When I was a child, the year 2000 seemed so far away. I could not imagine what strange and amazing things would lay ahead of me in life. Now, as we come into 2017, I look back at the year 2000 and it seems to have been a long time ago. Much has changed in my life in the 21st century, and I’m sure that anyone who reads this can say that the same is true for them. I never understood when my Grandma would tell me that “time flies”. Today, I look at my adult grandchildren and it seems like only yesterday when I held them on my lap. Now I am the Grandma asking, “where did the time go?”.

It is always good to look forward to what new adventures we might encounter in the coming year. But it is also wise to look back and assess what we have learned from life in the past year. After all, as we get older, we are expected to grow wiser! If we aren’t learning anything new, then we risk becoming stagnant and dull — no one wants that!

One of the things I enjoy doing is collecting quips and quotes that are amusing and inspiring. They make me laugh and they make me think. They are similar to Biblical proverbs, and I try to commit them to memory. Now that we have the Internet to keep us informed, it’s easy to find these witticisms. I don’t search for them myself, but I have friends who are generous in sharing the tidbits of wisdom they find.

To start the New Year off on a lighter note, I thought I would share a few of the ones I have enjoyed this year. I hope they give you a chuckle, or you find something uplifting that you will want to remember.

Don’t let your worries get the best of you — remember, Moses started out as a basket case.

Some people are kind, polite, and thoughtful — until you try to sit in their pew.

Many people want to serve God, but only as advisors.

It is easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one.

Some minds are like concrete — thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.

Coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous.

Don’t wait for 6 strong men to take you to church.

God doesn’t call the qualified, He qualifies the called.

God grades on the cross, not the curve.

God loves everyone, but probably prefers “fruits of the spirit” over “religious nuts”.

God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.

If God is your co-pilot, swap seats.

Don’t give God instructions — just report for duty.

We don’t change the message, the message changes us.

The best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.

Thoughts for a New Year

Jeremiah 29:11

“'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'”
ATTENDANCE

Last Month

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<th>Date</th>
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<th>Morning Worship</th>
<th>Wednesday Average</th>
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FINANCIAL

November Giving/Expenses

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<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
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Thank you for the cards and gifts this Christmas season! We appreciate our church family.

~The Mt. Zion Staff

THIS MONTH

Prayer Breakfast
Meet at Stack’s Restaurant on Thursday, January 5th, at 8a for a time of prayer and fellowship.

Ladies Book Club
The January/February book selection is “The Will of Wisteria” by Denise Hildreth. We will meet February 20th to discuss this book.

Charleston blue blood Clayton Wilcott “got religion” late in life; so late, it turns out his kids never took to it. So he’s left a provisional will delivered in a highly unorthodox way. Now the four spoiled Wilcott kids are going to have to honor Daddy’s commandments from beyond the grave for a full year or be cut off from their substantial inheritances.

Wednesday Groups
Glen Wilkinson’s group and the Worship Team Life Group will meet Wednesday, January 4th, at 7p. The kids, teens, and Chari’s group will start back up on Wednesday, January 11th.

January 18th

Happy 90th Birthday
Vera Sanders!

“Thoughts for a New Year” continued . . .

Being kind is more important than being right.

Life is like a roll of toilet paper — the closer we get to the end, the faster it goes.

To ignore the facts, does not change the facts.

Opportunities are never lost — someone will take the ones you miss.

We must keep our words soft and tender.

Tomorrow we may have to eat them.

Everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the growth takes place while climbing it.

I must be willing to give up what I am in order to become what I will be.

Our problems didn’t come to stay — they came to pass.

A Blood Donor saved my life!

A friend is someone who knows the song in your heart, and sings it to you when you forget the words.

If you want to know where your heart truly is, look to where your mind goes when it wanders.

There are 2 ways to be fooled — one is to believe what isn’t true, the other is to refuse to believe what is true.

A sense of humor can help you overlook the unattractive, tolerate the unpleasant, cope with the unexpected, and smile through the unbearable.

Enjoy life — it has an expiration date!

~Gay Sabo
Thank You’s

We were once again blown away by your generosity and faithfulness! We received your Christmas gift to our family - thank you! You have always been so kind to us - from your faith promise commitments to baby showers to Christmas gifts. We pray God cares for each one of you in the same lavish way you have cared for us.

Steve, Becca & kiddos

Thank you from the depths of our hearts for your generosity towards us this Christmas. Your gift is such a great blessing to us and the love you have shown us touches our hearts. Thank you so much for all you do for us.

We are so grateful!
The Englands

Thank you Mt. Zion friends, for your faithful giving and prayers . . . and your generous Christmas gift. We so appreciate you!

Many blessings to you!
Perry & Nancy Hubbard

Thank you for your recent gift. While “money can’t buy happiness” - the gift does make it possible for us to share with our residents the real love of their Heavenly Father for them. Thank you for your partnership in this ministry of hope.

May God bless each of you!
CK Chitty & Hephzibah Ministries

Safe in Haiti

Our church supports Handy Exime, a child in Haiti. He is safe after the hurricane that ravaged Haiti. However, his community of Percen was heavily damaged. Pray for Handy and his family to have food, shelter, and hope.
Clubhouse
Our midweek services will resume on Wednesday, January 11th, at 7p. We will spend time in worship, prayer, getting more familiar with our Bibles, and encouraging others with our acts of service.

Sunday School
Thinking about sending your child or teen to camp next summer? Then make Sunday School attendance a priority. Up to half of their camp fee will be covered by the church depending on their attendance. So the more they come, the less you have to pay!

Children’s Church
Classes for preschool thru 6th grade are available. Start the year off right by making sure your kids have the opportunity to worship and learn more about Jesus.
WKFM is back . . . beginning Sunday, January 8th.

Blue Hippo
Blue Hippo has just begun their Spring session. The elementary cast will be working on “Fairy Tale Courtroom”. The teenagers will resume work on “Murder at the Wilcox Family Bed and Breakfast”.

3 Wise Men & a Baby
God truly blessed our Christmas play! It may have taken place a few days later than expected but we couldn’t have been prouder of the kids and their performance!

A prayer for your family as you begin 2017 . . .

God, thank you for a new year. May everyone in our family be willing to begin anew with a clean slate. We know that you are always ready to forgive us. Help us to be willing to forgive ourselves and to forgive one another. As we begin a new year, remind us of our truest values and our deepest desires. Help us to live in the goodness that comes from doing what you want us to do. Help us to put aside anxiety about the future and the past, so that we might live in peace with you now, one day at a time.
Sunday School
Thinking about sending your teen to camp next summer? Then make Sunday School attendance a priority. Up to half of their camp fee will be covered by the church depending on their attendance. So the more they come, the less you have to pay!

Wednesdays
During Wednesday night youth, we will be taking a look at why, of all things, Jesus chose to call us sheep. As some of you recently said in a discussion, sheep are cute, need sheared, not so smart, and need taken care of. We will tie in all those things and more (well maybe not the cute part).Come be a part and also have a say in what we study next.
Ladies Book Club

On a beautiful December evening, the Mt. Zion Ladies Book Club gathered at the home of Chari Rhoads. Many of the attendees were weary from family obligations and the hustle and bustle of the season; however, much of that stress melted away once they were inside the warm atmosphere of Chari’s beautifully decorated home.

Pleasant conversations and laughter were heard among the friends gathered there. The consensus of the group was that the evening was very relaxing and enjoyable.

After a delicious meal of finger foods, Chari led the discussion of the November/December book choice “A Miser, a Manger, a Miracle” by Marianne Jordan. This was an intriguing story. The author integrated two Christmas stories together flawlessly: one of the birth of Jesus and another that took place many hundreds of years later about a penny-pinching miser. You probably recognize the later as the “Christmas Carol.

This version of the Christmas story was first written by the author for a youth group Christmas play. It was later deemed worthy to publish as her first book.

In this Christmas story the innkeeper was Ebenezer Scrooge. It even had a Tiny Tim(othy) and a Bob Cratchet (Aaron). Similar to the fictional Dickens’ Christmas Carol, Jordan spins an enchanting tale which brings Ebenezer face to face with himself. He resists believing, but eventually not only believes in Jesus as Messiah, but chooses to heed Jesus’ teachings, which the angel allows him to hear.

The evening concluded with a book exchange similar to a white elephant exchange. In the end, everyone went home with a new book and a lot of sweet memories.


Sharon Huckeby

Recipe

It may be cold outside, but enjoy making this warm dessert.

Warm Winter Lemon Cake

1 pkg. yellow cake mix
2 pkg. (3.4 oz. each) Lemon Instant Pudding
1 2/3 cups granulated sugar
2 cups cold milk
1 1/4 cups water
2 Tbsp. powdered sugar

Heat oven to 350º.
Prepare cake batter as directed on package; pour into 13x9-inch baking dish sprayed with cooking spray.
Beat dry pudding mixes, granulated sugar, milk, and water with a whisk for 2 minutes. Pour over batter in dish. Place baking dish on baking sheet. (Baking sheet will catch any sauce that might bubble over sides of dish as dessert bakes.)
Bake 55-60 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool 20 minutes. Sprinkle with powdered sugar. Serve warm. Refrigerate leftovers.