



THE CENTRAL CHIMES

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January 2024

Pastor's Ponderings

As we approach the beginning of a new year we are filled with many things! We are filled with hope and anticipation. We are filled with excitement and joy! We may also be filled with a bit of hesitation and uncertainty. As the new year begins, my hope is that we will be filled with expectant hope above all else.

2024 is before us as a clean slate. What will be has yet to be fully revealed and realized. We have yet to realize in its fullness what God's Holy Spirit is doing among us! We can be apprehensive or we can be excited. We can think of all the things that can go wrong or we can stay excited about what might go right.

We are reminded to "trust in the Lord with all our hearts. Leaning not on our own understanding and in all our ways acknowledging him and he shall direct our paths!" Proverbs 3:5

Are we willing? Are we truly willing to trust in the Lord? Sometimes we are tempted to believe that we must first understand what God is doing before we join in his plans for our lives. We may be waiting a long time if God's plans depend on our understanding. May we live into Proverbs 3:5 this new year. We may be surprised at what God has planned for us! It really is an exciting time to be partners in ministry at Central UMC!

It's worth pondering as we say goodbye to 2023 and embrace with expectant hope, all that is in store in 2024!

Blessings,
Rebecca



Join us for Worship

Sunday service—9:15 a.m.

Sunday school—10:15 a.m.

[Service live on YouTube](#)

The Star of Bethlehem presented by Eric Stewart January 7, 5:00 pm

January 7 is Epiphany Sunday, the date many believe that the Three Wisemen or the Magi arrived to worship the baby Jesus and present Him with their gifts. How did they find Him? Many believe that they followed a star, the Star of Bethlehem, until it came to a stop over the cradle where Jesus lay.

Eric Stewart will give an encore performance of *The Star of Bethlehem* on January 7 at 5 PM. Come and enjoy this event, our gift to you.



To the Ladies of Central Methodist Church,

Some of us are going to revive the tradition of having a lunch to celebrate those ladies having a birthday for that particular month! We'll meet at a local restaurant at 12:30 on a date to be determined! If you are interested in joining us, please send me your choice of DAYS and your birthday! We can begin in January. So, let me know if you want to join us! All are welcome!
Email: timandsusan.hill@gmail.com or 804-384-3835.

Susan Hill



Paige Family Update

As we approach a New Year it is customary to reflect on the one before. This morning we came across the following quote in an email from a newsgroup called The Pour Over. It reflects the mindset that we would like to hold as we enter 2024:

There will be a day when "small" things like prayer, brief gospel-centered conversations, and loving people will have helped shape eternity, and "big" things like impeachment, economic collapse, and pandemics will be 100,000-year-old memories.

Our prayer is that an eternal perspective will shape the way we live and serve in this New Year. May it shape yours as well. We are thankful for all of you!

"Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory." -Colossians 3:2-4



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

Ben Leigh
Lonnie Byrd
Marilyn Cotter-Tucker
Jamie Hicks
Laurel Robins



William Benjamin "Ben" Leigh
9/11/1938—12/9/2023

Mission and Evangelism Looks at Past Year

Looking back over this past year we have been very busy. We recently participated in the Mathews County Christmas parade. It was a lot of hard work, but well worth the effort. It was heartwarming to see everybody waving back at us and shouting Merry Christmas in return to our greetings.



Pictured above: Nancy Goldman, Hunter Nettik, & Judy Moughn
Photos: Susan Hill



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We also participated in the Shoeboxes and Stockings program for children through Mathews County Social Services. We were amazed at the number of stockings and boxes! They totally filled one whole hallway at the Social Services building. I can't remember when we had this number of contributions. The whole congregation came together to help let the less fortunate in our community.

Our biggest undertaking this year was the rise against hunger event. Together we packaged 5000 meals in two hours. These meals will be sent to an area that is experiencing hunger. When they are shipped, we will be notified and let you know where they were sent. This was followed by our annual Thanksgiving church dinner. We have so many wonderful cooks in our congregation and the dinner was enjoyed by everyone present.

We continue to recognize businesses in our town. Once a month we select a local business and treat them with something tasty. Included with each gift as a note from our church, thanking them for their efforts on behalf of Mathews County. We also continue writing to our recent graduates, letting them know that even though they may not be local anymore, they are still a part of our church family.

The monthly Mission Focus is suggested by the Mission and Evangelism Committee and approved by the Administrative Counsel. Its purpose is to shine God's light by financially supporting areas of need. It gives each of us time to reflect on where He would like us to help.

We are responsible for a new sign at the corner of Glebe and Church Streets indicating where our church is located. We continue to volunteer at the middle school Bible club. It's gratifying to connect with some young people. The 4S's (songs, soups, salads, sweets) program was once again a big success. Everybody seemed to tremendously enjoy it.

As a church, we continue to financially support both the *Paiges*, our covenant missionaries, as well as the *Henry Fork Center* enabling them to spread the love of God to others both near and far.

We'd like to thank everyone in the church or their help with these programs. None of this would've been possible without the support of the entire congregation. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Finally, we'd like to thank the Lord for blessing our efforts to spread His message to a world that's so desperately needs Him.

Linda Dalgety

Mission and Evangelism Chair

Central is Blessed

As I reported during the November 19th service, the church received a \$75,000 gift from the Alvin Knight Trust. What a blessing! It came at a time when we were getting close to having to tap our reserve funds to offset the fact that collections are less than expenditures on a monthly basis. \$75,000 won't last forever, but we won't have to go into reserves any time soon, barring some emergency. Also as I reported, the Finance Committee voted to put \$50,000 in a 7-month CD while we explore other possible investments, earning over \$200/month interest. The other \$25,000 will be held onto while we assess our needs, such as replacing the outdated appliances at the parsonage (some of which I understand haven't been working properly for a while). I assure you that the money will be wisely spent or invested.

Alvin was a blessing to Central while he was here with us and now his gift is a blessing to us after he has left us. I don't know how many of us are in a position to leave such a gift to Central, but what a wonderful thing to do! If you are in such a position, please consider Central in your estate planning, it could really make a difference, just like Alvin's gift did. Every little bit helps to further God's Kingdom right here in Mathews.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, I want to wish all of you a Happy New Year!

Chris Moughon

Finance Chair



Creation Care in 2024

Mathews Public Schools has never asked for Central's Creation Care to be taught in two different grades in the same year until now. We have the 5th grade of Cindy Mechan and the 7th grade of Jerry Ligon. Both have participated in previous years; thus it is a good comment about how they value Centrals Recycle program.



We are looking for volunteers for any of the following dates. So far, Martha Arnold and Dee Bane have made commitments. If you have any suggestions of others in the church that may be free on any of these dates, please let me know.

DATES FOR CINDY MACHEN'S 5TH GRADE : Jan. 29-31

MONDAY JAN 29: IN AFTERNOON, CHECK IN AND SET UP.

TUESDAY JAN. 30 : WE WOULD TEACH TWO MORNING CLASSES : RESET AND LEAVE.

WEDNESDAY JAN. 31: WE WOULD TEACH TWO AFTERNOON CLASSES, PACK UP AND LEAVE.

JERRY LIGON 7TH GRADE SCIENCE TEACHER
Dates: Feb. 14, 15, 16

Wednesday Feb 14: in the afternoon we would come and set up in the small auditorium.

Thurs. morning Feb 15: we would teach first two morning classes, then set up for two classes Friday.

Friday, Feb. 16: we would teach two afternoon classes and then pack everything up and haul it out.

Children develop habits at a young age, so it's important to make sure recycling is one of them. Every time a child washes out a jar for recycling or takes the bin out to the curb, they're building a habit that will protect God's planet.

Michael Cannon
Creation Care Team



Sharing with Community

Food gifts can be dropped off at **Hands Across Mathews** on Wednesdays. The **Good News Pantry** is for non-perishable food gifts and Christian Literature. It is a take-what-you-need, give-what-you-can storage.



Located in the back left side of Central's parking lot.



Upper Room

Jan/Feb Upper Room is available in the Narthex.

Twelfth Night Concert

Kingston Parish House in Mathews

370 Main Street, Mathews

January 5, the Eve of Epiphany, 7:00 pm

Join us for a celebration of the last day of Christmas!

We will celebrate with festive Christmas music both secular and sacred.

Three organists: Coleman Tyler, Daniel Corneliussen, Libby Boyer.

Cellist: Nina Buzby,

Two singers: Jennifer Edenborn and Karol Steadman will be performing.

All are welcome!



Christmas in the Life of the Church



Photo at left: Beautiful Sanctuary
Photo above & below: UMW caroling (By Martha Arnold)




Photo above: Central Village Homemakers Sing a long (By Bev Childress)
Photos at bottom: Paul Townsend Mem. Class make baskets for homebound (By Bev Childress)



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Happy New Year!	2	3 Central Village Homemakers 9:00 am to 1:00 pm	4	5	6
7 Service 9:15 am Sunday School 10:15 am	8 Finance 8:30 am	9	10	11	12	13
14 Service 9:15 am Sunday School 10:15 am	15	16	17 SPRC 10:00 am	18 Choir 7:00 pm	19	20 UM Men 8:00 am
21 Service 9:15 am Sunday School 10:15 am	22 UM Women 10:00 am	23	24 Administrative Council 7:00 pm	25	26	27
28 Service 9:15 am Sunday School 10:15 am	29	30	31	<h1>January 2024</h1>		

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

 2024 Offering Envelopes are ready for pick-up. They are on the back pew in the Sanctuary.

January Birthdays

- Martha Arnold 3
- Hal Hertzler 17
- Jennings Haynes Jr. 27

