



THE CENTRAL CHIMES

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Pastor John Choi ♦ Pastor's E-mail: johnchoi@vaumc.org

June 2023

From the Pastor's Pen

About a year ago this time I spent a few days at the picturesque Lake Junaluska, North Carolina. An important agenda was praying for the church, and I am grateful I had that time. It is our privilege and joy as the church to depend on God's grace for our life and ministries.

Some of you have told me that you pray for Central Church every day. Know that your prayers are not in vain. See how much we have come through especially the last several years. Only the Holy Spirit could have equipped and enabled us to be the church. This preacher is but one public face behind which many sacrificial ministries take place through a loving spirit.

Thank you for your prayers for the church. The church belongs to Jesus. With the help of God's Holy Spirit Central will step into a new era of faithfulness and fruitfulness to the praise of God. "Not by power, not by might, but by my Spirit, says the LORD." (Zech. 4:6)

Gratefully,
John



Join us for Worship!

Sunday Worship—9:15 a.m.
Sunday school—10:15 a.m.

Radical Hospitality

Many times, I have wondered what the words "radical hospitality" really mean. How does giving make us happier? A recent article from the Virginia United Methodist Foundation explored that topic. Scripture gives us examples of how the Israelites gave freely and joyously to the Lord. The reason why they gave is important. Scripture doesn't tell us that giving will make us happy. It tells us that we give to meet the need. II Corinthians Chapter 8:9 tells us that Jesus gave the ultimate gift, Himself, to meet our needs.

Two weeks ago, when members of our church needed our support, our church family stepped up and embraced those who needed our love and understanding and we celebrated the women in our life on Mother's Day. The outpouring of this love in the form of hospitality was so evident in the many people who contributed their time, their gifts of food, and their unconditional support during the events that took place here at Central Church. I can only say a humble thank you to all of those who contributed. I would list the names of all who helped, but it would take two pages of this report or more. What I will not forget is the genuine expressions of love that were visible and felt during that week. I am honored to be a part of this congregation and experience the "radical hospitality" that is Central United Methodist Church.

Blessings,
Dee Bane
Administrative Council Chair

Mark Your Calendar

Though it will be so hard to say farewell, we will have a special luncheon to honor Pastor John at the Church on June 25th following Sunday School, starting at 11:30. It will be a potluck and the Church will provide chicken and drinks. Please mark the date on your calendar.

It is also John's birthday on June 27th, so you may want to wish him farewell and happy birthday with a card. There will be a basket provided for cards*.

*(Keep in mind it will not be easy for John to transport gifts of any size as he is traveling soon after he leaves us. I know that he will appreciate your words, in any case.)

We will also have a reception for Rev. Rebecca Rumburg on her first Sunday with us. It will be following the service on July 2, and before Sunday School. Sunday School will be delayed 30 minutes. Hope you will come and welcome Pastor Rebecca.

Blessings,

Dee Bane

Administrative Council Chair



Journey with God Sunday, June 4, 5:00 pm

The Mission and Evangelism team have an exciting speaker lined up; Bev Childress will speak on her life journey with God, so please make plans to attend. If you haven't been to one of these programs before, you don't know what you're missing!

Always an uplifting evening with fellow believers listening to faith stories together. Join us as we gather for music, testimony and prayer. *All are invited.*



Saturday, June 17 | 7:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Rain Date: Saturday, June 24

Central United Methodist Church

Church Street at Mathews Courthouse

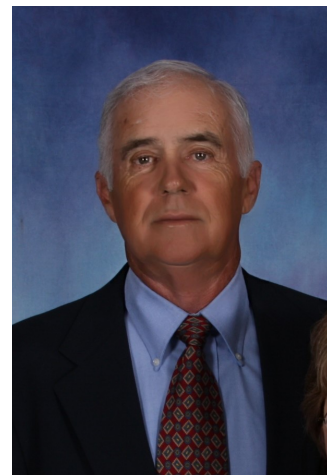
GIGANTIC selection of household and yard items, clothing and much more!!

Yard sale proceeds will support community outreach

United Methodist Women will have baked goods for sale!



Sponsored by Central United Methodist Men
and Central Village Homemakers



Remembering
William "Billy" Snow, Jr.
(1/13/1943—5/6/2023)

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

Frederick Tomlinson
William "Billy" Snow, Jr.
Ronnie Goodwin



Mission Focus for June: Three Rivers Healthy Families



Three Rivers Healthy Families mission is to ensure that every child in the region is born healthy, grows in a safe and nurturing environment, enters school ready to learn, and can develop into a healthy and productive adult.

Three Rivers Healthy Families (TRHF) is an affiliate of Middle Peninsula-Northern Neck Community Services Board. The organization has served families throughout the area since 1999. Their programs are designed for improving outcomes for young children and their families in the areas of development, social supports, health, safety and bonding and attachment.

TRHF program evaluations demonstrate outstanding success at improving outcomes for young children who were at the very highest risk for abuse and neglect. Our successful home visiting program reaches out to families to help relieve some of the stress of having a new baby.

Services are based on each family's strengths and needs, and include:

- Activities to promote positive parent-child relationships and healthy childhood growth and development
- Case management services for high risk children from birth to six years old
- In-home mentoring and training to develop problem solving skills
- Information about and referral to community resources.

You may give by mailing a check to the office or placing it in an envelope in the pews to Central UMC, "3 Rivers" in the memo.

Monthly mission focus in adopted by the Administrative Council.

United Methodist Men Plans Yard Sale

The Central United Methodist Men met on Saturday, May 20. Breakfast was prepared by Tim Hill and Kenny Childress with a little help from Chris Merrill and James Martin. The dozen members present appreciated their efforts. A special thanks goes out to Chris Merrill for taking notes for the minutes in Greg Lewis's absence.

Most of the meeting was devoted to discussing the upcoming yard sale (see ad elsewhere in Chimes) to be held on Saturday, June 17, starting at 7am, at the church. We will be collecting donations in earnest the week before the sale at the church, but if you need to drop off something before then, we'll make accommodations for it. You can see or call Joe Arnold (973-714-4973) or myself (804-815-8674) if you have any questions. Collections are already off to a good start and we're looking forward to a great sale with our partners the Central Village Homemakers. The Central United Methodist Women will have baked goods for sale as well, so mark your calendars and join us.

We voted to send \$500 to Meals on Wheels and \$250 to the Backpack Program with our Brunswick Stew profits. Hopefully, we'll have even more funds available for community outreach after the yard sale.

Our next meeting will be at 6pm on Friday, June 16. We'll get together then to set up for the yard sale the next morning and go over last minute details as well as any other business that needs to be addressed. This will probably be our last meeting until September, so you don't want to miss it!

Chris Moughon
CUMM President



United Methodist Women celebrates Volunteers

CUMW held our monthly meeting on May 8th in the Fellowship Hall to review our events in May and our upcoming events in June.

We are excited that we were able to revive our Annual Volunteer Luncheon on May 23rd. This luncheon was given to honor those members of our church who have volunteered their time in the church or to the community. Our guest speaker was Nancy Yarborough who has for many years been involved in the United Methodist Women at the district level and has travelled on several missionary trips to Cambodia and beyond. About 25 guests enjoyed a picnic of hot dogs and hamburgers with all the trimmings. We give special thanks to all our volunteers.

On June 17th, Central United Methodist Women will be holding a Bake Sale in conjunction with the HUGE Yard Sale that the United Methodist Men and the Central Village Homemakers are having in the church parking lot. There will be lots of great bargains and delicious baked goods. The proceeds for the Yard Sale will be split between the UMM and CVH and will be given back to Mathews County. So come and support your community. Watch for the advertisement.

Also, on June 23rd, CUMW will be hosting our annual picnic with the children and mothers of Three Rivers Healthy Families at Port Fun. Details to follow. Prior to the picnic, a field trip is planned on June 22nd to visit the Three Rivers facility in Urbanna.

We will continue our monthly \$50 donation to the organizations that are chosen by the Mission and Evangelism Team.

WE CONTINUE WITH THIS URGENT APPEAL! *Hands Across Mathews* is still having difficulty in obtaining food from the Peninsula food bank. They are appealing to churches and organizations to donate canned vegetables and fruits, soups, proteins such as tuna fish and chicken, cereals, peanut butter, rice, beans, pasta, etc. As well, they continue need Non-Food items such as toilet paper, shampoos,

Continued on page 4

Below: Central's UM Women were featured in the *May Bridge Connection* Newsletter for the Mission Rivers District.

Central United Women in Faith of Mathews

Central United Methodist Women of Mathews presented four Special Mission Recognition Pins in March and April. The recipients were given their pins and a Certificate of Appreciation for their outstanding contributions to our Church and our Community. The recipients were David Hudgins, Grace Mortimer, and Ben and Peggy Leigh.



Left: David Hudgins receiving his Special Mission Recognition Pin and Certificate.



Right: Grace Mortimer receiving her Special Mission Recognition Pin and Certificate.

Ben and Peggy Leigh have been unable to attend our services because of illness, but our pastor, John Choi, recorded the presentation of their Special Mission Recognition Pins and Certificates and took them to Ben and Peggy and showed them the recording.

soap, laundry detergent, toothpaste, etc. There are bins for the food in the vestibule between the church and the Fellowship Hall and there is a bin for non-food items in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your generosity.

“The Good Measure Cookbook” is still available for \$12. The cookbook makes a great gift.

Your support and generosity to our organization are greatly appreciated.

Martha Arnold
UMW President



Volunteer Luncheon

Top: Nancy Yarborough
Bottom: Members get ready to enjoy a delicious lunch in their honor.

Photos by Judy Moughon



Hands Across Mathews Sums Up Activities

The following is from a letter received:

Dear Neighbors,

Through your generous support, Hands Across Mathews (HAM), continues to aid the local community in a variety of ways. These are our three most expensive programs, and we expect each of them to increase in the coming months:

1. Our Food Distribution Program, which provides food every Wednesday, is feeding over 85 families each week. In the past 12 months, we spent \$12,016.30 to purchase food from the Virginia Peninsula Food Bank. This is in addition to the donations we received from individuals, churches, and businesses.
2. The Fuel and Utility Program assists eligible clients by paying a portion of their fuel and utility bills directly to the supplier. In the last 12 months, this program has paid out \$35,256.77.
3. Our Home Repair Program helps Mathews families stay in their homes. We assist clients with payment for repairs to electric, plumbing, HVAC, drywall, roof repairs and replacements, and install ramps to keep clients' homes safe. In the last 12 months, this program has paid out over \$90,000.

In addition to these programs, for eligible families, we aid with rent payments, distribute clothing and household items at no cost, contribute and help coordinate the Fresh Start Program, and assist with the Snack Pack Program for our schools. All of this adds up to \$178,624.74 in various assistance for the past 12 months.

We want to thank our churches, businesses, families, and foundations for their ongoing generous support.

We hope you will join us and offer your support so that we can continue to give a helping hand to those who need it the most. Please be as generous as possible. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Carroll A. Jackson, President

RAH Meal Packaging Event Planned

Members of the Mission and Evangelism Committee are excited to report that we are again planning another Rise against Hunger event. It will be held November 19 in the church fellowship hall. This time we will be packaging 4,000 meals at a cost to us of \$2000.00. We will be holding various fundraisers as well as making RAH as a future mission focus of the month to raise funds to pay for the cost of the event. Please keep the date on your calendar: we would love your help putting the meals together.

Gloria Fulcher, our newest committee member, today delivered home baked cookies to members of the Mathews Rescue Squad today. We had previously decided to honor a local organization monthly to let the members of the organization know that our church is glad they are in our neighborhood. Next month, John volunteered to bring treats to Hands across Mathews. Our Mission Focus for June is 3 Rivers and for July Meals on Wheels.

The next Journey with God will be June 4 at 5:00. We have an exciting speaker lined up so please make plans to attend. If you haven't been to one of these programs before, you don't know what you're missing!

The Paiges are planning another visit to the States and would like to share information about their ministry in Spain with our congregation. John will contact them to see if they are available the week of July 23-30. If so, Judy Moughon volunteered to house them during the week.

Linda Dalgety
M & E Chair



2023 Annual Conference



The 241st session of the Virginia Annual Conference, to be held in Roanoke, VA, June 15-17, 2023, will be focused on the theme, United as One in Mission. The theme is based on Acts 1:8b, *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* NIV

From Finance Committee Chair

It's been said that all good things must come to an end and that is certainly the case as Pastor John's time with us ends this month. I can't begin to express how great it was to work side by side with him as Finance Chairman and Admin Council Chairman. I have many memories of his time here, but there are two I'll never forget. One is of the two of us counting your mailed in contributions at the beginning of the pandemic, with gloves and masks on, and the other is of him standing there with Pat and our daughter, Mackenzie, when I awoke from surgery the night of my heart attack.

Yes, John will be greatly missed in many ways and unfortunately, I must point out a way that most of you are unaware of. We were not paying John what we really should have been paying him. Oh, the SPRC, Finance Committee, and Admin Council tried to give him bigger raises, but John being John, either refused them or insisted upon a smaller increase than we offered. This definitely helped the church's bottom line and we were getting a "really good deal." The problem is now that the "deal" is coming to an end and we're going to have to pay more for a pastor with the experience that John and our new pastor, Rebecca, bring to our congregation. If we accepted a new, young person as our pastor we could get by paying them less, but with our older congregation, the SPRC felt we would be better served by a more seasoned minister. So, we'll have to come up with \$600-\$700 more a month in order to pay Rebecca the "going rate."

I know this isn't what you want to hear, but it is the reality of the situation. We need to step up our giving a little so that we don't have to tap into our reserves if we can help it. If you've been considering increasing your giving, now would be a good time to do so. You don't have to wait for the end of the year, although a large gift is welcome anytime. I know that everyone will do what they can. Thanks so much for what you have already done and for what you will do in the future to support our church.

Thanks again and Blessings,

Chris Moughon
Finance Chair

2023 Graduates

Graduates will be presented a gift Bible or a book of daily scripture by the Paul Townsend Memorial Sunday School Class on Sunday, June 4th.

Ashley Annette Bennett

Ashley graduated from Virginia Tech with a Bachelor of Science in Civil engineering and a minor in Green Engineering on May 13, 2023. She is the daughter of Joy and Brian Bennett of Chesapeake, VA, and the granddaughter of Bobby and Phyllis Hudgins of Mathews, VA.

During her freshman year at Virginia Tech, she was a member of the Galipatia Engineering Living Learning Community. When she was a sophomore, she stayed with the community to become an upper-class leader and mentor, helping guide the new freshman in the community and lead test reviews for their classes. During her junior and senior years, she was a teaching assistant for the Galipatia class, which teaches freshman professional development skills and good habits for success in college. In the Spring of 2021, she was inducted into Tau Beta Pi, the National Engineering Honor Society. She will start working full time later this Summer as a project engineer with Timmons Group.



*For surely I know the plans I have for you,
says the Lord, plans for your welfare
and not for harm, to give you
a future with hope.
Jeremiah 29:11 NRSV*

Charles Ashby Stewart Cameron (Chas)

Charles will graduate on June 6 with an Advanced Studies Diploma from Deep Run High school in Glen Allen, VA. His parents are Anna and Evan Cameron of Richmond, VA. His grandparents are Chris and Hope Merrill. Chas plans to attend the College of William and Mary in the Fall.



Cassius David Corey

Cassius (Cash), grandson of Christine and the late Carl Ulrich, will receive his high school diploma from the Renaissance Arts Academy in Los Angeles, California, in June 2023. Cash's interests include music and photography. He plans to study engineering at one of the University of California campuses.



2023 Graduates Cont.

Matthew Lawson Fry

Matthew is the son of Mark and Kendall Fry and grandson of Marcia Fry. He has earned a Master's Degree in Laboratory Medicine from George Washington University. He previously earned a Bachelor's Degree in Biology from George Mason University.

While pursuing his Master's Degree, he worked in the Emergency room at Riverside Hospital in Newport News and Riverside Doctor's Hospital in Williamsburg. He is interviewing for a position with the University of Virginia Medical Center as a Lab scientist.

Congratulations to all 2023 Graduates!



Abigail Dawn Hudgins (Abbie)

Abbie is the daughter of Robert and Heather Hudgins and the granddaughter of Kenneth and Mary Marshall and Bobby and Phyllis Hudgins.

Abbie graduated with a Bachelor's degree in psychology (BA) from the University of Virginia on May 20th. She graduated in only two years at 19 years old with honors. She was on the Dean's list and in the Honor Society. During her time at UVA she was also a part of the club softball team. In the Fall, she plans to attend Liberty University (online) to obtain a Master's Degree in Mental Clinical Health Counseling (MA).



Ethan Alexander Hudgins

Ethan will graduate from Mathews High School with honors on June 10, 2023. While at MHS, he attended Chesapeake Bay Governors School and was a member of the National Honor Society and Beta Club.

Ethan received his Associates degree of Arts and Sciences (AA/AS) from Rappahannock Community College on May 11, 2023. He plans to attend Virginia Tech School of Engineering in the fall.

Ethan is the son of Robert and Heather Hudgins and the grandson of Kenneth and Mary Marshall and Bobby and Phyllis Hudgins.



2023 Graduates Cont.

Emily Grace Mortimer

Grace Mortimer's granddaughter, Emily, is graduating from UVA with a degree in Urban Planning. She has been accepted into a graduate study program in the same field. Emily has worked as an intern for the past four years in the School of Policy in Urban Planning. She is graduating with honors. Her parents, Randy and Kathy Mortimer, are very proud of her.



Cole Riley Thacker

Cole Thacker is grandson of David Lee Hudgins and the late Naomi Hudgins of Mathews, Va. He is son of Paul and Michele Thacker of Foster, Va. He is a graduating senior at Mathews High school. During this time in high school, he played football and basketball. He completed a year of entry level Welding to see his favorite team The Packers play. He also became part owner of the Packers as the people own the team and he was gifted a share of stock in the team.

Cole plans to pursue the trade of welding with the possibility of obtaining an Associate's degree.



Please forgive any omissions or errors.

Note from Trustees

The painting of the hallways and adjoining classrooms has been completed and it has been a nice update. The light on the east side of the parking lot has been replaced to enhance the safety of the area.

Our next project in the works is to have the roof of the church repainted.

David Hudgins
Trustees Chair

2023 Mathews High school Baccalaureate Service

Sunday, June 4th at 2:00 pm

Mathews Baptist church, Hudgins
Sponsored by Mathews County
Christian Ministerial Association



From the Paige Family, our Mission Partners

She is college-bound

On Friday, June 2nd, Cora will graduate from Evangelical Christian Academy here in Spain. While we will miss her greatly, we are excited about this important milestone in her life!

We are very proud of Cora and her persistence and resilience in finishing well even with a major international move halfway through her Sophomore year. After only two and a half years in Spain, she is well-loved by many who are sad to see her go.



Please pray for her and us as she makes this much-anticipated transition to a new home and culture. Even though she has a U.S. passport, at heart she describes herself as a Paraguayan living in Spain.

Cora will be attending Houghton University in Upstate New York in the Fall. Her plan is to major in Elementary Education with a minor in Equine Studies. Her desire is to work with special needs children in either a school or equine therapy setting.

That brings us to our next important announcement...

We are coming to the U.S. for *THREE* months!

It has been two years since we visited the States, so we will be leaving Spain on June 27th and returning on September 27th (without Cora). Our time will be spent:

- Visiting family and churches in North Carolina
- Visiting the TMS Global home office in Norcross, Georgia
- Cora and Daniel attending Missionary Kid transition retreats in North Georgia
- Helping Cora get settled at Houghton in Upstate New York
- Visiting friends and church partner's in Virginia
- Inviting new partners to join in our ministry in Spain

Praise the Lord that we have places to stay during July and August! However, with the high prices of rental cars, Our Biggest need right now is a vehicle that we can use from June 27th until September 27th. Please let us know if you or someone else you know can help us with this need even if it is just for part of that time.

Despite personal transitions, ministry goes on...

LIFE International School is continuing to grow and thrive. The school year ends on June 21st with the kindergarten and 6th-grade graduations. (Daniel will be one of them, making him the 3rd family member to graduate in 2023!) Our newly added 8th and 9th grades received accreditation this year, and we will be adding the 10th grade next year. We are quickly outgrowing our rented space with a projected enrollment of 78 students for September.

Thank you for joining us during this exciting time. We are grateful for your prayers and financial support!

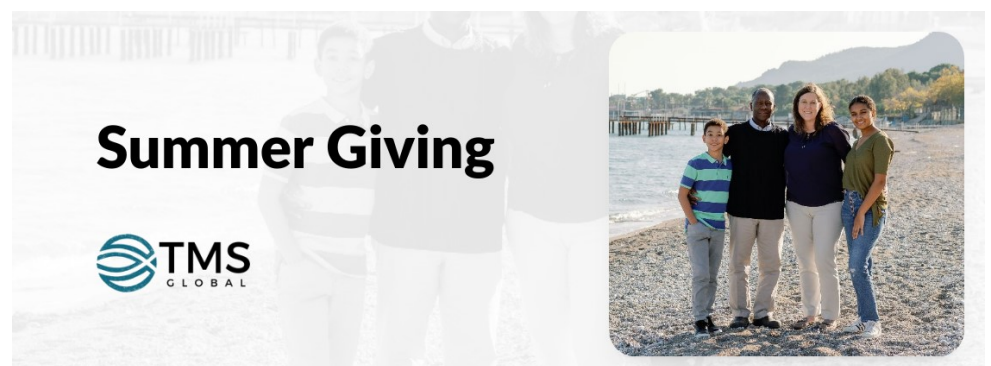
Blessings,

The Paige Family

To give:

www.tms-global.org

Our ID # is: 0480



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<h1>June 2023</h1>				1	2	3
4 Worship, 9:15 am Sunday school, 10:15 am Graduates Honored  Mathews High School Baccalaureate 2:00 pm Journey with God, 5:00 pm	5	6	7 Central Village Homemakers 9:00 am - 1:00 pm	8 Finance 2:00 pm Trustees 3:00 pm	9	10
11 Worship, 9:15 am Sunday school, 10:15 am	12 UMW 10:00 am SPRC 7:00 pm	13	14	15 <div style="border: 2px solid black; background-color: yellow; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Annual Conference Roanoke, VA 15—17 >></div> Choir 7:00 pm	16 UM Men Yard sale Set-up 6:00 pm	17 Yard Sale UMM & CVH UMW Bake sale 7:00 am - 2:00 pm 
18 Worship, 9:15 am Sunday school, 10:15 am Happy Father's Day 	19	20 Office Closed	21 Office Closed Mission and Evangelism 10:00 am	22 Office Closed	23 UMW 3 Rivers Healthy Families at Port Fun	24
25 Worship, 9:15 am Sunday school, 10:15 am Farewell Luncheon 11:30 am	26 Central Chimes Submissions & Reports Due	27	28 Administrative Council 7:00 pm	29	30	

Birthdays

Frances Ellis	6/13
Nancy Jagger	6/15
John Choi	6/27
Danny Hogge	6/27
Betty Lewis	7/1

Anniversaries

Judy & Jennings Haynes	2
Elma & Allen Moughon	5
Phyllis & Bobby Hudgins	13
Tom & Dale Robinson	17

