



# THE CENTRAL CHIMES

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## From the Pastor's Pen

Recently I began reading the Bible from the very beginning again, thinking it would be a nice way to recapture the lessons of *Covenant Bible Study*. Just a chapter or two has been the daily routine, and it has made for a fruitful time.

I was right around the story of Noah in Genesis 6 when the news of shootings in Orlando rocked the nation. That was a difficult week for the Florida city and for the world. Earlier an aspiring singer was coldly gunned down at a fan event, and then came the grim event described as the biggest mass shooting incident in the U.S. history (notwithstanding, as some later pointed out, Wounded Knee and Sand Creek). As it turned out, it was one of hundreds this year so far in the U.S. where four or more people were killed.

Around the same time, news outlets busily showed the violent clashes between soccer fans in Europe. I saw images of men charging at people with iron bars, others kicking and grabbing and screaming at each other. All over some soccer match!

Then the following words sped through my mind:

*And the Lord was sorry that he had made humankind on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart ... Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. (6:6, 11)*

That is a radical word—though not as radical as the story that follows, where a flood wipes



out the entire humanity. The Bible is forthright about humanity's inherent brokenness. Offensive and

troubling it may be, without it we cannot completely round out the truth. Even now we try to make sense of the incident in Orlando mainly in political terms; but we seem to be far from reaching any sort of consensus.

The Word of God gives us understanding in a unique way, and it helps us respond with life and love. Though the Bible does tell the story of humanity's fall, in the end its message is deeply hopeful, redemptive, and life-giving. It says that he who died on the Roman cross lived again.

I know many of you have a regular practice of reading the Bible. "Searching the Scripture" is one of the most important means of grace we have. It may be an especially important discipline these days. The 24-hour news outlets may inform us in a certain way, but the Word of God as contained in the Scriptures gives us the Architect's view. As such it is light and life; it is an open door, a way, and a stream in the desert.

Should you not have the habit of reading the Bible yet, it is not too late to begin. Now is the time to take up the discipline. We will do it, not for merely knowledge's sake, but to discover where God is moving in our own lives and in the world.

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I just came back from the Annual Conference, where my appointment to Central Church was announced and fixed for another year. I thank God for letting me share my journey with the people at Central and here in Mathews.

Gratefully,  
*John*

### Disaster Response Committee Preparing the Way for Disaster Response



The Central UMC Disaster Response Committee has been meeting to establish mission and vision statements and formulate goals to equip the Central Church community with information

and preparedness strategies in case of a disaster. The mission statement, which will guide our way, is:

**“The mission of the Central United Methodist Church in Disaster Response is to develop a disaster plan for families, church and community, to provide a caring Christian presence in the lives of disaster survivors and to assist in their physical and emotional needs in the aftermath of a disaster.”**

The Team is working in a trifold manner with Families, Church, and Community. A list was developed regarding what preparations families should make prior to disasters. Items were listed as to possible needs of the church. The Community portion is being relegated as a non-priority until the Families and Church are addressed. A church-wide activity is being planned for the future.

As we travel through this journey, UMCOR’s “Connecting Neighbors Curriculum” and “Sample Church Plan-VAUMC VA Conference of the United Methodist Church” are being used a guidelines.

On the District level: Disaster recovery team “Yorktown” recently assisted a homeowner in Waverly, VA by putting on a new roof. The team also worked on a volunteer housing center for the Waverly area, which is being established in a former church.

A women’s mission/retreat- “Renew the Spirit and Serve” will be held July 14-17 in the Hopewell area. All women interested in light rebuild construction, bible study, and fun fellowship should contact Janet Burgess for more information.

Emotional and Spiritual Care training will be held July 14 from 8:30-5:30. Location in Tappahannock will be announced shortly.

*Janet Burgess,*  
Disaster Response Coordinator

### Hospitality

A big thank you to everyone who has generously provided the goodies for Fellowship Time that follows the 8:30 am worship service. The general consensus is to keep Fellowship Time active, even if refreshments are very simple. Attendees enjoy the time together to catch-up with each other and to share news.

To the *elves* that help to handle the coffee urns and do K.P., many thanks for your support.

We are happy to have people sign-up to provide refreshments whenever they can.

*Hospitality Team*

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

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Darlene McKenzie	David Burrus
Calvin Haywood	Marvin Hilliard
Darden Hudgins	Mae Miles

## United Methodist Women

Central UMW met on Monday, June 13 to assemble School Kits for Conference. In



some countries, children don't have books or school supplies. Many have no schoolrooms; classes are held in inadequate or half-destroyed buildings, tents, or even the

open air. School kits may be these children's only educational resources. Thank you to everyone who donated items and helped assemble the kits. 60 kits were taken to the Annual Conference.

The next meeting will be Friday July 8. We are meeting at *Port Fun* at 10:30 am, hosting a picnic for 3 Rivers Healthy Families. It is always lots of fun and a chance to catch-up with children we have watched grow over the years. Bring a picnic item to share and be ready for a wonderful time.

*Grace Mortimer,*  
CUMW Recording Secretary

## Finance

As of the end of May, we are running a positive balance in our general budget account. General offering is \$69,479 which is around 7 % higher than 2015. General expenses are \$64,588. So far we have had no large unexpected expenses and made no withdrawal from savings.

We continue to need volunteers to count the offerings. Contact Marcia Fry, 725-5029, if you would like to help.

*Nate Houser,* Chair

## Children & Youth Ministry

Due to the lack of a paid nursery attendant for the 11:00 am worship service, for the months of July and August we will invite the youngest of our children (up to and including first graders) to gather for *Children's Church* in the Fellowship Hall when announced during the worship service. I will facilitate this time. I anticipate the need for one other volunteer from the parents or other congregational member. Please look at your availability and contact me (725-0210) to sign-up for any of the following Sundays.

July 3, 24, 31

Aug. 14, 28

These two months will allow parents to focus on worship as well as provide a meaningful worship time for our youngest children. We will evaluate how to resume our worship in September. Keep prayers forth coming as we seek a paid nursery attendant.

Have an enjoyable and safe summer.

Thank you for your assistance.

*Pat Gwaltney,* Chair

## Nancy Wroten Memorial Class

The Nancy Wroten Memorial Class would like to thank everyone who donated to the *Father's Day Tribute Bulletin*. The proceeds will be used to aid those in need in our community.

**ATTENTION!!!**  
**ALL COMMITTEE CHAIR PERSONS**  
**should have their**  
**2017 BUDGET REQUEST**  
**to Nate Houser, Finance Committee**  
**Chairman, no later than**  
**SATURDAY, JULY 30.**

## Welcome to Our New Treasurer



Central Church welcomes Walt Matthews as our new Treasurer. Walt and his wife Laura have lived in Mathews County for 2 1/2 years since leaving Colorado to be closer to Walt's family. Their son, Tyler and his wife, Brandi, live in

Williamsburg. Walt is originally from Alexandria, VA.

Walt and Laura are active members at Crosswalk Community Church in Norge, VA. He has served in many capacities there.

If you volunteer for *Meals on Wheels*, you may know Laura. She is the manager at the Mathews Active Lifestyle Center and coordinates the *Meals on Wheels* deliveries.

You may recognize Walt from the Gloucester *Home Depot* where he also works part-time as the store greeter.

Walt enjoys building things. He has two dogs, Grizzly and Sophie. Grizzly has been in training as a therapy dog.

Walt's schedule in the church office will be flexible, he will be in the office at different times during the week. Walt's set time in the office is every Wednesday from 3:00 - 5:00 pm. If you need his assistance before then, please e-mail Walt at: [treasurer@centralumcmathews.org](mailto:treasurer@centralumcmathews.org)

Welcome to Central Church, Walt!



Mathews County Blood Drive  
Piankatank Ruritan Club

Tuesday, July 7 2:00 pm - 7:00 pm

**Please help prevent a summer shortage  
and save a life!**

## Welcome to Our New Members!

Linda Dalgety joined Central Church's membership on June 12. A retired longtime teacher, Linda attends and sometimes teaches Sunday School in the Friendship Class. She and her husband live in Port Haywood.

Patty and Hal Hertzler joined us on June 26. Hal and Patty are members of The Paul Townsend Memorial Class. Hal is in their rotation of Sunday School teachers. Patty serves on the Hospitality Committee.

Central is blessed to welcome them all over again!



**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Joint Service  
July 31**

**Sunday School 9:00 am**  
**Worship Service 10:00 am**  
**Song Service 2:15 pm**  
**at Riverside Convalescent  
Center - All Are Welcome**

## Church Picnic

Monday, August 1

2:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Mathews Yacht Club

Dinner @ 6 pm

- bring your favorite dish to share (fried chicken provided)
- casual attire
- pool open for all
- lifeguard on duty

## **4,000 United Methodists gather in Roanoke for 234<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

Nearly 4,000 clergy and laity representatives of United Methodist churches across Virginia gathered at the Berglund Center in Roanoke June 17-19 for the 234<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference meeting of worship, mission projects, celebration of ministries and conducting the business of the conference. Theme for the 2016 Virginia Annual Conference was "Thy Will be Done." Bishop Young Jin Cho presided over the proceedings for the last time before his retirement.

With 49 candles on the altar representing lives lost during the Orlando shootings, Bishop Cho read a statement from the Council of Bishops and offered prayer for the victims' families, leaders of the country and members of the Florida Conference. Annual Conference members later approved a resolution encouraging United Methodists to work to destroy the systemic fear, hatred and discrimination that leads to violence against LGBTQ persons and communities.

### **Episcopal Address**

In his episcopal address, Bishop Cho looked back on the accomplishments of the Virginia Conference over the last four years. He highlighted major ministry moments including the Imagine No Malaria initiative in which the conference raised more than \$1 million in 15 months.

He said he commissioned a task force to review and evaluate the strategic plan of All Things New-Equipping Vital Congregations adopted in 2008. Bishop Cho said the task force's final report will be presented to the new Virginia Conference bishop as a guide and a way forward for the conference.

### **Service of Remembrance and Holy Communion**

The Rev. Myrtle Frances Hatcher, pastor of Main St. UMC, Suffolk, James River District, preached for the Service of Remembrance and Holy Communion in which 50 conference clergy and laity who died since the last Annual Conference were remembered.  
July 2106

### **Service for the Ordering of Ministry**

Twenty-one men and women were ordained elders, two were ordained deacons, 14 were commissioned as provisional elders, two were commissioned as provisional deacons and 31 were licensed as local pastors in the Saturday evening Ordering of Ministry service.

Bishop Mark J. Webb, Upper New York Annual Conference, delivered the sermon and spoke about celebrating those who have chosen to be available to God's call upon their lives and the importance of a willingness to serve.

### **Conference Mission Worship Service**

The Rev. Eun Pa Hong, pastor of Bupyeong Methodist Church in Incheon, Korea, preached for the Mission worship service saying he was thankful for American missionaries who came to Korea and built schools, hospitals and churches.

To date, \$131,003.58 has been received for this year's Annual Conference special offering, nearly \$19,000 shy of the goal of \$150,000. The offering will help the Methodist Mission in Cambodia train lay and clergy leadership and build churches; support the Methodist Church of Brazil programs with at-risk children; provide education and resources for training laity in United Methodist churches in Mozambique; and fund disaster response in Virginia, particularly long-term recovery work following Feb. 24 tornadoes in three districts of the conference.

### **Bible Study**

Dr. L. Gregory Jones, Duke University Vice President and Vice Provost for Global Strategy and Programs, led Bible study.

### **Recognition of Bishop Cho's Ministry**

In a recognition of Bishop Young Jin Cho's ministry, Shirley Cauffman, chair of the Committee on Episcopacy, recounted his four years of service as bishop of the conference. The Rev. Tom Berlin, Committee on the Episcopacy, said, "You have reminded us that where there is great prayer there is great power."

Cauffman announced that \$14,310 has been

contributed to the Bishops Foundation for spiritual leadership training in Bishop Cho's name.

A video was shown highlighting Bishop Cho's ministry. Following the video, the song "Happy" by Pharrell was played as members of the youth delegation danced with the bishop on stage.

The Rev. Clarence Brown, pastor of Annandale UMC, started a bidding war to buy a life-size cutout of Bishop Cho. The Rev. Bob Parks offered the winning bid of \$3,200 from the Cabinet. The funds will go to the Annual Conference offering.

### **Harry Denman Evangelism Awards**

This year's Harry Denman Evangelism Award for clergy was presented to the Rev. Emmanuel Nkrumah, founding pastor of Ghana Wesley UMC in Arlington. Denman Laity Award went to Mary Elle Fuquay, chair of the Evangelism/Vital Church Team at St. Matthias UMC in Fredericksburg. Denman Youth Award went to Heather Galway, member of St. Paul's UMC in Staunton who has been instrumental in raising money for mission work.

### **Order of Deacon**

A celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Order of Deacon included a video and presentations from deacons talking about the ministries they provide.

### **Conference Business**

Ten churches were discontinued in five districts. Five new faith communities and their pastors were introduced. Fifteen new faith communities have been started this quadrennium.

The Rev. Marc Brown, director of Connectional Ministries, announced the Sept. 1 retirement of Linda Rhodes, conference director of Communications, and said that Madeline Pillow has been named interim director of Communications.

Steven D. Brown was elected conference chancellor for the next quadrennium.

### **Resolutions**

Annual Conference voted to urge Virginia state legislators to enact legislation banning questions about criminal history from initial job applications for public and private employment. Annual Conference members also voted to encourage all United Methodist local churches to establish a ministry in which congregation members provide guidance and encouragement to adolescents who are not reaching their full academic potential. A third resolution, "Responding to requests from Christians in the Holy Land," was withdrawn because it was already approved by General Conference.

### **Wrap-up stats**

Annual Conference members brought 52,016 disaster relief kits for United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to Annual Conference. Kits included 29,676 Health Kits; 17,637 School Kits; 2,634 Birthing Kits; 1,352 Layette Kits; 303 Cleaning Kits; 55 Bedding Kits and 359 Sewing Kits.

Attendees of conference contributed 10,039 pounds of canned goods and boxed dry foods as part of the "4 Cans 4 Conference" drive to benefit the Roanoke area Rescue Mission.

Members approved a 2017 budget of \$32,000,000, down 0.96% from the 2016 budget.

As of the end of 2015, membership stood at 327,647, down 0.46 %. Worship attendance stood at 98,253, down 4%. Reaffirmations of faith were at 4,010, down 6 %. For 2017, there is a 2.2% decrease in apportionments towards mission and ministries.

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Source: [http://www.vaumc.org/pages/news/2016vanews/2016vanews\\_2016acwrapup](http://www.vaumc.org/pages/news/2016vanews/2016vanews_2016acwrapup)

### **Central's Annual Conference Contributions**

- \$680 was raised for Offering
  - 60 UMCOR school kits
  - 66 can goods /non-perishable food items
- Thank you!

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 J U L Y	4 Fourth of July  Prayer Time 8:00 am	5 Community Blood Drive 2:00 pm - 7:00 pm Piankatank Ruritan Club	6 Central Village Homemakers 9:00 am - 1:00 pm	7 Adult Choir 7:15 pm	8 UM Women and Three Rivers Healthy Families @ Port Fun 10:30 am	9  cliparthut.com
10	11 Prayer Time 8:00 am	12	13 Finance 7:00 pm	14 Adult Choir 7:15 pm	15	16
17 Central Chimes Submissions Due	18 Prayer Time 8:00 am Disaster Response Team 2:00 pm	19	20	21 Adult Choir 7:15 pm	22	23
24	25 Prayer Time 8:00 am Trustees 7:00 pm	26	27 Administrative Council 7:00 pm	28 Adult Choir 7:15 pm	29	30 2017 Budget Requests Due
31 5 <sup>th</sup> Sun. Joint Service 9:00 am Sun. School 10:00 am Worship 2:15 pm Song Service at Riverside Convalescent Ctr.	 pixabay.com					

### Greeters/Ushers for July

8:30 am service	Jean Sutton & Dick Flegenheimer
11:00 am service	Kenneth & Mary Marshall

### Refreshments Providers for July

3 10, 17, 24	Bobby & Phyllis Hudgins Volunteer Opportunities
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All meeting times & dates are subject to change.  
If in doubt, contact the committee chair.

### Birthdays

Betty Lewis	1
Mary Marshall	8
Maymie Lambert	11
Nancy Gibbs	13
Judy Moughon	20
Tim Hill	26
Alvin Knight	27
David Hudgins	29

### Anniversaries

Elizabeth & Durward Anderson	2
Miriam & Joe Cromwell	7
Audrey & Alvin Knight	14
Peg & Paul Kava	20
Betty & Jimmy Stewart	23