



THE CENTRAL CHIMES

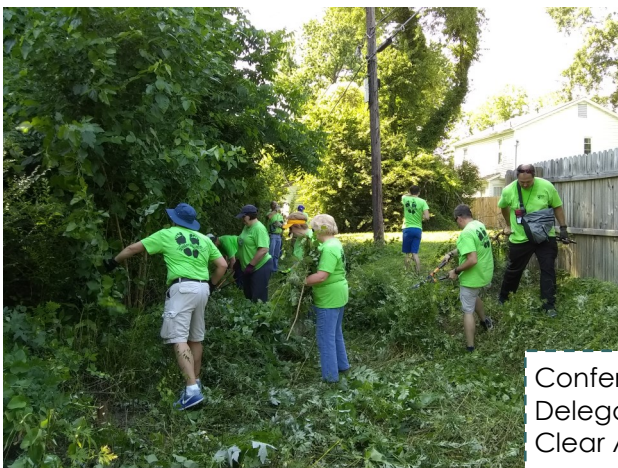
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JULY 2018

2018 Annual Conference Report

The theme for the 2018 Virginia Annual Conference that was held June 15-17 was "Servant Leaders Making a Difference." This was based on 1 Peter 4:10, "Each of You Should use whatever gift You have to serve others as a faithful steward." This was lived out June 16 when the Conference sessions was halted for the attendees to participate in service. Over 1000 people registered and served as witnesses of God's grace in various Forms. This included going out and cleaning up in neighborhoods around Hampton; others stayed inside to put together 3000 UMCOR kits and to listen to different social justice talks.

Friday night the Rev. Ileana Rosario of Lower UMC, York River District, preached during the



Conference Delegates Clear Alley

Mathews County Blood Drive
Piankatank Ruritan Club

Tuesday, July 17  1:30 pm - 7:00

Please help prevent a summer shortage and save a life!

Service Of Remembrance of Holy Communion in which 63 clergy and laity members of the annual conference who died since the last Conference were remembered.

Bishop Lewis reviewed her vision that she introduced at last year's Annual Conference. This is her vision for the next 4 years. "Disciples of Jesus Christ who are lifelong learners who influence other to serve." The Rev. Amy Valdez Barker, executive director for Global Mission Connections, presented six awards to the conference for categories based on the ranking with the U.S. annual conferences. These awards were: United States Disaster Response (#1), International Disaster Response (#3), Missionary Support (#1), Mission Initiatives (#4), In Mission Together (#2) and Health-related Programs (#4).

Eight Churches were discontinued in five districts. Two new faith communities and one chartered church and their pastor were introduced.

On Saturday the delegates discussed three of eight resolutions.

Resolution 6 - Gracious Accommodation Virginia Annual Conference. The resolution had to do with the implications of possible irreconcilable theological differences between that of the local congregation and United Methodist polity and discipline particularly as it pertains to ministry to and with members of the LGBTQ community on local congregations' buildings, assets and liabilities. The resolution was called out of order by Bishop Lewis as it called to ignore a

part of the Discipline; it is improper as a matter of church law as only General Conference can enact changes in the Discipline.

Resolution 3 - Compassionate Support for Members of the Armed Forces, Veterans and Their Families Suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress and Moral Injury. The committee recommended concurrence. The resolution was approved.

Resolution 1 - Affirm Unity in Christ. The committee recommended concurrence. It resolves that the Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church urges the 2019 General Conference to affirm unity in Christ in the midst of our diversity, to challenge in love all that divides and to offer to all people God's saving grace through Jesus Christ that transforms the world. They urge and pray that the 2019 General Conference will resist schism and express openness to diverse perspectives in matters of sexual identity and practice. They urge all faithful United Methodists to pray for a way forward that nurtures an inclusive, evangelical, and faithful Church. The resolution was approved.

The Rev. Tom Berlin and Ms. Martha Stokes gave updates on the work of The Commission on A Way Forward, a group created by the bishops in 2016 to study and make a recommendation on the denomination's future regarding the issue of same-sex marriage and ordination of LGBTQ persons. A special called General Conference will be held in February of 2019 to deal exclusively with these issues. Further information can be found on the Virginia Conference web site (www.vaumc.org/ac).

Central's Annual Conference Contributions

Central Church delivered 5 cleaning buckets and \$150 towards the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

Thank you!

Saturday evening was the Service for the Ordering of Ministry. Nineteen people were ordained elders, two were ordained deacon, 11 were commissioned as provisional members, two were recognized for orders and 32 were licensed as local pastors in the Saturday evening Ordering of Ministry service.

Sunday morning was worship, final business and appointments.

A budget was approved for 2019 in the amount of \$31,615,000, down \$185,000 from 2018 budget. A Conference offering of \$111,000 was received.

The Conference Statistician reported that membership stands now at 320,000; worship stands at 100,000; small group engagement, reported at 95,000. Over one million served in their community in mission work and around the world. VA Conference church members tithed \$2 million. Eight hundred and eighty one churches throughout the conference paid 100% of their apportionments.

Once again I want to thank the Church Board and Congregation for sending me as your Lay Representative for Annual Conference. It is very rewarding and I must say "A Mountain Top Experience." Our Bishop is Awesome and a blessing to those of us who serve with her.

Nancy Jagger
Delegate to Annual Conference



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



Edison Vale, Jr.

Daphne Pritchett

Mary Louise Morgan

William G. Ray, Jr.

From the Pastor's Pen

There is a development in the United Methodist Church that we should watch prayerfully. This is one time that I am addressing it before I will have no choice but to do it. For more than 40 years the United Methodist Church's stance has been debated on human sexuality. The debates have been played out mostly at the church's quadrennial legislative meetings, and the questions have come down to the following: 1) *The Book of 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.

The 2016 General Conference in Portland was headed for another bruising fight, when the delegates instead empowered the bishops to create a commission, a group that will engage in study, prayer, and conversations on this matter and ultimately bring back recommendations. A special General Conference has been called for February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, which will exclusively deal with the commission's proposals and the related ones.

After a series of meetings for two years, the Commission on A Way Forward has sketched out three proposals. One model maintains the current language and polity of the Book of Discipline and strengthens accountability. In a second model, each church and minister will decide their stance of ministry, and each annual conference will decide on the matter of ordination, while remaining as one church. A third model would create three broad conferences based on theology, i.e., a three-way split. Each model provides for "exits" by dissenting congregations that do not involve penalty. These three are the main considerations before the special General Conference next year, though other petitions are allowed, too. One can read in much greater detail about these proposals or the

Commission on www.umc.org (though you are likely to have to google "Commission on a Way Forward" to find relevant sections).

Needless to say, these are significant developments. The United Methodist Church is governed by its discipline. There is a limit, however, to the extent that the church can legislate its way, since the church ultimately belongs to Jesus Christ. We may be near the edge of that limit here. It is not because truth does not exist; it is because truth lies in the Spirit of God. Whereas the next year's special conference matters, I do not believe its outcomes will define who we are as the church.

Unfortunately the discussions on ministry with LGBTQ persons have happened largely on the ideological ground: The battle lines are drawn between the conservatives, the progressives, and the so-called centrists. Even then, this is a multi-layered issue. For instance, it is not merely a question of 1) what the Bible says marriage is; it is also 2) whether it is a difference we can live with, which is a different question; 3) whether we should include it in the Book of Discipline, which is yet another question. The Bible is our guide, but the Bible says that we should follow the Spirit. These debates have brought out many an instance where our words are close to God, but our spirit is far from him.

At no other times does the Scripture sound more appropriate that says, "The human mind plans the way, but the Lord directs the steps." (Proverbs 16:9) I am committed to praying daily for the United Methodist Church to go in the way of grace and truth, that there may be work of the Holy Spirit in God's churches everywhere.

Gratefully,
John



Sermon Topics

Pastor John would like to preach on your topic suggestions in August.

Look for suggestion cards in the pew racks.

Hospitality Visitation Committee

I'd like to thank all those who brought refreshments for cookie Sunday as well as those who chipped in to help clean up afterwards. On June 10th, Bill Loving, Bob Tabor and Cindy Hall hosted refreshment time ; Chris and Pat Moughon served on Father's Day, the 10th and Frosty and Gerald Taylor along with Cindy Butterworth provided refreshments for our fellowship time on the 24th of June. Ruth Ann Hutson served as Hospitality Host for the month of June.

We look forward to July. The following will serve refreshments following the 8:30am service.

July 1.....COOKIE SUNDAY (Everyone bring favorite snack)

July 8.....Tim & Susan Hill and Nancy Jagger

July 15.....Karen & Ken Palmer

July 22.....Tom & Dale Robinson

July 29.....5th Sunday Joint Service

The Hospitality Host for the Month of July will be Mary Marshall

When we have guests attending our church, be sure to introduce yourself and invite them back to the social hall for this important time of fellowship.

May God bless each of you.

Phyllis Hudgins, Chairman
Hospitality Visitation Committee



Financial Secretary

My sincere thanks to Cheryl Wheeler, Anne South, and Linda Dalgety for volunteering to count money in June. If anyone is willing to volunteer, please let me know. Nate Houser and Ben Leigh are scheduled for July. We are flexible. If there is a Sunday during your month that you cannot assist, let me know as I can always find a substitute.

Marcia Fry, Financial Secretary

Mission and Evangelism

Carol Paige, our covenant missionary will speak to our congregation, both services, on Sunday, July 8, 2018. She will be in the states for continuing education and to visit with us.

Pat Gwaltney

Mission and Evangelism Chair



Save the Date! Sunday, July 8, 2018

Guest Speaker: Carol Paige

Carol Paige and her husband, Donald, have been missionaries with TMS Global (formerly The Mission Society) since 2006. A covenant partner of Central Church, Carol teaches at Asunción Christian Academy in Asunción, Paraguay, and has been working on a doctorate in Christian Education Leadership from Regent University.

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.



Greeters/Ushers for July

8:30 am service	<u>7/1</u>	Dee Bane & Michael Cannon
	<u>7/8-29</u>	Dee Bane & Diana More
11:00 am service		Tom & Marilyn Tucker

UM Men

The Methodist Men met June 16th to discuss the yard sale. All told, we made \$1,882. A motion was made to give 10% of the profit to the UMW group and the motion passed.

We also made \$500 available to Hands Across Mathews for their support of the "Fresh Start - Back to School Program". It will be disbursed when Peggy Leigh requests the funds as the 2018/19 school year approaches.

This was the last UMM meeting until we next meet October 20th.

Everyone, please have a safe and happy summer!

Steve Leap

UM Men President



Phyllis Hudgins & Emily Leap get ready for the UM Men Yard Sale

Photo by John Choi



WORSHIP
cliparthut.com

5th Sunday Joint Service
July 29
Sunday School 9:00 am
Worship Service 10:00 am
Song Service 2:15 pm
at Riverside Convalescent
Center - All Are Welcome

UM Women

We will be taking lunch to the medical staff at Healing Eagle Clinic on Saturday, June 30, 2018, in West Point.

We made \$152.50 at the bag lunch sale during the UMM Yard Sale June 2. This money was donated to the lunch program through Nelda Gibbs for the school system. Thanks for all the generous help from all to make this possible.

We sent 5 cleaning buckets to Annual Conference plus a check for shipping and an additional \$150 for more bucket supplies. Thanks to the congregation for the money donated. We consider this a very worth while outreach considering the likely hood of severe storms across our nation and global.

On July 13, 2018, we will be hosting the Three Rivers Families at the home of the Witherspoon's for activities and back to church for lunch. This is always an event of tremendous joy and fellowship.

A special event is planned for August for congregation and community. TBA

September will be Bay Bells and Birthday Luncheon.

Happy Birthday, June 27, to Pastor John Choi. Our prayers and appreciation for your devotion to our congregation and community.

Pat Gwaltney



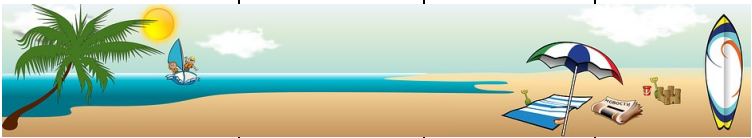
UM Women President

Church Picnic

Save The Date!!!

Monday, August 6
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
 - homemade Ice cream
- Invite A Friend!

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 J U L Y	2 Prayer Time 8:00 am	3	4 Independence Day Office Closed  pixabay.com	5 Adult Choir 7:15 pm	6	7
	8 Guest Speaker: Carol Paige	9 Prayer Time 8:00 am UM Women 10:00 am SPRC 7:00 pm	10	11 Central Village Homemakers 9:00 am - 1:00 pm Finance 7:00 pm	12 Bay Quilters 9:00am - 1:00pm Nominations 2:00 pm Paul Townsend Class 6:00 pm	13 UM Women 3 Rivers Event 10:30 am  cliparthut.com
15	16 Prayer Time 8:00 am	17 Blood Drive Piankatank Ruritan club 1:30 - 7:00pm Oasis of the Spirit 7:00 pm	18 Mission & Evangelism 10:00 am	19 Adult Choir 7:15 pm	20	21
22 Central Chimes Submissions Due	23 Prayer Time 8:00 am Trustees 7:00 pm	24 Oasis of the Spirit 7:00 pm	25 Administrative Council 7:00 pm	26 Adult Choir 7:15 pm	27	28
29 5th Sun. Joint Service 9:00 am Sun. School 10:00 am Worship Song Service @ Nursing Home 2:15 pm	30 Prayer Time 8:00 am	31 Oasis of the Spirit 7:00 pm	 pixabay.com			

Birthdays

Betty Lewis	1	Tim Hill	26
Mary Marshall	8	Alvin Knight	27
Maymie Lambert	11	David Hudgins	29
Judy Moughon	20	Sandi Morgan	8/4

Anniversaries

Miriam & Joe Cromwell	7
Audrey & Alvin Knight	14
Betty & Jimmy Stewart	23

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