



THE CENTRAL CHIMES

P.O. Box 297 ♦ 121 Church Street ♦ Mathews, VA 23109
Office: (804) 725-2832 ♦ Parsonage: (804) 725-3332
Pastor Suzanne Gibson ♦ Pastor's E-mail: sgibson555@gmail.com

June 2015

Annual Conference Special Offering



This year the Annual Conference special offering goal is \$150,000. Bishop Young Jin Cho is requesting contributions to support three different ministries.

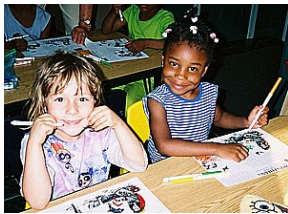
"It is our calling and our response as disciples to prayerfully give," Bishop Cho wrote in a letter to all Virginia Conference United Methodists. "May our conference offering this year reflect that calling to wholeness and justice as we live out our discipleship through giving and loving in the name of the one who first loved us!"

Information Source:
www.vaumc.org

Contributions are asked for the following ministries:

CHILDREN OUT OF POVERTY – VIRGINIA: \$50,000

In Virginia our goal is \$50,000 that will be offering support to mission projects working with the poor in the Danville and Eastern Shore Districts. Both of these districts are working in ministry in areas of



Virginia that are well below the national and state poverty levels. Of particular concern and emphasis are children that are living in poverty.

UMCOR GLOBAL HEALTH MINISTRIES: \$50,000

\$50,000 will go to UMCOR Global Health ministries to aid the Ebola ravaged countries of Sierra Leone and Liberia. Both of these countries have trained and equipped Health Boards in their United Methodist Conferences that are working to meet priorities and needs of communities recovering from the Ebola outbreak as well as a holistic approach to health that empowers people to take charge of their own lives and develop positive health-seeking behavior in their communities.



METHODIST MISSION IN CAMBODIA: \$50,000

We will be offering our continued support to our partnership with the Methodist Mission in Cambodia with \$50,000 as they continue to purchase property for new churches and expand their fast growing mission.

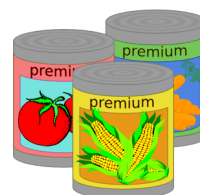


4 Cans 4 Conference

One of the things our annual conference does to make a positive impact on the community is to contribute to the local food bank.

Requested items are:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1 can vegetables | 1 can soup or stew |
| 1 can meat or fish | 1 can with a pop-top |



openclipart.org

Please help us by bringing non-perishable food items by **Sunday, June 14**. Thanks in advance for helping those who do not have enough to eat.

From the Pastor's Pen

What Difference Does the Church Make?

It's been happening since the birth of the Church on the day of Pentecost. The Church has experienced grand periods of conversion and growth – usually accompanied by persecution – followed by periods of decline, fewer faith commitments, and spiritual lethargy. Many books have been written to explain this phenomenon, and their broad overview of Christian history may help us keep our own faith journeys in better perspective.

While many today are wringing their hands in despair over what they see as the demise of the Christian faith, I find it helpful to understand that this isn't the first time it's happened, nor will it be the last. The important question is, regardless of whether it's a high or low season for the Church, what difference do the people of God make?

Let's focus on the *reason* for the Church. The Church does not exist as a social club, an exclusive secretive order, a social service organization that just does good deeds for deserving people, or a haven from the rest of the world. If those things – even good things – define any group of believers, then they are doing no more than thousands of other non-profit organizations around the world. These believers may be doing good things, but they are not necessarily doing *God* things.

The Church's mission is to follow *God's* agenda. In other words, the Church exists to carry out the will of God, period. In the United Methodist Church, we speak about making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world – after all, that is a good summation of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). Just before he ascended, Jesus promised that his followers would receive power through the Holy Spirit in order to be his “witnesses ... to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

So, what difference does the Church make?

Rachel Held Evans wrote an article recently

titled “Want millennials back in the pews? Stop trying to make church ‘cool.’”¹ She shares how many churches are changing their worship style in order to attract Millennials and others who have dropped out of church. They have focused on “cooler bands, hipper worship, edgier programming, impressive technology.” While these changes are not necessarily “wrong,” they are not working!

Why? Because Millennials (and most everyone I can think of) look to the Church to be different from every other organization and institution they know. Above all, they want authenticity. They see many churches placing “more emphasis on marketing Jesus than actually following Him.” David Kinnaman found that these young adults “are not disillusioned with tradition; they are frustrated with slick or shallow expressions of religions.”

So, what difference should the Church make? I like how Evans puts it. She writes,

“You can get a cup of coffee with your friends anywhere, but church is the only place you can get ashes smudged on your forehead as a reminder of your mortality. You can be dazzled by a light show at a concert on any given weekend, but church is the only place that fills a sanctuary with candlelight and hymns on Christmas Eve. You can snag all sorts of free swag for brand loyalty online, but church is the only place where you are named a beloved child of God with a cold plunge into the water. You can share food with the hungry at any homeless shelter, but only the church teaches that a shared meal brings us into the very presence of God.”

What difference is the faith community called Central UMC making in the world? It's a wonderful time to pray and seek God about truly *being Church* in the wonderful place called Mathews, Virginia.

On the journey together,
Suzanne

¹In *The Washington Post*, April 30, 2015. (All quotations are from this article.)

Central United Methodist Women

The Central UMW would like to thank those who contributed to the Conference kits project. You made it possible to put together 48 kits. They are greatly needed around the world.

May 15, our Three Rivers Healthy Families Day was also a great success. We had about 40 children and adults participate. Thanks to the Witherspoons for giving the children a day to remember, with digging in the dirt, planting, wagon rides, and just having fun in the out-of-doors. We then enjoyed a wonderful salad luncheon that the UMW provided. Everyone enjoyed the fun and fellowship.

We have two informative programs coming in June and July. Monday, June 8, Sheriff Barrack and Major Williams will talk about the drug problem in our county. On Monday, July 13 there will be a 90-minute film on human trafficking entitled *Not in My Life*. Join us at 7:00 pm and bring a friend!

Grace Mortimer,
CUMW Recording Secretary



Digging and planting.

Photos by
Susan Hill.



Yippee! Let's go!



Play time.

Thank You, Art Miller!

Many thanks to Art Miller for the repair work done on three stained glass windows in the sanctuary. His work was done gratis. If you know Art and see him around town, please give him your personal thanks.

Greeters/Ushers for June

8:30 am service	Dee Bane & Mary Wade Smith
11:00 am service	Marcia Fry & Ann Miles

Refreshment Providers for June

7	Michael & Ed Cannon and Melba & Nate Houser
14	Dee Bane & Janet Burgess
21	Jean Sutton
28	Karen & Ken Palmer

Paul Townsend Memorial Class

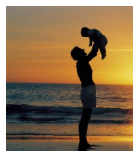
The class **will not** have a dinner and business meeting in June and July. The regular monthly meetings will resume in August.

Our Sunday School class has been well attended. We average 18 to 22 each Sunday. All are invited to join us to hear good teachers and lively discussions of the lessons.

At last month's meeting, the class voted to give \$200 to the Friends of the Mathews Memorial Library special programs; \$300 to the Mathews Volunteer Rescue Squad; and \$300 to the Mathews Volunteer Fire Department.

Our class will recognize the 2015 graduates on Sunday, June 7 at both the 8:30 and the 11:00 services. We have five graduates who are grandchildren of Central members. Grace Elizabeth Walker and Matthew Fry are graduating from high school. The college grads are Steven Chase Kemp, Christopher Fry and Cody Weaver. Each will be presented either a bible or a devotional book and be recognized for their school achievements. All graduates will be featured in the July *Central Chimes*.

Phyllis Hudgins, Class President



Father's Day Tribute Bulletin

Nancy Wroten Memorial Class

Deadline: June 14

Listings in memory or in honor of our fathers or other special men in our lives are **\$1 each**. To place your listing, please call a member of the Nancy Wroten Class. Forms are available in the Sunday bulletin. All proceeds will be used for class community projects. Thank you for your participation.

Historic Church Tour Mathews County Historical Society

Saturday, June 13
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Tickets must be purchased in advance at:
Cattails, Chesapeake Bank, Flowers From the Heart, Hudgins Pharmacy & Mathews Visitor's Center

Ticket price is \$12.
Children 13 and under are free.

Antioch Baptist Church	Central UM Church	Christ Episcopal Church
Ebenezer Baptist Church	First Baptist Church	Mathews Baptist Church
Trinity Church	Emmaus Baptist Church	Zion Baptist Church

BIRTHDAYS

Mary Keen	4	Ken Lee	25
Nancy Jagger	15	Danny Hogge	27
Becky Pittman	16	Janet Gomez	29

ANNIVERSARIES

Judy & Jennings Haynes	2	Phyllis & Bobby Hudgins	13
Elma & Allen Moughon	5	Grace & David Mortimer	15
Sandi & Glen Morgan	8	Janet & Gene Gomez	17

[Our Deepest Sympathy and Prayers go to...](#)

Family of Vernelle S. Foster

Father James Cowles & family for the loss of his mother

Family of Barbara Anne Michelborough

Family of Irene Jordan

Cindy Bryant and family of Valerie Sexton

Family of Ben Thompson

Family of Edward Lee Garrett

Family of Anavista Callis



Spring Shrimp Dinner 2015

Preparing the feast

Photos by
Louise Witherspoon



Filling the plates

Photos by
Louise Witherspoon



Photo Round-Up



Spring Shrimp Dinner 2015

Greeting and serving the masses






Photos by Louise Witherspoon



Happy workers and Happy guests

Photos by Suzanne Gibson



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Prayer Time 8:00 am	2	3	4 Youth Choir Practice 6:45 pm Adult Choir Practice 7:15 pm	5	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: yellow; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> All meeting times & dates are subject to change. If in doubt, contact the committee chair. </div>
7 Graduate Recognition Day at both services Baccalaureate 2:00 pm	8 Prayer Time 8:00 am UM Women: Racial Justice Roundtable 7:00 pm	9	10 Finance 7:00 pm	11 Youth Choir Practice 6:45 pm Adult Choir Practice 7:15 pm	12	
14 Deadline for Father's Day Listings <i>Deadline for Annual Conference Offering</i> 	15 Prayer Time 8:00 am Creation Care 9:00 am SPRC 7:00 pm	16 Mathews County 4-H Camp 8:00 am - 4:00 pm 	17 Mathews County 4-H Camp 8:00 am - 4:00 pm 	18 Mathews County 4-H Camp 8:00 am - 4:00 pm  Adult Choir Practice 7:15 pm	19 Annual Conference Begins	20 UM Men Breakfast 8:00 am <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: yellow; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Annual Conference Roanoke , VA 19 - 21 </div>
21 Father's Day <i>Central Chimes Submissions Due</i> Annual Conference Ends 	22 Prayer Time 8:00 am Trustees 7:00 pm	23	24 Administrative Council 7:00 pm	25 Adult Choir Practice 7:15 pm	26	27
28 Pastor Suzanne's last Sunday at Central	29 Prayer Time 8:00 am	30			