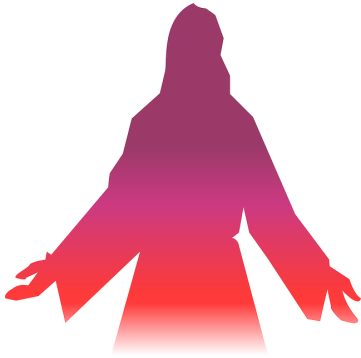




# *THE CENTRAL CHIMES*

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Pastor Suzanne Gibson ♦ Pastor's E-mail: [sgibson555@gmail.com](mailto:sgibson555@gmail.com)



## **Easter Sunday, April 5**

Sunrise Service  
6:15 am

Sunday School  
9:00 am

Old Field Point  
(See page 4 for directions.)

Joint Service  
10:00 am

### *An Easter Flower Gift*

*O dearest bloom the seasons know,  
Flowers of the Resurrection blow,  
Our hope and faith restore;  
And through the bitterness of death  
And loss and sorrow, breathe a breath  
Of life forevermore!*

*The thought of Love Immortal blends  
With fond remembrances of friends;  
In you, O sacred flowers,  
By human love made doubly sweet,  
The heavenly and the earthly meet,  
The heart of Christ and ours!*

*John Greenleaf Whittier*

## From the Pastor's Pen

### Replacing Assumptions with Anticipation

(Read Luke 24:13-53)

It was Sunday afternoon as two of Jesus' disciples were walking from Jerusalem to the village of Emmaus. Their minds were reeling with news that Jesus, who had been crucified and buried just days before, was actually alive! How could this be?

As they were discussing this strange turn of events, a stranger walked alongside them and asked what they were talking about. "They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "'Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?'"

Cleopas probably asked this question out of genuine amazement, yet it sounds like he's **assuming** that **everyone** knows what has happened in recent days! A wrong assumption, of course, because not everyone knew about Jesus' death and resurrection.

For those of us who have been in church for a long time, we assume that *everyone* knows the hymns we sing, has memorized The Lord's Prayer and The Apostles' Creed, and knows the way we take Communion and "do" church. Don't they?

"Excuse me ... Where is my son's Sunday school class?"

"Uh, let's see ... uh, I believe it's upstairs. Just go through that door, turn right, and make another right through a classroom and go right up the stairs – you can't miss it!"

And then they ask where the restroom is... 😊

While you and I know where the classes, restrooms, fellowship hall and sanctuary are,

most visitors do not! In fact, they may know nothing about our building, beliefs, worship style, or opportunities for fellowship and outreach. If they are United Methodists, they may find a lot about us to be comfortingly familiar. But what if they are from another denomination? What if they have never been to church before?

For many people, to step through the doors of a local church for the first time requires courage, and our readiness to welcome and anticipate their needs is crucial to their wanting to come again. We may assume our directions to a room are clear, but are they to a newcomer? In addition to welcoming someone and handing them a bulletin, what more can we do to make their experience at Central positive and memorable? Our greeters do a fine job, but they cannot do it all by themselves – all of us have a part in making new people in the congregation feel at home.



Put yourself in the shoes of a young family with children, trying to find a church home. Or a widow who hasn't been to church since her husband died. Or a single parent with two active youngsters, who desperately needs to hear an encouraging sermon while the children are cared for by someone else. Or a seasonal visitor who misses his home church or perhaps hasn't been to church for decades.

If we assume that these visitors will just find their own way around, we are mistaken. They may make it through a service, but they won't be back unless they feel wanted, respected, loved, and looked after as if they are special guests – which they are!

And so, when they want to find a class, we take them; we show them where the restrooms are; we guide them to the coat rack, invite them to join us for coffee in the fellowship hall after the 8:30 service or before Sunday school. We introduce ourselves and

Continued from page 2

ask a little about them. We listen. We invite them to the next Men's breakfast or Sunday school class event. We invite them to sit next to us in worship and offer to help them find the right hymnal or scripture if they need it. We take time to talk with them after service and perhaps even invite them to join us at Southwind or our home for lunch. (If you are a visitor, it's a lonely feeling to see everyone get up and rush away to do their thing, leaving you alone.)

The two disciples on their way to Emmaus could have blown it with a genuine stranger by simply assuming he should know. Of course, this particular "stranger" *did* know, for he was Jesus. He played along and asked the two, "What things?"

The two disciples earnestly tell the presumed stranger all about Jesus of Nazareth, the hoped-for Redeemer, who had been condemned and put to death by crucifixion. Now rumors were circulating that a group of women had found his tomb empty that very morning and some angels told them that Jesus was alive.

Jesus did not criticize them or make any assumptions! Instead, he "explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself." Then, rather than assuming they would eventually figure out who he was, he revealed himself to them by breaking bread with them in their home. No room for doubt: Jesus was alive and continuing to reveal himself to those who were looking – as well as those who didn't even know they were looking for him!

Instead of assuming much about newcomers, let's anticipate ways to make their time with us God-moments that will minister to their needs and welcome them into the wonderful life of this congregation.

On the journey together,  
*Suzanne*

April 2015

## Central United Methodist Women

Rhoda Jo Stress, Chairman of the Mathews Resources Council and David Adams, a director of Hands Across Mathews discussed the topic of *Hunger in Mathews County* during the United Methodist Women's meeting in the fellowship hall on March 9. Twenty five people were in attendance. We are very grateful to them for sharing with us.



Our next meeting will be Monday, April 13 at 7:00 pm. We will share Christian books that we have read. Come and join the discussion. All are welcome.

At our Monday, May 11 meeting we will again pack health kits for Conference. Below is a list of needed items:

- |                                   |                          |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 hand towel                      | 1 washcloth              |
| 1 metal nail file or nail clipper | 1 bath-size soap clipper |
| 6 adhesive bandages               | 1 plastic bag            |
| 1 comb 6" long minimum            | 1 toothbrush             |
| \$1.00 to purchase toothpaste     |                          |

Specific descriptions of these articles will be forthcoming. We will meet in the fellowship hall at 4:00 pm to pack the kits.

"Many hands make light work".....come out and join in the fellowship!

*Grace Mortimer,*  
CUMW Recording Secretary

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## Mission & Evangelism

Central's covenant with the Paige Family (Donald, Carol, Cora and Daniel) has been sent to aide in their mission service. The covenant with Dr. Elma Jocson will be sent soon.

The M&E Team, at their March meeting, voted to assist the Henry Fork Center (Rocky Mount, VA) in paying down their mortgage with a love gift of \$500. In addition, the UM Women are sending a check for \$62.45 to help the center with operational costs. These funds come through donations from Central Sunday School classes. Look around your classroom for the plastic box with the white lid that has a slot in it. All donations received will go to the Henry Fork Center. For more information, visit their website at [henryforkcenter.org](http://henryforkcenter.org). The UMW thanks all who have donated their pocket change or folding money for this program.

The Hands Across Mathews (HAM) food program has 6 Central participants in providing food for those in need. M&E estimates the 14 Sundays through the end of March is 170 items. The Team thanks all for their generous giving.

*Joe Cromwell,*  
M&E Team Leader

### Directions to Old Field Point

- Take Buckley Hall Road (beside Hardee's) towards Moon.
- Turn left at Fitchett's Wharf Road (in sharp curve).
- Look for large *Old Field Point* sign on right.
- Turn right and then make a left.
- Follow the road straight into the yard of the home.



## Children & Youth Ministry

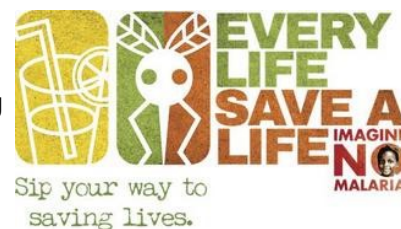
World Malaria Day is April 25. On that day, people world wide join forces to bring awareness to the plight of people living amid the stronghold of malaria, a preventable and treatable disease that kills an estimated 600,000 people annually.

Individual annual conferences have plans in place. United Methodist churches across the Virginia Conference will host lemonade stands in their communities. Throughout the New York Conference, United Methodists will hold fashion shows displaying the latest designer creations using bed nets. The Wisconsin Conference will sponsor walks for *Imagine No Malaria*, with a goal of 50 sites throughout the state.

United Methodists everywhere can participate by making a first-time pledge, renewing a current pledge, or planning a fundraising event to raise awareness and bring change through *Imagine No Malaria*.

To learn more about events, including what is planned for your conference, visit: [Imagine No Malaria](#) or the [VA Conference](#).

Our children continue to collect an offering each Sunday during Children's Time for *Imagine*



*No Malaria*. They will host a lemonade stand in town (weather permitting) this month, date TBA.

Our children continue to support Blaines Guerrero in Columbia, South America, until his birthday in September. He will be turning 19 years old. Their support was began when Blaines was 12 years of age.

LOVE - HOPE - JOY

*Pat Gwaltney, Chairman*

Article information source: Interpreter Magazine, March/April 2015



## Paul Townsend Memorial Class

On Thursday, March 9, thirteen members of the Paul Townsend Class prepared and enjoyed a delicious covered dish dinner together.

During the business meeting the class voted to make Mother's Day Sunday special for all the ladies attending church by presenting them with a beautiful flower. Also we will hold our annual Mother's Day project. Our Committee this year is: Elizabeth and Durward Anderson, 725-5879; Dee Bane, 725-7246; Frosty Taylor, 725-3680; and David Hudgins, 725-3273. Please contact either of these folk to honor your Mother, Grandmother, or a special lady in your life with your \$1 listing in this *Special Mother's Day Bulletin*. This is our annual fund raiser and your help with this project enables us to serve many in our community.

We have had so many people to be remembered with cards lately, that we voted to put \$200 into our ongoing Card ministry. During the month of March, the class gave a \$400 love gift to an individual.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, April 9 at 6:30 pm in the Church fellowship hall. Our theme for dinner will be Italian. Bring your favorite Italian dish and join us for good food and fellowship, or join us any Sunday in the Paul Townsend classroom for Sunday school at 10:00 am.

*Phyllis Hudgins*, Class President



Mother's Day is Sunday, May 10. The Paul Townsend Class will be accepting listings for the Mother's Day Bulletin. Each listing is \$1. Order forms will be in your Sunday bulletin.

CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST MEN'S  
S E M I A N N U A L

## Steamed Shrimp Dinner

Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>  
4:00-7:00 P.M

Central United Methodist Church

Steamed Shrimp	Hush Puppies
Cole Slaw	Baked Beans
Desserts	Drinks
Hot Dogs and More!!!	

*Come out and enjoy great food, fun, and fellowship!!*

<small>DONATION</small>	
<b>Eat In - \$17.00 or Take Out - \$16.00</b>	
Children Age 5 -10 \$6.00	Under 5 FREE

Proceeds benefit local church & community outreach including...  
Hands Across Mathews, Mathews TRIAD, Society of St. Andrews,  
School Cafeteria Fund & other charitable needs.

Purchase tickets in advance from any member of  
the Central United Methodist Men

### BIRTHDAYS

Lisa Zerbe	4		Marcia Fry	18
Bobby Hudgins	11		Janet Burgess	20
Mark Lewis	12		Helen Lee	20
Kathy Bochau	13		Diana More	21
Christine Ulrich	14		Georgie Preston	21

### ANNIVERSARIES

Ken & Karen Palmer	8
Richard & Melissa Moughon	9
Chris & Pat Moughon	18
Craig & Katherine Small	21
Dennis & Lynn Gillikin	30

### Our Deepest Sympathy and Prayers go to the Families of :

Linda Perry	Hugh Jordan	Mary Plummer
Andy Durkovich	Emily Diggs Phillips	Bob Timmons
William Briggs	Bill Bridge	

## A Message from the Creation Care Team

**Plastic bags are 100% recyclable!**



**U.S. GOES THROUGH 100 BILLION PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS ANNUALLY.**

**When not properly recycled they degrade into smaller and more toxic pieces, leaching into our ground water and food chain. (NAT. GEOGRAPHIC) Plastic bags can harm sea turtles and other marine animals when**



**the animals mistake them for food or become entangled. (EPA)**

**What happens when you take your plastic bags to places like Food**







**Lion to be recycled?**

**They go to the largest closed loop plastic bag recycling facility in the world. There the plastic bags are turned back into resin pellets and then back in to new bags.**



**So recycle your bags or even better- remember to**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29 	30 <h1 style="color: purple;">April</h1>	31	1 Central Village Homemakers 9:00 am - 1:00 pm	2 Youth Choir Practice 6:45 pm  Adult Choir Practice 7:15 pm	3 <b>Good Friday</b> <b>Service</b> 7:00 pm 	4
<b>HOLY WEEK Services at Westville Christian Church Daily at Noon</b>						
5 <b>Easter Sunday</b> <b>Sunrise Service</b> 6:15 am Old Field Point Sunday School 9:00 am Joint Service 10:00 am 	6 Prayer Time 8:00 am	7	8 Finance 7:00 pm	9 P. Townsend Class Dinner & Meeting 6:00 pm  Youth Choir Practice 6:45 pm  Adult Choir Practice 7:15 pm	10 	11 Exploring Contemplative Prayer at the parsonage 9:00 am
12	13 Prayer Time 8:00 am  UM Women 7:00 pm	14	15 Mission & Evangelism 10:00 am	16 Youth Choir Practice 6:45 pm  Adult Choir Practice 7:15 pm	17	18 UM Men Breakfast 8:00 am
19 <b>Central            Chimes            Submissions            Due</b>	20 Prayer Time 8:00 am  Creation Care 9:00 am  SPRC 7:00 pm  Trustees 7:00 pm	21	22 Administrative Council 7:00 pm	23 Youth Choir Practice 6:45 pm  Adult Choir Practice 7:15 pm	24 UMM Shrimp Dinner 4-7:00 pm 	25 World Malaria Day
26	27 Prayer Time 8:00 am	28	29	30 Youth Choir Practice 6:45 pm  Adult Choir Practice 7:15 pm	All meeting times & dates are subject to change. If in doubt, contact the committee chair.	

Greeters/Ushers

- 5 | 10:00 am service - Miriam & Joe Cromwell
- 12, 19, 26 | 8:30 am service - Frosty & Gerald Taylor
- 12, 19, 26 | 11:00 am service - Brenda & Mark Lewis

Refreshment Providers

- 12 | Need providers
- 19 | Frosty & Gerald Taylor, Elizabeth & Durward Anderson, Eric Stewart and David Hudgins
- 26 | Mary Wade Smith and Jean Sutton