



THE CENTRAL CHIMES

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AUGUST 2018

From the Pastor's Pen

Loss, Change, and Faith

"Blessed are the poor in spirit." (Mt. 5:3)

A famous story in the Bible has Jacob having a sleepless night by the river. About to meet his estranged brother, he wrestled with a stranger all night, desperately hoping to resolve a seemingly unresolvable situation. In the end Jacob received what he was hoping for. He did not, however, get an army of helpers; instead, he was given a word of blessing, and a broken hip—he was now limping—courtesy of the divine stranger. On this counter Charles Wesley, in his poem, *Wrestling Jacob* (1741), wrote:

Yield to me now, for I am weak
But confident in self-despair;
Speak to my heart, in blessings speak
Be conquered by my instant prayer.
Speak, or thou never hence shalt move,
And tell me if thy name is Love!

There are times when a rug is pulled from underneath us, and we are left feeling vulnerable. The time when I found myself suddenly in a new country at the age of 17, was one of those situations. At other times we limp along by loss, sickness, or sudden changes. Ironically, in those times we discover all over again what Christian life is all about: Faith. When we become completely dependent on God's grace, we are unexpectedly strong.

It is not often that we have no option but to surrender to Jesus Christ. When that happens,



however, we should embrace it. The path may be narrow, but it may be surprisingly safe, strong with rich possibilities for growth.

May God's peace that transcends all human understanding (Phil. 4:6)

be with each of you this summer.

Gratefully,

John

Church Picnic	Monday, August 6	2:00 pm - 9:00 pm
	Mathews Yacht Club	Dinner at 6:00 pm

- bring your favorite dish to share (fried chicken provided)
- pool open for all
- lifeguard on duty
- casual attire
- homemade ice cream

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Janet Gomez, who has served as Central's music director since May 2011, leaves her position as of the end of July. She will fill the ministry needs at her church, Apostles Lutheran. In addition to leading adult, youth and children's choirs at CUMC, Janet has been a mentor and teacher to children and youth. Her presence will be much missed.

Blessings on your new journey, Janet!



Please notify the church office (725-2832) and your Sunday School class of any changes in your contact information.

Oasis of the Spirit



Daily we attend to so many voices and images, and it is easy to forget examining ourselves, or listening to the voice of God, vital practices for spiritual living. Oasis of the Spirit offers practices that can help us be centered in Christ. We sing from Cokesbury Hymnal and have a guided meditation on a Scripture text.

The meditation is a training in the traditional monastic practice of Lectio Divina.

All are welcome.

Time: Tuesdays, 7-7:45 p.m.

Place: Fellowship Hall

Save the date!

Janet Burgess will speak on her mission trips, August 13th at 10:00 am during the UM Women meeting.



Upcoming Sermons

- The Apocalypse of Daniel (7/29)
- When Life Becomes Overwhelming (8/5)
- Christian Unity (8/12)
- Judge, or Not to Judge: Christian, Sin and Prejudice (8/19)
- Jesus Loves Me: What It Looks Like (8/26)
- The Holy Spirit (TBD)
- The Origination of the Church (TBD)





Four friends enjoying laughter & friendship during refreshment time.

Pictured are:
Refreshment hosts, **Dale Martin** and **Karen Palmer**, with **Peg Kava** and **Phyllis Hudgins**.

Photo by:
Michael Cannon

Hospitality Committee

Thanks goes out to our July refreshment hosts Susan & Tim Hill, Karen Palmer and Dale Martin and Dale & Tom Robinson. Thanks to all those who contributed to Cookie Sunday. Mary Marshall served as Central's July Hospitality Host.

Hospitality Host for the month of August will be Christine Ulrich. August 5th will be Cookie Sunday. Thank you in advance for your snacks.

Those serving as Sunday hosts for the remainder of the month are: Aug. 12...Dee Bane; Aug. 19...Emily & Steve Leap; and Aug. 26...Bob Tabor, Bill Loving and Cindi Hall.

Come join us for a wonderful time of fellowship.

Blessings to all,

Phyllis Hudgins, Chairman
Central's Hospitality Committee

Greeters/Ushers for August

8:30 am service	Chris & Pat Moughon
11:00 am service	Linda Dalgety & Greg Lewis



BAY QUILTERS

Meeting

Monthly every 2nd Thursday
9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Contact: Louise Witherspoon

804-725-5180 or
louise.witherspoon@
yahoo.com



Birthdays		Anniversaries	
Sandi Morgan	4	Kenneth & Mary Marshall	9
Joice Davis	12	Steve & Emily Leap	11
Steve Eley	18	Carl & Kathy Bochau	23
Rebecca Love	18	Ben & Peggy Leigh	24
Jack Ward	21	Richard & Rebecca Love	28
Frances Ward	24		
Jean Sutton	26		

Hospitality Host for August

Christine Ulrich 725-3575

Refreshments Providers for August

August 5	Cookie Sunday (Gifts)
August 12	Dee Bane & Mary Wade Smith
August 19	Steve & Emily Leap
August 26	Bob Tabor, Bill Loving & Cindy Hall

UM Women

Everyone had a wonderful time at the Witherspoon's on July 13th. They opened their farm for *Three Rivers Healthy Families* to learn about gardening and to enjoy the outdoors. Everyone at the event went home with plants to enjoy.

We then went back to the church for a wonderful lunch. It certainly was the story of "the loaves and fishes". We hosted sixty plus people including staff and women of the church.

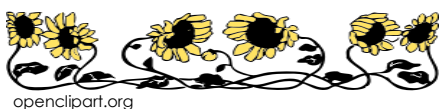
Thanks to all who participated by bringing food or helping at the farm and especially to Louise and Mike for hosting us at the farm. It certainly was an event to remember.

Grace Mortimer
UMW Recording Secretary

Three Rivers Healthy Families



Photos by: Louise Witherspoon



Mission and Evangelism

Our visit on July 8 with Carol Paige, our covenant missionary, was most enlightening and a joy. We pray for Carol and Donald's success in their work for Christ, as they plan to serve in Paraguay for another year.

Mark your calendar: We will again participate in **Mathews Market Days (9/7-8, Fri-Sat)** by hosting Early Bird Breakfast from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Carryout orders are welcome! We will also give away free waters at the curb in front of the church. The funds raised from the breakfast will be shared with local outreach needs.

From "When God Whispers Your Name": Four Habits Worth Having: First, the habit of prayer; second, the habit of study; third, the habit of giving; and last of all, the habit of fellowship. Make these four habits regular activities and see what happens!

Pat Gwaltney
Mission and Evangelism Chair

Financial Secretary

Once again I express my sincere appreciation to all of you who assisted with counting in July. Your volunteering means much to Central Church.

Scheduled to count in August are:
Anne South and Cheryl Wheeler.

Marcia Fry
Financial Secretary

*Our Deepest Sympathy and Prayers
go to the Families of...*


Hyung Il Moon
Alexander Turlington
Buddy Crist
Mark Morgan
Raymond Owens



AUGUST



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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Central Village Homemakers 9:00 am - 1:00 pm Creation Care @ Cannons 1:00 pm	2	3	4
5	6 Prayer Time 8:00 am Church Picnic 2:00 pm - 9:00 pm Dinner 6:00 pm	7 Office Closed Oasis of the Spirit 7:00 pm	8 Office Closed Finance 7:00 pm	9 Office Closed Bay Quilters 9:00 am- 1:00 pm Paul Townsend Class 6:00 pm	10  pixabay.com	
12	13 Prayer Time 8:00 am UM Women 10:00 am with Janet Burgess SPRC 7:00 pm	14 Oasis of the Spirit 7:00 pm	15 Mission & Evangelism 10:00 am	16 Nomination 2:30 pm	17	18
19 Central Chimes Submissions Due	20 Prayer Time 8:00 am Trustees 7:00 pm	21 Oasis of the Spirit 7:00 pm	22 Administrative Council 7:00 pm	23	24	25
26	27 Prayer Time 8:00 am	28 Oasis of the Spirit 7:00 pm	29	30	31	

All meeting times & dates are subject to change. If in doubt, contact the committee chair.