



THE CENTRAL CHIMES

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Pastor John Choi ♦ Pastor's E-mail: johnchoi@vaumc.org

December 2018

From the Pastor's Pen

Christina Rosetti (1830-1894) was an English poet, whose poem, "In the Bleak Midwinter," is familiar to most of us. Another of her verses, "Love Came Down at Christmas," has been set to numerous tunes. But lately I have particularly enjoyed one titled "Christmas Eve."

Christmas hath a darkness
Brighter than the blazing noon,
Christmas hath a chillness
Warmer than the heat of June,
Christmas hath a beauty
Lovelier than the world can show:
For Christmas bringeth Jesus,
Brought for us so low.

Earth, strike up your music,
Birds that sing and bells that ring;
Heaven hath answering music
For all angels soon to sing:
Earth, put on your whitest
Bridal robe of spotless snow:
For Christmas bringeth Jesus,
Brought for us so low.

This season "has a beauty lovelier than the world can know." I pray each of you will taste and see the beauty of Christ.

Gratefully,

John



A Service of Carols

Sunday, December 16

7:00 p.m.

at Central UMC

Our choir and musicians
will offer a series
of beloved hymns and carols.

Reception will follow.



United Methodist Men HOTLINE

*The following has been reprinted from
the Chimes March edition.*

Most of us at some time or another have had an unexpected situation arise where a helping hand would have been a blessing. Usually we can call on family or friends, but they may not be readily available or are too far away for immediate assistance. That's where a new program that the United Methodist Men will be trying out to assist our church family (members and frequent attendees) comes in, if needed.

Here's how it works. You call any one of the three **HOTLINE** UMM members listed below and they will try to find a UMM volunteer available to assist you. This will not substitute for when a qualified, licensed professional is needed to deal with the problem, but in such

cases we might be able to help with a possible stopgap measure until a qualified person gets there to resolve the issue. Here are just a few examples of how we might be able to help:

- You have an important appointment in Gloucester and you discover that your car won't start or you have a flat tire and need a ride.
- You are temporarily home bound and need someone to send and/or pick up your mail, groceries, or pharmacy.
- You have a tree limb down across your driveway or snow piled up and cannot get out
- You need someone to shovel or four wheel drive a path for your car to use.
- Your well pump is broken or you have a pipe leaking and you need containers of water or assistance until a plumber can get there to resolve the problem.
- Your heat pump or furnace is not working and it's not due to be repaired until tomorrow and it's going to be 15 degrees tonight - need someplace warm to spend the night.

The **HOTLINE** contacts: – please put the numbers someplace you can get to quickly if needed:

Nate Houser [804 380-7820](tel:8043807820)

Steve Leap [804 794-4601](tel:8047944601)

Ben Leigh [804 725-3883](tel:8047253883)

Steve Leap
UM Men President

Scholarships Available:

Students in post-secondary schools returning for their second term in spring may apply for scholarships. Application should include 1) the latest transcript, 2) proof of active enrollment at least half-time in an accredited institution beyond the high school level, and 3) a letter describing intentions for continued study for the upcoming calendar year.

Send application by Jan. 11, 2019 to: Bobby Hudgins, PO Box 1, Hudgins, VA 23076.



Christmas Angel Tree



Sponsored by the
Nancy Wroten Memorial Class

Help Mathews Families with their
holiday wishes and needs.

The tree will be located in the
fellowship hall beginning Dec. 2.

If you would like to participate, take
an angel from the tree, purchase the
requested item and return the
unwrapped gift with the
angel attached.

**Please sign the sheet
for each angel you take.
Return by December 16.**

*Our Central Church Family
helping Mathews Families in need.*



A Joyful Christmas

2018 Christmas Offering

This year's Christmas Offering
will go to:

Hands Across Mathews
Christmas Blessings Fund
United Methodist Family
Services (UMFS)



A new Bible study and new experiences make new Friends!

Ladies,

Do you enjoy being among friends? Do you seek authentic friendships?



Friendships with other women are as important to our mental, physical, and spiritual health as rest, exercise, and prayer. We don't just want friends—we need friends. God created us for relationships.

If you've ever struggled to balance friendship with everyday life, seen a friendship end too early, or longed for deeper and more authentic friendships, this Bible study is for you.

Stephanie Hunt, NC Disaster Coordinator, is hosting the second study "Becoming Heart Sisters" in Fayetteville NC, January 30 to February 3rd. This is an unique opportunity: yes there will be Bible study, but also there will be fun, making new friends, and helping out in the community that received flooding waters and destructive winds in the recent storms.

There is no charge for the study, other the purchase of the book. We travel together, prepare our meals together, and stay in the church volunteer center with real beds and showers, and bathrooms!

This is a significant way to make friends, study the word of God, and help others!

If you have an interest, please contact me for more information. I hope you consider this great chance to make new friends and become "Heart Sisters".

Janet Burgess

Greeters/Ushers for December

8:30 am service | Tom & Dale Robinson

11:00 am service | Members of Friendship Class

UM Women

Wishing you all a joyous holiday season!

We met on November 12th. We will distribute funds to area outreach in honor of church families for Christmas.

Our last meeting for the year, December 9th, will include caroling to shut-ins and to the Convalescent Center. Afterwards, we will gather at Grace Mortimer's house for fellowship and a pot luck meal. Caroling starts at 3:30 pm. Come join us.

Our slate of officers was presented. Plans for the 10th year meeting to host the Three Rivers Healthy Families were finalized for November 16th. The Thanksgiving luncheon and worship service was gratifying. Approximately 52+ attended. Our joint cookbook was presented by Dee Bane....more to come!

Pat Gwaltney

President UMW

UMW hosts 3 Rivers Healthy Families (Nov. 16)



Creation Care

Our Plastic Problem:



Sperm whales were found washed ashore dead after swallowing 64 pounds of plastic debris.

Around 100 million tons of plastic is produced every year, of which 10 percent ends up in the sea. In U.S., the rate of recycling is just 9%.



Once in the water, the debris accumulates in large patches, travels with currents and washes up onshore. This litter is frequently consumed by marine mammals, fish and birds who mistake it for food. More than a million sea birds and mammals are killed each year by ingestion of plastics.

According to one study, if current production trends continue, by the year 2050, there will be more plastic than fish in our oceans.

What can we do?

Our responsibility is to personally recycle and also teach our young people why it is so important. That is one of the goals of Creation Care. That alone is not enough to solve the problem.

We must help get rid of all single-use packaging, things like bags, straws and bottles, that make up 40 percent of our plastic. We must encourage our corporations to change their packaging because they are responsible for most of the damage. We need to demand

a systems shift away from 'disposables' toward nontoxic reusables.

At Creation Care's Dec. 12 meeting, we will be discussing our recycling presentation for Thomas Hunter School. We will also be processing another large load of youth books to be distributed in Mathews.



Michael Cannon

Hospitality/Visitation Committee

With the end of this year fast approaching, we look forward to the most wonderful time of year; our Savior Jesus birth. Let us celebrate this glorious occasion and show His Love, not only to our family and friends; but also to all those we know or strangers we meet. It is the best gift you can give.

I am especially grateful to all those in our Church who have served as host or hostess for the fellowship time each Sunday. It is a special time when we get to know our visitors and fellow Church members as we share this time and refreshments together. We invite you to come to the early service for worship at 8:30 and join everyone in the Fellowship Hall after or come early to Sunday School and join us for coffee and friendship.

Our Hospitality Host for November was Betty Stewart. Thanks also goes to Betty for hosting the Church's Thanksgiving dinner on November 18th. Approximately 50+ people attended. Those serving as refreshment hosts during the month were as follows: Emily and Steve Leap, Bobby and Phyllis, Sherry and John Hodges and Nancy Jagger. Thanks for a job well done. During December, Dale Robinson will be the Hospitality Host. The first Sunday will again be Cookie Sunday where everyone brings cookies or a snack. On December 9th. Dee Bane, Mary Wade Smith and Patty Hertzler will serve and on the 16th Dale will host refreshments and Phyllis and Bobby will serve on the 23rd. There

is one service for the 5th Sunday, the 30th.

January 6, 2019 will be Cookie Sunday. The 13th Emily and Steve Leap will host and Emily will also be the first Hospitality Host for the New Year. On the 20th Frosty Taylor and David Hudgins will provide refreshments. Beginning on January 27th we have lots of Sundays that YOU can sign up and volunteer to serve. Thank you in advance.

When you begin to write your Christmas cards this Christmas, please remember our, sick, lonely, widows and shut-ins. Just put yourself in their shoes and you will know what it means to know that you're thought about and in someone's heart and prayers. May God bless you with love, good health and happiness during the holiday season and may it continue throughout 2019.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Phyllis Hudgins, Chairman
Hospitality /Visitation Committee



Photos by
Phyllis
Hudgins



*Christmas Eve
Nativity of the Lord
Candlelight &
Communion Service*

8:00 pm

*You are invited to worship with hymns
and carols, Scriptures, candle lights,
and the Lord's Table.*

Christmas Cards



Now that Thanksgiving is over and Christmas is right around the corner, as you ruffle through your old Christmas cards, please think about donating them for our Meals on Wheels decorations we do every year. I need clean card fronts only- no personal writing on the backs. Just cut, not tear, the covers off of the cards and deposit them in the box on the table in the fellowship hall. I will bundle them and take to Nelda so she can attach them to the meal boxes.

Thanks for sharing the scenes of Christmas with the shut-ins.

Blessings,

Janet Burgess

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

Bryon Thomas
Keith Callis



Children's Ministry

Mark 10:13-16

Why Sunday School?

.....To study the Bible, the most important book ever written. It tells stories about people—their lives, their hopes and their thoughts. It is important for children of all ages to know and share these stories. It is written to help all to understand who God and His Son are and how they want to be involved in our lives.

God's Kingdom includes everyone—young and mature.

On November 11 we had Promotion and Teacher Recognition Sunday. All teachers were recognized by Richard Moughon, Sunday School Superintendent. Danny Hogge was promoted to Youth Class.



FINS was held at Central on November 16. Thank you to all who made the fall event a success. Thanksgiving was our theme. Crafts were made to deliver to the Convalescent Center in Mathews.

Pat Gwaltney



Photo by John Choi

Thanksgiving Supper at Central

Mission and Evangelism

Mission and Evangelism met on Tuesday, November 13. We concentrated on the needs of our community, local and global. Our funds for Christmas will be distributed to local organizations, i.e. Hands Across Mathews, Fire Department, Rescue Squad, and the closet at Mathews County Schools sponsored by Nelda Gibbs.

Three church families will also receive monetary gifts.

Looking forward to and planning the 4 S's—Song, Soup, Salad and Sweets on January 27, 2019.

Linda Dalgety was welcomed as presiding chair for 2019.

Next meeting is January 15, 2019 at 10:00 am.

Pat Gwaltney

Co-chair of Mission and Evangelism

UM Men

In the November meeting, the UMM made the following decisions:

The first Brunswick Stew sale we decided will be held the 19th of January. We will be using a recipe provided to us by Scottsville United Methodist Church (Roland Leap, cousin of Steve Leap has provided necessary guidance). During the meeting, we sampled the stew they cook and we were in agreement that it is an excellent way to start our effort. Our hope is to start small (maybe 60 to 70 quarts) and that, once we advertise and sell that, the community will clamor for "more" and we can make it a regular money generating effort ramping up how much we produce and sell.

We will be supporting the February 5th, 2019 blood drive and have determined who will fill the staffing needs. Gerald and Frosty Taylor, James and Dale Martin, Bobby and Phyllis Hudgins,

Steve and Emily Leap, Greg Lewis and David Hudgins.

We have been requested to notify the Church Congregation that the UMM will once again provide the help chain this winter (actually it is year-round). If you need help, please contact any of the following and we can advise if our group can help. If we can help, we will dispatch appropriate resources.

Ben Leigh – Home 725-3883 Cell 804 824-4957

Nate Houser – Cell 804 380-7820

Steve Leap – Cell 804 794-4601

The UMM will not meet in December. The next meeting is scheduled January 19, 2019.

Steve Leap

UMM President

Central United Methodist Men's

Brunswick Stew Sale

Saturday, January 19

1:00 - 6:00 pm

Central United Methodist Church

Church Street or Mathews Court House



DONATION

\$8.00 per Quart

Proceeds Support Local Church
& Community Outreach!

**Reserve yours in advance by
purchasing tickets from any member of the
Central United Methodist Men or
purchase at the door while available.**

**Call 725-8673, 725-3751 or
794-4601 today!**

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee completed its work on the 2019 budget which was approved by the Admin Council in October and will be submitted to the Charge Conference at the November 29 meeting.

Through the end of October, deposits and expenditures are within a few dollars of each other for the year. As the end of the year looms and you consider which charities you donate to, don't forget your church as a worthy possibility. A few year-end gifts above regular giving would guarantee us finishing in the black for the year and help your tax situation as well. A gift to the general operating fund would be the most helpful, but a designated gift would be appreciated as well. Thank you for your consideration on this and thank you so much for your gifts to your church all year long! I assure you that every dollar helps Central UMC do God's work!

I also want to thank you for allowing me to serve as your Finance Chairperson again in 2018 and I'm looking forward to a great 2019, with your help.

I wish everyone a blessed Christmas and a wonderful New Year!

Chris Moughon

Finance Chair

Finance Secretary's Report

Again I thank those who volunteered to count offerings in November. Scheduled to count in December are Betty Stewart and Mary Callis Marshall.

Greeters for the 11:00 service will be members of the Friendship Class.

Marcia Fry

Financial Secretary

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|--|---|---|--|------------------|---|
| December | | |  | | | 1 |
| 2 Central Village Homemakers Sing-a-Long 3:00 pm | 3 | 4 Mathews Blood Drive 1:30-7:00pm Romans Bible Study 7:00 pm | 5 Central Village Homemakers 9:00 - 1:00 pm Romans Bible Study 10:00 am | 6 Office Closed Choir Practice 7:15 pm | 7 Office Open | 8 District UMW (Hampton) 9:00 am |
| 9 | 10 UM Women 10:00 am SPRC 7:00 pm | 11 Romans Bible Study 7:00 pm | 12 Prayer Covenant Group 9:00 am. Romans Bible Study 10:00 am Creation Care @ Cannons 1:30 pm Finance 7:00 pm | 13 Bay Quilters 9:00am - 1:00pm P. Townsend Class Christmas Dinner 6:00 pm (Topping) Choir Practice 7:15 pm | 14 | 15 Friendship Class at Dalgety's 6:00 pm |
| 16 Service of Carols | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 Choir Practice 7:15 pm | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 8:00 pm | 25 Christmas Day  | 26 Office Closed | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 Joint Service New Year's Eve | 31 | | | Year-End Giving The last day to make a contribution in 2018 is Sunday, December 30. | | |

December Birthdays

| | | | |
|-------------------|---|---------------|----|
| Raymond Mountford | 5 | Richie Hogge | 10 |
| Shirley Snow | 5 | Betty Stewart | 11 |
| Carl Bochau | 6 | Pat Moughon | 15 |
| Jerry Jagger | 8 | Jill Moughon | 18 |

December Anniversaries

| | | | |
|------------------|----|------------------------|----|
| Anne South | 18 | Gerald & Frosty Taylor | 20 |
| Brennan McKenzie | 22 | | |
| Evelyn Mountford | 24 | | |
| Neena Putt | 30 | | |