



THE CENTRAL CHIMES

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A Note from Our Missionary, Dr. Elma Jocson



Dr. Jocson just celebrated her birthday on January 20 and sent an update on her whereabouts and activities:

From November till December, I was sent by the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) to Kabul, Afghanistan to work as medical consultant. I really enjoyed my service there and never did I feel threatened. While there, I had wonderful time with fellow missionaries for mutual building up. I am now at home in Manila, Philippines. I'm working mainly as caregiver to my 79-year-old mother, but on the side I serve as a full-time pediatric surgeon consultant in a government hospital.

Thank you for your prayers. Please share my prayer requests with the Central family:

1. That God will be glorified in all my dealings with young doctors in-training, patients and their parents.
2. My next overseas assignment that is being decided by GBGM. They are talking about North Vietnam or back to Kabul.
3. My time with my mother, that she will enjoy the company of her first born and that her days will be filled with joy.

Elma T. Jocson

5 Oval Street Sto, Nino
Marikina City 1800
Philippines

Heart Havens Month



It was only 18 years ago that the United Methodists here in Virginia, voted unanimously to establish Heart Havens as a ministry of the Virginia Conference during Annual Conference. God provided us a vision of inclusivity and independence and unconditional love for our brothers and sisters with intellectual disabilities. February has been established as Heart Havens Month, the time to re-new our commitment and consider those living with disabilities.

Heart Havens empowers adults with intellectual disabilities to live and thrive in a safe and nurturing environment. We accomplish this through the management of 12 group homes across Virginia. Heart Havens homes are located in Colonial Beach, Kilmarnock, 2 in Virginia Beach, Newport News, 2 in Richmond, Ashland, Stuarts Draft, Winchester and 2 in Lynchburg.

Earlier homes were purchased and adapted to fit the residents' needs, but today our homes are built to support individuals with multiple handicaps. With each new home we've made improvements on functionality and accessibility. The homes are outfitted with seamless entry for individuals using wheelchairs. Sinks and showers are easily accessed and wide hallways and doors provide easy entrance.

But Heart Havens is about more than houses. Houses are just a means of support. Heart Havens is about people. People are what drive this ministry: the people we support, their families, the people who work in the homes every day, the volunteers who maintain and visit our homes and the people who make financial gifts to sustain our day to day operations. These are the people who shape Heart Havens day after day, year after year.

Heart Havens provides opportunities for people with Intellectual Disabilities to pursue their dreams of an independent lifestyle, to be a part of a

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From the Pastor's Pen...

¹² As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

~ Colossians 3:12-15 (NRSV)

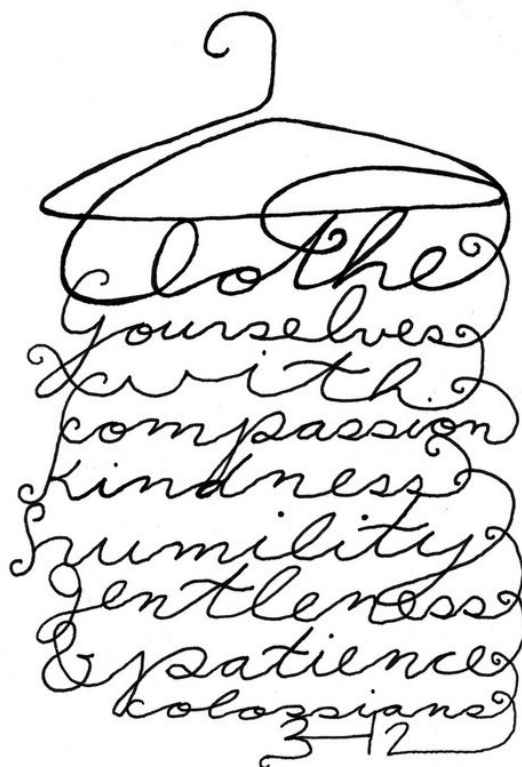


Image Source: http://s42.photobucket.com/user/Skipparoonie/media/Col0312-142_zps2524ef69.jpg.html

The recent frigid weather and snow remind me of my childhood. We got more snow back then in Northern Virginia, and when you're a child, it doesn't take much snow to reach the tops of your red rubber boots!

I don't know how Mom did it with my three sisters and me! She would patiently help us climb into our snow suits, pull on fat mittens, scarves, toboggans, and boots. Then, almost without fail, as soon as the four of us were lined up to march outside into the white wonderland, one of us would have to go to the bathroom! Mom's patience prevailed and we eventually spent a couple of hours building snow forts, snowmen, and making snow angels.

After our fun, we trekked the snow and ice into the house, and the warm outer clothing, now soaked and cold, peeled off as we headed to the kitchen for hot chocolate or soup. I will always remember how our long front hallway looked: boots, socks and mittens lined up to dry on top of the warm baseboard heater, just waiting for us to don them and go outside again.

The writer of Colossians implores us to put on a different kind of clothing. Just as we dress appropriately for various kinds of weather, followers of Christ are to clothe themselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, and love. This "clothing" is not optional, nor can we purchase it from any store; this clothing is available to us only through the work of the Holy Spirit as we submit our lives daily to following Christ.

Dressed in these "holy tempers," as Methodist founder John Wesley referred to these attributes¹, we will live together in harmony, bearing with one another when we disagree, and forgiving one another, just as the Lord has forgiven each of us.

Of course, it's easy to nod and say that we *should* to be compassionate, kind, humble ... loving and forgiving, but most of us could give examples where we struggle with these tempers. We may not even really want to exercise these tempers with certain people in our lives.

What are we to do? How do we grow more like Christ in this life? How do we desire to be clothed as Colossians and other scriptures admonish us? The truth is that we cannot do this on our own. We need a combination of God's grace and one another to enable us to "put on" the attributes of the Lord Jesus Christ. Practicing spiritual disciplines will help, such as public and private prayer, Bible reading, partaking of the Lord's Supper, and fasting.

Toward that end, I invite you to join me during the season of Lent to explore forgiveness. Adam Hamilton's short book, *Forgiveness: Finding Peace Through Letting Go*, will be the springboard for this six-week bible study. If you are one of most of us who find forgiveness difficult, you won't want to

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miss this study! (See the details in this newsletter.)

*On the journey together,
Suzanne*

I recommend one of John Wesley's sermons on this subject, which you can find online at <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umhistory/wesley/sermons/92>. If you cannot access it, I will gladly print a copy for you.

LENTEN STUDY

"FORGIVENESS: Finding Peace Through Letting Go"

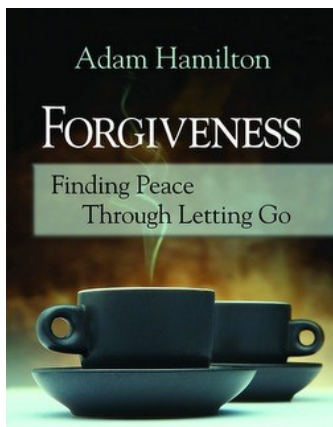
Tuesday mornings, 10:00 a.m.

March 11, 18, 25

April 1, 8*, 15

Please contact the church office
to reserve a book.

(*Note: The format on April 8 will be different and may meet at a different location than the church.)



God's Green Earth

The Creation Care Team continues to look for businesses in Mathews that recycle responsibly. We have found another one:

Love Repair

17087 John Clayton Memorial Highway
(On Route 14, 1 mile from Ward's Corner)
Mathews, VA 23109

This automotive business recycles in 5 different areas:

- **PLASTIC:** containers of oil, antifreeze, transmission and washer fluid plus plastic drink bottles.
 - **CARDBOARD:** boxes from parts and supplies. Some cardboard gets reused as a floor protector, then is recycled.
 - **METAL and ALUMINUM:** All the metal and aluminum parts from vehicles are sent to a metal recycler in Middlesex.*
 - **BATTERIES:** All used car batteries are taken back by the distributor to be recycled.*
 - **OIL:** Oil from oil changes is reused in a furnace for heating -- a unique reuse/recycle.
- * Small batteries and aluminum cans are brought to the church to support church projects.

Love Repair is a model in recycling.

Members of the Creation Care team attended a United Methodist District meeting on the Green Church initiative on January 16. The team continues to work on recycling plastic containers and tops in cooperation with the school system and other similar projects.

Remember that cardboard recycled in Mathews results in money back to the county. If you have ideas for recycling or other conservation tips please let the creation care team know. Look for our rack cards at the library and other places around town.

Your Creation Care Team

United Methodist Women

CUMW carolers took fruit baskets to our home-bound members and some others in December. We sang for several folks in the Convalescent Center, but since the night was so rainy and cold, we decided to keep our singing for another time.

CUMW made contributions of over \$1000 to various organizations during December, including, the Healing Eagle Clinic, Hands Across Mathews, Henderson Settlement Methodist Mission, Redbird Missionary Conference to name only a few.

Our planning session in January resulted in a list of exciting meeting possibilities. Our focus this year is on wellness -- physical, mental and spiritual wellness. We will have guest speakers. Our book review will be *Junkyard Planet* by Adam Minter. Plan to join us for a spiritual wellness event in June and the *Ice Cream Social* in July. We will also look at the face of poverty in Mathews, and mental health and children. CUMW meet on the second Monday of each month. All United Methodist women are welcome.

Our next meeting date is Monday, February 10 at 7:00 p.m. Hope you will come and join us.

Dee Bane, UMW Secretary

United Methodist Men

UMM Men singing at the Central Village Homemaker Community Sing-Along December 8.



Nancy Wroten Memorial Class

The 2013 class-sponsored church Angel Tree project provided gifts for 2 families, including 4 children. We would like to thank everyone who selected an angel and purchased gifts and those who helped monetarily to purchase a special gift. Your generosity made this a very successful mission outreach!

Paul Townsend Memorial Class

On December 15, during the regular Sunday School class hour, the Paul Townsend class members filled 20 Christmas gift baskets and delivered them to shut-ins and friends. One poinsettia was also delivered to a Gloucester House resident. It is our prayer that with the personal visit, as well as the love gift, that Christmas was made a little brighter for all 21 recipients. We'd like to thank our church friends that helped us with this class project.



At our first regular meeting for 2014, class members made pots of soup and delivered 14 quarts to some of our home-bound church members and friends.

Our sympathy goes out to class member Frosty Taylor and her family, for the passing of her Dad, John Forrest Conant.

For our February 13 meeting, the men of our class will be "Sweethearts" and host a delicious meal in honor of all the ladies of our class for Valentine's Day.

Our regular monthly meeting time is the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Church fellowship hall. We welcome anyone who would like to join us.

Phyllis Hudgins, Class President



Saturday, February 15
8:00 am
Breakfast & Fellowship

Children's Ministry

Happy New Year from the Children's Ministry Team and the children's One Room Sunday School Class. Nancy Jagger and I hope the new year will bring on-going studies of faith and fun to our children at Central Church.

Our planning schedule is still just that. The class will be sponsoring *Souper Bowl Sunday* on February 2 during both services. The collection will be divided between HAM and the new homeless shelter in Gloucester. The funds for the shelter will go toward food preparation. We hope the children will visit the shelter and share a meal with the clients. Janet Gomez has offered to coordinate this effort. We are most thankful for the congregation's support in our outreach. We support inter-generational church activities.

Other events in the *planning stage* are an Easter program, a trip to the nursing home for sharing, vacation bible school, back-to-school promotion, Thanksgiving and Christmas events and, still in the future, a night out for our children's parents.

The class remains working on memorization of the books of the New Testament. Any member of the congregation that would like to present a topic or have an event with the children contact either Nancy Jagger or Pat Gwaltney. The children are most responsive to new faces.

This year may be the last to support Blaines Guerrero in Columbia, South America. At age 19 these young people are educated to branch into the work community and be self supporting. This is his latest communication:

*Dear Mrs. Gwaltney and the One Room Sunday School Class,
Receive a cordial greeting from me and my family. I thank you for the benefits received from you; they have been a great use. As for me I tell you that I am doing very well. I like to play soccer with my friends. I am doing well at school. On weekends, I help my father at his job. I like to write Champeta and Reggaeton music. On my free times, I have fun talking to my friends. I am in good health; I am a*

*very happy and nice young boy. I like to party and have a good time. My favorite food is meat balls, meat, coconut rice and "Tomate de arbol" juice. Nothing else to tell you, I say goodbye with affection, Blaines Jose Guerrero Mosquera.
(Translated from Spanish to English)*

We will continue to send Blaines \$30 a month unless we receive a special request.

Nancy and I look forward to supporting our children's faith growth with Reverend Gibson, Katherine Small, Brenda Lewis, Richard and Melissa Moughon, Carey Hogge, Janet Gomez and the congregation in 2014.

For the month of February we will be studying *Jesus' Ministry: An Overview:*

- Jesus Calls Fishermen
- Jesus Heals Peter's Mother-in-law
- Jesus Teaches the Beatitudes
- Jesus Calms the Storm

Jesus teaches us we can trust God and get comfort from God. And because God is with us we can be with other people, comforting them. (Winter, One Room Sunday School Program, Cokesbury)

Pat Gwaltney, Chairman
Children's Ministry



The 2013 gift amount to Heifer International, made with donations from Central's children and others, was \$1,000. This gift purchased the following:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| ◇ Hope Basket (chicks & rabbits) | ◇ Tree Seedlings |
| ◇ Biogas Stove | ◇ Trio of Rabbits |
| ◇ Irrigation Pump | ◇ Honeybees |
| ◇ Water Buffalo | ◇ Flock of chicks |
| ◇ Llama/Alpaca | ◇ Flock of Hope (chicks, geese, ducks) |
| ◇ Pig | |

**Super Storm Sandy Recovery.....
A Future with Hope
Presentation February 9, 2014**

Sunday, October 29, 2012, Super Storm Sandy made landfall at 8 PM with winds of 80 mph near Atlantic City, New Jersey. There were 125 deaths and the cost of the devastation has reached over \$62 billion. The York River District sent its first mission team to New Jersey in August 2013. Mathews County churches were the first to participate.

The local team, including Janet Loyd and Joe and Martha Arnold, traveled to Pleasantville, NJ where Bethany St. James UMC was their host. During



the week the team worked at three different locations making repairs and sharing Christ.

Janet Loyd will give a DVD and PowerPoint presentation in the fellowship hall Sunday, February 9 during the Sunday School hour.

Come view mission on the ground and in the heart as the team members contribute to a Future with Hope.

A new mission trip to Brooklyn, NY is planned for March 22-29, 2014. Visit the York River District webpage for more information.

December 2013 brought a visit from Saint Nicholas, AKA Rev. Art Wolz.



BIRTHDAYS

Peg Kava	1	<i>Our Deepest Sympathy and Prayers go to the Families and Loved Ones of...</i>
Susan Hill	3	
Sherry Hodges	9	
Ruth Ann Hutson	12	
Kenneth Marshall	13	
Elizabeth Anderson	16	
Paul Kava	17	
Mary Wade Smith	25	
Melanie Zerbe	25	
Frosty Taylor	29	
Dorothy South		
Susan Sorey		
Barbara Thompson		
Rev. Marion Paul White		
John Forrest Conant		
Scott Downs		
Stephanie J. Reynolds		

ANNIVERSARIES

Coleman & Cheryl Wheeler	1	Jacquilyn Siddens
Donnie & Jean Hall	14	George Gray III
Richard & Carey Hogge	24	Rev. David C. Cook
		Frank Dixon
		Ralph Valdrighi

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community, to hold a job, have friends and be able to socialize with those friends. Heart Havens can hold the door open for this journey, as these men and women develop the skills and confidence necessary to achieve those dreams. But we need your continued help and support to make their journey a success.

February is the one time of the year Heart Havens is able to ask for support from the United Methodist Churches. Heart Havens does not receive any funds through apportionments. So we ask that you prayerfully consider supporting Heart Havens with a donation. There are brochures w/envelopes in the back of the church to mail in your donation, or you can write a check and place it in the collection today, or you can go to our website to make a donation at: www.hearthavens.org

We need your help. Just like in your homes, our household expenses continue to rise and our homes continue to age. The men and women living in Heart Havens homes are counting on your help.

We have all come so far in answering the question that started Heart Havens, "Where will my child live when I am gone?" Thank you for your vision and the doors you've opened. Please continue to pray for Heart Havens and the people we support.

Thank you for your time. Source: www.hearthavens.org/

Finance Committee

The beginning of a new year is a good time to take a look at our year-end financial condition and look ahead to 2014. We closed 2013 with a balance of \$59,289 in our operating account, which is down from \$87,294 in 2012 and also at the lowest level in several years. The lower balance is partly a result of voluntary expenditures above budget in the last few years for worthwhile reasons, mainly for building/grounds improvements and disaster relief.

Overall, our operating financial condition is good, but not without concern. As shown in the graph below, general operating income is not keeping pace with expenses and is not growing as in previous years. To meet expenses, we have drawn out of our savings reserve, which is now at its lowest level in many years. In the last several years, we have increased our budget along with the growth in our income and consistent with our mission to use our resources to witness for Christ. It is not unexpected to have some ups and downs in our financial situation, as there can be many factors involved: economy, membership turn-over, unusual expenses, etc.

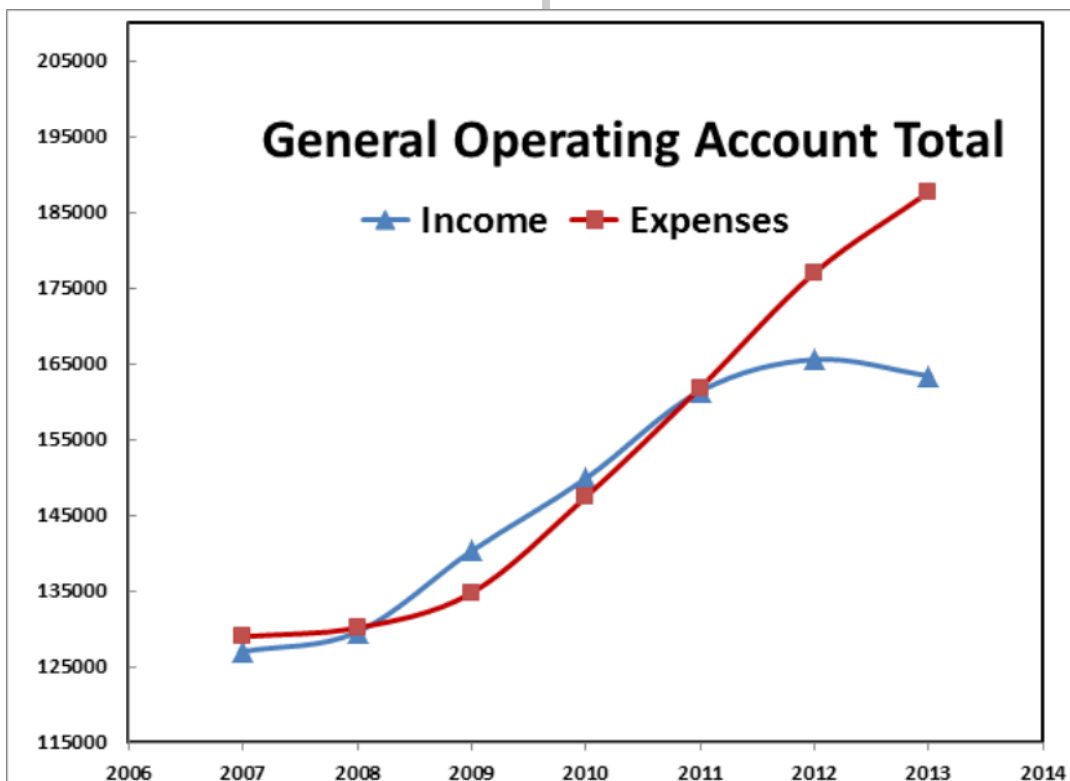
As we enter 2014, your Finance Committee is examining ways in which we at Central can

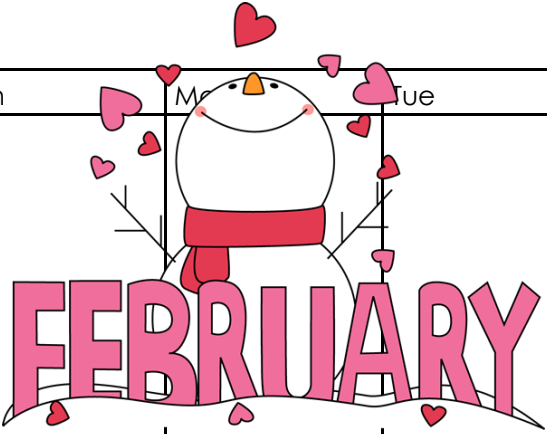


continue to meet current expenses and extend our outreach with new programs and opportunities within the local church and into the community and the world. Every gift – whether big or small – is important and meaningful. Let's all take a look at our giving in 2014; maybe we have not made any changes in recent years and it's time to recalibrate. Upon reflection, Members may want to consider increasing their 2014 gifts. Whatever your decision, your Finance Committee thanks you for your generous support and acknowledges that each giver is important, regardless of gift amount. We on the Finance Committee welcome any questions and suggestions you have.

Scriptures that speak to this are:

Luke 21:1-4 – ¹ Looking up, Jesus saw rich people throwing their gifts into the collection box for the temple treasury. ² He also saw a poor widow throw in two small copper coins worth a penny. ³ He said, "I assure you that this poor widow has put in more than them all. ⁴ All of them are giving out of their spare change. But she from her hopeless poverty has given everything she had to live on."

2 Corinthians 9:7 – Everyone should give whatever they have decided in their heart. They shouldn't give with hesitation or because of pressure. God loves a cheerful giver.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
			All meeting times & dates are subject to change.				1
2	3 Prayer Time 8:00 am Clergy Study Group 10:00 am	4	5 Central Village Homemakers 9:00 am	6 Brownies 3:00-4:30 pm Children's Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm	7	8	
9 Super Storm Sandy Recovery..... A Future with Hope Presentation Fellowship Hall 10:00 am	10 Prayer Time 8:00 am Clergy Study Group 10:00 am UM Women 7:00 pm	11 Trustees 7:00 pm	12 Finance – canceled Next meeting in March	13 Brownies 3:00-4:30 pm P. Townsend Class Dinner 6:00 pm Children's Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm	14 Valentine's Day 	15 UM Men 8:00 am	
16	17 President's Day Prayer Time 8:00 am Clergy Study Group 10:00 am SPRC 7:00 pm 	18	19 Mission & Evangelism 7:00 pm	20 HAM Meeting 3:00 pm Brownies 3:00-4:30 pm Children's Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm	21	22	
23	24 Prayer Time 8:00 am Clergy Study Group 10:00 am	25	26 Administrative Council 7:00 pm	27 Brownies 3:00-4:30 pm Children's Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm	28		