

# Tidings from Mt. Pleasant

Mt. Pleasant Methodist Church
4136 Mt. Pleasant Road, Sherrills Ford, NC 28673
www.mtpmethodist.org

**April 2025** 

#### "A Tale of Two Josephs"

This is the tale of two Josephs. Not fiction, but fact. One Joseph marks a beginning, and the other an end. One was a Christmas Joseph, and the other was a Good Friday Joseph. They stand one each at the ends of the life of Jesus—the one at his birth and the other at his death. Now, Joseph of Nazareth saw the beginnings of a life and heard the first cry of the infant Jesus. Joseph of Arimathea heard the last cry of a dying man on a cross. The Christmas Joseph, a man and a carpenter, helped Mary, his betrothed, to lay a baby in a manger. The Good Friday Joseph, a distinguished, wealthy legislator, carried a dead body to an empty tomb. He owned it, and it was conveniently near. No one had yet been buried there.

Joseph of Nazareth apparently had little influence with a Bethlehem innkeeper. On the other hand, Joseph of Arimathea must have possessed considerable influence with the mighty Pilate or else his gold was persuasive. Did that Christmas Joseph assist Mary as she wrapped her first-born in swathing bands, very probably? And for the Good Friday Joseph, the task would be similar, but very different – not swaddling clothes, but a winding sheet called a shroud. Aided by Nicodemus, who had brought an enormous quantity of perfumes and spices to anoint the body, the remains of Jesus were prepared for burial (John 19:40).

Both Josephs were obedient men, one to an angel (Matt. 1:24), and the other to his conscience (Jn. 19:38). The first obedient Joseph fades from history. Joseph of Nazareth is last heard of when Jesus at the age of twelve became a "son of the law". The time of his death is not stated in the Gospels. Joseph of Arimathea comes slowly to a forefront in the public life of Jesus. This Good Friday Joseph moved from the life of Christ, to the cross on which He was hung, to the tomb in which Christ was buried. Joseph saw in the Christ of the cross a Messiah, hope for the forgiveness of sin. He knew that without the savior, we will die in our sin. This Joseph looked into the dying eyes of Jesus, and saw the reason for sacrifice. Jesus' death and resurrection moved Joseph from the cross and the tomb to a new era of discipleship.

So do all, who see in the Christ of the cross their hope of forgiveness from sin. So do all, who in the power of the resurrected Christ; find that the barriers to a victorious spiritual life are rolled away. The Good Friday Joseph finds himself the Easter Joseph, newly alive in Christ, resurrected from an existence of sin, and now personally embodying the power he found in the resurrection.

The Christmas Joseph came to realize that Jesus was sent of God as he wrapped the babe in swaddling clothes. The Good Friday Joseph came to see that his wealth and prominent stature were worth risking realizing the untold riches of having your sins forgiven. Let Mt. Pleasant Methodist join in by becoming the resurrection church where our faith is lived out each day. And let us not take for granted the precious gift that God has placed within our reach, that of salvation for the sinner, even the sins committed by you and I.

Christ above all,



#### From the Admin Board

Spring Greetings everyone! I hope this correspondence finds you all doing well. On March 20th we held our 2nd administrative board meeting of the year. We discussed a number of topics in this meeting. Our trustees reported that they have renewed our annual contract with our current lawn care company and that it will be staying at the same price. We are changing to a new pest control company named Bugout. They will be coming quarterly and treating the church grounds against termites, fire ants, and other pests.

I am happy to report that our Trustees have agreed to a deal with Helms Security who will be adding 9 security cameras throughout our property. This will require a one time payment of \$9,100. With this system we will have up to 1 month of review time for each camera. These cameras will be equipped with infrared and thermal technology as well as facial recognition software. We will also be adding signage around our parking lots that will state that this property is under 24 hour surveillance. This will be a great addition for our church.

Our Trustees also reported that they had recently filed a claim with our insurance company for possible storm damage to our roofs. During the assessment by the claims adjuster, it was learned our insurance coverage for the Old Church was dropped due to a small crack in one of the exterior walls. The Trustees are in the process of obtaining quotes for coverage on the building. As you can see our Trustees have been very busy so please take time to thank these individuals for all that they do!

I am also happy to announce that we will soon be introducing a new Mt. Pleasant Church logo. Pastor Byron and Pastor Kaleb have been working diligently with the graphic design group, Innovative Outfitters, to create a new logo. They presented several great options to our administrative board who then voted on one that they believed would be the best fit. This new logo incorporates some of our natural landscapes nearby which is very unique and thoughtful. This new logo will be added to our Church website and Facebook page and will help with future advertising for fundraisers and events happening here at Mt. Pleasant.

Our last piece of business that we discussed was for our continued need for a church van. We currently have \$2,500.00 allocated into our 2025 church budget for van use this year. Our Youth Group and Keenagers go on numerous outings throughout the year which requires us to rent a van each time to help accommodate these trips. For example, our Youth Group will be traveling to Western North Carolina in June for a mission trip to help assist those affected by Hurricane Helene and they will be renting a van for the week. This cost will be \$2,500.00 for a 1 week rental. If we had our own van our annual upkeep and

maintenance combined would be less than \$2,500.00. So far we have raised just over \$2,000 for a new van and our goal is to raise \$65,000. We would prefer to purchase a van with one payment and avoid having to take out a loan. In the long run having our own van would save us money that we could put to use towards other needs and missions. If you would like to help with this endeavor please mark your gift with "van fund".

In closing, I hope you all have a blessed and joyous Easter and may it be filled with hope and renewal!

Yours in Christ,

**Brandon Cline** 



I am often asked if there are ways for someone to serve or get more involved in the happenings at Mt. Pleasant. The answer is and always will be a resounding YES! As seems to be the case, we currently have needs in a couple of areas that are "easy" as well as in areas where there's a bit more work involved. If you are interested or ready to say "sign me up", please contact the church office at (704) 483-3087 or mpoffice@mtpmethodist.org.

- Ushers: Ladies or gentlemen are always welcome to help with this at either service. We typically need 2 folks (in addition to Jeff Little) at the 8:30 service and 4 folks at the 11:00 service.
- Greeters: Both 8:30 and 11:00 services need folks to help with this. Couples, individuals, "best buddies". You are the face of Mt. Pleasant for our visitors and members coming in on Sunday to worship. If you like meeting and greeting along with passing our bulletins and answering the occasional question, we need you!
- Communion Stewards: At either service, we need you, the laity of the church, to assist in sharing the elements with those in worship. Please let me know if you would be willing to serve at either service.
- Nursery Workers: We have folks in the nursery for both 8:30 and 11:00 worship and also Sunday school. Safe Sanctuary states that we will have 2 adults (or an adult and older youth) in the nursery at all times. Amanda Kochosky, Nursery Director, sets a schedule for each month. If you would like to help, a background report is required (it remains confidential) for anyone 18 and over.





April 17th at 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Last Supper Drama & Communion



April 20th at 7:00am
Sunrise Service at the Pavilion



April 20th @ 7:30am Easter Breakfast in the CLC



April 20th at 8:30am Blended Worship Service

At 9:45am Sunday School

At 11:00am Traditional Worship Service

\*Please note, the Church office will be closed on Friday, April 18th and Monday, April 21st.



# Soli Deo Storia

# MPMC Music Ministry Happenings Dawn Broom

Hello, lovely Church Family. Our music ministry is alive and vibrant, and I am thankful for your faith in me to take care of it and for your support.

As I pen this article, we are midway into the season of Lent, my personal favorite time of the liturgical year. Lent is a 40-day season of prayer and fasting that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Maundy Thursday. It is observed in recognition of Jesus Christ's fasting in the wilderness. Because I am an introvert who likes to live inside my head a lot of the time, Lent gives me forty dedicated days to examine my spiritual life, where I acutely realize my sin and remember the sacrifice God provided, i.e. Jesus Christ, for the atonement of my sin. Thinking on such things greatly humbles me, my Friends.

Right now, the music ministry is poised to present some wonderful music for the remainder of Lent into Holy Week, April 13-19, and culminating on Resurrection Sunday, April 20. As all the ensembles in our music ministry take very seriously our mission to bring glory to the Lord via the music we present in worship, I invite you to consider joining us on Wednesdays/Thursdays and Sundays to sing/ring with us. We would warmly welcome you.

**Bells of Praise** rehearses Wednesdays 6:15pm-6:55pm and ring once every two to three months in the 11:00am worship service. It is helpful to read music; however, if you don't, you can learn.

Chancel Choir rehearses Wednesdays 7:00pm-8:00pm and sings for the 11:00am worship service. It is important that you match pitch – most people can; reading music is not a necessity for we learn how to do that in rehearsals.

**Ensemble** rehearses Thursdays 6:45pm-7:45pm and sings for the 8:30am service. It is helpful to read music.

"Teach me Your way, Lord, so that I can walk in Your Truth.

Make my heart focused only on honoring Your name." Psalm 86:11 (CEB)

### MtP Methodist Men

Next meeting: April 6th, 7:30am in the CLC

All men of the church are invited & encouraged to attend a great breakfast, special program & time of fellowship

Coffee is ready @ 7:00am Breakfast @ 7:30am

Cook team for April will be Jack Baumann, Charles Freeman, Tom Johnson, Wade Lail, Darin Little, and Kenny Chester

### MtP Methodist Women

#### **Circle Meetings for April**

Jewel Dierwechter— April 7 at 11:00am in the Parlor Dana Little—April 1 at 7:00pm in the Parlor Janie Killian—April 8 at 1:00pm in the Parlor

All ladies of the church are invited to come join one of our circles.



Thursday, April 3, 11:30am: Meet at Denver United Methodist Church for their "First Thursday Lunch". You do not need to let us know if you can attend. We will have tables for us to sit together. Come and enjoy a time of good food and fellowship!

#### Friday, April 4, 10:00am:

Monday, April 14, 11:30am: Meet at the church to for a sub sandwich lunch followed by bingo. Please call or email Steve Hodge with the type of sub you would like to have (roast beef, turkey, ham, or Philly cheesesteak) or write your name and selection on a card and leave it in the Keenager drop box in the workroom. There is no charge for your sandwich.

Saturday, May 10th: DAY TRIP TO THE BILTMORE HOUSE with Christian Tours. This trip is open to any church member. We are booking through Christian Tours (828) 465-3900, state that you are part of Mt. Pleasant Methodist Church and you are joining the Biltmore Estate trip on May 10th. You may sign up for this as long as they have seats available. The staff will sign you up and then you can mail in or drop off payment to Christian Tours. For additional information or to let us know

you've signed up, contact Steve Hodge at hodgecloud@aol.com



We hope you will join us on **Wednesday, April 3rd at 6:00pm** in the CLC for a Covered Dish Dinner. Bring a well-stocked "basket" to share as we gather for a time of great fellowship. Beverages will be provided. For questions, contact Barbara Sigmon or the church office.



If you are graduating (or are the family of a graduate) from high school or college this year, please send your information (name, school, degree) to Ann in the church office by April 22nd. We want to recognize ALL graduates (even those who were in the fall/winter graduating class) in our May newsletter. Thanks so much and congratulations!!



If you would like to order an Easter lily in honor or memory of someone, please contact the church office by Monday, April 4th. Cost is once again \$12 per plant. These will be in the church for Easter services on Sunday, April 20th.



Girl Scout cookies are still available. Please contact Tina Sisk (704-562-0386) or Cora Dellinger (8282-320-2010) if you would like to purchase a box or boxes!



We will be doing our **End of the Year Assessments** with the children to see what they have accomplished over the past seven months. A copy will be sent home with the children once it is completed.

The preschool children will be singing for our church congregation on Sunday, April 6th at both the 8:30 am and 11:00 am services. We hope we have several children attend one of the services to help us share with the church congregation what an excellent group of preschoolers we have!

The four's class will be visiting Sherrills Ford Elementary to tour the school and eat lunch in the lunchroom on Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. We will also be visiting Balls Creek Elementary on Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. We will not be eating at Balls Creek Elementary this year due to the number of children they have April 20th—NO YOUTH (Happy Easter!) enrolled.

The children will be hunting Easter eggs on Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. Below are the times when each class will be hunting for eggs:

Three's class - 10:15 am

Two's class - 11:00 am

Four's class - 11:45 am

Our Spring/Graduation pictures will be Monday, April 28th and Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. I will have the cap and gowns for the four's class ready for pictures that day.

We still have a few spots available in our Tuesday/Thursday four's class. If you are aware of anyone that would be interested, please let them know. A letter will be mailed to the parents the last week of July with dates and information about Open House and the upcoming year. The first day of preschool will be Tuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The four's class will be having their annual Preschool Prom on Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 7:00-9:00 pm in the CLC. Mrs. Brenda and Mrs. Christi will be hosting this event. The girls will be bringing their dads, and the boys will be bringing their moms. This is such a magical night for the children to share with their parents!

We will be closed Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> through Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup> for Spring Break. Hope everyone has Happy Easter!

> Amy Howard Director



Youth Calendar:

April 2nd—Family night meal @ 6pm

April 6th—Youth gathering (4-6pm)

April 13th—Youth gathering (4-5:30pm)

April 27th—Catawba Valley Youth Gathering @ Friendship Methodist (3-6PM)



#### ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES AND FAMILIES

It's that time of year when we are preparing to celebrate you and your time in high school. This year our Graduation Sunday and Breakfast will be on Sunday, May 18th. We hope you will be able to join us for the breakfast and for the worship service at 11:00. Please contact either Pastor Kaleb (704-718-1003) or the church office (704-483-3087) to RSVP for this time of celebration and recognition.





Our deepest thanks to the Mt.Pleasant family for the outpouring of love, prayers and support for our family during Larry's unexpected surgery and hospitalization. We have been overwhelmed by your kindness at every step. The beautiful prayer quilt is a tangible reminder of your deep faith and love that has lifted us up through some very difficult times. You have truly been the hands and feet of Jesus and we are so grateful for you.

In His love, Linda & Larry Thompson Brett, Alexis, Bryce & Ridge

Thank you for the cards and phone calls we received during our loss of Jimmy White. He was a very special man and we will miss him so much.

Love, Sande White & Family Ken & Jackie Thompson & Family

Dear Mt. Pleasant Church,

Thank you very much for the beautiful plant you sent us with the passing of Mom, Ada Houck. We took it to her home for all to enjoy during the week of her funeral and it now sits on our dining table, still blooming beautifully. Your thoughtfulness, as well as Pastor Byron's phone call and prayers meant a lot to us.

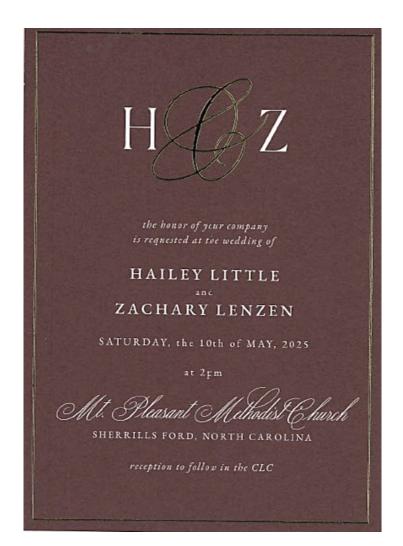
Mom always enjoyed the opportunities to attend Mt. Pleasant worship services, as well as the preschool graduations when I was working there. You have richly blessed our lives through the years. We are most grateful for all the love many of you have shared with us. You are a beautiful light—sharing God's love throughout our community. We love and appreciate you.

Sincerely, Doug & Carol Hicks Mt. Pleasant Methodist Church & Ms. Ann,

Thank you for letting us use your facility to help make my mom's 90th birthday celebration wonderful and one that we will always remember. May God Blee You All!

The Family of Hattie Mundy (Sylvia)

### YOU ARE INVITED



In lieu of a formal registry, we could always use and appreciate gift cards from: Target, Walmart, and Amazon



APRIL 12, 2025 | 10-12 PM

Join us for a very special Easter Family Event! There will be snacks, storytime, and an egg-hunt for the kids!

MT. PLEASANT METHODIST CHURCH 4136 MT. PLEASANT RD, SHERRILLS FORD, NC 28673

# CATAWBA VALLEY YOUTH GATHERING! SUNDAY APRIL 27 3:00-6:00 FRIENDSHIP METHODIST CHURCH 2900 HWY 16 NEWTON, NC

BRING YOUR FRIENDS FOR A FUN AFTERNOON OF GAMES, WORSHIP AND FOOD

grades 6-12

Games by: the game masters at

Mt. Pleasant Methodist

Worship by: Kaleb Setzer and

Friendship Praise

Supper provided by Friendship Methodist

Come and get to know the other youth groups in our area.

Friendship Methodist Church 2900 hwy 16 Newton, NC



Rsvp to teresa.auten@ncglobalmethodist.org



# **Biltmore Estate**

1 Day - May 10th

Meals Included: 1 Lunch

Join Christian Tours this morning as we travel to the beautiful Biltmore Estate located just outside of Asheville. Experience America's largest home, as magnificent today as it was more than a century ago while exploring three floors and the basement of the luxurious family home of George and Edith Vanderbilt. We'll visit Antler Hill Village, tour the Biltmore Winery, and have an included lunch at The Stable Café.

# **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Price Per Person: \$235

A deposit of \$100 per person is due with each individual's reservation. Final payment will be due 30 days prior to departure. Cancellation penalties will begin 30 days prior to departure. Cancellation insurance is available and highly recommended. Insurance Payment is due with deposit at time of booking. Insurance price is \$24 per person.

Mail your reservation form/deposit/payments to Christian Tours at P.O. Box 890, Newton, NC 28658. You may also call in credit card payments to 800-476-3900 or 828-465-3900. Contact your group leader if you have questions: Steve Hodge, 910-574-8722 or email at hodgecloud@aol.com.



#### April

- Debbie Reinhardt 2
- 4 Bobby Lutz
- 7 Chase Helderman
- 8 Rebecca Little Wavne Merchant
- 10 Aaron Mullis Liam Dotson
- 11 Megan Logan
- 15 Jeff Eudy
- 18 Jamie Cawley Addison Bell
- 20 Cindy Little Rini Ronald
- 22 Kim Ratteerree Elizabeth Carpenter
- 23 Tommy Ratteerree
- 24 Sandy Martin
- 26 Marilyn Beardslee Drew Dotson Jack Baumann
- 28 Wade Lail **Taylor Alexander** Karen Thomson
- 30 Johnny Karriker







#### **April**

- 1 Jack & Pat Baumann
- 4 Jeff & Cathy Eudy
- 5 Ron & Kay Bach
- Mark & Brenda Sigmon 15
- 16 Roger & Becky Britt
- 18 Garrett & Megan Logan Prathyush Katarpu & Rini Ronald
- Jim & Brenda Kisner 19
- 28 Zachary & Nicole Sigmon
- 30 Brett & Alexis Thompson





- Brookdale Charlotte East: Sonja McCarn
- Kingston Residence of Hickory: Pete Crump
- Hickory Village Memory Care: Marilyn Beardslee
- Lincolnton Rehab: Jimmy Little
- Abernathy Laurels: Joy Howard



### Congratulations to:

Kurtis, Cassidy, and big brother, Beau Stout on the arrival of *Macy Leigh* on March 3rd. Proud grandparents are Rusty and Amy Howard.

Brett, Alexis, and big brother Bryce Thompson on the arrival of *Ridge Neal* on March 18th. Proud grandparents are Larry and Linda Thompson.





If you would be willing to serve in any of these capacities, please contact the church office (704-483-3087). Most require very little time or commitment and are very important contributions in making Sunday mornings run smoothly. We appreciate those who faithfully serve week after week.

#### **Ushers**

#### April

6 8:30am Jeff Little, Roger Britt

11:00am Jeff Little, Kenny Chester, Guy Cline, & David Carpenter

13 8:30am Jeff Little, Kevin Brady

10:30am Jeff Little, Wayne Merchant, David Carpenter & Guy Cline

20 8:30am Jeff Little, Roger Britt

11:00am Jeff Little, Pete Lail, David Carpenter & Guy Cline

27 8:30am Jeff Little, Kevin Brady

11:00am Jeff Little, David Carpenter, Brandon Cline & Guy Cline

#### **Greeters**

#### **April**

6 8:30am Glenn Pruitt

11:00am Jack & Pat Baumann

13 8:30am Johnny & Karen Karriker

11:00am Carol Ann Rowe & Susan Ensign

20 8:30am Jeff & Wanda Myers

11:00am Pete & Rita Lail

27 8:30am Roger Britt

11:00am Brett & Terra Canipe

#### Sound and AV Techs

#### April

April

6 8:30am Drew Dotson

11:00am Brandon Cline, Kolton Buff

13 8:30am Drew Dotson

11:00am Brandon Cline, Kolton Buff

20 8:30am Drew Dotson

11:00am Brandon Cline, Kolton Buff

27 8:30am Drew Dotson

11:00am Brandon Cline, Kolton Buff

#### Children's Time

#### April

6 8:30am Pastor Kaleb

13 8:30am Randy Stokes

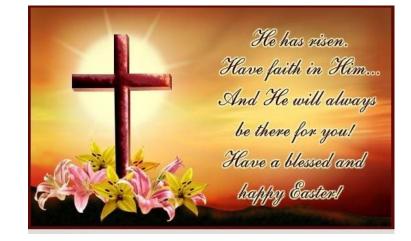
20 8:30am Chet Sigmon

27 8:30am Megan Logan

# Nursery Care Givers

\* Amanda Kochosky to contact nursery workers Regarding the schedule





#### **Wednesday Music Schedule**

6:15pm Handbells 7:00pm Chancel Choir

#### Sunday Schedule

8:30am Early Worship Service 9:45am Sunday School 10:00am Organist Practice 11:00am Worship Service 4:00pm MtP Youth Group Children's Choir



#### Weekday Schedule

(Unless otherwise noted)
Preschool M-W-F 9am-1pm
T-T 9am-1pm
Study Buddies M-F 3:30pm-6pm
Girl Scouts Mon. 6:30pm
Boy Scouts Tues 7:00pm
Cub Scouts Wed 7:00pm
Ensemble Practice Thurs 7:00pm

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9:00am Exercise Class 11:00am Preschool Stretch & Grow 6:00pm Travel League Softball Practic 7:00pm Boy Scouts Dana Little Circle	2 See Wednesday Music Schedule 9:30am Preschool Chapel 6:00pm Family Night (CLC) 7:00pm Cub Scouts	9:00am Exercise Class 9:30am Preschool Chapel 6:00pm Travel League Softball Practice 7:00pm Ensemble Practice	4 10:00 am Keenagers Planning Group 6:00pm Travel League Softball Practice	5
6 See Sun. Schedule 7:30am Methodist Men 4:00pm MtP Youth Children's Choir	7 11:00am JD Circle 6:00pm Travel League Softball Practice 6:30pm Girl Scouts	8 9:00am Exercise Class 9:30am Preschool Board 1:00pm Janie Killian Circle 6:00pm Travel League Softball 7:00pm Boy Scouts Trustees	9 See Wednesday Music Schedule 9:00am Prayer Team 6:00 pm Travel League Softball Practice 7:00pm Cub Scouts	9:00am Exercise Class 6:00pm Travel League Softball 7:00pm Ensemble Practice	6:00pm Travel League Softball Practice	10:00 am Easter Eggstravaganza
See Sun. Schedule 4:00pm Children's Choir MtP Youth	14 11:30am Keenagers Lunch 6:00pm Travel League Softball Practice 6:30pm Girl Scouts	9:00am Exercise Class 6:00pm Travel League Softball 7:00pm Boy Scouts	16 See Wednesday Music Schedule 8:00am Vets Coffee Call 10:00am Preschool Easter Egg Hunt 6:00pm Travel Softball Practice 7:00pm Cub Scouts	17 9:00am Exercise Class 10:00am Preschool Easer Egg Hunt 6:00pm Travel League Softball 7:00pm Maundy Thursday	6:00pm Travel League Softball Practice  Preschool & Study Buddies Closed	19
See Holy Week Worship Page	6:00pm Travel League Softball Practice	9:00am Exercise Class 6:00pm Travel League Softball 7:00pm Boy Scouts	23 See Wednesday Music Schedule 9:00am Prayer Team 6:00pm Travel League Softball Practice	9:00am Exercise Class 6:00pm Travel League Softball 7:00pm Ensemble Practice	6:00pm Travel League Softball Practice 7:00pm Preschool 4yo Prom	26
	Preschool & Study Buddies Closed					
27 See Sun. Schedule 2:00pm Private Event –Parlor 4:00pm Children's Choir MtP Youth	6:00pm Travel League Softball Practice 6:30pm Girl Scouts	6:00pm Travel League Softball 7:00pm Boy Scouts	30 See Wednesday Music Schedule 11:00am Preschool Stretch & Grow 6:00pm Travel League Softball 7:00pmm Cub Scouts			