



THE CENTRAL CHIMES

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December 2015 - January 2016



From the Pastor's Pen

"Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God." (Isaiah 40:1)

With Christmas arriving so much earlier everywhere, it is easy to overlook the blessing of Advent. It is yet a season rich with meaning, capturing for us a spirit of hope and longing, the kind that precedes a truly marvelous gift.

The Advent message is especially poignant when we see what is happening around the world. Violence rages in many places; communities and people everywhere need hope, healing and comfort. But when we look carefully, in Christmas we will see a hope for the suffering world, a true light that shines in darkness. It is a marvelous gift, and we would not want to miss out on that time of hopeful expectancy. Even in the midst of the earth's turmoil, watch for that big and bright star to appear in the sky.

One hymn that captures the spirit of Advent is a 16th century French carol, *Venez, Divin Messie*.

O come, Divine Messiah
The world in silence waits the day
When hope shall sing its triumph
And sadness flee away

Dear Savior, haste! Come, come to earth
Dispel the night and show your face
And bid us hail the dawn of grace
O come, Divine Messiah
The world in silence waits the day
When hope shall sing its triumph
And sadness flee away

O come, Desire of Nations
Whom priest and prophet long foretold
Will break the captive fetters
Redeem the long-lost fold

O come in peace and meekness
For lowly will your cradle be
Though clothed in human weakness
We shall your Godhead see

Author: Fr. Simon-Joseph Pellegrin (1663-1745)
Translator: Sister Mary of St. Philip (1877)

I hope that these wonderful seasons will be a spiritual time for us all; and may they be times of renewed hope and joy.

Gratefully, *John*

Children & Youth Ministry

As 2015 is coming to a close, the children of the One Room Sunday School Class express their wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Our plans for December include participating in the *Shoe Box* ministry, the *Angel Tree*, greeter and usher responsibilities at the late worship services. Also, singing in our choir presentations and performing a short play during Children's Time on Sunday, December 13. The play's theme is: *Why would God choose the shepherds to announce Jesus' birth?*

2015 has been a growing year. We have new participants, we extended the choir into two groups, we appreciate a full year of service from Judi Dubey in the nursery and Nancy Jagger and I have seen the children grow not only in stature but in spirit. We have a new growth banner in our upstairs classroom. A big thank you goes to Judy Moughon for the wooden clothespins utilized to complete our banner.

The children, in connection with the *Creation Care Team*, made bottle terrariums that will soon need to be transplanted to open pots.

Many thanks to Central UM Men for the much needed, new tables and chairs for our upstairs classroom.

Looking back on 2015, the children participated in the *Souper Bowl of Caring*, they joined the community churches in participating in the *FINS* program, joined with Salem UMC in Vacation Bible School, continued to collect for *No More Malaria*, continued their support of Kettlie Jean in Haiti and Blaines in Columbia, South America (see page 7), and offered their services to our worship program.

Our sincere gratitude is extended to Katherine Small and Janet Gomez for choir leadership,

Nancy Jagger and Judi Dubey for leadership in the nursery, to parents and grandparents of the children for their encouragement of the children's participation, for the support of our congregation and to Pastor John Choi. It surely takes a village to raise a child in Christ's church as well as in the home.

Pat Gwaltney,
Chairperson

Bridey Dubey	Sarah Moughon
Danny Hogge	Joice Small
Richie Hogge	Kate Small
Emily Lewis	Soles Small
Gabrielle Lewis	Brianna Taylor
Emily Moughon	Leah Taylor
Daniel Moughon	



The Youth and Children's Choirs sang at the November 15 late worship service.



Photos by Judy Moughon

Hospitality



For the month of December, we are asking those who enjoy the refreshments following the 8:30 service, to share your

Christmas baking. There will be a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall for providing refreshments beginning in January. We all enjoy the food, so let's all take a Sunday.

This past year, in addition to the Ushers/ Greeters and Communion Assistants for the 11:00 service, volunteers also served at the 8:30 service. I have spoken with Pastor John, and he would like to continue doing this. As in the past, we ask you to commit for one month and all 5th Sunday services are filled from the 11:00 greeters. Sign-up sheets for Ushers/Greeters for both services will be made available so Hospitality will be ready for the new year.

Following the precedent of recognizing those celebrating their 80th birthday and every year following, a card and gift or donation has been sent, coming directly out of the Hospitality budget. This past year, we had 29 recipients. Beginning in January, only those celebrating their 80th birthday will be recognized by the Hospitality Committee. When the UMW host their birthday luncheon, special recognition will be given to those over 80. Additionally, the *Central Chimes* list the birthdays each month, so our congregation can send birthday wishes. This change was brought before the Administrative Council and met with unanimous approval. Many thanks to Louise Witherspoon, who sent all cards from *Your Church Family of Central United Methodist Church*.

I have enjoyed serving this past year and most especially working with Jean Sutton. It has been my goal to have every event hosted by your Hospitality Committee serve as a positive reflection of our church. Many thanks to everyone who has made this

possible. Also, thank you David Hudgins for keeping the pantry stocked with the necessary supplies and for taking the trash after every event.

Please offer your support to the new chairman when selected!

Thank you,
Emily Leap,
Hospitality Chairperson

Creation Care



What To Do With All That Holiday Packing Styrofoam?

Please don't throw it in the trash!

Styrofoam and other plastics make up 30% of landfill volume in the U.S. Those peanuts can persist in the environment for more than 500 years because polystyrene is not biodegradable. It also makes its way into our Bay and is ingested by fish and other wildlife.

Instead, take them to your local UPS store or *Crawford Moving and Storage* in Mathews. Drop them off Monday - Tuesday or Thursday - Friday 9:00 am - 4:30 pm. You can help support a local family- run business and keep Styrofoam peanuts out of the landfill.



Have bubble wrap? Take to *Crawford's* or *The Potpourri Shoppe* run by *Mathews Animal Care Society* located on Main

Street. They need bubble wrap to pack the nice items that they sell to provide care for animals. You can help the environment and help needy animals with your donation. *The Potpourri Shoppe* is open Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

The Creation Care Team

Paul Townsend Memorial Class

17 class members met in the Fellowship Hall Thursday, November 12 for coffee and dessert. We made plans for the Christmas baskets we'll deliver to our homebound members. A short business meeting was held.

Our Christmas meeting will be at *Nick's* in Shacklefords on Thursday, December 10.

We meet every Sunday at 10:00 am. All are welcome.

David Hudgins,
Class President

Finance

As of the end of October, General Offerings which are non-designated and non-restricted total \$127,584 which is about 5% ahead of the previous three year average and is about \$4,000 ahead of 2014. This is encouraging. However, General Budget Expenses total \$132,620, so we continue to run a deficit. The deficit this year reached a high of \$7,000 in April and has trended down in October to near \$5,000.

We mounted a "special offering deficit reduction" campaign in November and early signs are promising. It is important to remember that all gifts, no matter how large or how small, are important and help Central to do God's work.

Nate Houser,
Finance Chair

United Methodist Women

The Central UMW will meet at 4:00 pm on Tuesday, December 14 to make Christmas gifts for our homebound members. We will then go caroling and deliver the gifts. Everyone is welcome to join us. You need not be a great singer to spread some Christmas cheer. We look forward to seeing you.



pixabay.com

Grace Mortimer,
CUMW Recording Secretary

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 3 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. 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. Fill with a variety of all **new** items. Wrap in Christmas paper. Pray for the child who will receive the box.

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*

Covenant Bible Study, Segment 2 Coming Up

Twenty-two participants are wrapping up the first leg (8 weeks) of *Covenant Bible Study* (24 weeks total) in the first week of December. We have had a good start! The daily readings along with conversations among the participants have proved encouraging and challenging. It has been insightful, for example, to view our own spiritual journeys against the stories of the Patriarchs and their faith journeys, or of Israel and their life in the wilderness. One finds a consistent theme emerge around the faithfulness of God and what our response should be.

The second 8-week module of *Covenant Bible Study*, "Living the Covenant," will begin on January 5 (Tue.) / 6 (Wed.). We have limited room for those who wish to join as new participants. Be sure to email or speak to me (John, pastor@centralumcmathews.org) if you have any questions.



Christmas Angel Tree

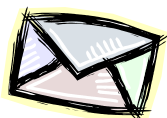
Sponsored by the
Nancy Wroten Memorial Class

Help 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. 13** with the angel attached. **Please sign the sheet for each angel you take.**

Our Central Church Family helping Mathews Families in need.

Image Source: pixabay.com



2016 Offering Envelopes are ready for pick-up. They are on the back pew in the Sanctuary.

Trustees Report

Duff Doors - Project Status

The door project is well under way. Almost all materials have been purchased (wood, door locks, hinges, etc.), all panels have been made and the doors are about ready to assemble, stain and finish. The frame for the stained glass window to be installed above the doors is completed and Art Miller will be installing a glass he designed in keeping with out current sanctuary windows. The doors and all the trim around them will be a dark mahogany with brass hardware. We currently anticipate installation to occur in December and there will be some inconveniences to our sanctuary as temporary doors will be installed for about three days in preparation for the final product. We are excited to be bringing this project to completion and we have Paul Vanden Bout (woodwork & finishing), David Petway (carpentry and hanging the doors) and Art Miller (stained glass) to thank for their skills and dedicated efforts. Also, we have the wonderful church members that gave their hard earned money to make this possible.

New Sanctuary Carpet

The Church account has almost \$3,000 designated for the *Carpet Fund*. We have estimates to replace the carpet in the sanctuary and \$3,000 is about enough to get that done. However, we want to wait until the Duff Door project completes as there will be modifications to the door portals that will affect the carpet. Additionally, we want to dovetail two additional efforts with the carpet project - namely, level the pulpit stage (it has about a 6 degree angle) and rewire the audio components so the podium can be easily moved to enhance flexibility. Members can expect this project to occur in the first quarter of 2016.

*In His Service,
Central Trustees*



**Fridays IN
the Spirit**

Mathews Chapel UMC
Friday, January 15
6:30 - 9:00 pm

Ages: K-12th Grade

FINS nights
include dinner,
bible activities,
games and
FUN, FUN, FUN!!

December Birthdays

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

December Anniversaries

Gerald & Frosty Taylor 20

January Birthdays

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

January Anniversaries

Raymond & Evelyn Mountford 20

Our Deepest Sympathy and Prayers go to the...

Family of Charles Milton Pugh
Family of Georgie Preston
Family of Brenda Clements
Family of Sam Rowe, Jr.
Family of Judy Flores
Family of Jordan Stewart

Christmas Offering & Year-End Giving

This year's Christmas Offering will go to
United Methodist Family Services &
The Ruritan Christmas Blessing Fund.
Christmas offering envelopes are in the pew racks.

**The last day to make a contribution in 2015 is
Sunday, December 27.**

Thank you for your faithful stewardship.

Church Pianist / Organist Needed

Central is seeking a pianist and/or organist for our 11:00 am Sunday worship service and weekly rehearsals, to direct and accompany our adult choir and provide accompaniment for our youth and children's choirs. This part time (6 hours or less per week) position will be available January 1, 2016. Salary will be determined during interview. All persons interested should contact Pastor John or Greg Lewis, Chair SP/PRC as soon as possible.

Thank You

I want to express my gratitude for your special and increased giving during the month of November. Your gifts will put this church's ministries on a better ground for the next year. Above all, I trust that it has been an experience of love for you, no matter what the size of the gift. In my view, that matters with God.

Allow me also to say a word of thanks for those who served in the various leadership role this year. You have organized events, chaired meetings, came to the Admin Council, called people, communicated through The Chimes, and prayed for the church. For Emily Leap (Hospitality) and Greg Lewis (SPRC), who are wrapping up their term of leadership, for Ben Leigh (SPRC chair) and Janet Burgess (Disaster Response Coordinator) who are taking on new roles, and for all others who faithfully continue in the ministries, I give thanks. And last but not least, many thanks to Janet Gomez for her service as our music director. We have



been blessed by God through her gift of music, her friendship, her message for the children, and our shared journey in serving Christ. God's blessing upon her as she and Gene venture into the next chapter in their lives.

"The best of all is, God is with us." (John Wesley, his very last words.) *John Choi*

Central Thanksgiving Dinner, November 8



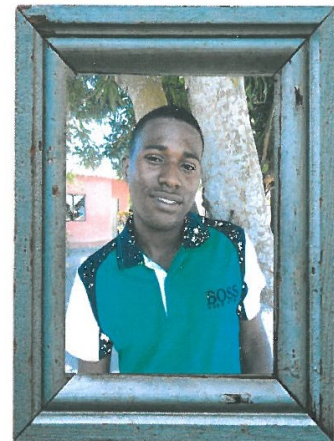
Photos by Louise Witherspoon

*Three Rivers Healthy Families
Thanksgiving, November 20*

The guest speaker was Rev. John Hatcher from the Wesley Community Service Center in Portsmouth, VA.



Photos by John Choi



PRESENTING
Blaines
CI PROGRAM GRADUATE

Thanks to you, he is ready to follow his dreams. Blaines couldn't have done it without your generous commitment.

*Thank
you!*

Thank you for being a part of his team!



Christmas Comfort
A Service of Healing & Hope
Sunday, December 20, 7:00 pm
Salem UMC

A Christmas service especially for those for whom the holidays bring out the absence of someone they love.

All are welcome.



Image Source: www.webweaver.ny/

Christmas Eve
Candlelight &
Communion Service
5:00 pm



Songs, Soups,
Salads and Sweets

Sunday, January 31, 2016

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

Empty Bowls

At the Bay School Community Arts Center
Sunday, Dec 6 11am-2pm
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 6!
Tickets are \$15 and will be available at the
Holiday Open House on 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 pew rack and place it in the offering plate with your payment of \$6 (make checks payable to Central UMC).

Deadline: Noon on Sunday, December 6

December 2015



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 Covenant Bible Study B 7:00 pm	2 Central Village Homemakers 9:00 am - 1:00 pm Covenant Bible Study A 10:00 am	3 Children's Choir 6:30 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm	4	5
6 Deadline to order Poinsettias Central Village Homemakers Christmas Sing-A-Long 3:00 pm 	7 Prayer Time 8:00 am	8	9 Finance 7:00 pm	10 Children's Choir 6:30 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm	11 <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: yellow; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">All meeting times & dates are subject to change. If in doubt, contact the committee chair.</div>	
13	14 Prayer Time 8:00 am UM Women Caroling 4:00 pm SPRC 7:00 pm 	15	16 Mission & Evangelism 10:00 am	17 Children's Choir 6:30 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm	18	19
20 Christmas Comfort Service Salem UMC 7:00 pm	21 Prayer Time 8:00 am	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Service 5:00 pm 	25 Christmas Day 	26
27	28 Prayer Time 8:00 am	29	30	31 New Year's Eve 		







Greeters/Ushers for December

8:30 am service | Patti & Hal Hertzler
11:00 am service | Pat Gwaltney & Central Youth

Refreshments Providers for December

Share Your Christmas Baking

Image Sources: pixabay.com - bird in cap; carolers cliparthut.com - candle; bell webweaver.nu - bird garland; nativity; paper lanterns

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
 <p>January 2016</p> 					1 New Year's Day 	2
3 Epiphany Sunday 	4 Prayer Time 8:00 am UM Women 7:00 pm	5 Covenant Bible Study B 7:00 pm	6 Central Village Homemakers 9:00 am - 1:00 pm Covenant Bible Study A 10:00 am	7 Children's Choir 6:30 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm	8	9
10	11 Prayer Time 8:00 am UM Women 7:00 pm	12 Covenant Bible Study B 7:00 pm	13 Covenant Bible Study A 10:00 am Finance 7:00 pm	14 P. Townsend Class Dinner & Meeting 6:00 pm Children's Choir 6:30 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm	15 FINS Mathews Chapel UMC 6:30 -9:00 pm	16 UM Men Breakfast 8:00 am
<div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;"> All meeting times & dates are subject to change. If in doubt, contact the committee chair. </div>						
17 Central Chimes Articles Due	18 Prayer Time 8:00 am Creation Care (at the Cannon's) 9:00 am SPRC 7:00 pm	19 Covenant Bible Study B 7:00 pm	20 Mission & Evangelism 9:00 am Covenant Bible Study A 10:00 am	21 Children's Choir 6:30 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm	22 	23
24	25 Prayer Time 8:00 am Trustees 7:00 pm	26 Covenant Bible Study B 7:00 pm	27 Covenant Bible Study A 10:00 am Administrative Council 7:00 pm	28 Children's Choir 6:30 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm	29	30
31 January 31 5th Sunday Joint Service 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 2:15 pm Song Service at Riverside Convalescent Ctr			Songs, Soups, Salads and Sweets 5:00 pm (songs) 6:00 pm (eat)			
<small>Image Sources: pixabay.com - parade; stick figure clipartbest.com - wise men webweaver.nu - snowflakes; snowman</small>						