the question asked during the Watergate hearings, *“What did you know and when did you know it?”* Ever since the inception of our democracy, every administration has dealt with the accusation of withholding information from the general public. The questions that arise are numerous. Are the secrets the government is withholding to enhance national security or promote political gain by those currently in power? Who decides whether the withholding of information is nefarious or necessary? The three big words used investigating these questions and others are scandal, secrecy, and security. Usually keepers of the secrets are the ones who really have the power.

In terms of religious faith, the idea of secrecy has been used to determine those who have the inside track to God and those who don’t. The word Gnosticism comes from the word *‘gnosis’* meaning *‘knowledge’*. Gnostic Christians were those who believe that they had a secret knowledge of God that only they possessed. And since they were only ones who had this knowledge, it became hard not to develop an attitude of superiority over others. Those on the outside were considered by the Gnostics to be unconnected to God’s power and thus unenlightened. Just like governments built on secrecy, Gnostics were keepers of the secret and the only ones who really had the power.

Rev. Gary Sheffield-James
Senior Pastor

Mark Dubbs
Director of Music

Mark J. Blough
Facilities Manager

Carol Wunderlich
Youth and Children’s
Ministries

Deb Papavizas
Organist

Dianne Sanna
Administrative Assistant

Chris Fox
Keyboard/Children’s Choir Director

Chuck Plant
Office Assistant

Valerie Pierce
Treasurer

Pastor's Message (continued)

In Jesus' teaching it becomes readily apparent that his message angered those who thought they had an inside track to God. Even Jesus' disciples struggled with this insider/outsider understanding of the faith. Remember how they asked Jesus the question about which one of them would sit on the right and left side of Jesus in his kingdom? Followers who came after the disciples also struggled with this idea of wanting an inside track to God. The apostle Paul addressed this concern in letters to various churches spread throughout the gentile world. He makes the bold claim that God doesn't show partiality. He states in the book of Ephesians, *"The message is accessible and welcoming to everyone, across the board."*

Now what does this mean for our church at Mt. Zion? Simply stated, it means that no one has a monopoly on God or the faith. God's grace is accessible to everyone – from those who have journeyed the path of faith for many years to those who might be asking questions about the journey for the very first time.

When it comes to God's grace, you and I are called to be 'whistleblowers.' We can't be witnesses to God's love while at the same time making a statement of sworn secrecy. The wonderful graciousness of God's love is meant to be shared.

Grace & Peace,

Gary

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

Pointer...

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Annual Conference Special Edition

Full coverage of the 2019 BWC annual conference, which was underway as we went to press last month, is here. Please feel free to submit content and especially pictures to communications@mtzionhighland.com

**August Pointer Deadline:
Wednesday, August 21st**

Mt. Zion News ~ Everyone can contribute:

Tag Mt. Zion on social media with @mtzionhighland or #mtzionhighland.



Worship Spiritual Growth

Those called to Serve and Lead Worship

	Service Times	7 July	14 July	21 July	28 July
Greeters	0900	Marcy McAdoo & Wayne Mullinix	Crystal Zimmerman & Lorene Brown	Lorene Brown	Alice Ellis & Erin & Jack Island
Liturgist	0900	Karyn Vice	Shugo Tanaka	Betty Cashmark	Steve Dennis
Slide Preparer	0900	Carolyn Powers	Bonnie Luepkes	Bonnie Luepkes	Elizabeth Blough
	1100	Sharon Waligora	Sharon Waligora	Sharon Waligora	Diana Bandy
Projection	0900		Bonnie Luepkes	Bonnie Luepkes	Carol Hill
	1100	Chuck Sehman	Carol Hill	Carol Messerly	Chuck Sehman
Sound	0900	Help Wanted	Dustin Eidson	Help Wanted	Scott Johnson
	1100	Bill Ray	Al Hill	Bill Ray	Al Hill





235th Baltimore Washington Annual Conference Reflections

Mount Zion Church Council Chair Bettye Ames served as one of our lay delegates to the Baltimore Washington Annual Conference Meeting, which met from May 29th to June 1st. The meeting followed February's special session of the UMC General Conference, at which delegates voted for the Traditional Plan over the One Church plan, which had been favored by many US conferences including BWC.

I had my trepidations about attending annual conference this year. Recent decisions from the Special Conference and the Judicial Conference has set off a maelstrom in the United Methodist Church (UMC). I had heard some churches have already decided to leave the UMC to protest the Special Conference decision to adopt the Traditional Church Plan. This weighed heavily on my mind. I was concerned whether delegates would be very argumentative (and mean).

Registration materials having arrived almost a month earlier at home resulted in a quick and smooth check in. Armed with my Official Voting Card and nametag, I headed for my workshop on Vital Conversations. As I waited outside the meeting room, I listened in on random conversations and spoke briefly with people I knew only by their nametags. The people of the BWC are still the loving, inquisitive, helpful, sometimes humorous group I have come to know and respect.

This year's theme was "We are United To Love". This call to love would be repeated and expounded upon throughout the conference. Our workshop moderator, Sarah Hickson, started with scripture (1 Thessalonians 1:7-9) and a premise: We all have conversations whether one on one, as a group, or even as a church. Don't expect to reach agreement at the end of a conversation. How you show up for the conversation really matters. How we are present in the conversation makes a difference. In the scripture, Ms. Hickson focused on the word "reverberate" - a verb meaning having a continued effect, resonance.



BWC Conference Report (cont)

We discussed two types of conversation: Meeting conversations vs. Miss-meeting conversations. Meeting conversations allow participants (1) to connect soulfully and emotionally, (2) to deepen the conversation and (3) allow participants to be attentive to "in between spaces" and openings for connection. Miss-meeting conversations allow for intellectual connection in that participants share the same (conversational) space but talk *at* one another and *not with* each other. Thus, making it difficult to manage meaning differences.

When people have not managed meaning differences, they are often distracted in their conversations and have difficulty negotiating their reality (the playing field). When people successfully negotiate meaning differences they can negotiate topic specific matters. *One starts by acknowledging the other person has deep convictions and is a child of God.*

To facilitate conversation we must (1) create the space and time (the "container") where people can have a voice; (2) share candidly unencumbered by motions and procedures; (3) experience deep listening and respectful speaking; (4) feel responsible for outcomes and interactions; and (5) seek to discern together.

When creating a "container" for conversation, we were admonished, "Don't enter into a challenging conversation without basic agreements." 1. Set a clear intent, scope, duration and intention, 2. How people will participate (the core process). (E.g., Will there be dialogue, circles, small groups, large groups.); 3. Create a center; 4 Create agreements; 5 Agree on an approach; 6. Participants must not feel nervous or anxious and remember to pay attention to the Holy (leave room for Jesus).

The container should be created with minimal activity.

A relational covenant might require participants speak only "I" statements, or require one to speak from the heart, or be specific, or be brief and to the point, and listen with respect.





BWC Conference Report (cont)

Meal Exercise

We then went through the Meal exercise to explore ways to "lift" conversation. Participants discovered similarity of unwritten rules. We paired up into groups of 2 and discussed a memory of dinner from our childhood. After hearing several teams compare and contrast memories, we talked as a group about external and internal cultures. External cultures are explicitly learned, conscious, easily changed, and based on objective knowledge. Internal cultures are implicitly learned, unconscious, difficult to change and subjective.

We were left with some direction. Don't go directly into the conversation. Town Hall style conversations do not always make a good container for conversation. Put your conclusions about the conversation outcomes away. Questions are more involving than statements. Nonviolent activism is the opposite of mediation. We can have the best techniques and good process and still fail. How we have cultivated the relationship and "show up" matters. We closed the workshop by saying The Lord's Prayer with our eyes open, looking at each other.

The Laity Session

The Laity Session was led by Dr. Marsha McFee who assured us, "We can be worried but we are never alone". She led a song filled session and left us with some Liturgy nuggets for thought: "Liturgy is the work of the people"; "Worship is not a spectator sport"; and "You cannot make pleasing everyone the goal of worship. ... But, sensory rich worship is the purest type of worship".

The most important thing in my opinion was some facts about the way people learn. Out of every 10 learners, by the 6th grade, 2 are auditory learners, 4 are visual learners and 4 are tactile learners. Consequently, sensory rich worship must be verbal, visual and visceral. We were encouraged to think like a filmmaker when planning worship.

The Clergy Session ran a little longer than the Laity Session. Afterwards, word spread through out the annual conference, the clergy had voted to accept all of the candidates for commissioning and ordination. The word was the whole slate of candidates was put to a vote as a unit. On that slate were two who have been the center of much attention in the BWC for the last two annual conferences when both were not permitted to be considered for voting due to rulings by the General and Judicial councils concerning the role of LGBTQIA+ people in the UMC. TC Morrow was approved to be commissioned a deacon; and Joseph Heath-Mason was approved for ordination as an elder. Both Morrow and Heath-Mason acknowledge they are married to same sex partners.



BWC Conference Report (cont)

First Holy Conferencing Session - Wednesday, May 29, 2019

Bishop Easterling welcomed us after lunch to the first full session with a sermon. She said, "Love is not an emotion. Love is an act of will." We always have a choice to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances. We can always choose how we will respond. Will we allow victimhood, which comes from within, or victimization, which is from the outside, to be our response? There is no hierarchy of suffering. There's no graph to measure the importance of your pain over mine. Christ who suffered on our behalf puts himself at the center of our pain. We are bound together because we are baptized into the Christ. Leaving the UMC does not make you any less called. We need justice seekers and justice doers. In the face of evil we need to say, "In the name of Jesus, I rebuke you." Then, claim each other in the name of love.

During the session, two people rose to ask a point of personal preference to state that they were not in support of the Clergy's vote. Bishop Easterling respectfully acknowledged the speakers' comments and referenced the 30 days the Book of Discipline gives her to respond to written challenges. Rev. Robert Barnes, pastor of Mt Oak Fellowship in Bowie requested 3 rulings of law: # 1. The clergy were denied an opportunity to individually question the Board of Ordained Ministry and the two candidates where the Book of Discipline requires a 75% vote of approval; #2 Since only 2/3 of the clergy session voted to affirm the process for voting for all candidates as a block, did this violate the Book of Discipline's 75% voting approval requirement; and #3 Are Morrow and Heath-Mason properly candidates for commissioning and ordination. The Judicial Council reviews all responses made by a bishop to a request for a ruling on church law. So, this will go before the Judicial Council.



BWC Conference Report (cont)

Thursday, May 30, 2019

Thursday morning started with a bible study on Luke 16:19-22 led by Rev. Dr. Marvin McMickle, President and Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program for Colgate Rochester Crozier Divinity School. His topic was Poverty and Economic Injustice. He chose scripture from Luke and the story of a rich man in purple linen and a poor man named Lazarus. Both men died. Lazarus awakes in the bosom of Abraham in heaven. The rich man goes to Hell. He did not go to heaven because he was rich but because he did not pay attention to the poverty and desperation outside his gate.

Dr. McMickle told about two cartoons. In the first cartoon, Garfield the cat is preparing to eat a Thanksgiving feast. There's an open window beside the table. Through the window one sees Odie, the dog, tied up with an empty water bowl and it is snowing. Garfield gets up, closes the curtain, returns to the table and says, "That's better."

In the second cartoon, Charlie Brown is walking in winter. He is all bundled up. Snoopy is walking toward Charlie with icicles hanging off his nose. "Brrr" floats over his head, Charlie says, "Be warm". Snoopy is left uncovered but encouraged.

Dr. McMickle cautions: Don't let your church wake up in hell.

Poverty has a face we cannot say we did not know. Today, we see poverty on the news and reported elsewhere. Having seen it, we have made a conscious decision to go to church and worship

"We should not begin with theological reflection. We should begin with a political commitment to the poor." Gustavo Gutierrez

In the midst of all this Dr. McMickle shared his own story of losing his father as a child. When he got close to graduation from high school he asked his guidance counselor what he should do. She told him he wasn't smart enough to go to college but he could do well in a trade school. Mrs. McMickle told him the guidance counselor didn't get to vote on his future. When he received his doctorate from Princeton University his mother reminded him of the guidance counselor.



BWC Conference Report (cont)

The US is second out of 35 countries on a scale of relative child poverty. 23.7% of children in the US live in poverty. The only country with a higher rate of child poverty is Romania. We are exceptional in our tolerance of people living in poverty. In Rochester, NY, 50% of the children live in poverty. We tolerate a steadily expanding poverty gap.

He decried things happening in this country that are being met with the sound of silence. Voter suppression is an attempt to maintain the status quo. Not only do we have an obligation to vote but to vote for those who will address injustice.

The problem with ritual is we make it a substitute for righteousness. We pride ourselves on our rituals. All theological inquiry is contextual. An active concern for the poor is required of all Christians. We must take the Gospel message of injustice seriously. Poverty poses a major problem for the Christian conscience. People in poverty with someone's intervention and encouragement may do great things. Folks who are impoverished will survive. They do what they think they have to do in the midst of abundant America.

With respect to people identifying as LGBTQIA, Dr. McMickle said, "Keep the Bible out of it." No selective exegesis. If you are going to use Leviticus 18:22 to condemn one group of people you should also use and embrace all of the prohibitions in Leviticus. This would include prohibitions against eating shellfish, shaving the hair on the side of your head, and recommends stoning adulterers. These rules represent 10th Century holiness code. Dr. McMickle noted that we do not stone adulterers; we put them in the White House. (Both Republicans and Democrats raised their eyebrows.)

He talked about the diversity of the men whom Jesus called - Matthew, a tax collector and Simon the Zealot. Two men with different backgrounds and ideologies and yet the one thing they have in common is the Christ who called you to "follow me".

Dr. McMickle laid out four things that can be done to address poverty: 1) Have a biblical vision of the future. 2) Allow your values to inform your behavior. 3) Use your voice to speak up and advocate for policies and practices on behalf of economic justice (be a voice for the voiceless). 4) Vote to elect people who will legislate for justice (and not Just Us).



BWC Conference Report (cont)

The Business portion of the day was used to address the general business always present during annual conference. The 2020 budget for the BWC was approved. This budget represents a 1.7% decrease over the 2019 budget. Total income \$18,641,514. Total expenses equal to income. 0% increases in Health Flex rate. Minimum salary is \$44,892 and the minimum housing allowance is \$20,263.

The Bishop introduced us to the concept of the Samoan Circle. In the Samoan culture, when there is a big decision to be made the representatives of the people sit in a circle and talk things through. The Bishop had asked ten people both lay and clergy to participate in this discussion and it was held on stage. I believe the Bishop offered this as a means to engage in the hard conversations local churches are now called to discuss. The rules are simple. A talking piece, we used a cross, is held in the hand of the person who is talking. All others listen to that person until they relinquish the right to talk. Everyone gets to speak on the question. Time limits can be imposed; however, the first time through no time limits were given. People could introduce themselves and talk about where they stand on the question posed without having to focus on how long it took to state their position. Later, time limits were imposed and enforced. I thought it was a good way to discuss a hard topic.

Reports from the committees included an update by Conference Trustee chair, John Strawbridge on recent disaffiliation language approved at General Conference. The Disaffiliation Process has 3 requirements: 1) A local church resolution by a 2/3 majority. 2) A written Disaffiliation Agreement. 3) Annual Conference ratification by simple majority. The BWC Disaffiliation Procedures will be issued on October 15, 2019 for guidance to churches.

Charlie Moore greeted us on behalf of Africa University and thanked the BWC for its payment of 100% of its apportionments. Enrollment has increased 40 % in the past 4 years. Africa University has raised 96.3% of its 50 million financial campaign.

The plenary session started with 31 resolutions on the agenda for discussion. Many of these resolutions were considered "aspirational" and their authors were amenable to referring them to various BWC Committees for consideration. Most of these resolutions were referred to the Discipleship Council. One resolution on supporting deliberations on new expressions of Methodism was tabled.



BWC Conference Report (cont)

Conference leaders were asked to research a more geographically central location for annual conference besides the cities of Baltimore and Washington, DC. (The BWC has contracted with Marriott in Baltimore through 2022.)

The Discipleship Council was amended to include a ministry team to address LGBTQIA justice issues.

A resolution to purchase a new episcopal residence for the Bishop was passed (83% - 17%). The Bishop's current residence had black mold issues remediated in March and April 2019. The Bishop and family had to be placed in a six-month temporary rental. The Conference Board of Trustees recommended selling the home at this time and using the proceeds to purchase another residence.

A resolution to provide nursing and pumping accommodations within the bar (so nursing mothers can vote) was passed.

A motion to provide only gluten free hosts at all communion stations during annual conference, regional, and district events that offer communion was passed.

A resolution pertaining to attendance at meetings for General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegates was referred to the Judicial Conference with a request for a declaratory decision to adopt an attendance policy with consequences.

A resolution requiring all proposals to restructure agencies, boards and/ or committees of annual conference first be presented to the Discipleship Council and the Nominations Committee for consultation and votes of concurrence or non-concurrence.

A resolution for the BWC to affiliate with the Western jurisdiction was withdrawn and a substitute resolution was referred to the Discipleship Council for further analysis

Members also voted on several proposals regarding funds remaining from churches that closed. Allegheny County ministries will receive \$25,000 in remaining funds from Center Street UMC, and delegates also voted to release funds from Homestead UMC in Baltimore due to urgent needs in the city. However, members voted to set aside money from the sale of two churches in African American communities for use by those communities following General Conference 2020. This proposal was made by Rev. Stephen Tillett out of concern the money would be distributed to a church that would ultimately leave the UMC.



BWC Conference Report (cont)

Friday, May 31, 2019

One of the biggest jobs of this annual conference was to choose delegates to General Conference, to Judicial Conference and alternates for these delegates. During the session, members voted that delegates with more than two unexcused absences from the preparation meetings would be removed and their alternate would step in.

The voting process to pick delegates is a long and arduous undertaking. Everyone who believes they would make a good delegate submits their name and bio and a position statement. These statements and a photo of each candidate were submitted at registration. Each delegate must receive 50% of the vote. There's a wonderful company that provides and assigns voting machines to each delegate. The votes are tallied in real time and the assembled group watches the tally on several huge screens placed around the conferencing room. The first three voting rounds for a laity delegate no one received 50% of the vote. The Bishop interspersed voting by laity with voting by clergy and addressing other matters. It became apparent there was no way we were going to finish the voting before we needed to break for dinner.

At 7, it was time for the commissioning of 2 deacons (our own Debbie Burgio and T.C. Morrow) and the ordination of new clergy. Bishop Cynthia Moore- Koikoi had travelled to share this annual conference with us in large part because her husband was being ordained.

The Bishop preached a strong message about loving people even if they don't want you. She used several examples and ended with "love them anyway". By the end of her sermon several people in the audience walked to the foot of the stage to pursue a call to pastoral ministry. Then, we took a break and came back into session at 9:30.





BWC Conference Report (cont)

Friday May 31, 2019 Part 2

We continued voting on delegates until 1:04 in the morning of June 1, 2019. Here is the slate of delegates we chose:

2020 UMC General Conference BWC Clergy Delegates	2020 UMC General Conference BWC Laity Delegates
Ianther Mills	Cynthia Taylor
Joseph Daniels	Megan Blizzard
Ginger Gaines-Cirelli	Melissa Lauber
C. Anthony Hunt	Kenneth Ow
Giovanni Arroyo	Sarah Ford
Sarah Schliekiert	Daniel Colbert

2020 Northeast Jurisdictional Conference BWC Clergy Delegates	2020 Northeast Jurisdictional Conference BWC Laity Delegates
Stacey Cole	Chris Schliekert
J.W. Park	Christy Latona
Leo Yates	Chet Jechura
Conrad Link	Sharon Milton
Kirkland Reynolds	Tracey Collins
Bryan Oskvig	Nathan Jones



BWC Conference Report (cont)

My take away from annual conference: we need to make room for Jesus so we are able to love each other the way He loves us. 2) We, as the people of Mount Zion need to talk about what our deep-seated beliefs and biblical interpretations are. I do not believe the final word is out on this issue. The challenges to the Bishop's action in commissioning and ordaining self avowed homosexuals will no doubt start a ripple or perhaps a tide of activity. I am not sure where the Methodist church is headed but I believe change happens from within. Having said that, I cannot blame or fault people and churches for feeling betrayed. For years, we have loved the warm advertising that touts the Methodist Church as a place with Open Hearts, Open Minds and Open Doors; but now, maybe not so much.

I return to Mount Zion feeling refreshed from the sermons and the special anointing of the spirit. The battle skirmishes continue and I hope to stand on the right side of it when Christ asks me what part I played.

Respectfully submitted,
Bettye Ames

Church Council invites volunteers for a Task Force to determine Mt Zion's response to the outcome of the Special Conference regarding LGBTQ issues. We will be responsible for educating the congregation on the issue and results; identifying options to respond to this issue; and discerning the direction of all church members. We will kick off in September and expect to run through 2020. To join, please speak with Pastor Gary, Debra Leiss, or Bettye Ames in the Narthex after service.



Getting to know you...

Have you looked in the office window and noticed the new Wonder Woman collection? Learn more about our new Director of Youth and Children's Ministries, Carol Wunderlich!

Carol is originally from the Philadelphia area (King of Prussia) and is moving from Leonardtown to Frederick this month. She earned her MDiv from Central Seminary in Kansas City, and has served in Youth & Discipleship Ministries in the Baltimore Washington Conference for 27 years. She is completing a Doctor of Ministry program in Youth, Family & Culture through Fuller Youth Institute.

Carol's husband of 31 years, John, is a pastor with the BW Conference and will be under appointment at the District Superintendent of the Cumberland-Hagerstown District. Their older son, JW (25), is a graduate of Carol's alma mater of Eastern University and is a Youth Pastor in Falls Church, VA. Their younger son, Joshua (20) is currently attending Eastern University (do you notice a trend) pursuing a degree in History & Secondary Ed. In the summers he is on ministry staff at Manidokan Retreat Center (part of the BW Conference).

Carol's favorites:

- Super Hero: Wonder Woman
- Bible People: Jesus, all the Marys, Paul
- Sports Team: Dallas Cowboys
- Food: Chocolate
- Animal: hummingbirds
- Fav. Ministry Activity: youth mission trips
- Leisure Activities: reading, Dead Sea Scrolls research (nerd life), walking in the woods, kayaking, working in the yard (just weird), being creative.
- Band: U2
- TV: The Walking Dead



Stephen Ministry Commissioning

Mt. Zion is a Stephen Ministry congregation and has been for approximately 10 years. Over the course of those 10 years many caring and giving people have felt the call to be a part of this care-giving ministry. Just as, or even more importantly, we have had many within our congregation and some from outside our doors who have opened themselves to be Care Receivers in this ministry. As a congregation, we have been blessed.



On June 9th, we commissioned 3 new Stephen Ministers: Rod Barr, Ken Sines, and Shugo Tanaka. We also commissioned a new Stephen Leader, our Pastor, Gary Sheffield-James. Throughout the history of the Christian church communities have come together to commission members to new responsibilities. We continued this tradition by joining in prayer and covenant with these men who have received extensive training and are committed to serving our church family through Stephen Ministry. Let us commit to holding them in prayer as they serve others in our congregation and in our community. Let us also commit to being open to receiving the care of Stephen Ministry when we are in need. As we celebrate these newest to Stephen Ministry, please consider if you, yourself, are being called to serving as well. There will be a new class beginning in September.



Youth Ministry Updates

Youth Ministry:

Please keep our 2019 Camp Hope Mission Team in prayer for safety in travel & work and for the courage to fully embrace all that God has set before them to accomplish in ministry with the people of Western MD, the Camp Hope Staff, the other churches present with them and with each other. May God's Reign be realized on earth as it is in heaven.

Camp Hope Team: Jack Island, Dustin Eidson, Christian Nieto, Ben Davis, Roxy Romero, Emily Erwin, Phoebe Island, Eliza Thompson, Anand Ambrosi, Joey Squirlock, Nick Laing, Gray David, Liz Smolen, Jessie Anderson, Julia Baskett, Erin Island, Debby Klopp, Chris Davis, Ken Sines, Sarah Blough.

Children's Ministry:

Our Summer Children's Worship Table ministry has begun. All children are welcome in worship and invited to participate fully with their families and as part of the larger family of faith at both services. During the sermon, elementary age children are invited to come to the table at the back of the sanctuary to participate in some quiet worship activities. Following the sermon time, children will return to sit with their families.

ROAR! VBS is just around the corner! July 22-26, 9 am - Noon. If you haven't yet signed up to be part of leadership for this exciting week of ministry, we would love to have your help! Email Katie Davis ASAP @ mtzionvbs2019volunteers@gmail.com.





Mission Updates

Mt. Zion's UMM VIM trip to support the North Carolina Disaster Response is scheduled for Sunday, July 14 -- Saturday, July 20 in Newport, NC. Please keep the team, led by Ken Sines, in your prayers.

Missionary Support for Matthew and Jennifer (King) Wilke. The Missions Committee of Mt. Zion is very excited to share that our own Jenny (King) and Matthew Wilke will be leaving in early August for Missionary Work in Tanzania, Africa. To learn more about the organization, Angel House, that they will be working with please check out this link: <http://grassrootsangelhouse.org/> As they have been approved as Missionary Volunteers through the General Board of Global Ministries, you are able to help support them in this exciting opportunity by giving through the Advance. Please follow these instructions to ensure that your donations go directly for their support as all mission volunteers have the same advance number.

Please use: <https://advance.umcmmission.org/p-642-mission-volunteers-individual-volunteers.aspx>

The Advance Number for mission volunteers is 982465. Donors should:

1. Search 982465 in the search box.
2. Scroll down and open the Mission Volunteers Advance Page.
3. Under Designate Your Gift is a drop-down list. Matthew and Jennifer Wilke are listed at the bottom of the drop-down list.
4. Donors will select your name and determine how they'd like to give to complete the steps to donate.

If you are not able to donate at this time, we ask that you continue to support them with your prayers and words of encouragement. Contact information will be shared when it becomes available. If you would like additional information or to be included on the e-mail newsletter chain during their trip, please contact Belinda.norton@verizon.net, Acting Chair of Missions Committee.





Half Marathon Water Stop

Maryland Half Marathon, June 8th 2019:

Mount Zion was at the mile 5 marker on Great Star Drive, running the annual water stop organized by the Towners on behalf of the Evangelism committee. Thanks to all for representing Mount Zion in the community!





Other Events

Volunteer Needed July 7. The PowerPoint team is in need of a volunteer to do projection at the 9 am service on July 7th. Training will be provided. The team also needs additional members to do both slide preparation and projection, at both the 9 am and 11 am services. Please contact Jill Scott at justjill6@verizon.net or 443-280-4646 for more information.

Prayer Shawl Ministry (knit & crochet) on hiatus July & August. Our next get together will be September 11, 2019 at 10 am. If you want to learn to knit or crochet, contact Bettye Ames 410-227-9257.

The Mount Zion Garden Club is harvesting herbs for the Open Doors Food Pantry. If interested in helping, contact Debra Leiss at 301-535-1319 or meet Deb at the herb garden on July 21 at 7 am before the Pantry opens. This month Deb harvested 50 bags of herbs from our garden.

Chair Exercise Class meets Wednesday mornings 9:30-10 am. Note: No class July 24 during Vacation Bible School. If you have questions, please text or call Bettye Ames at 410-227-9257.

Those jewels you are no longer wearing are SO needed to make the Jewelry Booth at The Women's Board supporting Montgomery Medstar Hospital 99th annual Picnic and Bazaar on July 23rd, a success!! I am happy to pick up! Joyce Saunderson 301.854.2378 / jjsaunderson@verizon.net

Do you know how Mt Zion's facility is used to Touch Lives for Jesus Christ?





mtzionhighland@gmail.com

Jul 2019 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
CAMP HOPE WEEK/OFF Site						
10 am - Pioneer 1:30 pm - Memorial	10 am - Bible Study 7 pm - Maryland	Bulletin 7 pm - Finance/CR2 7 pm - Worship and 7:30 pm - Mary	9:30 am - Seated 12 pm - Deadline - 6:30 pm - BS Troop 7 pm - Adult 7 pm - GS-2108/132 7:45 pm - Chancel	Independence Day-- 7 pm - Praise	6:30 pm - CBT 7 pm - UMW/CR2	8:30 am - CBT/Sanc 2 pm - Papavizas/San
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10 am - Pioneer 12:30 pm - Stephens	10 am - Bible Study 5:30 pm - Stephen 7 pm - Fellowship 7 pm - Maryland	Bulletin 7 pm - Evangelism&H 7 pm - Missions 7 pm - Trustees/CR2	9:30 am - Seated 10 am - Prayer 12 pm - Deadline - 6:30 pm - BS Troop 7:45 pm - Chancel	7 pm - Praise	6:30 pm - CBT	8:30 am - CBT/Sanc 2 pm - Papavizas/San
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10 am - BP 10 am - Pioneer 4 pm - Pack 702 Bear 5:30 pm - Stephen 8 pm - Pack 702	10 am - Bible Study 7 pm - Maryland	Bulletin 7 pm - SPRC/CR1 7:30 pm - BS T-702	9:30 am - Seated 11:30 am - Ginny 12 pm - Deadline - 6 pm - Rebuilding 6:30 pm - BS Troop 7:45 pm - Chancel	7 pm - Praise	1 pm - Food Pantry 6:30 pm - CBT	7 am - Food 8:30 am - CBT/Sanc 9 am - Food Pantry 2 pm - Papavizas/San
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
10 am - Pioneer 12 pm - Stephen 6:30 pm - VBS Meet	VBS (Tentative)/All rooms except Conf. rooms					
	10 am - Bible Study 6 pm - Rebuilding 7 pm - Maryland	Bulletin 9 am - Tiny 7 pm - Church	9:30 am - Seated 12 pm - Deadline - 6:30 pm - BS Troop 7:45 pm - Chancel	7 pm - Praise	6:30 pm - CBT	8:30 am - CBT/Sanc 2 pm - Papavizas/San
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
10 am - Pioneer 4 pm - Annual	10 am - Bible Study 7 pm - Maryland	Bulletin	9:30 am - Seated 12 pm - Deadline - 6:30 pm - BS Troop 7:45 pm - Chancel	7 pm - Praise	6:30 pm - CBT	8:30 am - CBT/Sanc 2 pm - Papavizas/San