



# THE CENTRAL CHIMES

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Pastor Rebecca Rumburg ♦ Pastor's E-mail: [rebeccarumburg@vaumc.org](mailto:rebeccarumburg@vaumc.org)

February 2024

## Pastor's Ponderings

I want to extend a personal invitation to you. February 14th (Valentine's Day) I invite you to join me here in the sanctuary at Central UMC at 5:00 p.m. We will gather for a time of worship as we begin the season of Lent together. We will be coming together to remember that from dust we have come and to dust we shall return.

I know it feels like we just celebrated Christmas and we actually did! Some years we quickly move from one holy season to the next seemingly overnight. Life is like that for many of us as well. Time seems to fly by faster than we are used to quite often.

We are, however, believers in and followers of Jesus Christ! Not a second passes that we are not under the cover of God's grace. Especially, as time goes by so quickly, it is important for us to pause and reflect. Ash Wednesday is one such time for us! We come together at different ages and stages of life and we pause together! We reflect on our own mortality! We remember that every moment is filled with purpose and we are invited to live intentionally and come together before God to remember. We are invited to join Jesus as he begins 40 days of wilderness wandering.

Some of us may already be in the wilderness and long for peace. May God grant us the grace to journey together. It won't always be easy and we may feel lost from time to time but it is worthwhile to come together to remember that Christ has gone before us and joins us in our journeys. Please join me for Ash Wednesday worship as we begin the 40 day journey into the holy season of Lent!

*Pastor Rebecca*

### Small Group Bible Study

A small group study will begin on "The Lord's Prayer" February 20th, 6:45 to 7:45 p.m.

at Central

Contact Rev. Rebecca for more information.

*Let's journey together!*



**Worship Service**  
**February 14**  
**5:00 pm**

### Songs, Soups, Salads, Sweets

Our annual music and fellowship event in support of mission is sponsored by the Mission and Evangelism Team.

**Sunday, February 18**

**Songs begin at 5:00 pm**

**Soups, Salads, Sweets to follow**

Donations of soups and desserts are appreciated.

Contact: Linda Dalgety

Freewill donations will be received for community mission projects.

*All are invited.*



## Mission Focus for February: International Rescue Committee (IRC)

*The Mission Focus of the month is adopted by the Administrative Council.*

The International Rescue Committee responds to the world's worst humanitarian crises. They help to restore health, safety, education, economic wellbeing and power to people devastated by conflict and disaster. And they are proud to fight for a world where women and girls have an equal chance to succeed. IRC works in more than 50 countries and 28 US cities to help people affected by humanitarian crises to survive, recover and rebuild their lives.

*This story is one example:* "When she became pregnant at 14, Isatu Bangura's family kicked her out of their home. Can you imagine how scared Isatu - a child herself - was, trying to make her way in the world without a roof over her head, a job to support her infant or help from her family? 'My baby was born while I was living on the street. So, I was really suffering,' she said. Isatu lives in Sierra Leone, where the 2014-2016 Ebola crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic have wreaked havoc on the lives of adolescent girls like her. Sky rocking rates of sexual and gender-based violence, pregnancy and forced marriage have threatened their lives, interrupted their educations and robbed them of their potential. Exploitation, misogyny and lack of equal opportunity can follow girls into adulthood. But I know you understand that with the right support, they can reclaim their futures and uplift their communities."

With IRC, Isatu is a graduate of EAGER, an IRC project for girls who never attended or dropped out of school. EAGER provides education and also provides participants with training in life skills like financial literacy and more.

If you would like to make a monetary contribution, please make you check payable to Central UMC and write, "IRC" on the memo line. Or you may use the envelopes in the pew on Sunday. [www.rescue.org](http://www.rescue.org)

*Linda Dalgety*  
M & E Chair



## UM Men Plan Brunswick Stew

The Central United Methodist Men met on Saturday, January 20. Bobby Hudgins and David Hudgins prepared a wonderful breakfast for the 18 members present.

Most of the discussion centered around our Brunswick Stew fundraiser. It will be held on the last Saturday of February (2/24), with Gerald Taylor once again heading up the project. The cost will be \$12 per quart with the profits going to service organizations such as Hands Across Mathews, Meals on Wheels, the Rescue Squad, and Fire Department, among others. Tickets will be on sale soon from any CUMM member. Look for more info in the Chimes, weekly newsletters, and bulletins as we get closer. We sell out just about every time, so be sure to get your tickets before it's too late.

We also reaffirmed our commitment to an Art/Yard sale this spring, but put it on the back burner until after the Brunswick Stew event. Check in with Joe Arnold if you have something to donate. We'll have more info as Spring approaches.

Our next meeting will be held February 17, in the Fellowship Hall at 8 am. We'll finalize our plans for the Brunswick Stew the following Saturday. Hope to see all you guys there!

*Chris Moughon*  
UMM President



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

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Christopher Putt  
Lillian Hudgins

## UM Women Elect New Officers

In the past year the organization that was recently renamed United Women in Faith has operated in a direction that is not compatible with the beliefs of our Church organization of Central United Methodist Women.

We have decided to transition away from Mission Rivers District United Women in Faith, the national United Women in Faith, and the global association of United Women in Faith to become an independent mission unit with a focus on our church and on our local community. We will continue to be called Central United Methodist Women and we will continue to support UMCOR, global missionaries, Three Rivers Healthy Families, and local missions in need. There will be little change to our agenda and in our operating procedures.

In 2023 our group of 15 members contributed \$1,639.00 to local charities including Hands Across Mathews and Social Services. We supported the monthly Mission Focus of Mission and Evangelism and we gave to UMCOR and to our Methodist missionaries.

We hope the congregation will continue to support our "small but mighty" group of Christian women who are devoted to serving our church and our community.

We have elected new officers for 2024 as follows:

Nancy Goldman, President

Jamie Hall, Vice President

Nancy Jagger, Secretary

Patty Hertzler, Treasurer

Please join me in welcoming our new officers and in wishing our group success in their new independent endeavor. Your continued support will be greatly appreciated.

*Martha Arnold*

Past President of CUMW



## Paige Family Update

### *A Spanish Tradition—January 7*

Yesterday was January 6th - Epiphany. It is the day the Western Church celebrates the arrival of the magi in Bethlehem to see Jesus.

In Spain, the Feast of the Epiphany or Three Kings' Day is a celebration of when the Three Wise Men traveled to present baby Jesus with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They're said to have ridden on a horse, a camel, and an elephant. Since the 19th century, Spanish towns and cities have been putting on calbagatas (parades) to mark the occasion. They usually include floats with effigies of the Three Wise Men or actual people who throw handfuls of candy to the crowds.

Spanish children often go to bed early after watching the parades to ensure they don't miss the Wise Men bearing gifts. They leave their best pair of shoes outside their doors to be filled with gifts. Just like with Santa Claus, Spanish children write letters to the Three Wise Men before the big day and leave out snacks and drinks for their camels. Naughty children might get sweet "coal" in their shoes instead of gifts.

This video was taken from our apartment window as the Kings marched down our street. It was fun to watch the excitement of the children as they followed them along the parade route. Please pray that we can continue to point our neighbors and friends toward the true source of excitement for the Kings' visit over 2,000 years ago - the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

*The Paige Family*

[Complete Article here](#)

Three Kings Parade Alcalá 2024



## Creation Care

Thankful to our 8 volunteers that are going to help present Central's Recycle Program to 66 5th graders at Thomas Hunter School on Jan. 29th, 30th, 31st. Teacher Cindy Machen's classes are always enthusiastic about participating. Cindy also always gives a shout out to Central Church for this "fun but important program. "



We also want to give a shout out to a business in Mathews that spends a lot of energy on recycling and get very little recognition for all that they do. It is FOOD LION. Here is only one, out of 4 ways that they make a difference in our community.

In the U.S., food waste accounts for 30-40 percent of the food supply. Good food that could feed families is often sent to landfills.

In 2000, Food Lion was the first grocery retailer in the U.S. to introduce a food rescue program with Feeding America. In each of their stores, they donated fresh fruits and vegetables, meat, dairy products and shelf-stable food to local food banks and feeding agencies to help millions of our neighbors who struggle with hunger. Since 2014, Food Lion has donated more than 750 million meals to our neighbors in need through their hunger relief program: Food Lion Feeds.



In our county, Food Lion gives weekly to Hands Across Mathews.

*Michael Cannon*, Creation Care Team

February 2024

Central United Methodist Men's

## Brunswick Stew Sale

Saturday, February 24th  
Noon - 2:00 pm

Central United Methodist Church  
Church Street in Mathews Court House



**DONATION**  
**\$12 per Quart**

Proceeds Support Local Church  
& Community Outreach!

**Reserve yours in advance by  
purchasing tickets from any member of the  
Central United Methodist Men or  
purchase at the door while available.  
Call 725-8673, 815-8674 or today!**



## Central Ladies January Birthday Lunch

The ladies of Central met at Richardson's Café on January 18th and had a wonderful time. (above, photo by Bev Childress)

Contact Susan Hill at  
[timandsusan.hill@gmail.com](mailto:timandsusan.hill@gmail.com) for more  
information and to join in the monthly  
birthday lunch. All are welcome!

Kingston Episcopal Parish  
invites you to



## Soup with Love

Five Wednesdays, beginning  
February 21 at Noon

370 Main Street, Mathews

Sponsored by the Kingston Parish Women

*We invite you to come for soup, bread,  
fellowship, prayer and a meditation for Lent:*

February 21:

Rev. Gary Barker

February 28:

Mary Ann Carr

March 6:

Kristie Askew, Grace-Providence UMC

March 13:

Marcus Stallworth, Mathews Chapel

March 20:

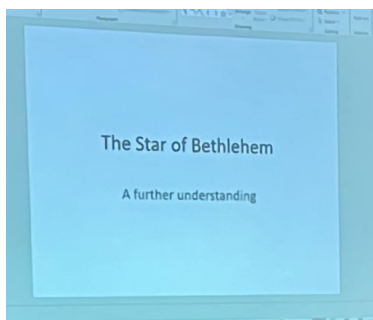
Rev. Gary Barker, Kingston Episcopal Parish

*Donations will benefit outreach initiatives  
for Mathews county.  
[www.kpepiscopal.org](http://www.kpepiscopal.org)*

## Star of Bethlehem

On January 7th, Eric Stewart, pictured  
below, presented, *The Star of Bethlehem*  
here at Central.

(photos by Bev Childress)



## From Administrative Council Chair

The devotion from the Virginia United Methodist Foundation Monday Morning Startup this week was entitled "People Need the Lord". I read the accompanying material and thought how overwhelmingly true the statement was. We all need the Lord because of the times we live in. The Lord is generous and offers his love and counsel and guidance if we only ask and listen. What a wondrous resource. How easy it is to ask and how sad and lonely we can be if we do not ask. What is the best way to do this? I guess there is no perfect way, but Jesus is always listening. He knows what you need before you ask him so go ahead – ask him.

And be aware that others need him too. You know who they are, you can see it in their faces, you can see it in the things they do. Help them to acknowledge that they need the Lord and pray for them too. As you go about your daily life remember that "People need the Lord". That thought will help you open the doors to His love -- for yourself and others. How blessed we are to have Him to call on.

We are blessed to have so many dedicated Church members and staff who do the day-to-day work here at Central. We are also blessed to have a pastor who oversees our work and guides us all with abundant love and compassion. Remember our pastor and the others in your prayers this month (and always) for they, too, are people who need the Lord.

Many Blessings,

*Dee Bane*

Administrative Council Chair



**Laity Session with the Bishop: Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson to visit our district!**



Bishop Sue will visit the Mission Rivers District in February. She will preach at one of our churches and hold Laity Sessions at two others. Please make plans to join us for the Laity Sessions on Sunday, Feb. 11 in the afternoon!

**Laity Session: Sunday, Feb. 11 from 2:00pm - 3:30pm, Tappahannock Memorial UMC  
345 Earl Street, Tappahannock, VA 22560**

**Laity Session: Sunday, Feb. 11 from 5:00pm - 6:30pm, Crooks Memorial UMC  
204 Cook Road, Yorktown, VA 23690**

Please bring canned items of Soup and Stew which will be shared with a local food pantry. We will have a time of music and singing before each session. Please Join Us!

Refreshments will be served. No RSVP needed

The Bishop will also preach at Peace UMC on Sunday, Feb. 11 at 10:00am., 801 Maple Grove Drive, Fredericksburg

**Choir**

Come and bring your voices!  
Join us for Choir practice!  
Thursday, February 8th and  
15th at 7:00 pm.

For questions, please see

Grace  
Mortimer.



**G.U.E.S.T.**

**Gloucester United Emergency Shelter  
Team**

**Is Celebrating 10 Years of Service to our  
Community with an**

**Oyster Roast!**

When: 4:00 to 6:00 pm, Saturday, February 10

Where: The Ware Church Pavilion  
7877 John Clayton Memorial Hwy

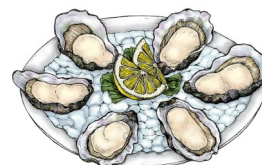
\$50 Tickets are available at the GUEST Day  
shelter (804-792-5046)

*The Oyster Roast is funded by the  
Gloucester Farmers  
Market as an outreach ministry of  
Ware Episcopal Church.*

All Ticket Sale Proceeds Go to the  
Gloucester United Emergency Shelter Team.

[www.guestshelter.com](http://www.guestshelter.com)

To volunteer and for more  
information  
contact Rev. Kristie Askew  
at 804-694-0509 or



**Paul Townsend Memorial  
Sunday school class  
Christmas/Valentine's day  
Dinner**




**February 8, 5:00 pm  
at Mathews Grille & Deli**

**Sunday Fellowships to Begin  
Sunday, February 11th  
following the worship service**

Please join us for refreshments every second  
Sunday of the month **beginning next**  
**Sunday, February 11th** just  
after the service. Sunday  
school will follow.

*All are invited!*



| SUN  | MON  | TUE  | WED   | THU   | FRI  | SAT   |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|---|
| <h1>February 2024</h1>   |  |  |   | 1   | 2  | 3   |
| 4<br><b>Worship</b><br>9:15 am<br><br><b>Sunday School</b><br>10:15 am   | 5  | 6  | 7<br>Central Village<br>Homemakers<br>9:00 am—<br>1:00 pm   | 8<br>Paul Townsend<br>Mem. class<br>Dinner<br>At Mathews<br>Grille & Deli<br>5:00 pm<br><br>Choir<br>7:00 pm              | 9  | 10  |
| 11<br><b>Worship</b><br>9:15 am<br><br><b>Sunday School</b><br>10:15 am  | 12<br><br>Finance<br>8:30 am<br><br>UM Women<br>10:00 am | 13   | 14<br><b>Valentine's Day</b><br>SPRC, 10:00 am<br><br>Creation Care<br>Recycle class<br>Afternoon set-up<br><br><b>Ash Wednesday</b><br>5:00 pm  | 15<br>Creation care<br>Recycle<br>Morning classes<br>at Thomas<br>Hunter<br><br>Trustees, 2:00 pm<br><br>Choir<br>7:00 pm | 16<br><br>Creation care<br>Recycle<br>Afternoon<br>Classes at<br>Thomas Hunter | 17<br>UM Men<br>8:00 am   |
| 18<br><b>Worship</b><br>9:15 am<br><br><b>Sunday School</b><br>10:15 am<br><br>1st Sunday<br>Of Lent<br><br>Songs, Soups,<br>Salads &<br>Sweets<br>5:00 pm | 19<br><b>President's<br/>Day</b>                         | 20<br><br><br><br>Small Group<br>Bible Study<br>6:45—7:45 pm | 21<br><br>Mission and<br>Evangelism<br>10:00 am<br><br>Soup with Love<br>At Kingston Parish<br>Noon   | 22  | 23   | 24<br>UM Men<br>Brunswick Stew<br>Sale<br>Noon—2:00 pm<br> |
| 25<br><b>Worship</b><br>9:15 am<br><br><b>Sunday School</b><br>10:15 am<br><br>2nd Sunday<br>Of Lent   | 26   | 27<br><br>Small Group<br>Bible Study<br>6:45—7:45 pm         | 28<br>Soup with Love<br>At Kingston Parish<br>Noon<br><br>Administrative<br>Council<br>7:00 pm  |                                      |  |   |

### Birthdays

|               |   |                        |    |                    |    |
|---------------|---|------------------------|----|--------------------|----|
| Susan Hill    | 3 | Ruth Ann Hutson        | 12 | Elizabeth Anderson | 16 |
| Bob Tabor     | 8 | Kenneth Marshall       | 13 | Bill Loving        | 23 |
| Sherry Hodges | 9 | Mary Elizabeth Carlton | 14 | Frosty Taylor      | 29 |

*All meeting times & dates  
are subject to change.  
If in doubt, contact the  
committee chair.*