



THE CENTRAL CHIMES

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AUGUST 2020

From the Pastor's Pen

"Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Col. 3:17)

What was for me an extremely challenging time of establishing services online and in-person is now behind us, or so it seems. Yet looking back, it was a time filled with grace. The grace of God was always several steps ahead to provide for us. We managed to get into online broadcasts despite lack of experience. People came together to heartily offer music and teaching and other needed help. Giving has been extraordinary. Input from Healthy Church Team has been invaluable.

At the outset of the current pandemic I particularly felt called to be a steward of the word of God. We are a community founded on the word of God, and we seek Christ in all we do, who is our faithful shepherd and guide. We are better positioned to do that these days, since we are hardly going through the motions. Sometimes it takes a time in the desert to "be still and know that [the Lord] is God." (Psalm 26:10)

Looking ahead, I hope that the grace of God will lead us in strengthening our fellowship, mission, and discipleship, not to mention worship. Now is the time to discover what God can do through us, if we avail ourselves with faith. I realize that I need to catch up with you personally, and I hope to do so with more of you in the coming days.

Gratefully,
John

No Walls Community Day

As many of you all are aware, every August a group of Mathews pastors, churches, community leaders, and others all come together for the annual No Walls Community Day event that has been happening since 2016. It is an event where we give-away backpacks and school supplies in an effort to bless the students of our county, and to help their families have one less concern at the start of the school year.

Fr. Jason Hess

For a list of supplies or to donate:

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/mathewscommunityday/>

<http://www.mathewscommunityday.us/>

No Walls Community Day

Backpack and School Supplies collection sites:

Ongoing:

Mathews Baptist Church, Monday- Friday 9am-12pm
8284 Buckley Hall Road, Hudgins

Sunday, August 2:

Mathews Chapel United Methodist Church, 1pm-3pm
4185 Buckley Hall Rd, Cobbs Creek

Wednesday, August 5:

Salem United Methodist Church, 9am-11am
1099 Salem Rd, Mathews

Living Waters Church, 5pm-7pm
2061 Windsor Rd, Dutton

St. Thomas Anglican Mission, 6pm-8pm
15661 John Clayton Memorial Hwy, Mathews

Mission and Evangelism

It's easy to confuse the difference between the terms mission and evangelism. Evangelism refers to speaking the Gospel to anyone and anywhere. Missions, on the other hand, is doing evangelism work, but by crossing into a culture into areas in which there is no church spreading the Gospel.

The goal of both is to make a difference in people's lives by sharing the Good Word of Jesus Christ.

What then does Missions and Evangelism look like in the year 2020, especially in light of the COVID-19 virus?

Last year, our church hosted a *Rise against Hunger* packaging event where we prepared 10,152 meals that could be sent anywhere on the earth where there was need. Because of the pandemic, RAH had over 550 meal packaging events cancelled. The M&E Committee voted a donation of \$125.00 to Rise against Hunger to help alleviate the need.



Closer to home, we also voted to donate \$250.00 to Hands across Mathews for their Fresh Start program. This annual event pairs a needy child with an adult volunteer for a day of back to school clothes shopping.

The *No Walls Community Day* is also an annual event conducted by churches in Mathews County. Back packs filled with back to school supplies are distributed to the community. Because of the virus, this will now be a drive-through event. The sponsors have asked for assistance in the form of financial contributions, supplies or volunteers. The M&E Committee voted to donate \$100.00 for the program. Should anyone like to participate, please check out their website.



Finally, we would like to remind you of the food box located next to the parking lot. If you or someone you know needs food or faith based literature, please access the box. If you have a surplus and feel led by the Holy Spirit, please donate to the box.

Linda Dalgety

Mission and Evangelism Chair

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

Gerald Hudgins

Betsy Ambach



Creation Care

LOCATION CHANGE FOR AUGUST

Household Chemical Collection and Computer Recycling Event:



IT WILL NOW BE HELD AT :
Middlesex Elementary School
823 Philpot Road Locust Hill, VA 23092
August 15, 2020
TIME : 8:00 to 1200.

A link to the revised event flier on the VPPSA website is listed below:

<https://www.vppsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/HHC-COMP-BROCHURE-2020-VERSION-2.pdf>

**Please Remember NEW rules in
recycling plastic:**

Only plastics marked with a
 **or a** 
can be recycled



Michael Cannon
Creation Care Team



United Methodist Women

The Central United Methodist Women were finally able to meet on Monday, July 13th. We were originally scheduled to meet outdoors behind the Parsonage but it rained so we met in the Fellowship Hall. Social Distancing and Masks were the order of the day.



UMC Women Meet on 7/13

Our future events will continue to be determined by the length of time that we are quarantined by COVID-19. As a result of our church being closed since March 15th, we have been unable to collect physical items for the School Kits. Last year, your generous donations enabled us to prepare 53 kits to take to Conference. This year the Conference will be Virtual so the only way to contribute to the kits is by donation. If you would like to donate to the School Kits, please send a check made out to CUMW either to the church office or to Dee Bane, 53 Fleetwood Circle, Moon, VA 23119. Each kit cost \$11. We have voted to make a donation to UMCOR for at least 30 kits. Thus far, we have received a few donations and are hoping for more. We are once again asking for your support.

Dee has been in touch with Three Rivers Healthy Families and has attended one of their Virtual meetings. Our Annual Thanksgiving Dinner may be in jeopardy but she and

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Debbie Lancucki have discussed ways that we can help to educate the young mothers by producing video demonstrations of us making one or more of our special recipes. We may be looking for a bright young teenager who would be willing to help us do our first video.

There is a sale of Schermer's Pecans and the proceeds will benefit the Wesley Community Service Center (WSCS). We have ordered two cases of the pecans; each case consists of 24 bags which sell for \$11 per bag. We are offering them for sale to the congregation. If you are interested in purchasing the pecans, please contact Martha Arnold at marjoe5050@gmail.com.

Dee has been working on our cookbook and she brought us a prototype to review. It looks wonderful and we are anxiously waiting an official publishing date.

We wished Judy Moughon an early very Happy Birthday with a song, a card, flowers, and cupcakes (courtesy of Grace and Christine). She will be celebrating her birthday on July 20th so if you see her be sure to wish her well.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. Please stay safe.

Martha Arnold
CUMW President

Finance Chair

My best to everyone living in these trying times! Finances in our church remain in a strong position thanks to the generosity of our church family. While we comply with what the Bishop wants, and Governor dictates, please continue yet another month of your financial support to our church. Hopefully, by this time next month, things will be improved.

Stay safe, and enjoy the measure of freedom that we have.

Tim Hill
Finance Chair

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Administrative Council

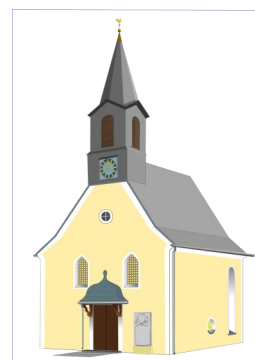
I have been wrong on most things concerning Covid-19 and I hope I'm wrong about this, too, but I think that we'll be in Phase 2 of church reopening for quite awhile. Most of the Healthy Church Team agree. What this means is that we'll have to continue to wear masks, socially distance and do without hugging and singing among other things. So, if you were planning to wait a few weeks before coming back to in-person worship, waiting for these restrictions to be lifted, you may want to re-think that. However, the restrictions aren't that bad, especially since four days' notice is no longer required (it is helpful for the greeters if you do pre-register, but not mandatory).

Once the service starts, you really don't think about the changes and you realize how good it is to be back home at Central. No, it's not the way we've always worshiped, but it is the best we can do right now and for the foreseeable future.

I encourage you to give it a try, if you're comfortable in doing so, but don't feel like you should come unless you are completely at ease. Like I said, I hope I'm wrong and we enter Phase 3 soon, but until we do, we'll do the next best thing and that is what we're doing right now.

Take care, everyone!

Chris Moughon
Administrative Chair
Administrative Council Chair



The Joy of In-Person Worship

Dear Virginia Annual Conference:

I have written to you often about the steps and procedures by which churches can return to in-person worship and the need for careful planning in this regard. And I will continue to do so, based on developments regarding COVID-19 in Virginia.

Today, I want to celebrate. Yes, celebrate!

On Sunday, July 19, 371 churches in the Virginia Conference held in-person worship services, continuing a steady rise over the past few weeks. Churches have also been innovative and implemented ways to worship God through online and telephonic services.

As we implement and adjust the “mechanics” of worship, we must never lose sight of the importance of worship. The work that our pastors do in performing services, and the needs that our 314,000 members have, are matters of the soul. Worship is about connecting sisters and brothers in Christ with our loving Creator, which also helps to provide the strength and peace to deal with life’s most pressing matters, including COVID-19.

Yes, I understand that in-person worship is not appropriate for all churches at this time, especially those where a pastor has a health issue or concern. And certainly, anyone who is sick or has any related health issues or concerns should continue to worship online or on the telephone. I also realize there are other health, safety, and logistical issues that impact some of our churches and the ability to return to in-person worship now.

Amid these challenges, let us reach out to pastors and church members to learn and share the best worship approaches and to encourage one another. Let us rise to the occasion and energetically and enthusiastically worship our all-loving, all-powerful God.

I have been inspired by how so many churches in Virginia, through a love of Christ and

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determination to worship, have held in-person worship services and continued to perform our sacraments. In the photos below are two examples from this past Sunday with the Rev. John F. Rowe Jr. presiding at Linden UMC, Winchester District, and a baptism at Grace UMC in Manassas.



Scripture tells us, “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers” (Galatians 6:9-10 NIV). Let us remember these words, and continue to work with and encourage one another, as we worship God and bring people to worship.

Peace and Blessings,

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis

August 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<h1>AUGUST</h1>						1
2	3	4	5 Finance 7:00 pm	6	7	8
9	10 Healthy Church Team 2:00 pm SPRC 7:00 pm	11	12 Mission & Evangelism 10:00 am	13	14	15
16	17 Trustees 7:00 pm	18	19	20	21	22
23 <i>Central Chimes Submis- sions Due</i>	24	25	26 Administrative Council 7:00 pm	27	28	29
30	31			All meeting times & dates are subject to change. If in doubt, contact the committee chair.		

Birthdays

Sandi Morgan	4
Joice Davis	12
Steve Eley	18
Rebecca Love	18
Jack Ward	21
Frances Ward	24
Jean Sutton	26



Anniversaries

Kenneth & Mary Marshall	9
Steve & Emily Leap	11
Ben & Peggy Leigh	24
Richard & Rebecca Love	28