



# THE CENTRAL CHIMES

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March 2016

## Dedication for New Church Doors and Stained Glass Window

Central members, family and friends gathered for a dedication service for the new church doors and stained glass window on Sunday, February 21.

The church doors are dedicated to the service of God in loving memory of Ronald Duff. The stained glass window is dedicated to the glory of God in honor of Richard and Melissa Moughon and family.



Photos provided by Louise Witherspoon

Easter Sunday, March 27

Sunrise Service  
6:30am  
Old Field Point

Sunday School  
9:00 am

Joint Service  
10:00 am



Image Source: imagebank.org.uk



**HOLY WEEK SERVICES**  
Westville Christian Church  
(located beside the library)  
Daily at Noon  
March 21-25

Image Source: cliparthut.com

## From the Pastor's Pen

Last Sunday Central Church hosted 40 children and youths for an evening of learning and fun at FINS. Our theme was prayer, and it was in all of our activities—songs, stories, puppet shows, crafts, and drama. Even the snacks (pretzels) got in there: According to certain legends, a pretzel has the look of a person crossing his or her arms and praying!

As the evening wound down, I thought about what prayer meant to all of us. It is a wonderful, mysterious thing to have an audience with the Almighty God. At any given moment, (in my decidedly unscientific guess) some two hundred fifty thousand people around the world could be praying to the same God. How could one God hear all those prayers in a personal way? Would God, literally having seen and heard everything over the centuries, really take my short-sighted prayer seriously?

Those are just a couple of the questions possibly giving us a pause. But even our humblest, simplest prayers stand on the hope that God does hear them personally. That was certainly Jesus' teaching. We might as well pray every time as if we have the hearing of God. Instead of throwing our words upwards and hoping that some would stick, we could pray more personally, deeply, honestly, patiently, boldly, by faith, with an open ear and an obedient heart.

In that sense, the Psalms are truly great guides for prayers (even though many of them were written for corporate worship). I also try to remember Jesus' saying: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." (Mt. 18:3) At least in my private prayer, taking up a childlike faith is the only way to approach the all-knowing, all-powerful God.

One of the age-old questions regarding

prayer is, "How 'selfish' are we allowed to be when praying and asking?" Can we really pray for our needs, and even our 'wants'? Some even dispense with praying for themselves, praying only for other people. Usually we say that God provides us with our needs, but not necessarily our wants. But does the Bible not also say, "Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart"? (Psalm 37:3) Here is one biblical answer:

If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. (John 15:7-8)

In other words, the reason and purpose of our requests is none other than Christ himself. In a sense, whether you are praying for the church, your neighbor, or yourself, you are praying for Christ.

When it comes to prayer, nothing takes place of learning by doing. Keep that simple faith that the very God of heaven hears you whenever you pray. Too great a thought to comprehend at times, but I certainly could not pray otherwise.

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During FINS I led the older children to create an impromptu skit on the story of Daniel and his den of lions. Needless to say, it was a chaotic, if fun, production. I then said, "At the end of the evening you'll have the chance to perform this in front of everyone." When that time came, without being prompted by anyone, one of our youths stepped up and said, "We've prepared this skit for you. I hope you enjoy it!" Way to take ownership of it! I wondered if God feels the same way every time we take what God has given us and run with it. "The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them ..." (Mt. 25:16)

Gratefully, *John*

## Our Mission Partners: The Paiges



### Ministry in the States

Despite our plans to leave in February, our time in the States has been

extended. The reason is simple. We are waiting for sufficient funding. Our budget for Spain is much larger, so by necessity our partner base needs to be larger as well. Don't worry, the vision is still the same. It's just taking a little longer than anticipated. We give thanks for all of you who have continued to partner with us during this time. Read further to see what we have been up to these past few months.

### Training in Costa Rica

The end of January we had the opportunity to join our colleagues for an Americas Regional Gathering in San Jose, Costa Rica. Along with 94 other attendees, we participated in 5 days of worship, study, prayer and community. The week's theme was "Form," focusing on the knowledge that we are continually being formed in the image of Christ as we are being used to form others. All 4 members of our family left feeling equipped, renewed and encouraged.

### Confirmation of the Vision

Spain continues to be the vision God has given us for ministry. It has a population of about 48 million. Close to 10 million live in towns without any evangelical presence. Less than 1% identify as evangelical Christians. Generations of children are being raised with no knowledge of the Gospel.

In August we shared that Donald will be involved in discipleship and church planting. Carol will be serving in the area of developing Christian education. Confirmation of our calling came when Carol was accepted at Regent University to complete a Masters degree in Christian School Administration. It is a two-year, online program that will equip her for her new area of service.

God's will for this was confirmed further when March 2016

she received enough scholarships to pay for almost the entire first semester!

Source: cadpaige@gmail.com> Date: Thu, Feb 4, 2016

### Children & Youth Ministry

Our *Souper Bowl of Caring* to fight hunger was a success. The food collections for the five weeks and monetary donation (\$220) for *Hands Across Mathews* served a need in our community. Thank you to the congregation for supporting this continued outreach.

Our new formation of the Sunday school classes has commenced. We are so pleased to have Janet Gomez teaching the middle school children. Her background in Children's Ministry is a blessing to our children and our church family.

There comes to mind this song:

*Jesus loves the little children,  
All the children of the world.  
Red and yellow, black and white,  
They are precious in his sight,  
Jesus loves the little children of the world.*

Michael Cannon and the Creation Care Team presented on Sunday, February 7, a most informative and fun-filled program, *Race for Recycling*, for our children with an update on Sunday, February 21 (See page 6). Thanks a bundle!

2016 promises to be a growing spiritual year in the lives of our children at Central. It takes a village to raise them.

*Pat Gwaltney*, Chair





## Finance

As we work to control costs, some have questions about Apportionment, which accounts for about 17% of our budget. Let's take a look at it. As United Methodists, apportioned funds allows us to join with other congregations to accomplish the mission of the church far beyond what we could cost-effectively hope to do standing alone. Apportionment is our share of the costs for the operation, mission, and ministry of the Virginia Conference and York River District. It is set using financial data submitted by each church in the conference. It is calculated using the total expenditures of the church; minus benevolences, capital improvements, apportionment, and loan interest. It also does not include UMM, UMW, and class expenditures. Our share of the total conference budget is the fraction of our qualified expenses to the total expenses for all churches.

Over 50% of Apportionment goes for health care benefits for around 2800 active and retired clergy in the conference. Another 30% is used within the Conference for missions and ministries, administrative costs, services, facilities, education, and church expansion. Funds are provided for disaster relief, prison ministry, and various ministries to children, youth, and adults across the state; support for five conference affiliated colleges in Virginia, including scholarships, as well as church owned Wesley Foundation centers on eight college campuses; support for the Board of Ordained Ministry that oversees the qualification and training of our clergy and the Treasurer's Office handling and safeguarding conference funds. There are facilities to operate and maintain such as the Annual Conference center where 9,000 attendees meet each year to carry out the mission of the Conference. There are salaries and benefits for conference staff and 16 District Superintendents.

The remaining 20% provides general funding for services and programs outside the

conference. Nearly half of this is for the World Service Fund, considered one of the most important benevolent responsibilities of the United Methodist church. It supports around 1,070 mission personnel in 167 countries. About 3% is used to support thirteen Methodist theological schools and thousands of men and women who answer God's call. Small amounts are used to support promising students at eleven black colleges in the USA and the Africa University in Zimbabwe, the only UMC sponsored college on the African continent.

In 2014, nearly 90% of total requested apportionment was met by conference churches. Central has contributed 100% for many years and we have budgeted to continue this tradition in 2016. More detailed information is available at <http://www.vaumc.org/page.aspx?pid=4703> and a detailed breakdown for 2016 is posted on the church bulletin board.

*Nate Houser, Chair*

## Paul Townsend Memorial Class

The class met on February 11 at *Goodfellows Restaurant* in Gloucester for a Valentine's Dinner. A good time was had by all 22 attendees.

We are preparing for our Mother's Day tribute bulletin and graduation gifts for any member with a child or grandchild graduating from high school or college this year. Please contact a member of our class with the graduate's name, school and degree.

We meet every Sunday at 10:00 am and we welcome you to join us.

*David Lee Hudgins, Class President*



Image source: creationswap.com

March 2016

## Mission & Evangelism

Sunday, January 31, M & E sponsored S<sup>4</sup> or better known as *Songs, Soups, Salads and Sweets*. If you arrived a little before 5:00 pm, you would have had just enough time to find a seat before the singing began. The sanctuary was filled with the voices of many gifted singers. They were:

John Choi, Helen Lee,  
Grace Mortimer..... Central UMC  
Janet Bowman..... Mathews Baptist  
Gary Painter..... Spring Hill Baptist  
The Men's Chorus..... Ebenezer Baptist

The music and singing was outstanding! It ran over 20 minutes before retiring to the Fellowship Hall for the soups, salads and sweets. There were six pots of soup, various salads and the sweets ran from cakes to cookies. There was, also, a lot of fellowship. There was 8 quarts of soup left over that was distributed to 8 families. M & E received \$300 in donations which will be sent to our missionaries (The Paiges, see page 3.) that Central supports in part. A perfect evening - Good singing. Good food. Good fellowship. Thanks to all who helped in setting-up, who prepared the wonderful food and who helped in the clean-up.

*Joe Cromwell*, Chair

### Directions to Old Field Point For the Easter Sunrise Service

- Take Buckley Hall Road (beside Hardee's) towards Moon.
- Turn left at Fitchett's Wharf Road (in sharp curve).
- Look for large *Old Field Point* sign on right.
- Turn right and then make a left.
- Follow the road straight into the yard of the home.



## Greeters/Ushers for March

8:30 am service	Dave & Grace Mortimer
11:00 am service	Billy & Shirley Snow

## Refreshments Providers for March

6	Mary Wade Smith, Susan Hill, Anne South and Betsy Duff
13	Dale Smith and James Martin
20	Volunteer opportunity
27	Easter Sunday, no refreshments

## 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 of...

Shirley Edmundson Pugh	Sharon George
Shepherd White	Bill Powell
Kevin Brown	Patsy Mayes
Izzy Bennett	Claudia Potts
Bertel Smith	Bob Faison
James Witherspoon	

## Order Tulips For Easter Sunday

Honor or remember someone with a beautiful pot of tulips on the altar Easter Sunday. Order forms are available in your weekly bulletin or in the Narthex. Tulips are \$15 a pot.

Orders must be received by the close of the 11:00 am service on Palm Sunday, March 20.

## Creation Care

### Central's Children Win at Recycling

The Creation Care Team challenged Central's children and youth to *Learn the 7 Secrets of the Dump and become Recycle Heroes*. On February 7, our children took on the challenge and succeeded in transforming hundreds of items of trash into valuable recyclables. Every child present participated. They helped each other and their teams did outstanding! They learned what you can recycle and what you can't. They learned how Mathews gets money when we put our cardboard boxes in the right place. Now these *Recycle Heroes* can teach all of us how to better take care of God's planet. (See photos to the right.)

### United Methodist Women

Central United Methodist Women are having a luncheon on *Monday, March 14 at 12 noon* to honor Central Church community volunteers. So many of our church give their time to community organizations as well as working with the church. UMW would like to honor that effort. You are invited to join us for a delicious lunch and an informal exchange on some of the wonderful thing you do for our community. All are welcome, please let us know by March 10 (call Nancy at 725-5193), so we can plan for enough food. We are proud of our church outreach work and would love for you to join us in celebrating it.

Mark your calendar for a *BayBell's Concert* on Sunday, April 24 at 3:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The concert will be followed by an ice cream social. Come and enjoy wonderful music, delicious ice cream and toppings and fellowship.

*Grace Mortimer,*  
CUMW Recording Secretary



Photos provided by Becky Pittman



UMW Luncheon to Honor  
CUMC Community Volunteers  
Monday, March 14, Noon



## FINS on Sunday in February

"FINS" on Sunday in February was a rousing success! ("FINS" was re-scheduled from its customary Friday time-slot to accommodate a conflict with the annual Lee-Jackson Elementary School Father/Daughter Dance.) Forty children attended the event, ranging in age from kindergarten to ninth grade. After playing some simple gathering games, they were divided into three groups for activities: there were nine youth in the 6th-9th grade group; seventeen in the 3rd-5th grade group; and fourteen in the K-2nd grade group.

The event's topic was "Prayer." Each group learned about the history of the pretzel as a symbol of prayer. During the course of the evening they made their own soft pretzels (the Fellowship Hall smelled amazing!), made crafts, and sang songs. The older children performed a skit based on the story of Daniel and the Lion's Den and had a lively discussion about fitting time for prayer into their already busy lives. The younger groups watched a puppet skit and enjoyed learning more about prayer through story-time and discussion.

After a delicious Chick-Fil-A supper, the happy crowd enjoyed a noisy, fun group game and all were given gift cards donated by Gloucester Chick-Fil-A. The young people were well-behaved and grateful for the chance to be with their friends in fellowship and fun. All the volunteers were blessed by interacting with them, hearing their thoughts and witnessing their joy.

FINS (Fridays in the Spirit) is the brainchild of several youth coordinators from different churches across Mathews. Usually held on the third Friday of each month during the school year, FINS rotates between sponsoring churches: Macedonia, Beulah-St. Paul, Mathews Chapel and Central.

The next FINS will be held at Macedonia on Friday, March 18, 6:30 – 9:00 pm (co-

sponsored by Macedonia and Beulah-St. Paul). The April FINS will be held again at Central on Friday, April 15 (co-sponsored with Mathews Chapel). FINS is open to the public, not just to members of participating churches, so please help spread the word about these free, fun events!

Many thanks to all the generous volunteers who helped to plan and execute all aspects of the event!

Rev. John Choi	Greg Lewis
Janet Gomez	Jonathan Lewis
Pat Gwaltney	Judy Moughon
David Hudgins	Melissa Moughon
Phyllis Hudgins	Richard Moughon
Nancy Jagger	Craig Small
Peggy Leigh	Katherine Davis Small
Brenda Lewis	








Photos provided by John Choi



**Good Friday Service**  
**March 25**  
**7:00 pm**

Image Source: cliparthut.com

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
 <p><i>March 2016</i></p>		1 Queen's Creek Assoc. 7:00 pm	2 Central Village Homemakers 9:00 am - 1:00 pm  Soup with Love Kingston Parish Noon  FINS Meeting 6:00 pm	3	4 UMCOR ERT Training VA Beach 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm	5 UMCOR ERT Training VA Beach 9:00 am - 1:00 pm	
6 <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in            Lent</b>  <b>One Great            Hour of            Sharing</b>	7 Prayer Time 8:00 am	All meeting times & dates are subject to change. If in doubt, contact the committee chair.		10 Nominations & Leadership 2:00 pm  P. Townsend Class Dinner & Meeting 6:00 pm  Children's   Youth Choir   Choir 6:30 pm   6:45 pm  Adult Choir 7:15 pm	11	 <p><b>TIME            CHANGE</b></p> <p>Spring            Forward  <b>ONE HOUR</b></p>	
13 <b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in            Lent</b>	14 Prayer Time 8:00 am  <b>UM Women            Volunteer            Appreciation            Luncheon            Noon</b>	15	16 Mission & Evangelism 10:00 am  Soup with Love Kingston Parish Noon	17 Children's   Youth Choir   Choir 6:30 pm   6:45 pm  Adult Choir 7:15 pm	18	19 UM Men Breakfast 8:00 am	
20 <b>Palm Sunday</b> <i>Last Day to            order tulips</i>  <i>Central Chimes            Articles Due</i>  	21 Prayer Time 8:00 am  Creation Care (at the Cannon's) 9:00 am  SPRC 7:00 pm  Trustees 7:30 pm	<b>HOLY WEEK Services            at Westville Christian            Church (located beside            the library)            Daily at Noon            March 21 - 25</b>		24 <b>Maundy Thursday</b>  CHKD Meeting 10:00 am - 2:00 pm  Children's   Youth Choir   Choir 6:30 pm   6:45 pm  Adult Choir 7:15 pm	25 <b>Good            Friday            Service            7:00 pm</b>  	26	
27 <b>Easter Sunday</b>  	28 Prayer Time 8:00 am	29	30	31 Children's   Youth Choir   Choir 6:30 pm   6:45 pm  Adult Choir 7:15 pm			
<b>Easter Sunday, March 27</b>		<b>Sunrise Service            6:30 am            Old Field Point</b>		<b>Sunday School            9:00 am</b>		<b>Joint Service            10:00 am</b>	