



THE CENTRAL CHIMES

P.O. Box 297 ♦ 121 Church Street ♦ Mathews, VA 23109
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Pastor John Choi ♦ Pastor's E-mail: johnchoi@vaumc.org

February 2019

Mathews County Blood Drive

Piankatank Ruritan Club
Hudgins, VA

Sponsored by
Central UM Men



Tuesday, February 5
1:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Spiritual Formation Class:

You are invited to a six-week class on the life of the Apostle Peter beginning in the week of Feb. 24. Peter is an everyman who answered the call of God, and his story is sure to inspire much reflection. The weekly meetings will include video presentations by the author and opportunities to share questions and thoughts. Please speak to Pastor John (johnchoi@vaumc.org) for any questions.

Meetings: Tuesday, 7 p.m. or
Wednesday, 10 a.m.

Resource: "Simon Peter:
Flawed but Faithful
Disciple" by Adam
Hamilton (author of
"Moses"), \$15.



From the Pastor's Pen

The Narrow Gate

We recently wrapped up a Bible study on the Letter to the Romans. It was an engaging time of learning, and several have commented how they have particularly savored it. For me, it was a reminder that biblical knowledge is an important part of spiritual living. Spiritual life does not happen by accident, nor is it gained just by mere efforts. One has to know what it is and where it comes from. While some find Romans difficult to read, it is a textbook for those seeking life in the Spirit.

Spiritual life is not for an enlightened few. Anyone—even children—who have faith in God have spiritual life. The difficulty often lies in keeping it pure. Instead of living by childlike faith in God, we humans tend to opt for our own ways. Those include such stumbling blocks as pride and selfishness; our human experiences; and vague principles that parade as spiritual but are not really the Word of God.

Remember how Jesus called Peter, a fisherman: He had fished all night and caught nothing, but he lowered the net once more at Jesus' word, and the boat almost sank because of the catch. In a sense, Peter illustrates the simple and yet radical path of faith that *all* of us are called to choose in order to find eternal life. Consider then the following exchange in Luke 13:

Someone asked Jesus, "Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?" He said to them, "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to."

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Ironically religious people are sometimes at a disadvantage for a life of simple but radical faith. Speaking to the religious leaders, Jesus continued:


Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, 'Sir, open the door for us.' But he will answer, 'I don't know you or where you come from.' Then you will say, 'We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.' But he will reply, 'I don't know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!' There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out. People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last.

I believe that spiritual living is what we are meant to seek and enjoy, since it is life that is truly life. Our times of worship and fellowship, for instance, are deeply spiritual moments that give us life. They proclaim the Word of God, and they sustain our faith. They spring from one fountain, the fountain of Jesus Christ the crucified and risen.

It may be a narrow gate and road to pursue it, but life in the Spirit will bring rich rewards in the end. We will together pursue it here as church!

Gratefully,

John



Scholarship Offerings

Give the gift of education!

Offerings will be received for Central United Methodist Scholarships awarded to students in post secondary education.

Deadline: February 17 (Sun)

Songs, Soups, Salads & Sweets



On behalf of Central United Methodist Church and its Mission and Evangelism Team, we would like to thank all who made our 4S musical such a success. Thanks to those who gave their talents in song, contributed food and those who came and generously gave a free will donation.

Through your generosity, \$368 will be sent to *United Methodist Family Services*, which has been in existence since 1900, serving at risk children and families.



Pictured are Rev. Yosub Namgung, Thelma Rice and Minjung Kim from Bethel UMC, who sang at the 4S's.

Photo by Judy Moughon

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

Sharon Sutton
Harley Thacker
Robert Hurst

Delores Abrams
Walter Sampson



Administrative Council Chair

Thanks to everyone for the many things you did this past year for our Church, its people, and the community. As we look forward to 2019, may this be an even better year for our Lord's work at Central.

I'd like to welcome the new members to the Administrative Council. They are: Evangelism and Missions, Linda Dalgety; Trustees, Hal Hertzler; Staff Parish Relations, Tim Hill; UMW, Martha Arnold. The board and I look forward to working with you to accomplish great things this year. Please remember as a Chairman to turn in your monthly report before our Admin. Meetings. This gives us time to formulate and review the reports in advance, thus expedites the meeting itself.

One of the goals that we need to work toward this year is increasing attendance at Central. We have a wonderful Pastor, Music is improving, and also the convenience of two worship services, as well as several Sunday School classes. Why not invite a friend, a neighbor, or a guest to join you for Sunday worship. It could be a life changing event.

As always, we welcome your input or suggestions for improvement at Central. Just let one of our board members know your concerns and we will address it together.

God's Blessings to each of you,
Bobby Hudgins, Board Chairman

Greeters/Ushers for February

8:30 am service	Bobby & Phyllis Hudgins
11:00 am service	Mark & Brenda Lewis

Refreshments Providers for February

3	Cookie Sunday (Bring snacks to share)
10	Bobby & Phyllis Hudgins
17	Ed & Michael Cannon, Nate & Melba Houser
24	Nancy Jagger



Hospitality/Visitation Committee

Happy 2019 everyone! I'd like to begin by thanking all those wonderful people in our Church family who helped make 2018 such an enjoyable, caring and hospitable year for our membership and community. It takes a "family" with unselfish giving and working together to succeed. All the monthly Hospitality Hosts, the Sunday Host servers, the food, the cards, encouragement and many other acts of kindness were deeply appreciated.

Our first Hospitality Host for 2019 is January's Host, Emily Leap. She and Steve also were the host servers for the 9:30am Refreshment/Fellowship time on the 13th. Frosty Taylor, David Hudgins and Cindy Butterworth will host on the 20th and James and Dale Martin will be hosts on the 27th of January.



The month of February, Phyllis Hudgins will be H/H and should be called at 725-3751 if someone in our church family is ill, or in the hospital, or there is a death in the immediate family. This way we can better serve you.

Also a reminder that, again this year, we will have "Cookie or Snack" Sunday the first Sunday in each month. This practice was very well received and again, I thank each of you who participated!

Bobby and Phyllis will have refreshments on the 10th of February. Michael and Ed Cannon, Nate and Melba Houser will host refreshments on the 17th. Nancy Jagger and will finish out the month with refreshments on the 24th.

If you haven't signed up for a Sunday turn to serve, the refreshment calendar is on the wall in the Fellowship Hall for your convenience. Thank you in advance for your service.

Phyllis Hudgins, Chairman
Hospitality/Visitation Committee

Hospitality Host for February

Phyllis Hudgins - 804-725-3751

Creation Care

CENTRAL'S Creation Care team is preparing to work 3 days at the Thomas Hunter Middle School to introduce 6th graders into the joys of recycling. Our course met the skills list from the SOL'S goals so we are able to teach at the school using their equipment. Our team will be at the school on the 28th, 29 and 30th.



Because of China's new policy, some recycle centers are no longer able to really recycle and thus many items end up in the landfill.



We contacted VPPSA and have verified exactly what happens to Mathews' recyclables. All paper is hauled to local paper mills, most

located in Richmond where we earn revenue.



At our "dump" we have the single stream recycling system which allows customers and residents to throw plastic, glass and metal cans in one recycling container. From our center they go to a transfer station called County Waste located in West Point. They are then loaded on large transport trailers and hauled to the Materials Recovery Facility in Chester, VA where everything is separated out by material.

Michael Cannon,
Creation Care Chair



United Methodist Men

We finalized personnel assignments for the February Red Cross blood drive and will be distributing their fliers countywide. Additionally, we have commitments to provide the requested 36 dozen cookies (432 cookies).

The Brunswick Stew cook effort came off without a hitch and we have so far gotten only positive feedback. In fact, I have gotten comments that our stew is better than any they've eaten from other organizations in the county – WOW! Our expenses were approximately \$240 and we sold all 70 quarts yielding a little over \$600 (some contributed more than \$8). Certainly not equal to a shrimp dinner from a profit perspective but it's a start! The manpower effort is just a fraction of what is required for a shrimp dinner.

Next UMM meeting will be February 16th and we will discuss (among other things) our thoughts on the blood drive and also if we have heard enough feedback to make a second Brunswick Stew offering in late February a good opportunity for the UMM and the community.

Blessings,

Steve Leap
UMM President



Paul Townsend Memorial Class

The men of the Paul Townsend Memorial Class are having Valentine's dinner with the ladies of the class at the Pilot House Restaurant on Thursday, February 14th at 5:30 pm.

Tom Robinson, President



United Methodist Women

The new slate of CUMW officers are as follows: Martha Arnold, President; Grace Mortimer, Vice President; Dee Bane, Treasurer; Nancy Jagger, Secretary; Judy Moughon, Correspondence Secretary.

We met on January 14th to prepare our calendar for 2019. Our first activity will be to participate in both of February 17th services. We have also planned our annual Volunteer Luncheon for March 11th. Our volunteers will be contacted by our members and the Fire and Rescue squads will also receive invitations to attend. Please R.S.V.P. when you are contacted.

Other activities planned for 2019 will be preparing kits for Conference, taking lunch to the Healing Eagle Clinic, scheduling the Three Rivers Healthy Family annual picnic, scheduling the Bay Belles concert which includes the Ice Cream Social, the Birthday Luncheon, the Three Rivers Healthy families Thanksgiving Luncheon, and our Christmas gifts and Caroling for our Shut-ins.

Thank you for supporting our small but mighty group.

Martha Arnold
President UMW

Prayer Covenant Group



You are invited to join a small group of people who will covenant with one another for the discipline of prayer.

Monthly meetings will have time of sharing and learning.

Anyone interested please speak to the pastor, (johnchoi@vaumc.org).

2019 Special Session of the General Conference

Per umc.org: "The Council of Bishops has called a Special Session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church to be held February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri. The purpose will be to receive and act on a report from the Commission on a Way Forward based on the recommendations of the Council of Bishops. The 32-member Commission was authorized by General Conference 2016 and appointed by the Council of Bishops to examine paragraphs in The Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality and exploring options to strengthen the unity of the church."

The Commission's report lists options ranging from maintaining current language and polity to radically restructuring the denomination. Once again, the primary issues at hand are: 1) The Discipline's statement of "practice of homosexuality" as "incompatible with biblical teaching," 2) its prohibition on the ministers from conducting same-sex marriage, 3) and the barring of "self-avowed, practicing homosexuals" from ministerial certification or ordination.

I already feel as if I am injuring the spirit of the church just by clarifying the topics of this special conference. The Christians are by definition Spirit-led people, before they are law-governed people. "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death." (Rom. 8:1-2) However, we as the global church will once again have to legislate on these matters, and it will take a divine miracle for the church to be held together in spirit.

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It would be good for us to remind ourselves that, in the Kingdom of Heaven, there will be no dividing line between the traditionalists and the progressives. However, there will be separation between those who are spiritual, which we are by the grace of God, and those who belong to the flesh. It is now time for us to speak and act as those who are of the Spirit. The Scripture says:

Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another. (Gal. 5:19-26)

Let us do hold the special conference in our prayers, and let each of us examine ourselves so as to be led by the Spirit.

John Choi



Janet Joins an UMVIM Team

Janet Burgess will be on the Virginia United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) team serving in St. Croix from February, 23rd through March, 9th.

St. Croix was devastated by back-to-back Category 5 hurricanes, Irma and Maria, in September 2017. The team will serve in disaster recovery efforts in partnership with FEMA.

Rhythms of Grace at Abingdon Episcopal Church

We joyfully welcome children and adults of all abilities particularly those who have difficulty in a traditional church setting. Parents, siblings, grandparents, other family members, and friends all take part in the service.

The pattern of worship is traditional and predictable, so that everyone feels comfortable.

In the Parish House (building on the left).

Every 3rd Sunday of each month
at 1:00 pm.

4645 George Washington Memorial Hwy
White Marsh, VA
Phone: 804-693-3035



The Nancy Wroten Class sends many thanks to all those that helped make Christmas special for the Angel Tree families.



Financial Secretary

Appreciation is extended to those volunteers who have counted during the month of January. Volunteer counters are always welcomed. When a person volunteers to count, he or she is actually giving an extra 30-60 minutes to Central UMC each Sunday.

If you are willing to assist,
please call me at
(h) 725-5029 or (c) 815-2920.

Marcia Fry



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<h1 style="color: red;">February 2019</h1>					1	2
3 <b style="color: red;">Souper Bowl of Caring	4 Worship Team 11:00 am	5 Blood Drive Piankatank Ruritan Club 1:30 - 7:00 pm with Central UM Men <div style="text-align: center; color: red; font-size: 2em; margin-top: 10px;">+</div>	6 Central Village Homemakers 9:00 am - 1:00 pm	7 Choir 7:15 pm	8	9 UMW Officer Training at Wesley UMC (Hampton) 9:00 am
10	11 UM Women 10:00 am SPRC 7:00 pm	12	13 Prayer Covenant Group 9:00 am Finance 7:00 pm	14 <b style="color: red;">Valentine's Day Bay Quilters 9:00 am - 1:00 pm P. Townsend Valentine Dinner at Pilot House Restaurant 5:30 pm <div style="text-align: right; color: red; font-size: 1.5em; margin-top: 10px;">  </div>	15	16 UM Men 8:00 am
17 <b style="color: red;">Central Chimes Articles Due <b style="color: red;">UM Women Sunday	18 Trustees 7:00 pm	19	20 Mission & Evangelism 10:00 am	21 Choir 7:15 pm	22	23 Janet Burgess & Team leave for St. Croix Mission trip and return on March 9th.
24	25	26 Bible Study: Simon Peter 7:00 pm	27 Bible Study: Simon Peter 10:00 am Administrative Council 7:00pm	28 Choir 7:15 pm	<div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 5px; border: 1px solid black;"> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.9em;"> <i>All meeting times & dates are subject to change. If in doubt, contact the committee chair.</i> </p> </div>	

Birthdays

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

Anniversaries

Jean & Donnie Hall	14
Richard & Carey Hogge	24