



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



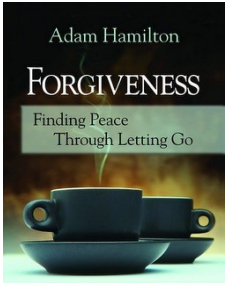
Image Source: www.clenmoore.org/featured/ash-wednesday

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS



Set your clock forward
ONE HOUR at bedtime
on Saturday, March 8!

LENTEN STUDY
"FORGIVENESS: Finding Peace Through Letting Go"





Tuesday mornings, 10:00 a.m.
March 11, 18, 25
April 1, 8, 15

Please contact the church office
to reserve a book - 725-2832.

Make checks payable to
Central UMC - \$9.50

Kingston Episcopal Parish
invites you to



Soup with Love

Five Wednesdays, beginning March 12th at Noon
370 Main Street in Mathews
Sponsored by the Kingston Parish Women

There will be a short service beginning at Noon led by Fr. Gary of Kingston Parish with homilies given by the following clergy:

March 12: The Rev. Suzanne Gibson, Central UMC
March 19: The Rev. Gary Barker, Kingston Parish
March 26: The Rev. William Lawson, New Point Friends
April 2: The Rev. David Magruder, Grace-Providence and Emmanuel UMC
April 9: The Rev. Kathy Duhon, Unitarian Universalist, Retired

**Donations will benefit the Kingston Parish Preschool
and the Gloucester-Mathews Free Clinic.**



From the Pastor's Pen...

Jesus' Sermon on the Mount – Just in Time for Lent



For the past several weeks, my sermons have come from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount as recorded in Matthew 5. So much instruction and wisdom is packed into that well known sermon (chapters 5-7); if a person had access to

only that portion of Scripture, and took its precepts seriously, surely he or she would grow to understand God's heart!

Sadly, even people of faith read Jesus' sermon as a collection of idealistic, pious sayings, without realizing that Jesus is radically shifting – even overturning – the way God's people are to think and live out their faith, then and now. Jesus pronounces blessings on those considered unblessed. He calls his disciples, as well as the listening crowd and us, to a higher righteousness than that shown by arrogant religious leaders. He calls to mind the laws they had heard all their lives, and reinterprets them in light of God's *original* intentions. He doesn't simply deal with the outcomes of sin (such as murder, adultery, divorce, oaths, and retaliation); rather, Jesus deals with the root causes of sin: anger, lust, self-centeredness, fear, and greed. The antidote is to practice love in return for violence - an impossibility without the influence of God's Spirit within us. Jesus' teaching emphasizes God's desire for mercy, forgiveness, generosity, and loving relationships among *all* people, even those who are considered enemies.

God's reign is all about us loving others – all others – as God loves us, but a polarized society demonstrates the opposite. The appeal of individual rights often outweighs the desire to look out for the common good, so whole communities of people suffer. Anger, selfishness and greed rule the words and actions of many, resulting in a rising tide of violence against minorities, youth, women, and vulnerable seniors, in public places, our communities and our homes. Surely, God weeps.

The Sermon on the Mount serves as a wonderful corrective to the root of the ills faced by the Church, our nation and the larger world. Reflecting on its wisdom throughout the season of Lent will challenge us to question our personal contribution to those ills, and prayerfully to seek ways to change for the love of God and neighbor. I commend Matthew 5-7 to you as a daily devotion in your Lenten journey, along with this ancient wisdom:

*Watch your thoughts; they become words.
Watch your words; they become actions.
Watch your actions; they become habits.
Watch your habits; they become character.
Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.¹*

On the journey together,
Suzanne

¹Often attributed to Lao Tzu, a mystic Chinese philosopher from the 6th century BCE; quoted by Margaret Thatcher and many others.

The image is *The Sermon on the Mount* by Carl Heinrich Bloch.

Welcome to Our New Members



Janet Burgess joined Central at the early service on February 9. Welcome, Janet!



Carey Hogge joined Central at the late service on February 9. Welcome, Carey, Richie and Danny!

Mission & Evangelism

The M & E 2013 Covenant Program to provide non-perishable food items to Hands Across Mathews (HAM) came to a close on Sunday, December 22, 2013 with a total donation of 2,268 items provided by members and friends of Central Church. This worked out to be 43.62 items per week.

The children of Central sponsored a food and household items drive over the week of December 8-14, 2013 for the benefit of HAM. There were approximately 52 bags collected with an average of 12 items per bag for an estimated total of 642 items.

The M & E 2014 Covenant Program started Sunday, December 29, 2013 and will end Sunday, December 21, 2014. As in the past, we will burn receipts and/or birthday cards in honor of Jesus' birth.

In January we sponsored *Songs, Soups, Salads and Sweets (S⁴)* for the third year. This was a wonderful evening with music and singing praises to God followed by fellowship time with soup, salad and sweets. I thank the Men's Chorus from Ebenezer Baptist Church, Gary Painter from Spring Hill Baptist Church, Pastor Rob and Maggie Ulmer from Bethel/St. Matthews UMC and Pastor Suzanne Gibson. Thanks also go to those who provided the meal and helped set-up the fellowship hall.

By the way, Herbert Carter, a member of Ebenezer Baptist Church, presents a Bible Study every Thursday at 11:00 a.m. in the church's fellowship hall. All who are interested are invited to attend.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, March 19 at 10:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

Joe Cromwell, Chairman
Mission & Evangelism

Fellowship Time

Thank you to all who provided refreshments during January and February.

The March calendar has five Sundays. The first through the fourth Sundays are *cookie Sundays*. There will be no refreshments on the fifth Sunday.

Joe Cromwell, The Cookie Monster

God's Green Earth



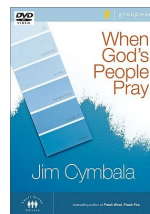
Did you know that old sneakers can be recycled? Nike has a program, *Nike Reuse-a-Shoe*, where they take sneakers--**any brand** and make

them into high-quality sports surfaces. It keeps **millions** of shoes out of the land fill.

If you are getting ready to outfit yourself for spring, hold on to those old ones. We will have more news about this later.

Your Creation Care Team

When God's People Pray: Six Sessions on the Transforming Power of Prayer



Tom and Marilyn Tucker are looking for 6-8 people to join them for a six session study in their home. The group will meet evenings, with the time and frequency determined by the attendees.

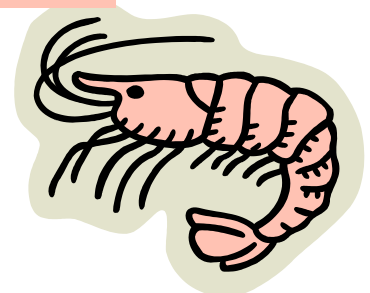
The study is by Jim Cymbala, pastor of the Brooklyn Tabernacle. They will be using his book, *When God's People Pray: Six Sessions on the Transforming Power of Prayer*. The study is a combination of DVD, discussions, bible study and more. Tom & Marilyn have previewed the first lesson and are excited to continue.

Please contact Tom & Marilyn at 725-9532 if you are interested in joining this study group.

Coming Friday, April 25!

UMM Shrimp Dinner!

Make plans to attend!



United Methodist Women

On February 10, CUMW prepared and delivered a Valentine's Day meal to our homebound church members and friends. The menu was mini meat loaves, string beans and red potatoes, coleslaw, rolls and fruit turnovers. A sugar-free dessert was prepared by Dee for any diabetics. It was great fellowship and fun.



Dee Bane



Pat Gwaltney



Ruth Ritter

Our next program will be on Monday, March 10 at 7:00 p.m. Joanna Harfst, the director of Mathews Department of Social Services will speak on "The Face of Poverty in Mathews County" in the fellowship hall. Please plan to attend this worthwhile program. There will be several programs this year which focus on health -- personal health, family health, community health and spiritual health. All women are welcome.

Dee Bane, UMW Secretary

Paul Townsend Memorial Class

The Paul Townsend Memorial S.S. Class had a very special Valentine's dinner prepared and served by the men on February 13. Class members invited friends and there were 37 who enjoyed the delicious meal. The men cooked spiral ham, mashed potatoes, crab cakes, baked beans, fresh salads, pickles, and rolls. They even bought a beautiful Valentine's cake and ice cream for dessert. Each lady present was given a heart-shaped Valentine box of chocolates.

As a "thank-you" for planning such a lovely evening, each man was presented a Valentine red tie by the class president. To finish off the fun-filled celebration a number of door prizes were awarded.



We hold class member Coleman Wheeler in our prayers and continue to wish Anne & Mason South's daughter, Vickie well with her second round of chemo.

Our next regular class meeting will be Thursday, March 13 at 6:00 p.m. We will be making plans for Mother's Day Sunday. Committee members are: Elizabeth Anderson-725-5879; Jean Sutton-725-4242; Cheryl Wheeler-725-7387; and David Hudgins -725-3273. Please call one of them to place a name in "honor of" or in "memory of" your loved one for our special Mother's Day bulletin. Each listing is a dollar donation. Thank you for all your continued support.

Phyllis Hudgins, Class President



Saturday, March 15
8:00 am
Breakfast & Fellowship

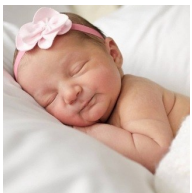
Children's Ministry

The One Room Sunday School Class has *growing and maturing pains*. Nancy Jagger and Pat Gwaltney are looking forward to a division of the age groups. In March, the children will be divided into three groups: 2-3 years olds; 4-6 years old; 7-12 years old. Each age group has special needs for their spiritual growth. A teacher for the 4-6 year olds is needed. Help us pray for this leadership. Until this position is filled, the 4- 12 years old will meet together.

Thank you to the congregation for the support in the children's outreach for The Souper Bowl of Caring. We collected \$295 and approximately 50 non-perishable food items. The national report for Souper Bowl of Caring to date: cash and food items, \$7,241,040; groups participating, 5,788; charities helped, 4,735; and for the state of Virginia, \$111,837.25.

The last weekend in March the children will be making a meal to take and share with the clients at the Gloucester Homeless Shelter. Janet Gomez will assist in organizing this outreach.

Pat Gwaltney, Chairman
Children's Ministry



This adorable baby is the second great-grandchild of Betty & Jimmy Stewart.

Hallie Elizabeth Hudgins is the daughter of Ryan & Regan Hudgins and the granddaughter of Paul & Robin Dehoux. Hallie arrived on February 18. She weighed 8.3 pounds and measured 20.75 inches.

A "David" Report

My brother, David, called me from Mass General Hospital two days after his damaged right knee was replaced. His knee will be in a cast for two weeks. He has temporary arms to help push himself into a vertical position. His new arms are being constructed. He sounds tired, but great.

He called to thank ALL OF YOU for your prayers, cards, words of encouragement and support. Please help me to keep this so special and needed contact for him going. A reminder, David is often moved from hospital to hospital, so I send all of my letters to his home address:

David Whitty
44 Winterberry Lane
Attleboro, MA 02703

We thank you, too!
Marcy and Me (Terry Leach)

BIRTHDAYS






Sally Thompson	1	Brenda Lewis	20
Bill Hutson	3	Michael Cannon	21
Dennis Gillikin	6	Ellie Tolbert	21
Eric Stewart	6	John Hodges	22
Sarah Moughon	13	Gregory Lewis	22
Cloe Griffith	15	Elma Moughon	24
Joice Small	17		

ANNIVERSARIES

John Robert & Peggy Pierce	6
Nate & Melba Houser	26
Jack & Frances Ward	30

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

Charlotte Howard
Shirley Hudgins
Iris Fletcher

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
All meeting times & dates are subject to change.						
2 Transfiguration Sunday	3 Prayer Time 8:00 am Queen's Creek Association 7:00 pm	4	5 Central Village Homemakers 9:00 am Ash Wednesday Meal 6:00 pm Service 7:00 pm 	6 Brownies 3:00-4:30 pm Children's Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm	7	8 SPRING FORWARD FOR DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME 
9 First Sunday in Lent	10 Prayer Time 8:00 am UM Women 7:00 pm 	11 Lenten Study 10:00 am	12 Soup with Love Noon Finance – TBD	13 Brownies (upstairs) 3:00-4:30 pm P. Townsend Class Dinner 6:00 pm Children's Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm	14	15 UM Men 8:00 am
16 Second Sunday in Lent Central Chimes Submissions Due	17 Prayer Time 8:00 am SPRC 7:00 pm	18 Lenten Study 10:00 am	19 Mission & Evangelism 10:00 am Soup with Love Noon	20 HAM Meeting 3:00 pm Brownies 3:00-4:30 pm Children's Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm	21	22 District Mission Trip to Brooklyn, NY March 22-29 
23 Third Sunday in Lent	24 Prayer Time 8:00 am Creation Care 9:00 am	25 Lenten Study 10:00 am	26 Soup with Love Noon Administrative Council 7:00 pm	27 Brownies 3:00-4:30 pm Children's Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm	28	29
30 Fourth Sunday in Lent One Great Hour of Sharing	31					
5th Sunday Joint Service - "Youth Sunday" 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service 2:30 pm Song Service at Riverside Convalescent Center						