



# ***THE CENTRAL CHIMES***

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CAROLING  
with the UM WOMEN  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 8  
3:30 pm  
(See page 5 for details)



*The Innkeeper's Wife*  
Central Christmas  
Program  
Sunday, December 14  
6:30 pm



*Christmas Eve  
Candlelight &  
Communion Service  
5:00 pm*



*Songs, Soups,  
Salads and  
Sweets*

Sunday, January 18, 2015  
5:00 pm for songs  
6:00 pm for the meal

Join the Mission & Evangelism Team  
For an Evening of Music & Fellowship  
Love Offerings Will Be Accepted  
to Aid Our Missionaries

## From the Pastor's Pen

Emmanuel Still Means "God Is with Us"

Here we are in Advent again, longing for the good news of Christmas to break upon our lives once more! For some, however, the Christmas season is difficult. Loss of loved ones, financial setbacks, illness, distance and divisions in the family unit are just some of the reasons for this.

I am so thankful for the stories in Scripture that confirm we are not alone in such struggles. Even the story of Mary's unexpected pregnancy as an unwed teen, and Joseph's wrestling with what to do about it, remind us of the reason Jesus came – because we needed, and still need, a Savior! (Read Matthew 1:18-25.)

Two names are given the unborn child in Matthew's Gospel: **Jesus**, meaning "to help" or "to save," and **Emmanuel**, meaning "God is with us."

Think about it: in the midst of the disgrace of being pregnant before marriage, God's assurance enables Mary and Joseph to move forward in faith despite of the stares and barbed judgments they surely encountered from their community. In their uncertainty, God was with them! God's love was present, even when they were uncertain of where their journey was taking them!

I am reminded of another story. Atop an old barn stood an ancient weather vane that had withstood many a windstorm over the decades. The wind indicator arrow was inscribed with the words, "God is Love." A friend poked fun at the words on an arrow that changed direction with each fickle breath of wind.

"Yep," he said, "God's love cannot be counted on; it's always changing."

The farmer just smiled. "It all depends on how you look at it, my good friend. The truth is, whichever way the wind blows, God is love."

This simple truth is borne out in the Scriptures

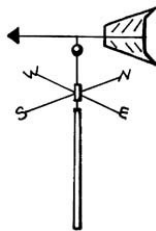
and lives of those who love God. The winds of life are not always gentle breezes; they may unexpectedly sweep us off the ground like a tornado uproots houses and trees. As the Nationwide commercial puts it, "Life comes at you fast" – and hard, at times.

As we find ourselves in the holiday season, the consumer-driven world tries to excite us with beautiful light displays, nostalgic movies, wonderful gift ideas, holiday sales, special foods, and catchy music. Depending on what you and your loved ones are facing at this time, the holiday hype and well meaning words like "be of good cheer" may leave you feeling sad, indifferent, or even angry.

Whether this is the best Christmas ever for you or the most difficult, here are a few thoughts that I hope will be helpful.

- *It is okay to not "be of good cheer"! Be honest with your feelings and don't simply put on a happy face for others – they will understand.*
- *Don't try to compete with Charles Dickens or Martha Stewart and have the "perfect" Christmas celebration. It's alright to scale back on decorating, gift buying, baking and merrymaking.*
- *Experience real "comfort and joy" by connecting with others. Christmas is really about relationships, after all. Reach out to others in similar circumstances; pray for those who are not able to visit you; volunteer your services to help others in the community; visit those in a nursing home; attend church services.*
- *Don't be afraid to smile or even laugh when, in the midst of illness or grief, something fills you with joy – seize such moments, for they bring healing to heavy hearts.*
- *Allow the true meaning of Christmas to ease your soul. God's gift of Love on that first Christmas still brings hope to all who look to him!*

How comforting it is to know that, no matter



<http://www2.free-clipart.net>

Continued from page 2  
what's going on in our lives, Emmanuel, God is with us! And it is also good to know that, whichever way the wind blows, God is love!

*Have a holy, blessed Christmas with the One Who is love and present with us!*

On the journey together, *Suzanne*



## Mission & Evangelism

The year is fast coming to an end and 2015 will be upon us before we know it. There is one project left for the M&E Team in 2014 - Christmas Shoe Boxes for children in Mathews County. The boxes are due by Thursday, December 4 to the fellowship hall or Sunday, December 7 to Mathews Social Services. The boxes will be included in The Christmas Store sponsored by Social Services.

The Hands Across Mathews (HAM) program for 2015 will begin on Sunday, December 28, 2014 and end on Sunday, December 20, 2015. As we have done in the past three years, we ask that you establish an affordable dollar amount (with yourself) and each week purchase non-perishable food items for HAM. Place these items in the HAM green tub in the fellowship hall.

*Songs, Soups, Salads and Sweets* will be held on Sunday, January 18, 2015 at 5:00 pm for songs and 6:00 pm for the meal portion of the event. At this writing, Ebenezer Baptist Church Men's Choir, Gary Painter, along with Janet Bowman and Pastor Suzanne will be our guests.

Any left-over soup will be put in quart jars and given to those who could use a blessing (such as those who are ill). A love offering will be received to aid our missionaries. I hope to see you there.

*Joe Cromwell*, Chairman

## Shoe Boxes for Christmas

The Mission and Evangelism Team is sponsoring a shoebox ministry for needy children in the Mathews Community. The boxes will be distributed through the Mathews Social Services Christmas Store. **Bring filled boxes to the fellowship hall by Thursday, December 4 or deliver donations to Mathews Social Services no later than December, 7 so they can be marked and sorted.**



Shoe Box: Use any empty, clean box. Fill with a variety of all **new** items. Wrap in Christmas paper. Pray for the child who will receive the box. Attach a separate piece of paper to the box and label it for a boy or girl and age category: 2-4, 5-6, 7-9 or 10-14 years.

Toy Suggestions: Small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, playing cards, stickers, puzzles, games, etc.

School Supplies: Pens, pencils, sharpeners, crayons, colored markers, stamps and ink pad sets, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, blunt pointed scissors, or regular ones for older children, glue, colored craft paper.

Hygiene Items: Tooth brushes, tooth paste, mild bar soap in wrapper, combs, washcloths, hand towels, and small shampoo.

Other items: Candy appropriate for age of child, T-shirts, socks, gloves, adjustable ball caps, hair clips, jewelry, flash light (extra batteries), Christmas mugs, hot chocolate packets, gift certificates to Hardee's, McDonald's, etc.

Thank you for your support. *The M & E Team*

## Children's Ministry for 2014

It has been a productive year for Central UMC and our Children's Ministry. Thanks to the congregation, Katherine Small, Nancy Jagger, Rev. Gibson, Brenda Lewis, Janet Gomez, Carey Hogge, Richard and Melissa Moughon, the children and their families.

The children started the year with collecting for the national *Souper Bowl Fund* to fight hunger. In March they participated in the Youth Worship Service during Lent. They have



sponsored two children throughout the year: Kettlie Jean of Haiti and Blaines of Columbia, South America. Donations to the *Heifer Project* have also been ongoing. With the assistance of Janet Gomez, our children and their families prepared a meal and joined with the residents of the homeless shelter in Gloucester for an evening of fellowship. Our children and volunteers from Central joined with Salem UMC for VBS in June.

Richie Hogge celebrated his baptism with family and the congregation. The children continue to actively participate in the Acolytes, sing in the children's choir and take up the offering during worship service.

The *H.U.G.S.* (Help Us Give Shoes) Program has been a great success. Children and adults receiving these shoes will be grateful for warm feet. Thanks so much for the congregation support. The children's placemats were used for the Community Thanksgiving Dinner on November 25. In December, the children will be participating in the Christmas Play, directed by Jean Hall, the Angel Tree, the Shoe Box Christmas Store and the name tags for the gifts to shut-ins.

The children, Gabrielle and Emily Lewis, Richie and Danny Hogge, Daniel, Sarah and Emily Moughon, Joice, Soles and Kate Small; their teachers, Nancy Jagger, Pat Gwaltney and our welcomed addition in the nursery, Judith Dubey, all wish the congregation of Central and our community a joyful, worship-filled, safe Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*I know the plans I have in mind for you,  
declares the Lord. Jeremiah 29:11*

Think of the children we have in our care at Central. Is there a boy or girl destined for greatness? You never know. But God does. God can certainly work through each of them to make a difference in our families, our communities, our country and yes, even the world. (Grow, Proclaim, Serve - Fall Edition 2014)

*Pat Gwaltney, Chairman*

### A Joyful Welcome



We welcome Judith Dubey to the Nursery Caregiver position at Central. Judy lives on Gwynn's Island with her family. During the week, she works part-time at the Laundromat in Mathews. Judy will be assisting Nancy Jagger with our youngest children during the Sunday School hour. She will keep the nursery during the 11:00 worship with the help of an adult volunteer. When you see Judy, be sure to give her a warm welcome to Central UMC.

***Christmas Offering & Year-End Giving***

Christmas Offering envelopes will be in the pew racks during the month of December.

**The last day to make a contribution in 2014 is Sunday, December 28.**

Thank you for your faithful stewardship.

## Hospitality Ministry

Volunteers for 2015 are needed for hospitality. We will be asking you to sign up during the month of December so we will be ready to start the new year.

- Refreshments in the fellowship hall will be offered after the regular 8:30 worship service. (No refreshments on 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays.) This is the time to socialize with church family, meet new members and visitors. We also want our Sunday school attendees to please consider coming a little early and join us for coffee, juice, and a treat. If we all sign up, we only need to take a turn once or twice during the year. Instructions for coffee making, clean up, etc. will be offered.
- Ushers and Greeters! Beginning in January, we hope to have a team (2) for both the 8:30 and 11:00 worship service. (5<sup>th</sup> Sundays, 11:00 team assists.) Their responsibilities will include greeting, passing out bulletins, taking up offering, and assisting with communion. Volunteers will be trained and we ask you to please commit for one month.
- In addition to the monthly ushers and greeters, we need a Monthly Hostess (12). This person will work as the coordinator for receptions following special events, such as funerals, and dinners that fall in their month, as well as assist other hostesses during the year. Birthday cards to octogenarians and older, get well and sympathy cards, and notes to guests also are their responsibility during the month. Couples are welcome and helpful as tables and chairs, ice, etc. are all heavy.

Fellowship is all about connecting people to each other in Christ. With your help, we hope to make visitors feel at home and our worship service run smoothly. We want to provide a place to socialize for our church family and to serve our members in need. We look forward to serving and working with you at Central in the coming year.

*Emily Leap and Jean Sutton, Hospitality*

## Central United Methodist Men

CUMM met on Saturday , November 15 and decided to distribute the proceeds from the shrimp dinner. They were distributed as follows:

CUMW	\$693
Hand Across Mathews	\$750
Society of St. Andrew	\$200
Mathews Triad	\$400
Christmas Blessing Fund	\$500
Mathews Cafeteria Fund	\$500
Total	\$3034

Once again, I would like to thank everyone for their participation in helping the United Methodist men in putting on the shrimp dinner.

The next United Methodist Men's meeting will be Saturday, January 17 at 8:00 am; we will not be meeting in December.

I hope everyone has a blessed Christmas.

*James Martin, CUMM President*

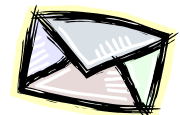
## Central United Methodist Women

UMW will go caroling on December 8. We will gather in the fellowship hall at 3:30 pm. Our caroling route will include our home bound church members and other special folks. We will have a covered dish dinner following the caroling. Spouses and others are welcome.

On January 12, UMW will have a planning meeting to discuss the new programs for the year. Hope you will come and join us.

*Dee Bane, CUMW Recording Secretary*

2015 Offering Envelopes are ready for pick-up. They are on the back pew in the Sanctuary.



## Paul Townsend Memorial Class

The Paul Townsend Memorial S. S. elected new officers for 2015. They are as follows: President, Phyllis Hudgins; Vice President, Jean Sutton; Secretary, David Hudgins; Treasure, Cheryl Wheeler; Corresponding Sec., Judy Moughon; Teacher Coordinator, Alvin Knight.

Please continue to send up prayers for our class members, Coleman Wheeler, Mason South, Georgie Preston, and Jerry Wayne Jagger. It's wonderful to have Durward back worshipping with us; a good example that God does answer prayers.

The Class met in the Church Fellowship Hall Thursday, November 13 and enjoyed a covered dish dinner, complete with fried oysters, crab cakes, vegetables and pecan pie. During the business meeting plans for December were made.

Christmas gifts totaling more than \$1,300 will be given to the following: Hands Across Mathews, Mathews Ruritan Club Christmas Blessing Fuel Assistance Program, Subway Gift Cards for School Children /via Nelda Gibbs, Social Services Food Pantry, Mathews Vol. Fire Dept., Mathews Vol. Rescue Squad, child love gift, adult love gift, and the Bible club at Thomas Hunter Middle School and at Mathews High School. In addition, we have made a \$200 contribution to the church budget literature fund for our S.S. supplies as well as \$200 for our class card expenses.

Next month our annual "Christmas Outing" will be at the Sandpiper Reef on Thursday, December 11 at 5:30 pm.

On December 21, during our Sunday School hour, we will gather in the Church Fellowship Hall to make fruit and gift baskets for our "Shut-ins". We welcome anyone who would like to help us or contribute to this project of love.

We welcome new class members Gerald and Frosty Taylor, Dave and Grace Mortimer, Bob Tabor, Betsy Duff, and Mary Wade Smith. We would love to have any of you join us as well.

May the blessings of this Christmas Season be with you always.

*Phyllis Hudgins*, President

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### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Raymond Mountford	5	Pat Moughon	15
Shirley Snow	5	Jill Moughon	18
Carl Bochau	6	Anne South	18
Jerry Jagger	8	Reginia Cray	22
Lynn Gillikin	10	Evelyn Mountford	24
Richie Hogge	10	ReNeé Planitz	25
Betty Stewart	11	David Mortimer	27

### DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Gerald & Frosty Taylor 20

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### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Richard Sadler	4	Gene Gomez	16
Emily Leap	6	Audrey Knight	25
Durward Anderson	7	Ann Miles	27
Billy Snow	13	Brenda Rice	30

### JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Raymond & Evelyn Mountford 20

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

Carol Ann Byrns	Gladys Owens
Pat Chadwell	Clara White
Dr. Muffelman's mother	Christina Owens
Evelyn Register	David Reinholdt
Charlotte Ransone	Wayne Ripley
Andrew Olson	Betty Zane White
Jonathan Hudgins	



### Central Thanksgiving Dinner, November 9



Many Hands Preparing for the Meal



Photos by Judy Moughon

### Community Thanksgiving Dinner & Service, November 25

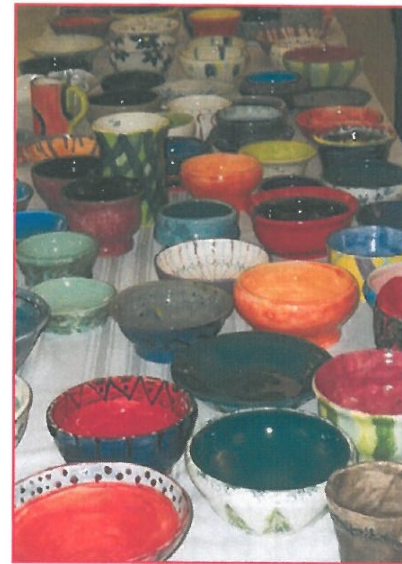


Rev. Dan Wood, pastor of Westville Baptist Church, gave the message at the service following the dinner.

Photo by S. Gibson

## Empty Bowls

At the Bay School Community Arts Center  
Sunday, Dec 7 11am-3pm  
To benefit Hands Across Mathews



### Welcome to The Empty Bowls Project Helping to feed people in need

Empty Bowls is an international grassroots effort to fight hunger and was created by The Imagine Render Group. The basic premise is simple: Potters and other craftspeople, educators and others work with the community to create hand-crafted bowls. Guests are invited to a simple meal of soup and bread. In exchange for a cash donation, guests are asked to keep a bowl as a reminder of all the empty bowls in the world. The money raised is donated to an organization working to end hunger and food insecurity.

Join us at the Bay School December 7!  
Tickets are \$15 and will be available at the  
Holiday Open House, Thanksgiving Weekend



This Christmas, honor or remember someone with a poinsettia on the altar. Please complete the form found in the Sunday bulletin, put it in the envelope located in the Narthex and place it in the offering plate with your payment of \$5 (make checks payable to Central UMC).  
**Deadline: Noon on Sunday, December 7**

## 2014 Christmas Offering

This year's Christmas Offering will go to the same three charities it helped last year. The Administrative Council voted at the November meeting to allocate 50% to United Methodist Family Services (UMFS), 25% to Hands Across Mathews (HAM) and 25% to the Ruritan Christmas Blessing Fund.

### United Methodist Family Services

For 114 years UMFS has been helping children and families in Virginia reach their full potential. Through the treatment foster care program, foster parents and children find one another and often go on to become adoptive families. Through the residential treatment programs at the Child & Family Healing Center and Leland House, girls and boys overcome trauma and heal. Through Charterhouse School, students with special needs and autism find help and success. And through Project LIFE, teens aging out of foster care in Virginia find new skills and a voice. Through all of these services children and families are empowered.

### Hands Across Mathews

HAM helps local families who have suffered some crisis that puts them in need of the basic amenities of food, clothing, shelter, prescription medications or fuel. When all other avenues of support have been exhausted, HAM helps them get back on their feet. We have combined the efforts of 35 churches to provide non-denominational charitable aid to families, which have been evaluated and approved by the Mathews County Social Services Department.

### Ruritan Christmas Blessing Fund

Over the years, many people have come to depend on the Christmas Blessing Fund as one source in making ends meet through the winter months. Donations in past years generally exceed the goal of \$25,000 and over 100 families have received much needed financial assistance with their heating expenses.

## Church Office Email



Please change the email address you are using to contact Leigh Lewis concerning **church business** to :  
[office@centralumcmathews.org](mailto:office@centralumcmathews.org)

Continue using her personal address for any other correspondence. Thank you.

### *Christmas Angel Tree*

Sponsored by the  
Nancy Wroten Memorial Class

Help 2 Mathews Families with their holiday wishes and needs.

The tree is located in the fellowship hall. If you would like to participate, take an angel from the tree, purchase the requested item and return the unwrapped gift by **Sunday, Dec. 14** with the angel attached. **Please sign the sheet for each angel you take.**



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

## Church Directory Update




The church directory is being updated. If you have contact information that differs from what is in the directory, please put it in the Church Secretary folder in the hallway outside of the fellowship hall or send it to [office@centralumcmathews.org](mailto:office@centralumcmathews.org).








The deadline is Sunday, January 25, 2015. The new information is targeted for distribution in February 2015.



# December 2014

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Trustees TBD	1 Prayer Time 8:00 am	2	3	4 Children's Choir Practice 6:30 pm  Adult Choir Practice 7:15 pm	5 Brownies 2:45 - 4:15 pm	6
7 Central Village Homemakers Christmas Sing-A-Long 3:00 pm  	8 Prayer Time 8:00 am  UM Women Caroling 3:30 pm  	9	10 Finance 7:00 pm	11 P. Townsend Class Outing 5:30 pm  Children's Choir Practice 6:30 pm  Adult Choir Practice 7:15 pm	12 Brownies 2:45 - 4:15 pm	13
14 The Innkeeper's Wife Christmas Program 6:30 pm  	15 Prayer Time 8:00 am  Creation Care 9:00 am  SPRC 7:00 pm	16	17 Mission & Evangelism 10:00 am  Administrative Council 7:00 pm	18 Children's Choir Practice 6:45 pm  Adult Choir Practice 7:15 pm	<p>All meeting times &amp; dates are subject to change. If in doubt, contact the committee chair.</p>	
21	22 Prayer Time 8:00 am	23	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Service 5:00 pm  	25 Christmas Day	26	27
28    <div style="border: 1px solid green; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Casual Christmas Sunday</i></p> <p>Sunday School 9:00 am    Worship Service 10:00 am</p> </div>	29 Prayer Time 8:00 am	30	31 New Year's Eve Service at Mathews High School 11:00 pm - 1:00 am  	 <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red; font-family: cursive;">Merry Christmas</p>		

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
 <h1>January 2015</h1>			Trustees TBD	1 New Year's Day 	2	3
4	5 Prayer Time 8:00 am	6	7	8 Paul Townsend Class 6:00 pm Children's Choir Practice 6:45 pm Adult Choir Practice 7:15 pm	9	10
<div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid black;"> <p>All meeting times &amp; dates are subject to change. If in doubt, contact the committee chair.</p> </div>						
11	12 Prayer Time 8:00 am UM Women 7:00 pm	13	14 Finance 7:00 pm	15 Children's Choir Practice 6:45 pm Adult Choir Practice 7:15 pm	16	17 UM Men Breakfast 8:00 am 
18 <i>Central Chimes</i> <i>Articles Due</i> <i>Songs, Soups,</i> <i>Salads and</i> <i>Sweets</i> 5:00 pm (songs) 6:00 pm (eat) 	19 Prayer Time 8:00 am Creation Care 9:00 am SPRC 7:00 pm	20	21 Mission & Evangelism 10:00 am	22 Children's Choir Practice 6:45 pm Adult Choir Practice 7:15 pm	23	24
25	26 Prayer Time 8:00 am	27	28 Administrative Council 7:00 pm	29 Children's Choir Practice 6:45 pm Adult Choir Practice 7:15 pm	30 	31