



THE CENTRAL CHIMES

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

February 2016



**Ash
Wednesday
Service
February 10
7:00 pm**

From the Pastor's Pen

When the last issue of *The Chimes* went out, the final figures were yet to come in from the special offerings in November. Eventually they exceeded all of our expectations, and some even called it a miracle. You gave sacrificially and by faith. Thank you for being fellow disciples of Christ who love the church. I pray that our gifts, as well as our hearts and lives, will continue to be part of God's working in the world.

The Powerball is all the rage these days, but the church does have treasures that are simply invaluable. Among them is this word of Jesus:

Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? (Mt. 6:25-26)

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Kingston Episcopal Parish
invites you to



Soup with Love

Five Wednesdays, beginning
Feb. 17 at Noon
370 Main Street, Mathews
Sponsored by the Kingston Parish Women

There will be a short service beginning at Noon led by Fr. Gary of Kingston Parish with homilies given by the following clergy:

- February 17 Meghan Roth Clayton, Salem UMC
- February 24 Thomas J. Bunting, Chaplain at Riverside Walter Reed Hospital
- March 2 Dede Parrish, Beulah/St. Paul's UMC
- March 9 William Lawson, New Point Friends
- March 16 John Choi, Central UMC



**Fridays IN
the Spirit**

Central UMC
Friday, February 19
6:30 - 9:00 pm

Ages: K-12th Grade

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

Continued from page 1

Add to that fellow pilgrims who are walking on the Way of Jesus with you, and we have something better than money can buy. Thanks be to God “who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world ...” (Eph. 1:3-4)

TOWARDS A MEANINGFUL LENT

Easter comes early this year on Mar. 27. There are various ways people observe Lent, but the aim is the same: To fully receive the gift of Easter. In Philippians 3:10-11 Paul writes:

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

I like how the Rev. Penny Ford put it:

Are you searching for something more? Tired of running in circles, but not really living life with direction, purpose or passion? It's pretty easy to get caught up in the drama of classes, relationships, family, and work. Our lives are filled with distractions that take us away from living a life with Christ. We try to fill the emptiness inside us with mindless TV, meaningless chatter, stimulants, alcohol, too many activities or other irrelevant stuff. We run away from life and from God.

Lent is a great time to “repent”—to return to God and re-focus our lives to be more in line with Jesus. It's a 40 day trial run in changing your lifestyle and letting God change your heart. (upperroom.org/lent101)

There are many suggestions as to how to ‘practice’ Lent. But an authentic journey of repentance begins with listening to the Holy Spirit—that inner voice of truth from God. Many of us know, when looking into our heart, what we need to do in order to draw near to God. If not, we should pray for discernment from the Spirit.

When Jesus met with the rich young ruler searching for eternal life, he said, “Sell your possessions and give them to the poor. Then come, follow me.” I do not believe that Jesus was giving a general instruction here on benevolence. Instead he saw through the young man's heart and diagnosed an undue love of money that was holding him back. He then gave a prescription tailor-made for him, inviting at the same time for him to take hold of the true riches in God. Likewise, whatever that might slow us down, or even hold us back, from loving God wholeheartedly, is the subject of our true repentance, the kind that leads to true life through the grace of Christ.

Repentance can take the form of laying down, but also of taking up. Remember John the Baptist said, “Bear fruits that are worthy of repentance.” “Forty days is a good amount of time to establish an affirmative habit.” One thing I'd like for you to pray about, is visiting a Sunday school during this year's Lent, if you are not a part of one. I have seen how being a part of a smaller community can make a big difference, and our classes will be more than glad to have you.

Grace and peace of Christ be with each of you!

Gratefully, *John*



Image Source:
www.clipartshoop.com/lent-2015-clipart-469531.html

Hospitality

Thank you for your participation in planning for the year. We still have vacancies as greeters and refreshment hosts/hostesses. If you have not had an opportunity to serve, please contact one of our team members. The type of and amount of refreshments are chosen by the host/hostess.

Our appreciation goes to Louise Witherspoon for her card ministry on behalf of the church family.

The Hospitality Team will contact the church family for assistance in providing refreshments for special receptions and funerals.

Blessings,
Jean Sutton, Patty Hertzler,
Marcia Fry and Sherry Hodges,
 Your Hospitality Team

Greeters/Ushers for February

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| 8:30 am service | Bobby & Phyllis Hudgins |
| 11:00 am service | Jerry & Nancy Jagger |

Refreshments Providers for February

| | | | |
|----|------------------------------|----|-----------------------|
| 7 | Jean Sutton & Patty Hertzler | 21 | Volunteer opportunity |
| 14 | Bobby & Phyllis Hudgins | 28 | Volunteer opportunity |

Children & Youth Ministry

WANTED

The children of Central UMC are experiencing growth in numbers and spiritual readiness. We are blessed to have Judi Dubey and Nancy Jagger as leaders for the Nursery and Toddler Class during Sunday school and worship. We are in need of a second leader for the One Room Sunday School Class, Ages 4 -12 years. I am asking for the congregation's prayers for this much needed volunteer. There is ample room for this reorganization. The children have expressed an excitement for this transition. We are now in our planning mode for 2016. Children's Ministry will receive with open hearts the individual that answers February 2016

the *Here I Am* call for service. God bless all our volunteers. Please contact, Richard Moughon, Sunday School Superintendent; Nancy Jagger or Pat Gwaltney with your desire to serve.

From *The Interpreter*, Aug. 2008, Rev. Terry McHugh, Associate Pastor, "One of our core values is that we love our children. We think they are very important. So we are always looking for openings, apertures, and different ways to invite them and their families to connect with Jesus Christ."

Thanks to all who made the food drive and money donation for the *Souper Bowl of Caring* a success.

We ask and hope to receive.

Pat Gwaltney,
 Chair



The children and youth presented *Why God Chose Shepherds*, a short Christmas play at the 11:00 service on December 13.



Photos provided by Katherine Small

Finance

Thank you, people of Central! For the first time in several years, we finished the year in positive territory in our general account. This was mainly because we had an increase of nearly 12% in general offerings compared to the previous 4 year average. Designated giving was also higher. We are in a much better financial position as we start 2016. The finance committee will be working to control costs and also develop options for income, including perhaps fund raisers such as a yard sale. We encourage you to give us your thoughts. Following are the ending 2015 YTD totals.

Nate Houser,
Finance Chair

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---------|--|
| General Offering | 167,117 | |
| General Expenses | 161,435 | |
| General Balance | 16,450 | Up 5,618 for year |
| Non-restricted Savings | 21,734 | No withdrawals in 2015 for first time in several years |
| Restricted Improvements Account | 16,065 | Withdrew \$500 in 2015; 9,881 deposited from endowment |
| Designated Funds Income | 22,181 | Includes Duff and South Memorials, Special Offerings, Benevolences |
| Designated Expenses | 16,655 | |
| Designated Balance | 16,014 | |



Ministry Opportunity

We are in need for volunteer offering counters. If you can make time to serve in this capacity, please speak to Marcia Fry or contact the church office. Counting is overseen by the financial secretary.

When: Sundays, Noon -12:50 pm
(11:00 -11:50 am on 5th Sunday)

Commitment: Sign-up for one Sunday or up to a month at a time

United Methodist Women

Central UMW met Monday, January 11, for the first meeting of 2016. It was our annual planning meeting. It was moved and approved that our meetings will be changed to 10:00 a.m. for the winter months. We hope that moving our meeting time will encourage more women to join us.

Our next meeting will be Monday, February 8 at 10:00 a.m. to make Valentine's Day treats for our homebound members and friends. All are invited for this opportunity to bring joy to others.

We will host a volunteer luncheon to recognize community volunteers on Monday, March 14. Please join us to honor these volunteers.

In June we will be taking lunch to the Mattaponi Healing Eagle Clinic. Join us to honor this important service.

Grace Mortimer,
CUMW Recording Secretary

Birthdays

| | | | |
|------------------|----|--------------------|----|
| Peggy Kava | 1 | Elizabeth Anderson | 16 |
| Susan Hill | 3 | Paul Kava | 17 |
| Bob Tabor | 8 | Bill Loving | 23 |
| Sherry Hodges | 9 | Mary Wade Smith | 25 |
| Ruth Ann Hutson | 12 | Melanie Zerbe | 25 |
| Kenneth Marshall | 13 | Frosty Taylor | 29 |

Anniversaries

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| Jean & Donnie Hall | 14 |
| Richard & Carey Hogge | 24 |

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

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Wendell Dale Morgan | Joshua Bullock |
| Delma Gray Belvin | Gilbert Gregory |
| Robert Stanley Ward | Margaret Ann Hudgins |

Paul Townsend Memorial Class

The class met on December 10, 2015 at Nick's Restaurant at Shackelfords, VA for a Christmas meal. There were 17 class members and 1 guest in attendance. Janet Burgess gave a devotion – *The Night Before Christmas, A Marine*. The night was wonderful fellowship.

The class meeting was held on January 14. 18 were present for the pot luck meal and meeting in the fellowship hall. 23 *Christmas Joy Baskets* were delivered to our homebound church family and friends, in December.



Photo provided by Phyllis Hudgins

Our 2016 projects begin with the Mother's Day tribute bulletin and gifts for this year's high school and college graduates.

All are welcome to join us each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. for Sunday School.

David Lee Hudgins,
Class President

Nancy Wroten Memorial Class



Photo provided by
Katherine Small

December 15 to wrap gifts and enjoy a spaghetti dinner. The gifts were delivered the next day to Mathews Social Services for distribution to the family.

The Nancy Wroten Memorial Class would like to thank everyone for their help in making this year's *Angel Tree* a success. Your generosity brought a Christmas blessing to a family of four young girls. Class members gathered in the fellowship hall on the evening of

Faith In The Now

Seeking New Members

Our class is a discussion centered group using lesson material involving current events/issues, seeking views on what Christian responses may be appropriate. The weekly curriculum, *The Wired Word*, is prepared by a Spirit-filled team seeking to spark discussion and to relate the messages contained in Scripture passages to current headlines. The lessons encourage group dialogue on how the verses covered each week apply to everyday life.

To see a sample lesson, go to <http://www.thewiredword.com/samples.aspx>

We meet each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in the small classroom off the main entry corridor. Please plan to visit, "try it you'll like it"!

Fond Farewell



February 2016

Several gathered for lunch to say goodbye to Mark and ReNeé Planitz a few days before they moved to Paducah, Kentucky. The move happened sooner than they expected when Mark was offered a job that began right away. Our church family offers them blessings and thanks for the years that Mark served as Financial Secretary.



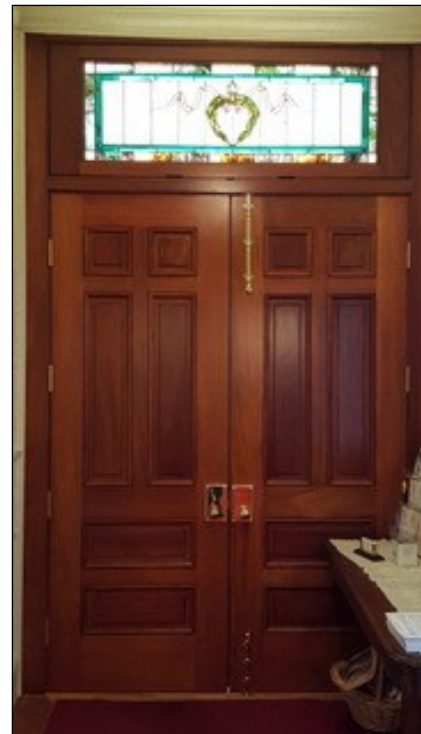
Photos provided by Becky Pittman

Trustees

Your Board of Trustees has worked steadily through the past year and would like to mention just a few completed tasks. Programmable thermostats were installed in the social hall and sanctuary as an energy saving measure. The parsonage received a good cleaning and numerous necessary repairs were made prior to the arrival of Pastor John. New vents were installed around the church foundation. Stained glass windows in the sanctuary were repaired. Several policies and procedures were reviewed in an effort to keep our church operating in a safe and sustainable manner. The beautiful new doors on the front of the church were designed and installed, thanks to your generous contributions in memory of Ron Duff.

Plans for the coming year include structural repairs to the pulpit floor, rewiring of the sanctuary sound system, and installation of new carpet throughout the sanctuary. Funds are available for this project and the work will begin soon. We will consider steps that may be taken to make the church more easily accessible. Plans are also underway to design and install etched glass window panels for the inner doors to the sanctuary.

Your input is always welcome and we would specifically like to hear from the congregation concerning replacement (or repair, if feasible) of the carillon chimes. Our best guess is that this project would cost around \$5,000, and will only go forward if we hear that you support it. Please contact any member of the Board of Trustees and let us know what you would like us to do. You may email chairman, Steve Leap at topfrog2@gmail.com or speak to any trustee. Trustees for 2016 are Steve Leap, Durwood Anderson, Bobby Hudgins, Karen Palmer, Pat Moughon, Brenda Rice, James Martin, Frosty Taylor and Ken Lee.



Photos provided by Becky Pittman

Door Dedication Service

Sunday, Feb. 21 at 10:45 am.

All are invited to a brief prayer service of dedication on the church's front porch.

2016 Central UMC Administrative Committees

Administrative Council

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Chair | Tom Tucker |
| Altar Team | Miriam Cromwell |
| Children and Youth Ministry | Pat Gwaltney |
| Church Historian | Judy Moughon |
| Creation Care, Chair | Michael Cannon |
| Delegate to Annual Conference | Nancy Jagger |
| Alt. Delegate | Marilyn Tucker |
| Disaster Relief Coordinator | Janet Burgess |
| District Steward | Ben Leigh |
| Evangelism and Mission, Chair | Joe Cromwell |
| Finance, Chair | Nate Houser |
| Financial Secretary | Marcia Fry |
| Asst. Financial Secretary | Diana More |
| Health and Welfare Team, Chair | Marilyn Tucker |
| Hospitality and Visitation, Chairs | Jean Sutton Patty Hertzler |
| Lay Leader | Nancy Jagger |
| Membership Secretary | Jean Hall |
| Recording Secretary (Church Council) | Shirley Snow |
| Recording Secretary (Charge Conf.) | Shirley Snow |
| Sunday School Superintendent | Richard Moughon |
| Treasurer | Becky Pittman |
| Asst. Treasurer | Carl Bochau |
| UMM President | James Martin |
| UMW President | Nancy Jagger |

Finance Committee

Nate Houser (Chair)
Steve Leap (Vice Chair)
Becky Pittman (Treasurer)
Carl Bochau (Asst. Treasurer)
Marcia Fry (Financial Secretary)
Tom Tucker (Admin. Council Chair)
John Choi (Pastor)
Tim Hill (SPRC Representative)
Bobby Hudgins (Trustees Representative)

Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development

Class of 2016: David Hudgins,
Mary Wade Smith

Class of 2017: Betsy Duff,
Pat Gwaltney

Class of 2018: Karen Palmer,
Betty Stewart

Nancy Jagger (Lay Leader),
John Choi (Pastor)

Trustees

Class of 2016: Steve Leap (Chair), James Martin, Karen Palmer, Durward Anderson

Class of 2017: Pat Moughon, Brenda Rice, Frosty Taylor

Class of 2018: Bobby Hudgins, Ken Lee






Staff-Parish Relations Committee

Class of 2016: Durward Anderson, Dee Bane, Ben Leigh (Chair)

Class of 2017: Carl Bochau, Marcia Fry, Jean Hall

Class of 2018: Steve Eley, Dick Flegenheimer, Tim Hill

Nancy Jagger (Lay Leader), John Choi (Pastor)

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
|  | 1 Prayer Time 8:00 am | 2 Covenant Bible Study B 7:00 pm | 3 Central Village Homemakers 9:00 am - 1:00 pm Covenant Bible Study A 10:00 am | 4 Children's Choir 6:30 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm | 5 | 6 | |
| 7 Souper Bowl Sunday (Non- perishable food items and monetary donations for Hands Across Mathews) | 8 Prayer Time 8:00 am UM Women 10:00 am | 9 Covenant Bible Study B 7:00 pm | 10 Covenant Bible Study A 10:00 am Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 pm  | 11 P. Townsend Class Dinner & Meeting 6:00 pm Children's Choir 6:30 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm | <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> | | |
| 14 Central Chimes Articles Due Valentine's Day  | 15 President's Day Prayer Time 8:00 am Creation Care (at the Cannon's) 9:00 am | 16 Covenant Bible Study B 7:00 pm | 17 Mission & Evangelism 9:00 am Covenant Bible Study A 10:00 am Soup With Love Kingston Parish Noon | 18 Children's Choir 6:30 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm | 19 FINS Central UMC 6:30 - 9:00 pm  | 20 UM Men Breakfast 8:00 am Reserved for Baby Shower 12:30 - 6:00 pm | |
| 21 Prayer Service of Dedication of the Doors 10:45 am on church's front porch | 22 Prayer Time 8:00 am Trustees 7:30 pm | 23 Covenant Bible Study B 7:00 pm | 24 Covenant Bible Study A 10:00 am Soup With Love Kingston Parish Noon | 25 Children's Choir 6:30 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm | 26 | 27  | |
| 28 | 29 Prayer Time 8:00 am | <h2 style="color: blue;">February 2016</h2> | | | | | |