

Connection

A Mount Zion Baptist Church Publication

Fall-Winter 2010

Connecting
People...
Meeting
Needs

ZGroups

Financial Issues in
the News

Water In the Desert

The Son Still Shines

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Mount Zion Weekly Schedule

Sunday

Sunday School
8:30 a.m. and 9:45 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship
9:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

4:00 p.m. Youth Choir
5:00 p.m. ZGroups and AWANA

Sunday Evening Worship
6:00 p.m.

Wednesday

5:00 p.m. Family Fellowship Supper

5:45 p.m. Children's Choirs

6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting, ZGroups

6:30 p.m. The Greenhouse (Youth Worship and Bible Study)

6:40 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

6:45 p.m. Children's Mission Friends, GAs, RAs

8:30 p.m. The Orchard (College Students and Young Professionals)

Mount Zion Baptist Church

a Place for You



YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME HERE

A Greeting from PASTOR RON



The city I call home has once again been singled out as a city of excellence. Huntsville has been named one of the top 10 places in the nation for families. Many factors were cited that contributed to this high ranking, including quality schools, good work environment, short commute time with less traffic than many places, and the high number of churches and places of worship spread throughout the city and county. Added to these is the presence of such institutions as the Early Works Museum and the Space and Rocket Center. It is no wonder that a national publication would place Huntsville, Alabama as the only city in the South to make the cut.

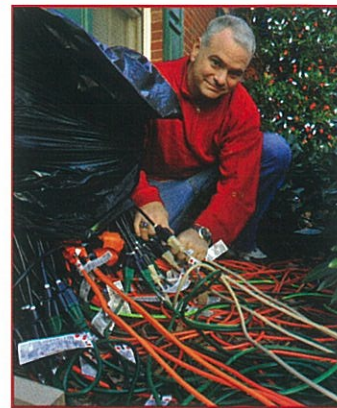
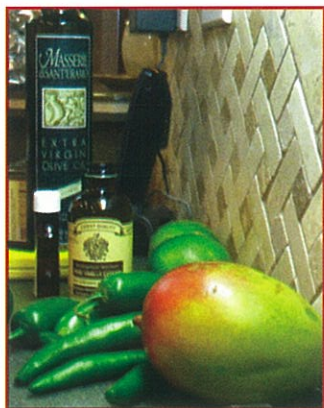
As pastor of a church that focuses on families of all kinds, I know the value that is derived from being a part of a larger community of faith that offers opportunities for connecting with others, growing in faith, having personal and family needs met and serving as a resource for any and every life stage and experience. Mount Zion is the kind of church that, like the city where it is located, is a top place for families to grow and stay healthy.

As you read through the articles in this edition I hope you catch something of the spirit of the people of Mount Zion who have told their stories or allowed them to be shared. I hope you sense that this can be the kind of place where you and your family will be able to find a larger family to travel through life with and negotiate each stage as it comes. Take note of special programs planned for this fall that are sure to bless and encourage you and plan to experience them with others here at Mount Zion.

Blessings,

Ron Madison

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By Ruth Kirkland

Cover Design by Brian Schneider



Letter from the Editor

Welcome to the Fall-Winter issue of ConnecZion magazine, (pronounced Connection). Don't you love the hint of fall outside right now? The trees are just beginning to show that a change in seasons here. Brian and I love the fall, and this area, in particular, shows out this time of year. The trees seem to take their time as they change from green to orange, red and yellow, giving you a chance to enjoy their colors. We never get tired of the excitement that this season brings. The familiar summer sounds of lawn mowers fade as sounds of school buses and leaf blowers take their place. Welcome fall.

May I share with you some of the enjoyment of being the Editor of our magazine? When it comes time to write the Editor's letter, most all the work that goes into that current issue is complete. There are a few details left to finish, but by that time, most of the work is finished and I can see the whole issue laid out. I scan the pages once again and recall how they all came together. Each time someone sends in an article, I read it and get the chance to know that person or that ministry a little better. What a wonderful way to get to know the Mount Zion family. I hope you find the same thing for yourself as you read about your fellow church members.

This particular issue will take us through February, so in anticipation of the holidays, we have articles that cover Thanksgiving and go through Valentines Day. We end this issue on a lovely note with a story of how God brought three of our couples together. It is certain to leave you smiling as you turn the last page.

The theme this time is "Connecting People and Meeting Needs." The cover photo shows someone who appears lonely, disconnected, maybe hurting. Feel disconnected? Mount Zion has any number of ways to help you connect with other people.

On page six, a poem by Jean Herndon called *My Tears in Your Bottle*, is where our theme originated. You'll notice the picture on that page is the same person as on the cover photo, only this time, she appears less burdened. When God is *for* us, we have help, we have hope. Mount Zion is a church that cares about people and is a place to come for help, for hope.

You will meet some wonderful people in this issue and though the theme of each ConnecZion magazine may change, the underlying message is always the same. It is all about Him from cover to cover, as God helps the Mount Zion church family connect with people and meet needs.

We will see you again in the spring.

In His Majestic Name,

Gwynn Schneider
Editor



*Commit your works to the Lord,
and your plans will be established.
Proverbs 16:3*

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My Tears In Your Bottle

I am weary, my Lord,
from the burdens I bear,
And no friend shares the weight
of my sorrow and care.

My oppressor fights daily
to bring me to grief,
But my comrades do nothing
to offer relief.

Yet, my Father,
you know every part of my life.
You foreknew every battle
and saw pending strife.

Put my tears in your bottle,
each crystalline sphere;
There record all my pain,
as you draw your child near.

You go forth to my battle;
the foe must retreat.
When you fight,
my oppressor goes down in defeat.

And the evil which they
had designed for my path
Then reverses, and they feel
the brunt of your wrath.

Now my spirit rejoices;
my soul sings your praise,
And it ever shall be
for the rest of my days.

In the tangible battles of life,
I can see,
Through your comfort and care,
that my
God is FOR ME.

Jean Herndon

We have all experienced transitions in our lives. In some of these we had no choice. We had no choice when we transitioned from the womb of our mother to this world. We had no choice but to go to school when we were five, although some of us may have run away a time or two. We had no choice when we graduated from High School and entered the "real" world. Some of us had no choice of transitioning from home to the hospital when we had physical difficulties.

But there have been other transition times when we did have a choice – where we would go to college, the vocation that we would follow, who we would marry, the church we would attend. The greatest transition of all is when we passed from death to life in accepting Christ as our Savior. Jesus said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." (John 5:24 KJV).

All of us like to have choices. But when we get close to the end of life, many of us feel that we don't have choices about some things and we are prone to let our children make those choices for us. Sometimes, we are just tired of making choices and we let come what may.

When my mother came to the time in her life that she was no longer physically or mentally able to make decisions, I had to make the decision for her. She was not happy with me or the decisions I had to make for her when placing her in an assisted living home and then a nursing home. She felt that I was abandoning her. I decided then and there that I would not wait that long in my life. First of all, I wanted to be pro-active myself in determining where and when this transition would take place. Second, my children would not have to go through the agony of going through my possessions and deciding what to do with them, as if I had died.

I made the decision in April of 2010 to enter The Madison Village. This is a facility with Assisted Living facilities and Independent Living Apartments. I moved into one of the one-bedroom apartments, downsizing big-time from a four bedroom, two bath house with a sun porch. It was so much fun to downsize. I sent an e-mail to my five children and twelve grandchildren with an attachment that listed everything (except what I wanted to keep) in my house, down to the smallest pictures on the wall. I asked them to put their names by what they wanted. Believe it or not, nearly everything was taken. It was so much fun and I had the pleasure of giving them the things that they wanted. They all came to celebrate my birthday driving their pick-up trucks and pulling trailers. Things that were not chosen were placed in the garage like a big yard sale only no one had to pay. When they left, I had only what I needed to take with me.

Someone asked me later if I was grieving over the loss of my "things." I could honestly say that I was not. It was such a relief for me, that I felt as if a burden had been lifted. After all, Jesus said, "Don't collect for yourselves treasures on earth, where



Transitions

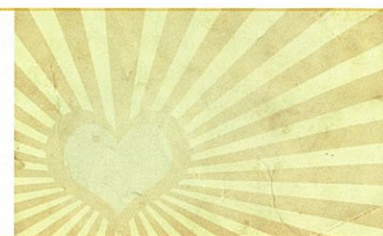
moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. But collect for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves don't break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:19-21. What I gave up were only "things."

I have not regretted one minute of this transition in my life. I know that I am safe. I have less responsibility. I don't even have to cook if I don't want to. I have made new friends. And I am watching God open doors for me to have a ministry even in the later years of my life. ☞

Dot has been at Mount Zion 10 years this time. Her husband, Bill Morris, was pastor at Mount Zion from 1969-1974. They came back to this church after he retired. He passed away in 2005. She enjoys reading, teaching and scrapbooking.

Loving Deeply

A Conversation with Britton Latham



On June 7, 2010, MZBC welcomed Britton and Jessica Latham to our church family, where Britton now serves as full-time Associate Student Minister. He took some time to answer a few questions about himself and ministry at Mount Zion.

Describe your calling to Student Ministry.

Through the ministry of Calvary Baptist Church of Tuscaloosa, I accepted Christ at the age of eight. Unfortunately I filled my life with other things and did not begin to grow as a disciple until high school. It was then that my youth pastor and others began to pour themselves into me. Through their efforts, God began to move in my life in amazing ways.

During my freshman year of college God began shifting my passions away from my chosen career path and towards His church. Once I let go of my own ambitions and allowed God

to take control, He replaced whatever doubts I had with an overwhelming desire to make his glory known through serving his church. Jessica soon came along side me as an invaluable companion in the work God has called me to.

Since then God has given me a growing passion for reaching

one's value on a broken standard of materialism and appearances.

Also, it is always heartbreaking to hear stories of broken family relationships from students. So many teenagers have received deep wounds through family difficulties.

God sees value in His children based solely on His love.

The clear communication of that message alone can give hurting students hope and comfort.

teenagers. I love helping students gain a passion for God's Word and challenging them to make their faith their own.

What are some of the major hurts that today's teenagers deal with?

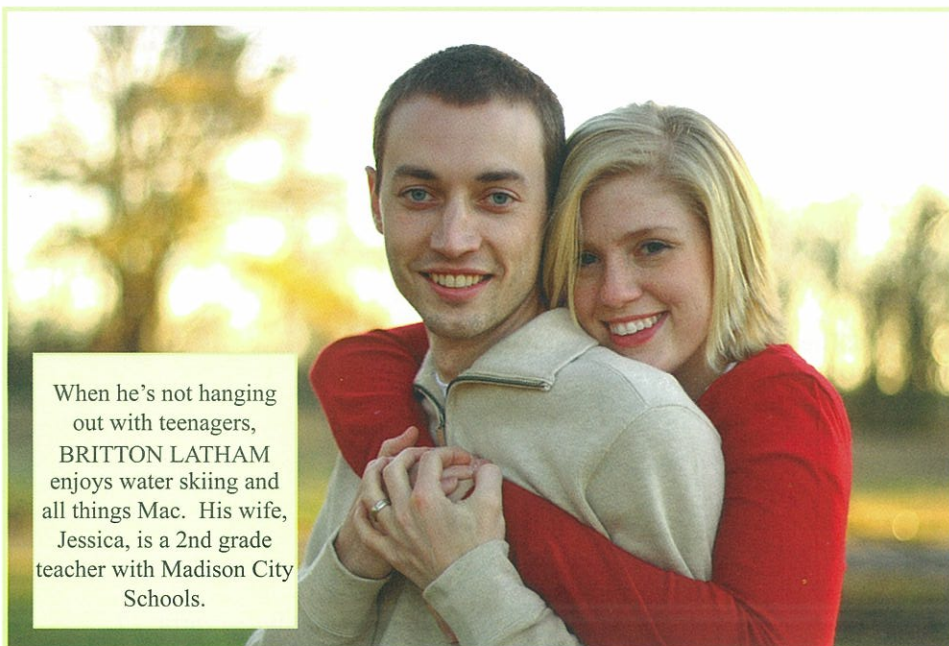
I think one hurt that affects all of our students is the struggle to find love and acceptance in a world that bases

What can the MZBC family do to help students in the midst of these hurts?

One of the most powerful messages of Scripture is that God sees value in His children based solely on His love. The clear communication of that message alone can give hurting students hope and comfort.

While there is nothing we can do to remove the pain of students' experiences, we can love students deeply, just as Christ does. Making the investment of time into the life of a teenager speaks volumes. Take an interest in a teenager. Come to a baseball game. Send a birthday card. These kinds of things made a huge difference in my life, just as they will for other teens. ☺

When he's not hanging out with teenagers, BRITTON LATHAM enjoys water skiing and all things Mac. His wife, Jessica, is a 2nd grade teacher with Madison City Schools.



Laurie and her husband Rob have been at Mount Zion for 5 years. They have 2 sons, Alex (4) and Brett (1)



ZGroup

What's in a name?

"That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet."
—Juliet (William Shakespeare, *Romeo and Juliet*)

By Charlotte Madison



Couples Encouraging Families
led by Dr. Johnny Padalino



Parenting with Kingdom Purpose
led by Karen Wilkerson



The Bible in 90 Days
led by Craig Meredith



Daniel
led by Liz Knight



Marriage Built To Last
led by Bob and Dona Lovelace



Ezekiel led by George Foust



Basic Prayer Principles
led by Charlotte Madison



Preach and Heal led by
Donna Stiles and Ginger Martindale



Prayer Meeting
led by Dr. Ron Madison



Parenting The Early Years
led by Lisa McCrary



Leadership 101
led by Mike Davis



The Essence of Christianity
led by Gwen Wilkerson

In the summer of 2009 the discipleship program at Mount Zion Baptist Church received a new name: ZGroups. Along with the name change came more varied content and time availability. But whatever the name, ZGroups still have the same purpose of helping to make and grow disciples. Disciples are those who have chosen to follow Jesus as their Lord and Savior and who want be faithful to His command to teach and make disciples.

What do ZGroups look like? ZGroups are for old and young. For some, a ZGroup is a gathering of parents who have similar challenges and who are seeking support and information that will help them be godly parents. A recent study, *Parenting with Kingdom Purpose*, helped parents consider what it means to be kingdom parents and to nurture a kingdom focus in their children. Mike Davis welcomes his Journaling the Bible group with Starbucks coffee and a coffeehouse setting. Young

professionals meet to listen to Ed Young, Jr. (via DVD) teach about how to recognize potential mates. A recent favorite study has offered the opportunity to read the Bible in ninety days.

New classes are offered each semester: fall, winter, spring, and summer. Most last from six to twelve weeks. Groups meet on campus on Sundays at 5:00 and Wednesdays at 6:00. A grief share group meets in the home of the leader and some Bible studies are in homes. Groups are open to church and community members.

What is your interest or need? Learning Spanish for a mission trip? Using sign language to communicate with a friend? Creating a marriage that will endure? Tackling your finances in a difficult economic situation? Digging deeper into the Bible? Recovering from a broken marriage relationship? Rekindling your passion for God? Experiencing a deeper

prayer life? There is a ZGroup for you!

Along with stimulating and helpful study topics, participants in these small groups receive a bonus gift (*lagniappe*, as it is called in southern Louisiana) of making meaningful connections with other believers. As Mount Zion grows bigger, small groups enable us to continue to be family and to be connected to the body.

*So, disciples,
what are you waiting for?
ZGroups are waiting for you.*



Charlotte and Ron Madison have been at Mount Zion six years. Charlotte enjoys flower gardening (when it's not too hot!) and bargain shopping.





Will Rogers said, "All I know is just what I read in the papers, and that's an alibi for my ignorance." We can now add television and any periodical out there to that. Even as a so-called expert, I struggle to sort and process what I read and hear.

Since I refer to myself as a so-called expert, let me clarify my credentials. It took a while to accumulate the initials after my name, and 32 years in the financial services industry to accumulate the experience to go along with it. I love Will Rogers so let me quote him again, "Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment." Credentials represent knowledge and formal training recognized in the industry, but nothing replaces first hand experience in my opinion. The first three initials (CLU) are product related, the next four are investment and securities

related (ChFC) and the last three are pretty much knowing what to do with the first seven. I received the CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ (CFP®) designation because it is considered the top of the food chain in my field. As a CFP® practitioner, I am a fee-based planner and can actually charge for advice. That's fun for me since I've been giving advice a lot longer than I've been certified to give it.


My point in this article, which I hope is the first of others to come, is to help you sort through the news. I'll briefly touch on some hot topics and expound at a later time. I'll be leading a class on Wednesday nights, and many of the topics here will be included along with Biblical references. Regardless of training, advice is somewhat personal from the advisor so you must know your advisor. Solomon should have checked the credentials and considered the motivation

of those women who got his ear. I found that every financial rule of thumb has a Biblical reference and it is the foundation of my business and practice.

Starting with debt; the topic pops up everywhere every day. I have a rule that applies to personal debt, corporate debt and certainly our national debt -- keep it to a minimum and only use it when absolutely necessary. Not all debt is bad and I recognize the need. I spent my first five years in business going into debt and it took me the next five to get out of it. I had a plan getting in and, more importantly, a plan getting out and I stuck with it. Debt is too easy to get and we've drown ourselves in it. As *Mad Magazine* printed long ago, "The reason a great many American families don't own an elephant is that they have never been offered an elephant for a dollar down and easy weekly payments." I

tell my clients you shouldn't feel guilty about buying anything you can pay cash for assuming you have set aside appropriate emergency funds. What constitutes an emergency could be a whole article in itself. Too many have confused being able to afford something with being able to acquire it on credit. Ask yourself if you have what you have, and do what you do, because you have money or because you have good credit.

Next let's touch on Healthcare Reform. Admittedly I have not read the 2,000 plus page document. I do know that some things need fixing. We must control healthcare costs and medical insurance cost will follow. Everyone should be able to afford health insurance and be able to get it regardless of his or her health. Let's start with ourselves and be physically responsible. I say that because a great deal of medical costs today



Financial Issues in the news

By Gayle Milton CLU ChFC CFP®

are associated with lifestyle and not taking care of our "temple." Also, let's stop insisting that our employers provide "first dollar" coverage for everything. If we had our emergency funds (I refer you to my notes on debt), we could get a High Deductible Plan, set up a Health Savings Account and do a couple of things toward affecting our financial bottom line. If structured correctly, you'll actually pay less over a year's time if you have a High Deductible Plan. I have two other areas to mention. Both speak to the basics of Financial Planning. The basic formula is "Protection, Saving and Growth" and in that order. We read everyday about folks who didn't have proper protection when something happened. It could be auto, flood, long-term care or life insurance. Protection could be cash reserves (which is my second area) but most often, protection is simply risk shifting or the failure to do so. It's a risk you perceive and choose to shift to an

insurance company. I'd like to do a complete article on insurance products; I can use those first three initials after my name for that. I'll draw on the last three when I advise when and what products to use. I love reading articles on insurance products, most are confusing and often times biased. There is news daily about some person or persons filing lawsuits over misleading and unsuitable insurance sales. In 1978, I represented two types of life insurance policies with one company. Today I am licensed for over 200 types of insurance policies with over 20 companies. I struggle to understand them all. I doubt many of you truly know what to buy and where to get it.

Most folks run to term insurance because it's cheap and easy to understand. You-die, they pay, you-live they don't. I dare to disagree with Mr. Ramsey on this one. The perfect plan supposedly is buy term, invest the difference, collect those reserves and self insure (no need to risk shift). What I have seen though is buy term, spend the difference. No insurance, no significant assets.

My personal opinion is that life insurance proceeds will be the last gift I give my daughter and the last thing I say to her. I don't care if she's 21 or 50. I can't guarantee that with term insurance. Income-tax-free dollars for her, purchased

at about thirty cents on a dollar will definitely be my choice over leaving her any of my assets, which cost me a lot more to acquire and accumulate. Plus I plan to spend and enjoy my assets myself.

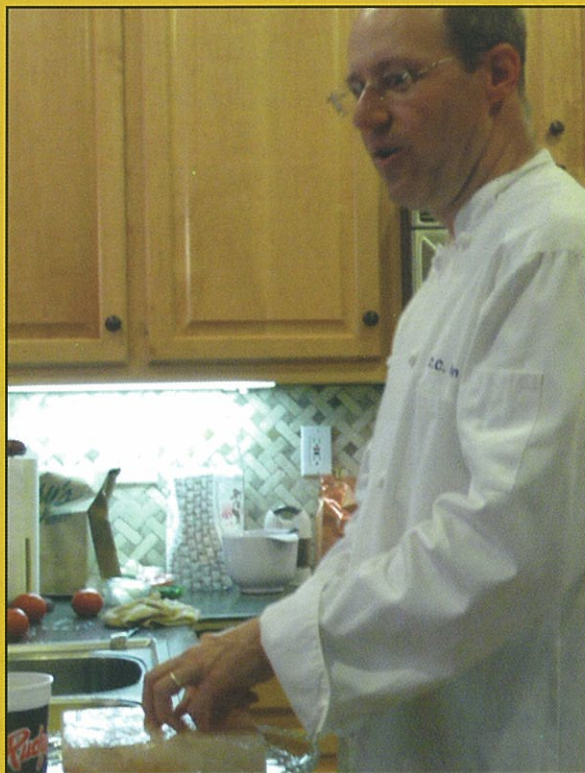
Finally, let's talk about savings and growth. Upon proper analysis, you are either a saver or an investor and most folks should be savers. They just aren't knowledgeable enough to be investors. I learned that acquiring the second set of credentials. Remember the rule of thumb is "don't invest anything you can't afford to lose." Also, investing is classified as "growth" and falls after "savings." The point is I want to see "cash." Cash and no debt are the two things that work in any economy and provide for good family relations, and plenty of comfortable sleep. I see little cash and big contributions to retirement plans and then I see folks losing it by thinking they are an "investor." If we followed the rules, we wouldn't care if we lost 40% in 2008 because we wouldn't have anything at risk that we weren't willing to lose. I see irresponsible investing as "gambling." The same folks who protest gambling think nothing of putting their savings, college or retirement funds out there for someone to lose for them expecting though to get a big return on a small investment. There are

ways to grow your money but it takes patience and planning. I'll go to Will Rogers again who said "I'm not near as concerned with the return on my money as the return of it."

I hope I've stirred the financial juices of some of you and made you at least think about what financial attitude you have and why. Attitude, after all, drives all your actions. Until you change the first, the second won't change for very long. I look forward to feedback and definitely disagreement. Everything I've said is Biblical and then put to humor by Will Rogers. I draw from both references often. Remember too that I have all those initials after my name and I'm not afraid to use them.



Gayle Milton has been at Mount Zion for 15 years. She enjoys spending time at her house on the Tennessee River and Auburn activities with her daughter Hannah who is senior there.



Cooking with C.C.

By Gwynn Schneider

Looking for a new and different experience for your evening out? Make a reservation for one of C.C. Fridlin's in-home Culinary Classes. Throughout the year, C.C. offers a variety of cooking classes.

Recently I attended the "Heat of Summer" class. He presented the following menu, a light meal designed around summer fruits and vegetables in season:

*Caprese Salad
Grilled Chicken Fajitas with
Watermelon Mango Salsa
Grilled Corn on the Cob
Fresh Cherry Cheesecake*

Once the guests arrived, C.C. introduced himself and his Sous chef (assistant), and told us about the menu he selected and how the flavors blended.

He provided a copy of the recipes so we could follow along as we watched him prepare the meal. He shared cooking tips as he worked, such as how to properly hold a knife and chop, how to identify good olive oil, and many other techniques.

Each course was served and enjoyed once it was prepared. C.C. identified the particular taste or ingredient to notice in each dish. For example, when the Chicken Fajitas were served, he highlighted the way that particular Mango Salsa complimented the chicken.

All five senses were engaged with this meal: taste, texture, temperature, aroma and appearance (note the pictures).

At the close of the evening, we gave our compliments to the chef, said our thank you's and left with menus and memories from the evening's event.

I highly recommend C.C.'s in-home Culinary classes for a unique and comfortable dining experience. Where else can you have a private demonstration of world class cooking and still be home by 9?

For more information go to:

www.cookingwithcc.com
or visit his blog at:
www.cookingwithcc.wordpress.com
or on Facebook



SOME OF C.C.'S HOLIDAY RECIPES

Herb Stuffed Prime Rib

Servings: 8

- 1 each Prime rib/ 8 to 10 pounds
- 3 cloves garlic, peeled and sliced
- 1 bunch fresh sage, washed and stems trimmed
- 1/2 bunch fresh oregano, washed and stems trimmed
- 1 bunch fresh rosemary, washed and stems trimmed
- 1/2 bunch fresh tarragon, washed and stems trimmed
- salt and pepper, to taste

With a sharp knife, cut rib meat from the bones leaving 1 inch connected to the bones to form a pocket. Place garlic and herbs evenly in the pocket between the rib bones and meat. Tie the meat to the bones with kitchen twine.

Before roasting, let the roast stand at room temperature for 45 minutes to 1 hour before cooking.

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Sprinkle the roast with salt and pepper. Place the roast on a rack in a roasting pan. Add 1/4 inch water to the roasting pan. Roast meat in the middle of the oven for 25 minutes. Reduce oven temperature to 375 degrees. Cook for an additional 50 minutes, then reduce oven temperature to 350 degrees.

Cook roast for about 25 minutes per pound. Continue adding water to the pan. This will create steam which will help the flavor of the herbs penetrate the meat and protects the pan from high heat.

Check the internal temperature of the roast after 3 hours.

Cook to 125 degrees for medium-rare, 130 degrees for medium. When the roast reaches the desired temperature, remove from the oven and allow to stand for 20 minutes before carving.

For a pan sauce, combine some beef demi-glace with the juices in the roasting pan.

To carve, remove the kitchen twine. With knife, cut the bottom of the pocket to remove the rib bones from the meat. Then slice to serve.

Gratin Dauphinois

Servings: 6

Scalloped Potatoes

- 2 cloves garlic, smashed
- 2 tablespoons butter, softened
- 2 pounds potatoes, sliced 1/8 " thick
- 2 1/4 cups half and half
- 1 1/4 teaspoons salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground pepper
- 1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/4 pound gruyere cheese, grated

Prepare a large shallow gratin or casserole dish - large enough to hold the potatoes in 2-3 layers. Smash one clove garlic & rub over the dish. Once the garlic dries, rub half of the butter over the dish. Preheat oven to 350. Slice potatoes into 1/8 inch slices. For Russet or other thick skinned potatoes, peel them. If using Red New potatoes or Yukon Gold, peel them or leave skins on according to your preference.

In a large sauce pan, add the remaining garlic, half & half, salt, pepper, nutmeg & potatoes. Bring just to a boil & simmer gently for about 2 min.

Pour the mixture into the dish & spread using a fork so slices are arranged covered by the cream mixture. Dot the top with the remaining butter & sprinkle the grated cheese. Bake in the middle of the oven for 1 to 1 1/4 hours or until the potatoes are tender & the top is golden brown.

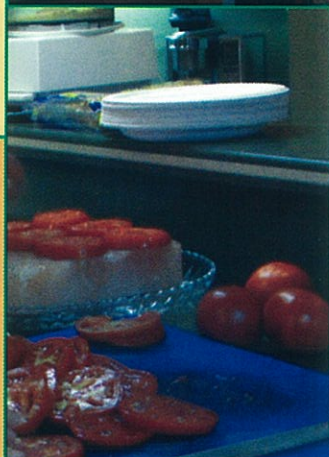
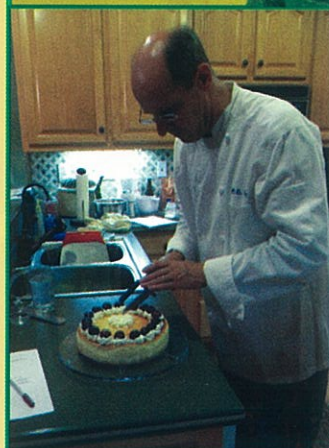
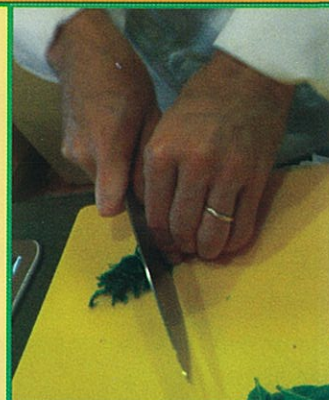
Let rest 5-10 minutes before serving.

Tuscan Green Beans

Servings: 8

- 1 each medium onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced or pressed
- 2 cups parsley, chopped
- 1 can anchovy fillets, with oil
- 2 each medium tomatoes, peeled, seeded and chopped
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 1 pound green beans
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter

Steam or boil green beans until *al dente*. Remove from steam or water and place in ice bath to stop cooking. Heat olive oil & butter in a large fry pan. Add chopped onion & saute until golden. Add garlic, cook for a minute or two. Cook on a low heat to not burn onion or garlic. Add can of anchovies and oil. Continue to cook, breaking up anchovies until they are completely dissolved. Add chopped tomatoes & parsley & cook for about 5 min. Salt and pepper to taste. Add green beans and cook stirring until green beans are warmed through.





Senior Adults Minister
Ernest Hill

The Son

Glorifying in the



*Is not wisdom found among
the aged?*

By Ron Kirkland

I've been living long in denial – and missing all the fun. When you read this, I will be sixty-three years young. I have frequently run into Ernest Hill's (Minister of Senior Adults) smiling face in the several months I have been at Mount Zion, and honestly, I didn't feel ready to be 'relegated' to the 'Seniors' group. Boy-how deluded I was!

As I have had opportunity to be exposed to what these vibrant and highly motivated folks do, I have had to re-think my perceptions. Turns out, these precious saints are the backbone of body life in just about every visible expression of ministry and service. The ministries of our senior members permeate all elements of this Church's day-by-day activities.

This is *in addition* to special activities

tailored to their (our) own unique and varied interests.

As in just about all the churches I have attended, our elder folk form the core of prayer warriors. They are active at regular meetings and prayer walks. Sharing their concerns is a vital part of their small group participation in Sunday Schools, Bible Studies and ZGroups, to name a few.

Well-seasoned faces dot the choir loft and many have further expression of their musical gifts and talents by participating in SonShiners Choir and other ensembles. As a special blessing to our community, they frequently minister in music to area retirement and nursing homes.

The SonShiners Ministry is rich with opportunities for active (purposeful)

Still Shines

Autumn of Life



*Does not long life bring
understanding? Job 12:12 (NIV)*

living and service. Involvement spans Sunday School, Discipleship Training, Women's Missionary Union and Men's Ministry, as well as the aforementioned musical involvement. The SonShiner Club's monthly meetings offer a focused opportunity for prayer as well as a variety of informative and enjoyable activities, concluding with fellowship around a covered-dish lunch --networking at its best.

The Senior Adult Planning Council, Rev. Hill and Dot Morris (The SonShine Club leaders), keep a full plate of activities on tap that include club meetings, ministry opportunities, missions trips as well as informational and pleasure trips. The monthly newsletter 'Rays of SonShine' keeps everyone well informed.

So then, you will not be able to visit long at Mount Zion Baptist Church before you see the cheerful face of Ernest Hill, and he invites you to join them. Remember, you are **not** being relegated to a dusty-bone pile of past-prime inactive citizenry, (ugh, what a horribly inaccurate image), **but to a path of greater purpose and service.** And you'll have great fun and wonderful fellowship doing it. ☺



Ron Kirkland has been a member of Mount Zion just under a year. He enjoys retirement, spending time with his grandchildren and writing poetry.



WATER IN THE DESERT

"Jesus answered, 'Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst.'"

John 4:13

By Ruth Kirkland

Since 1996 Chris and Gwen Wilkinson have been pursuing a well-drilling project as a means of making contact with an unreached people group in West Africa near the Sahara. By meeting the crucial need for water, opportunities arise to share the Living Water of Jesus Christ. Bringing water to the desert has been an arduous and time-consuming process.

Before the well-drilling project could begin, Chris had to learn how run the drill rig and other equipment, which then had to be shipped to Africa. The Wilkinsons had to learn the trade language of the country and the tribal language. Finally, they dug a trial well in their home location in West Africa.

In 2005, they returned to the US for two years due to family concerns. However, the Lord used this "interruption" when Chris, Gwen and their two sons lived in the Mission House to build strong relationships with the Mount Zion church family. As a result, three short-term teams from Mount Zion went to West Africa to assist them.

When they returned to Africa, it took almost two years to get government approval to go into nine villages on the edge of the Sahara desert that most needed the wells. In 2009, after many years of preparatory work, they began to drill the first well in the center of a village of the unreached people. The villagers agreed to buy the pump and allowed the missionaries to share Bible stories. The team began camping in tents for 4-5 days to work on the well, returning to their hometown on the weekend. While the men drilled the well, the women talked with women and children and shared Bible stories using picture cards.

After three months, the village leaders asked them to stop drilling. They had changed their minds about the Bible stories. The missionaries agreed to move their camp to the edge of the village, the leaders told their women not to listen to the stories and the drilling resumed. Two wells failed due to problems with equipment. Then in November of 2009 the missionary couple teamed with the Wilkinsons realized they were not capable of keeping up with the demands of the ministry. Although Chris and Gwen have continued the well-drilling project with two hired workers, it has been difficult.

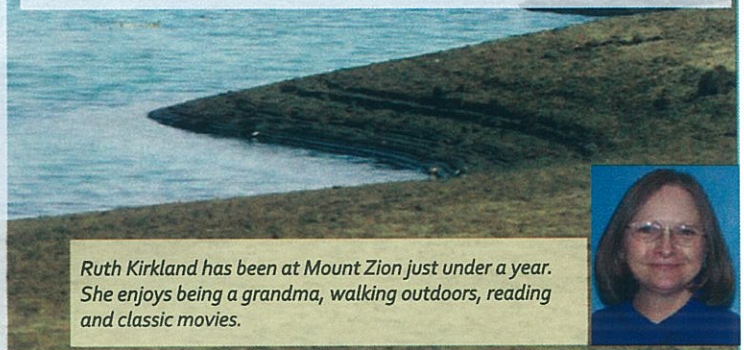


While the well drilling continued, Gwen was "keeping camp" on the edge of the village. In spite of the leaders' mandate that the villagers not listen to Bible stories, the children would come again and again for more. At night women and some men would also sneak out to their tent to listen to the gospel. One man in particular professed to believe in Jesus Christ.

On the third drilling attempt they hit water at 130 feet, but again mechanical problems caused the well to fail. In spite of this delay, the Wilkinsons were assured they would be welcomed back to the village when they were presented with a leg of goat meat and two chickens as going away presents.

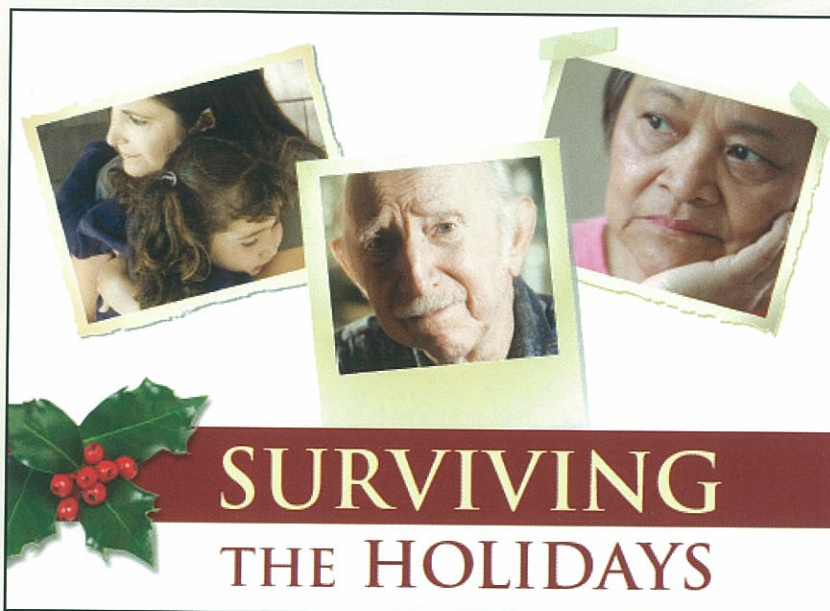
Chris and Gwen believe that the cause of the many setbacks they have faced in ministering the gospel to this unreached people group is persistent spiritual opposition. The Wilkinson family verse is familiar, but tried and true: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." (Proverbs 3:5-6) Every time they have been confronted with an obstacle, difficulty or discouragement, they have brought the situation to God in prayer. They have seen that He is the One who can change situations and people, using them for His glory. As long as there are people who want to hear the gospel, their hard work has purpose. ☪

Presently, the Wilkinsons are living in the Mission House at Mount Zion Baptist Church during their home assignment in the US. If you would like to receive the Wilkinson's prayer letter contact Rev. David Cochran, Minister of Missions and Outreach.



Ruth Kirkland has been at Mount Zion just under a year. She enjoys being a grandma, walking outdoors, reading and classic movies.





Grief Share

Facing Grief is difficult at any time no matter who you have lost, but the holidays are especially hard for most of us.

- * Family gatherings are hard without my spouse that I spent 53 years with – but staying alone is worse.*
- * I don't have that special person to buy for, and he/she is not here to buy something special for me.*
- * Why should I put up decorations just for me?*
- * It's hard even to go to the church for those special programs without him/her.*
- * It doesn't even seem right to sing carols without his/her blended voice with mine.*

So what do you do?

Mount Zion has the answer. Anyone facing grief will find help and support by attending the "Surviving the Holidays" event. Here you will learn:

- * How to be prepared for those surprising emotions that may hit over the holidays.*
- * What to do about traditions and other coming changes.*
- * How to handle Holiday parties and invitations.*
- * How to survive potentially awkward moments with other people.*
- * Where to find comfort, strength and hope in a seemingly hopeless time.*

The Grief Share class is a meaningful time together for those who have experienced grief. It will provide the reassurance, comfort and hope you need to help you through the holidays.

For more information, call Dot Morris at: 256-721-7564 or John Herndon at: 245-895-3681

Thanksgiving:

Joyful Celebration or Holy Sacrifice?

Psalm 42:3-6a

*As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God.
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?
My tears have been my food day and night, while men say to me all day long, "Where is your
God?"*

*These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I used to go with the multitude,
leading the procession to the house of God, with shouts of joy and thanksgiving
among the festive throng.*

*Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him my Savior and God.*

By Ron Kirkland

Those who have lived long on this earth - and many not so long - are sure to have had similar experiences as those suggested by the author of this Psalm. Times of joy and times of tears; it has certainly been so for me.

A dysfunctional family life in my youth resulted in precious few Thanksgiving celebrations. It continued until my late twenties, when I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord. Even then, it was not until I married my life's partner Ruth that a tradition of celebrating Thanksgiving began. Indeed, other than scenes depicted in 'Life Magazine' and the like, I had no idea what to expect of a Thanksgiving celebration in a family setting. I had no frame of reference outside a day off of school and *maybe* turkey for dinner.

Sadly, this left little room for consideration of what it was to be thankful. Events that worked out well in my life, I attributed to luck, or as something that I deserved. Those events that did *not* turn out so well were stoically endured.

It was only when I developed a relationship with a loving and compassionate God that the concept of being thankful began to dawn on my crusty soul. Growing in my faith, I became aware of MUCH to be thankful for, eternally and presently. I began turning to the great and precious promises found in the

Word of God for daily strength and grace. My loving wife began to celebrate special occasions in our family that were so lacking in my youth. I began to *enjoy* communion with the Living God and thus to appreciate the many good things of life.

While all my problems didn't go away, they did begin to take on new perspective. Trials experienced in my youth became a source of practical compassion. I learned to give a "Sacrifice of Praise" in rough seasons, knowing the sure hope of God's eternal purpose was not lost in my suffering. He is indeed a God of provision and grace, an "Ever present help in the time of trouble." I'm *beginning* to get a glimpse of what the Apostle Paul was speaking of in Philippians 4:12 (NIV) "I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want." How very patient our God is! ☺

Ron Kirkland has been a member of Mount Zion just under a year. He enjoys retirement, spending time with his grandchildren and writing poetry.



Christmas Events 2010

Sunday, December 5

6:00 pm

"How Far Is It to Bethlehem"

Caravan to the King

Presented by the Children's Choir & Drama Cast

Accompanied by the Sanctuary Orchestra

With Special Music by the Preschool Choirs

Sunday, December 12

6:00 pm

"Wonderful Joy"

A Praise and Worship Musical for Christmas

Presented by the Student Choir

Friday & Saturday, December 17 & 18

6:00 – 9:00 pm

"Live Nativity"

Presented by the Men of Zion

Sunday, December 19

6:00 pm

"Emmanuel – The Miracle of Christmas"

A Christmas Musical Presented by the
Sanctuary Choir, Orchestra & Drama Cast

Friday, December 24

5:00 pm

"Candlelight Lord's Supper Service"



The Awe Of Christmas

By Bret Schultz

What's not to love about Christmas lights? I love Christmas and have been creating displays for Christmas as long as I can remember. Amy and I bought our first house in December, 1990. That Christmas, she got to see my exterior illumination abilities.

In 2006, we began animating our displays to music using computer controlled hardware and a small FM transmitter. Each year we try to add something new to the display and it has grown quite large over the years. Creating our display has become a Schultz family tradition, and Amy and the boys (William and Wesley) are a big help. It has always been Christ-centered and will always have a reading of the birth story of our Savior, which is the true meaning of Christmas. We do our best each year to show the awe of Christmas.

The most frequently asked question is, "How does your display affect the utility bill?" Thankfully, it only adds a small amount to the total bill, but we think it's worth it. The second most often asked question is, "Why do it?" We do it for the community as our gift, we do it for the smiles on kid's faces, we do it as a family project, but most of all, we do it to celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Some of our lights are extremely bright, but the brightest Christmas "lights" of all are those that take the light of Christ to the darkest places on Earth. So if you love Christmas like I do, feel free to bend my ear about our display as I love talking about it almost as much as I love watching it. ☺

Numbers for the 2010 Display:

Over 85,000 lights; 70,000 which are LEDs (Light Emitting Diodes)

176 computer control channels

21-foot Mega tree

12-foot Color tree

Leaping arches utilizing 18 channels

4-foot giant Christmas ornaments

Over 100 strobe lights

30-foot bradford pear tree with over 5,000 LEDs

33 mini trees, 18 are 3 color (red, white, and green) LED trees

The list goes on.

Our center piece is the manger scene that was a gift from some dear friends.



Bret, William, Amy, Wesley Schultz. Bret teaches in our student department. Amy is a Ministry Assistant in the CMC. William, 16, and Wesley, 15, are involved with the students and play in the church orchestra.

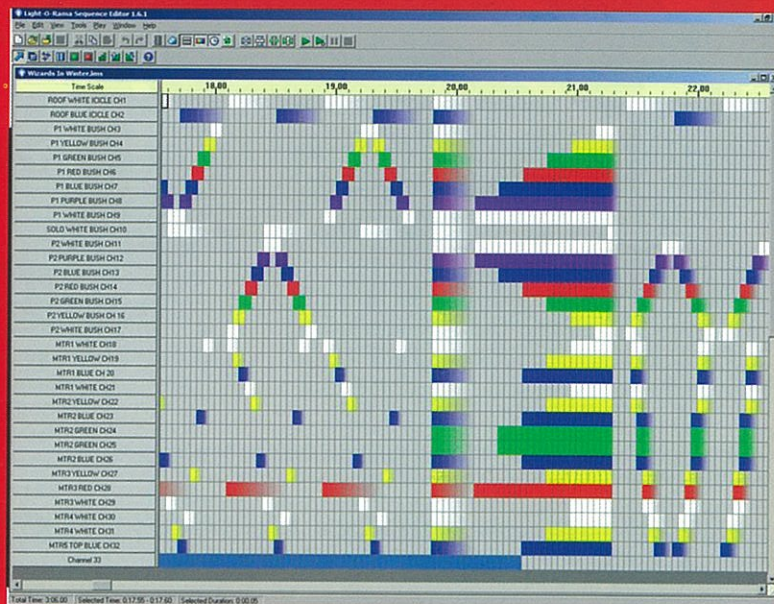


GETTING PLUGGED IN

By Bret Schultz



Bret making connections



Snap shot of about 5 sec. of a light sequence (32 channels)

My usual joke is that I have both my sons William and Wesley inside plugging and unplugging the cords in time to the music; but really computer controlled displays are not as difficult as you might think to build. To most people's surprise, the cost of running my display is actually less than the same size static display, because only rarely are all the lights on at once. The basics for a computerized display are: some kind of Christmas lights (any type of incandescent or LED will work), and a computer to sequence lights to music and run the show. The sequencing is more taxing on the hardware but a very basic machine can run the display. I use a very old laptop to run my show. It is possible to create your own sequencing software but I use a company that builds both the light controlling units and software called Light-O-Rama (LOR).

A light controlling unit takes the computer signals sent by the PC to the lights. They come in many different types but I use LOR 16 channel units. The units and the PC connect using CAT5 networking cable, with a limit of 240 units with 16 channels each, or 3840 (a lot more than I think I could work with or afford.) Currently I have 11 units or 176 channels in my display.

Also there must a way for the audience to hear the music. You can, and some do, connect large speakers up and blast the neighborhood with loud music all December long, but I think to keep the peace it is better to connect an FM radio transmitter up and broadcast the music. Visitors can tune their car radios and listen in. I use a Mobile Black Box unit.

Last but not least, you need a lot of extension cords. It is true I have over 3 miles of extension cords. I tell the students that my cords just sit in bins during most of the year offering nothing. Even if I take them out and plug them into an outlet, if I don't plug anything into the other end, they are still useless. In a way we are like my extension cords, in order to show God's love to others we must be plugged into the source of love, it does not come from us, it merely moves through us. We are to plug into the power source, then stand ready to plug into someone else -- someone who maybe can't reach the source on their own -- someone who desperately needs the extension of grace and love. ☺





Young Professionals Find Community in Small Group Settings

By Charlotte Madison

Movie aficionados will recognize the line "If you build it, he will come" from the 1989 movie *Field of Dreams*. Ray (played by Kevin Costner), an Iowa farmer, heard a mysterious voice impressing him to build a baseball diamond in the middle of his corn field. Eventually, Ray built the diamond, and the events that ensued were both magical and mystical as figures of the past, including his own father, gathered to play ball.

In 2008 several Mount Zion Sunday School leaders and staff members sensed God's voice saying, "Provide a class and they will come." We launched a small Young Professionals class, and they have come!

Young professionals at Mount Zion represent varied ages and vocational interests. A few are about to finish degrees at the college or graduate level while others are at the entry level of their chosen careers. Careers vary and include, among others, engineering, accounting, teaching, nursing, and technology. Several members of the class are young adults who attended Mount Zion as children and youth. Others are new to the Huntsville area. Both couples and singles are active in the class which meets on Sundays at 9:45 a.m.

I recently asked some of the young professionals to share with me their stories.

Tiffany Golub grew up in Madison and is a registered nurse working in Labor & Delivery at Huntsville Hospital. She is also studying toward her master's at UAH in the Family Nurse Practitioner program.

Tiffany joined Mount Zion in May of 2009 after moving into a townhouse just down the street. "I knew I wanted to join my first Sunday visiting because everyone was so friendly and welcoming," says Tiffany. "Being a part of the YP class has been great to help me grow in my Christian walk and get to know other church members in the same phase in life. This church has ministered to me by caring and staying connected with me as a member."

In addition to serving through the YP class, she attends ZGroups (discipleship small groups), is in a ConnecZION (dinner) group and went on a medical mission trip to Guatemala in 2009. Young Professionals like Tiffany are finding social connections and spiritual development opportunities in small groups at Mount Zion.

Brad Atkinson, a network engineer working for a military contractor in Huntsville, grew up in a small town in West Tennessee. Brad shares, "My parents divorced when I was a baby, and I was raised by my mother with help from my maternal grandparents. My grandparents were a significant Christian influence during my childhood because my grandmother was the church secretary and my grandfather was director of missions for the entire county. I accepted Christ as my Savior during Vacation Bible School when I was nine years old, and I was baptized by my grandfather. My experiences with my youth group and the influence of my youth minister impacted my teenage years. During my entire life I have always felt God's guidance and protection."

Brad is an avid runner. In addition to running regularly for exercise and stress relief, he also trains and runs in 5K's, 10K's, half-marathons, and marathons.

Brad came to Huntsville to run the Rocket City Marathon before he moved here. While driving around the area, he took a detour due to a traffic accident. The detour which took him right by Mount Zion Baptist Church. Several months later when he got a job in Huntsville, he visited the church and liked it.

"The Young Professional Bible Study class is important to me because it helps me feel connected to people who are close to my age and have the same beliefs that I do. Since I do not have family in the area, it is important to me to have this (small group) connection to others outside of work because it makes me feel more grounded."

Matthew Deloney was born and raised in the Monrovia area. He is a civil engineer who enjoys hunting, fishing and gardening. His family began attending Mount Zion when he was five-years-old.

"The church has undergone major changes since I first began attending. The church has grown not only in the size of the membership and buildings but also in the outreach that the church has in the community and throughout the world. One of the largest areas of growth that I have witnessed has been the growth of the missions program. I have been privileged and humbled to be a part of some of these mission trips to locations such as Trinidad, Mexico and the Dominican Republic."

Like many young adults, Matthew went through a prolonged period of sporadic church attendance during his college years and afterwards. He says, "A small group ministry such as our young professional class is very important to me now. If you only attend worship, it can be difficult to initiate and maintain relationships when a church has become as large as Mount Zion. The small group setting has been instrumental in getting me involved again in the church."



**Tiffany
Golub**



**Brad
Atkinson**



**Matthew
Deloney**



**Scott
and
Rebecca
Pride**



**Rebekah
Kirkland**



**Andria
Dyess**

Scott and Rebecca Pride have Methodist roots, but Scott became a Baptist as a young teen in Russellville, Alabama. Rebecca grew up in Hoover and was encouraged in her faith by parents who volunteered during the summers at Winnataska, a non-demoninational Christian camp. She was baptized in the Baptist church after marrying Scott.

Scott works in banking with CB&S Bank. His pastimes are deer and duck hunting, along with playing golf and tennis. Rebecca teaches fourth grade at Creekside Elementary and recently finished her Library and Information Studies degree. She, like Brad, enjoys running and participated in the 2010 Rocket City races.

Rebecca shares how they found Mount Zion: "After moving to the Huntsville area during the summer of 2007, we began our search for a "church home." We visited numerous churches and attended one for over a year. However, we still never felt like we had found "the perfect fit." As 2010 began, we made it one of our family's New Year's resolutions to find a church where we could grow as a family. God must have heard our prayers! We received a magazine (the *ConnecZion* magazine) from MZBC and decided to visit. On our first Sunday, we felt welcome, especially after meeting Charlotte (Young Professionals teacher) who introduced herself and invited us to Sunday School. The friendliness did not stop there. Everyone was very friendly, and we immediately felt very comfortable. We have enjoyed the opportunity to connect and learn from others through Sunday School and fellowship activities."

Scott and Rebecca have a special family tradition of participating in Operation Christmas Child each year. Rebecca says, "It helps us celebrate the true meaning of Christmas, and we look forward to continuing that tradition here at Mount Zion."

Young professionals find relationships and opportunities at Mount Zion that enable them to connect, to grow, and to serve. Clearly it was God's voice that challenged us to begin this ministry!

Rebekah Kirkland was born and raised in a small farm town in Connecticut. Although she was raised in a home with strong Christian values, she separated herself during her teenage years from those closest to her and began to live as she desired, turning her back on the Lord. She shares, "In my mid-twenties, after a series of difficult life lessons, I realized that I could do nothing apart from God and again committed my life to following Jesus."

Rebekah is currently employed by the Westin Hotel at Bridge Street. "When I first took a job as a cook to pay my bills in college, I never thought it was a career that I would choose. Cooking is now more a

passion for me than a job, and has helped me to find interesting ways to serve and bless others." In fact, Rebekah now helps prepare meals for delivery through Mount Zions Supper Sisters ministry, begun by Theresa Wilson.

Rebekah and her 10-year-old daughter Emma joined other family members in Huntsville in 2009. Rebekah said when she heard the Word of God brought in a powerful way and met all of the caring and accepting members she knew that we would not have to look for another church. "I have been so pleased that God brought us to a great church family and that there are so many ways to be involved here at Mount Zion Baptist Church. Small groups such as the Young Professional Sunday School class and the many different ZGroups (Mount Zion's discipleship classes) have been such a big part of my MZBC experience. Right away, even before considering membership at MZBC, I was getting into ZGroups. The more personal setting of small groups is an awesome way to kick-start personal spiritual growth!"

Andria Dyess, a computer engineer for Adtran, grew up in Montgomery and was only seven-years-old when she asked Jesus to be her Savior. She grew spiritually as a teenager, and as a student at the University of Alabama. After moving to Huntsville in 1999, God began giving her a heart to share the gospel overseas and she has shared about Jesus in Jamaica, Venezuela, and even Tokyo, Japan.

When Andria's good friends Bert and Cheryl Gangl shared their excitement about MZBC she visited and was immediately impressed by the caring people at MZBC. She says, "From my very first visit, MZBC members were eager to help me find a Sunday School class and get involved. I am so glad that God led me to a church with so many mission opportunities. That was a very important factor in my decision to join MZBC. Being part of a small group is an absolute must! It is such a joy to study the Bible together and to share what God is doing in our lives. It is a blessing to pray for the needs of others and to have them pray with me."

Note: At the time this article was written, MZBC was about to begin ORCHARD, a weekly worship experience for college students and young professionals.

Who will be my Valentine?

By Ruth Kirkland

Among the summer selection of Bible studies offered at Mount Zion this year, Marcus Cochran led a group of single adults in a Sunday night ZGroup. They studied the book, "RPMS, Recognizing Potential Mates," by Ed Young.

The study addressed Biblical characteristics to look for in a potential mate, and incorporate into one's own life in order to be a potential mate. It also raised issues pertinent to single Christians.

If you are single and waiting for that special someone, you will be encouraged by reading the responses to the following questions presented to three young married couples in our church.

1. What helped you deal with the challenges of being single?
2. What standards and qualities attracted you to your spouse?
3. How did God bring you together?
4. Did you seek/receive counsel? How? Was it helpful?
5. Do you have a special verse that guided you or a verse for your marriage?

Marcus and Robin Cochran

1. Marcus: Staying involved in church and continuing to draw close to God "Delight yourself in the Lord: And he will give you the desires of your heart." Psalm 37:4. It wasn't until I decided if God wanted me to be single, then I was content with it being just He and I, that He blessed me by placing us both at the same place at the same time doing his work.

Robin: Both of us had come to the point where it really didn't matter if we were married or not. Whatever God wanted was fine.

2. Marcus: I knew that I wanted a godly woman, one who would never put anything before her relationship with the Lord.

Robin: I was attracted to his good looks at first, but more than that, I saw that he was really different. He was easy-going and laid back, which was a good complement for me. He was kind and was interested in who I was. He would join me for activities that I knew he wasn't really interested in because they were important to me.

3. We both worked together as summer missionaries at a World Changers project in California.

4. Brother Ron was our wedding counselor. It was very helpful.

5. In our wedding we used Ruth 1:16-17 "Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried." **Robin:** I never thought I would live anywhere but the Smokey Mountains, but he was worth it!



Lee and Dean Polk

1. **Lee:** Serving God and putting Him first. Also, offering my singleness as a living sacrifice to God.

Dean: 1) Staying busy serving in ministry—which is where I always figured I'd meet my mate anyway. 2) When I was loneliest, I would write letters to my wife (whoever she was) so that one day, she could understand and appreciate my wait for her.

2. **Lee:** What attracted me was his passion for the Lord, his intelligence, his outgoing personality, his good looks, his desire to stay fit, and his likeness to my dad. **Dean:** I was attracted *physically* by her Facebook picture, *in person* by the way she approached me so boldly in conversation, and *deeply* by her love for the Lord and compassion for people. Being someone who loved children and had a beautiful voice was also important.

3. **Dean:** I always figured that while I was "running the race marked out" for me, I would look beside me and see this godly, knockout of a woman running the race as well, and that would be her. That's the way it happened.



A friend needed a speaker for a Disciple Now event in Gordo, AL. I agreed, and Lee ended up being one of the girl's group leaders.

4. **Dean:** Having God-fearing family provided some great counseling. I was also mentored by some great, godly husbands/fathers while at Mississippi State. One of these was my old youth pastor who performed our marriage ceremony.

5. **Lee:** Philippians 4:6. This verse served as a reminder that God wanted me to trust Him with my life and serve Him with a pure heart, *without* letting my worry/desire to find a mate overwhelm my thoughts. **Dean:** It's on the cover of the book of letters to my wife (whom I was praying I would meet one day). "They that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."-Isaiah 40:31

Scott and Rebecca Pride

1. Philippians 4:6-7, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Through prayer and time spent in God's word, we both found hope in Jeremiah 29:11 and grew in our faith in God's plan.

2. Within about 15 minutes, we both realized we found someone special. We both were Christians with a strong desire to serve God through our actions. We shared the same values and beliefs, and had similar life goals and expectations.

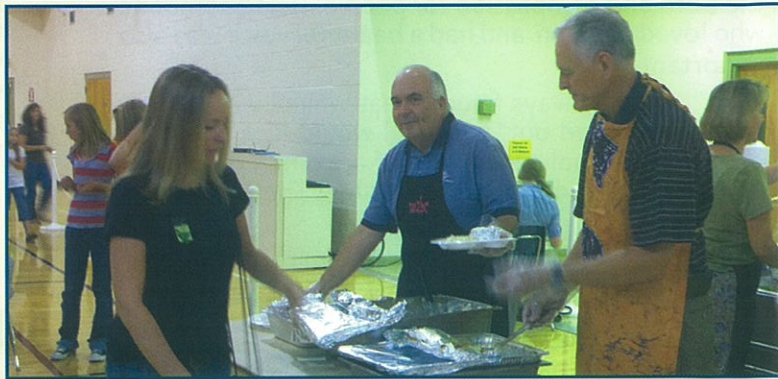
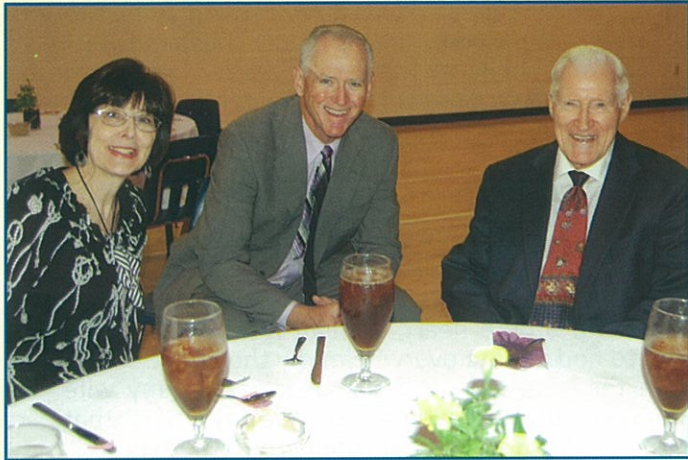
3. We initially met at the library at The University of Alabama where Scott worked at the reserve desk. One night our friends persuaded us to go hear a band. Only God knew that these friends who were providing Christian support, would lead the two of us to each other. We met, began talking and a few nights later, had our first date.



4. Scott had a friend who encouraged him to be patient in finding the right person. He advised him that God would make it happen in His own time. God would help him meet who He wanted when He wanted. Ironically, Rebecca had a godly friend that provided similar advice.

5. The scripture reading from our wedding: "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails." 1 Corinthians 13:4-8.

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