



THE CENTRAL CHIMES

P.O. Box 297 ♦ 121 Church Street ♦ Mathews, VA 23109
Office: (804) 725-2832 ♦ Parsonage: (804) 725-3332
Pastor John Choi ♦ Pastor's E-mail: johnchoi@vaumc.org

December 2019

From the Pastor's Pen

Carrying Christmas in Our Hearts

As the year's end nears, I thank you for serving together as church in 2019. Many of you gave leadership at the forefront of activities, while others quietly filled the gaps behind the scenes. Your giving sustained the mission and ministry of the church, and your prayers have formed the soul of this faith community. I pray that the best part of your service—both within and away from the church, at home and in the community—has been an ongoing spiritual fellowship with Christ himself. "For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord." (Rom. 14:7-8) Nonetheless I am grateful for your presence, prayers, giving and services.

We go through the month of December much like everyone else: A host of year-end events, shopping for gifts, and hopefully some time with family around Christmas itself. Those holiday festivities have taken on a meaning and tradition of their own. But of all people the Christians should remember during this time the birth of Jesus Christ. How will you mark for yourself the sacred occasion? Unless we carry Christmas in our hearts, we will merely have busied ourselves with things that are surprisingly short-lived. As we hear the Christmas story and worship, as we reach out to one person whom God brings us into our mind with heartfelt generosity, we will be in touch with eternity.

We only get to have December once a year. Let us worship, show mercy, listen to the Spirit, and give. Let us carry Christmas in our hearts.

Gratefully,

John

Harvest Table by Mark Lewis



Photo by Louise Witherspoon

A Service of Carols

Sunday, December 15

7:00 p.m.

at Central UMC

Reception will follow.



United Methodist Women

Central United Methodist Women hosted our annual Thanksgiving celebration with Three Rivers Healthy Families on November 15th. We provided turkey, ham, stuffing, gravy, casseroles, cranberry sauces, and desserts while the Three Rivers staff provided many delicious side dishes. This year's theme, conducted by the Three Rivers staff, was Gratitude and finding ways to relieve stress for both adults and children during the holidays. We served approximately 70 attendees, including the staff and our CUMW. I would like to give special thanks not only to our members but also to Phyllis, Louise, and Susan who so generously contributed not only their time but who also brought some delicious dishes to share. It was a very special day!

Many of us participated in the "Rise Against Hunger" event on November 17th which was very successful and satisfying. And we enjoyed the wonderful Thanksgiving Dinner that followed.

Several of our members will be attending the Prayer Advent Breakfast on December 7th at Fox Hill UMC. Melissa White will speak on "Sisterhood of Grace" and Pastor John will be giving us the gift of his musical talent.

On December 9th, we will be meeting to prepare gifts for our shut-ins and then we will proceed to their residences to perform their favorite Christmas Carols. Immediately following, we will meet at Grace Mortimer's for our Christmas Pot Luck.

During 2019, we are proud to announce that our small group has contributed a total of \$900 to our Mathews community through our Outreach Programs. In addition, we have collected a total of \$1,570 through our 2019 programs such as: Candle Burning (\$388), Healing Eagle Clinic (\$363), WCSC (\$44), Kits for Conference (\$715), and Legacy Fund (\$60). Thank you for your generous support.

A Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from CUMW to you! May God's Blessings be upon you!

Martha Arnold
CUMW President

UM Women Host 3 Rivers Healthy Families Thanksgiving Celebration



Photos by Louise Witherspoon



Susan Hill, Dale Robinson, Phyllis Hudgins & Martha Arnold

Administrative Council

I would like to wish everyone a happy, healthy, holiday season. We all have so much for which to be grateful. This being my last month as chairman of the administrative council, I'd like to thank each of you for the support you gave me during these past years as Chair.

The council will be in great hands with Chris Moughon taking over. Give him your support and courage to move Central forward in Christian love.

Let us wind down the last month of this year helping others like we did in November with the "Rise Against Hunger" project. Next year, pray that God will give us courage and lead us to do more for Christ and His works and desires for Central than in the past.

May God Bless each of you this holiday season and thanks again for your support for the past three years.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and your Family.

Bobby Hudgins

Administrative Council Chairman



5th Sunday Joint Service
December 29
Sunday School 9:00 am
Worship Service 10:00 am
Song Service 2:15 pm
at Riverside Convalescent
All are welcome!
Center - All Are Welcome

Greeters/Ushers for December

8:30 am service	Dec. 1 - John & Sherry Hodges Dec. 8 - Joe & Martha Arnold Dec. 15 - Tim & Susan Hill Dec. 22 - Dee Bane & friend
11:00 am service Dec. 29, 5th Sun.	Mark & Brenda Lewis Mark & Brenda Lewis

Hospitality/Visitation

November proved to be almost as busy at Central as October. It is always wonderful to see people working together to make life better for others. We are so blessed every day. As Thanksgiving rolls around let us take the time to count the many blessings God bestows on us each day from the morning sun rise to sunset and beyond.

With this thought, I'd like to thank all the Hospitality Hosts that have served the church for the past two years and also those who provided refreshments, helped with meals for families, helped clean up the kitchen, sent cards and especially said prayers for the sick or shut-ins. Your acts of generosity and kindness made someone's day a little brighter. As my term as Hospitality Chairman ends this year, I just want to tell each of you how much I appreciate all of you who worked to make my job easier and enjoyable for others. I hope you will continue to help with this important area of service.

I was Hospitality Host for the month of November and will also be the December Host to finish out this year. Please keep those on our prayer list in your prayers this holiday season. It is especially difficult on families during the holidays.



Our refreshment hosts for November were: Frosty Taylor, Cindy Butterworth, and David Hudgins on Nov. 10; Dale and James Martin, the 17th and Karen and Ken Palmer served on the 24th. December 1st is "Cookie" Sunday; Susan and Tim Hill & Martha and Joe Arnold will host on the 8th. Bobby and Phyllis Hudgins will serve on the 15th and the 22nd. December 29th is our Joint worship service.

I pray that this time of fellowship has given you the opportunity to get to know more people in the church and have made lifelong friendships. May God bless you and I wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Phyllis Hudgins

Hospitality/Visitation Committee

Autumn Disasters Bring Opportunities for Service

As we gathered for Thanksgiving to think about what we are thankful for, food, family, friends, a day off from work... did you take time to think about a new roof, or maybe no more hidden mold that would affect your life? How about no soggy floors, or lost pets, or trees down, or shelter that doesn't exist anymore? To many folks, these are constant thoughts as they struggle through the disaster they recently experienced.

Do you think about disasters- Typhoons, hurricanes, storm surge, and tornadoes? Or do those thoughts come only with the weatherman's caution of predictions announced on the television.

People around the world are subjected to all kinds of disasters at all times in their lives. They don't ask for the flood or wind. They may have the means to protect their property before it is destroyed, while others have nothing left except despair.

Recently this Autumn I surveyed the beauty of the painted leaves and unusually warm temperatures, but I was also reminded of black mold, splintered wood, and desecrated landscapes. I travelled cross the Chesapeake Bay to Tangier Island once again as I always do in October and then joined up with St. Luke's UMC on a mission to Swansboro, NC.

No, you did not miss the headlines of a hurricane or tornado smashing into Tangier, Virginia, but perhaps you heard of their ongoing problem of a sinking Island. It is true: Tangier is shrinking and sinking. This year the bay was more adventurous with the high tide coming over the inland roads and surrounding the houses at each turn of the tide.

I tried to reach the East Ridge of the island by walking down the road to the bridge, but found water about 8 inches deep blocking the dry path. An older man, in his eighties,

drove his golf cart through the water and to my rescue. He offered me a ride and I hopped onto the cart. He asked me my name and I replied, "Janet". He then looked at me quizzically as I asked his name. To my surprise he said, "Hansen", the very person with whom I was going to visit! We both laughed as we plowed through the water back to his house.

I have been travelling to Tangier Island to assist in rebuilding, or maybe new construction, for many years now. Each year we have a licensed contractor precede our visit to evaluate what work needs to be done. We pay a fee to go which covers the cost of transport on a deadrise boat and all materials needed to complete the projects as well as food for our meals. I have travelled with windows, doors, mattresses, paint, concrete, lumber, electrical supplies along with 20 people on calm seas and those in which the waves from the boat crested above the hard top. It is always a rewarding trip. We completed 2 projects this year- building a fence around a house whose inhabitants included an autistic, deaf child and a long ramp for a disabled homeowner, and a few other simple repairs.



Two weeks later I joined up with the St. Luke's crew on the road to Swansboro, NC. There we worked on 2 houses affected by Hurricane Dorian. The first house required the removal of wallboard and insulation on the second floor and the mudding, sanding, and repainting of the replaced walls and ceiling. The second house also required the removal of wallboard as well as the floor and some joists, which had grown mold created by flooding. This also was Dorian's doing as the house was nowhere near any water.

Stephanie Hunt, a good friend of mine, is the Disaster Coordinator for several counties near and including Swansboro, NC, so I had the opportunity to visit with her as well as another

Continued on page 5

mission friend who lives on Emerald Isle, NC. We were grateful to help those who suffered through the high winds and floods and as always, thankful for the opportunities to help God's people.

My suitcase and tool kit stay packed and ready as I listen for God's next request.

Janet Burgess

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

Photos by Louise Witherspoon



Women's Trio



Christmas Eve Nativity of the Lord

*Candlelight &
Communion Service*

5:00 pm

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

Finance Committee

Thanks to a sizable donation to the general operating fund, we find ourselves about \$750 ahead of expenditures for the year through October. We would find ourselves a few thousand behind if not for this generous gift. It is my hope that this will inspire others to prayerfully consider a possible year-end gift above what one normally is able to give on a regular basis. Don't forget that it could help with your tax situation as well as be a blessing to your Church!

As I conclude my third and final year as your Finance Committee Chairperson, I want to thank all of you for the privilege of serving you and our Church. I wish each and everyone of you a wonderful and blessed Christmas Season and the best New Year ever!

Chris Moughon

Finance Committee Chair

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

Horace Dowdy
Harry Clements



Rise Against Hunger



Photos by John Choi

Mission and Evangelism

On November 17 we participated in a Rise Against Hunger program . Imagine 60 people measuring, weighing, bagging and sealing over 10,000 meals in under two hours! That is exactly what happened! We were aided in this mission out-reach program by people from the Mathews community, members of neighboring UM churches and friends from the Three Rivers Healthy Families group. People from all age groups worked together in this labor of love. What a sight to see elementary, middle, and high school students working right along side with young adults, the middle sheets, and seniors. And enjoying it and having fun! A loud gong would sound each time we reached another thousand bag count! Surely God was smiling down at us as He thought, "This is how my Kingdom on earth is supposed to be! People working together to aid those who need help."

Following the RAH program, we sat down and enjoyed a delicious Thanksgiving meal prepared by members of our congregation. Many thanks to Betty Stewart, Mary Marshall, and Marcia Fry for coordinating the dinner.

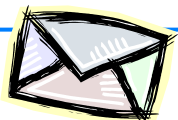
In January we will begin a monthly mini revival program at Central. Please join us one Sunday night each month for an evening of song and prayer. Come hear a "God Story" from a fellow church member as they relate how God has worked miracles, directed, saved, influenced, and been a part of our individual lives.

We had such a good time at our last Paint Night that we are planning another one in the near future. Please check the church bulletin for the date.

Happy Thanksgiving. We all have much to be thankful for.

Linda Dalgety
Mission and Evangelism Chair

2020 Offering Envelopes are ready for pick-up.
They are on the back pew in the Sanctuary.





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. 1.

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 15.

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



A Joyful Christmas



Mathews County Blood Drive



Piankatank Ruritan Club

Tuesday, December 3

2:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Sponsored by

Mathews Women's Club
& American Legion Post 83

Walk-ins are welcome or
make appointments at
redcrossblood.net

Children and Youth Ministry

We are looking for a new mission project we
could support from children's message
offerings.

Vacation Bible school is already in the making.
It will be one day a week in June and run for 5
weeks. Dates are to be determined. We will
need volunteers.

Children's Classes will be helping a family off
the Christmas Angel tree in the fellowship hall.

Nancy Jagger

Children & Youth Ministry

6th Annual Empty Bowls Fundraiser Mathews Bay School Gallery

279 Main Street

Sunday, December 7

11:00 am to 1:30 pm



This is a ticketed event & may be reserved on the
Bay School website or purchased at the school
starting Thanksgiving weekend.

All proceeds go directly to Hands Across
Mathews for food distribution to our
disadvantaged neighbors, so cash or check only
please.

*Enjoy soup, bread &
cookies in a beautiful
handmade
pottery bowl for \$15.*



Preparing for UMM Brunswick stew sale

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<h1>December</h1>						
1 Central Village Homemakers Sing-a-Long 3:00 pm <i>Christmas Shoe boxes due</i>	2	3 Mathews Blood Drive Piantank Ruritan club 2:00-7:00pm 	4 Central Village Homemakers 9:00 - 1:00 pm	5 Choir Practice 6:45 pm	6	7 UMW Prayer Breakfast 9:30 am Hampton
8	9 UM Women Potluck, Caroling 10:00 am SPRC 7:00 pm	10	11 Finance 6:00 pm Administrative Council 7:00 pm	12 Bay Quilters 9:00am - 1:00pm Choir Practice 6:45 pm	13 Paul Townsend Memorial Class Christmas Dinner 6:00 pm @ Olivia's	14
15 <i>Angel Tree gifts Due</i> <i>Service of Carols 7:00 pm</i>	16	17	18 Mission and Evangelism 10:00 am	19 Choir Practice 6:45 pm	20	21
22	23 Office Open	24 Office Open <i>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 5:00 pm</i>	25 <i>Christmas Day</i> 	26 Office Closed	27	28
29 Joint Service 10:00 am Song Service 2:15 pm	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>	Year-End Giving The last day to make a contribution in 2019 is Sunday, December 29. Thank you for your faithful stewardship.			

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
		Jonathan Lewis	18

December Anniversaries

Anne South	18	Jonathan & Mandy Lewis	19
Brennan McKenzie	22	Gerald & Frosty Taylor	20
Evelyn Mountford	24		
Neena Putt	30		