

MT ZION UMC

JANUARY 2011 NEWSLETTER

Dear Mt. Zion Friends,

Welcome to 2011! I hope you're ready to have a wonderful year! I've been thinking a lot about 2011—especially concerning the things God may want to do in our church. I'm convinced that each year offers a new opportunity for doing God's will on the earth. And 2011 is no exception.

When people do anything that brings blessings to others, the love of God is seen. Mt. Zion is a place known for helping people. Every Christian has something on the inside that beckons him or her to somehow make things better. However, no one can individually determine God's will for the whole church. The reason for this is seen in scripture. For example, the Apostle Paul taught that all Christians constitute the "Body of Christ." And Paul explained that every part of the body needs all the other parts working together. All parts are important.

So what does this mean for us? The better we work together, the greater will be the fruit of our good works. In scripture, the word used to denote the quality of how Christians work together is *unity*. If we want the life-giving, life-transforming power of the Holy Spirit strongly in our lives, we must come together in the kind of unity seen among Christians in the New Testament Book of Acts.

With this goal in mind, Mt. Zion will hold a Leadership Retreat at St. Francis Springs Prayer Center, in Stoneville, NC, on Saturday, February 5, from 10 am—3 pm. Everyone who holds a committee chair, or leads a church ministry, or teaches any age group in the church, is asked to attend. Advanced registration is required. See information packet on table in church lobby.

May the Spirit of God draw us together in the bond of unity in 2011. With God's help, this will be a great year for Mt. Zion UMC!

Blessings,
Pastor Craig

Here are some pictures from the December 28 Good Samaritan Ministries food distribution.



Our youth showed up ready to work in the COLD!



Each food box weighed almost 30 pounds.

They gave out 62 boxes!

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN REPORT

During our recent 2011 pledge campaign, Mt. Zion received 22 pledges totaling \$49,902. This is a 10% increase over last year, when we received 24 pledges totaling \$45,360.

Do you have an event or article for our next newsletter? Please contact Heather Ulrich at (336) 996-7745 or ulrich_heather@hotmail.com