



THE CENTRAL CHIMES

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May 2016

From the Pastor's Pen

Praying for the United Methodist Church

The General Conference remains a highly visible work of the United Methodist Church, and you may hear frequent news coming from Portland during its May 10-20 session. Please allow me to make a few comments that I hope are pertinent.



First, let's remember that, while the spotlight will be on the legislative process, the church stands on a deeper, enduring foundation: Jesus Christ himself. Through Christ we are a family and household of God, and policies, church laws, or resolutions are ultimately secondary. I cannot emphasize this enough. This may sound as if I am discounting the work of the General Conference, but it is a necessary corrective to the onslaught of attention soon to come upon the debates at the conference.

In the same vein, we need to remember that the church's basic and the most important ministries are done through the local church. It is the sacramental community of people that "make disciples of Jesus Christ." The General Conference's votes and the resulting *Discipline* do govern the local churches, but they do not define their identity. Their purpose is to set the church free to follow the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

Thirdly, unless the miracle of God strikes like thunder, there are sure to be some contentious debates at the conference. This is

a potentially painful issue. How could a body of Christ faithfully pursue the will of God? Once again, our way has more to do with Spirit and truth (John 4:19-24). In God's Kingdom, the typical human divisions vanish; but there will be sorting out between the spiritual and the unspiritual (or to use the biblical language, those of the Spirit and those of the flesh). Galatians 5:19-23 says:

Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

I have found that one great mark of the unspiritual is indifference to truth; lies, half-truths, exaggeration, slander. Those are sure signs of a spirit that does not belong to God. Another is pride, or lack of humility—a telltale sign of foolishness in the biblical view on life. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." (Prov. 9:10)



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It is a tricky thing to know how to pray for something like the General Conference, when you know that the delegates

bring their entrenched views. Should we pray that the Spirit of God will somehow prevail upon them and sway them towards God's will? While God is certainly capable of doing so, Christ came so that through him we might discern the mind of God for ourselves (1 Cor. 2:16).

My prayer is that the Spirit of God will strengthen the love of Christ within our delegates and grant them wisdom for the mission of the church. I also pray for an essential unity. It is ultimately the prayer not only for the General Conference but for the church herself.

Gratefully, *John*



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Community-Wide Prayer Vigil

Thursday, May 5
7:00 am - 7:00 pm

Mathews Baptist Church, Hudgins

This is in observance of the *National Day of Prayer* and has been planned by members of multiple area churches. All are welcome to spend time in prayer for the needs of the world, this country and the community. Drop by for as long as you can. Prayer guides will be available, if desired.

United Methodist Women

Thanks to everyone who joined us for the *BayBells Concert and Ice Cream Social*. I hope everyone enjoyed the fun activity on May 24. Your support greatly helped the *Mattaponi Healing Eagle Clinic*. Almost \$400 was donated for their good works.

Come join us for fun and a little work on Monday, May 9 at 10:00 am as we fill school bags with supplies for the School Kits for Conference.

In June we will be taking lunch to the staff of the *Mattaponi Healing Eagle Clinic*. Details will be in the June *Central Chimes*.

Grace Mortimer,
CUMW Recording Secretary

Hospitality

Change is coming! Beginning the first of May, fellowship time refreshments will be coffee and cookies. Cookie donations are welcome! The congregation appreciates those who have delighted us with marvelous foods. However, burn out brings change. We are a small congregation and there are not enough host/hostesses to provide refreshments weekly.



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We will be requesting food donations on special occasions, so save your special recipes for those times.

Thanks many times over to those who have served us so well!!!!

Your Hospitality Team

Greeters/Ushers for May

8:30 am service	
May 1	Anne South & Janet Burgess
May 8	Hal Hertzler & David Hudgins
May 15 & 22	Michael & Ed Cannon
11:00 am service	Ben & Peggy Leigh

Refreshments Providers for May

1	Emily & Steve Leap
8	David & Valerie Adams
15	volunteer opportunity
22	volunteer opportunity
29	Refreshments following the joint service



The BayBells Handbell Choir gave a concert on May 24 and was followed by an Ice Cream Social.

Photo provided by Becky Pittman

FINS

In April, Central and Mathews Chapel co-sponsored FINS on Friday, April 15. Twenty-six children attended the event, ranging in age from kindergarten to ninth grade. After coloring and playing outside in the spring sunshine, the children gathered for grace led by Rev. Lisa Blackmonson and more fellowship at dinner.

They then divided into three groups for scripture, lessons, and activities. The age groups were: K-2nd grade; 3rd-5th grade; and 6th grade and up. The event's topic was "Paul and Silas in Prison" from Acts 16:16-40. The goal was for the children to come away from the evening with the message that they can minister and spread the gospel in any situation. The oldest group headed to the kitchen to make cookies for the Cookies for Kairos Prison Ministry, www.kairosva.org. While they were baking, Alda Barnett talked to them about the juvenile justice system, and the scripture. The younger groups enjoyed a dramatic telling of the scripture and accompanying paper crafts.

The children then trooped outside to play games and run relays in the twilight. When darkness fell, everyone gathered around a campfire for s'mores, and songs led by Reverend John.

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 the finale: *FINS Party at the Wharf* at Williams Wharf Pavilion (rain location TBA), Sunday, May 15 at 3:30 - 6:00 pm. FINS is open to the public, not just to members of participating churches, so please help spread the word about these free, fun events!

May 2016

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

Alda Barnett	Lisa Miles Lewis
Rev. Lisa Blackmonson	Brenda Lewis
Rev. John Choi	Greg Lewis
Janet Gomez	Judy Moughon
Pat Gwaltney	Melissa Moughon
David Hudgins	Richard Moughon
Nancy Jagger	Craig Small
Marie Kemp	Katherine Davis Small



Photos provided by John Choi

Birthdays

Miriam Cromwell	2	Phyllis Hudgins	13
Brianna Taylor	2	Jean Hall	15
Ed Cannon	3	John Robert Pierce	15
Melissa Moughon	3	Daniel Moughon	20
Sherrard Pugh	4	Karen Palmer	22
Katherine Small	4	Donnie Hall	24
Dee Bane	12	Richard Moughon	30

Anniversaries

Ed & Michael Cannon 4

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

Marvin Soles	Gudrun Clements
Jean Deagle Wesley	Kevin Kierstead
Betty Gayle Sine	Miriam Bodurtha

Creation Care



Central's Creation Care Team recently had requests from adult groups for our Recycle Program.

After making modifications, we were able to present to two groups in May: The Kings Daughters and Cobbs Creek Homemakers. Again it was a team effort--with set ups, collecting recyclables, Greg coming in both times to set up projector/pc, running the slides and members helping with the group participation activities. Louise Witherspoon and Becky Pittman took pictures. A week was



spent modifying slides to include fun pictures of adults recycling. (We even ended with *Rosy the Riveter* saying "**We can do it!**")

In all, about 25 Mathew's women participated. One letter from Beverly Gayle thanked our church for this informative yet fun seminar. "We are now trying to save the environment **and** Mathew's tax dollars. ...What a great team--thanks to all that helped."

Michael Cannon, Chair

Paul Townsend Memorial Class

Twelve class members enjoyed a potluck supper last month.

Please remember to honor your love one in our special Mother's Day Tribute Bulletin by calling a member of the class or filling out the prepared form before Sunday, May 1. The proceeds will benefit many in our community.

We will be honoring this year's graduates at both services Sunday, June 12. If you have a child or grandchild graduating from high school or college, please call David Hudgins at 725-6586 with the name, type of diploma/degree and institution attended. Please provide a photo to be included in the *Central Chimes*. The Deadline has been changed to May 22.

The class donated twelve *Faith We Sing* hymnals to Central.

Join us any Sunday at 10:00 am for Sunday School.

David Lee Hudgins, Class President

Finance

As of the end of the first quarter of 2016, March YTD, we are doing better than in 2015 with a positive balance versus expenses. Thank you Central for you generous offerings.

Nate Houser, Chair

General Offering	\$40,390	Up 9% versus previous 4 year average
General Expenses	\$39,365	Down 6% versus 2015
General Savings	\$22,112	No withdrawals YTD
Restricted Bailey Hudgins	\$19,596	No withdrawals YTD
Designated Offerings	\$4,846	
Designated Expenses	\$ 5,116	

2016 Graduates



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The Paul Townsend Memorial Class will again be honoring this year's graduates. If you have a child or grandchild graduating from high school or college, please call David Hudgins at 725-6586 (ASAP) with the name, type of diploma/degree and institution attended. Please provide a photo to be included in the *Central Chimes*.

The graduates will be honored at both services Sunday, June 12.

New Deadline is May 22.

Mission & Evangelism

There are many surveys and polls published or spoken by the media, such as, "Should a toll be placed on the HRBT? Do you prefer a woman presidential candidate?" And the list goes on.

As a member of the Mission and Evangelism Team, I would like to poll our members concerning:

- ◆ Are we as a congregation doing all we can do to welcome a visitor to our church?
- ◆ Yes or no. If not, offer suggestions.
- ◆ Are we as a congregation making an effort to develop disciples of our members?
- ◆ Yes or no. If not, offer suggestions.

You may leave your written reply in the Mission and Evangelism folder in the hallway outside of the Fellowship Hall. Anonymous responses are welcome. This is a four-week poll. Thank you for your input.

Pat Gwaltney, Chair

Many thanks to Joe Cromwell, who served as chair of our Mission and Evangelism Committee for the last 4 years. As of March, Joe resigned from his leadership due to health concerns and will continue as a member of the committee. We are grateful that Pat Gwaltney will chair the ministry for the remainder of the year. (John Choi)



**5th Sunday Joint Service
May 29**

**Sunday School 9:00 am
Worship Service 10:00 am
Song Service 2:15 pm
at Riverside Convalescent
Center - All Are Welcome**

Photo Round-up



UMM Shrimp Dinner, April 22

Another successful dinner despite the rainy weather! Thank you to all who helped make this a wonderful community gathering.






Arriving hungry and leaving full - wonderful supportive community!



Experienced, cheerful & helpful workers!

Photos provided by Susan Hill and John Choi

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 	2 Prayer Time 8:00 am	3 Covenant Bible Study B 7:00 pm	4 Covenant Bible Study A 10:00 am	5 Community Prayer Vigil 7:00 am - 7:00 pm Mathews Baptist, Hudgins Children's Choir 6:30 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm	6	7
<div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid black;"> All meeting times & dates are subject to change. If in doubt, contact the committee chair. </div>						
8 Mother's Day 	9 Prayer Time 8:00 am UM Women 10:00 am	10 General Conference Begins - runs through the 20th Covenant Bible Study B 7:00 pm	11 Mission & Evangelism 9:00 am Covenant Bible Study A 10:00 am Finance 7:00 pm	12 Children's Choir 6:30 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm	13	14
15 FINS at the Wharf 3:30 - 6:00 pm	16 Prayer Time 8:00 am Creation Care (at the Cannon's) 9:00 am SPRC 7:00 pm	17 Covenant Bible Study B 7:00 pm	18 Covenant Bible Study A 10:00 am Friendship Class Luncheon Noon	19 Children's Choir 6:30 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm	20	21 UM Men Breakfast 8:00 am
22 Central Chimes Submissions Due	23 Prayer Time 8:00 am Disaster Response Study Team 2:00 pm Trustees 7:00 pm	24 Covenant Bible Study B 7:00 pm	25 Covenant Bible Study A 10:00 am Administrative Council 7:00 pm	26 Children's Choir 6:30 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm	27	28
29 5th Sun. Joint Service, 9:00 am Sun. School 10:00 am Worship 2:15 pm Song Service at Riverside Convalescent Center	30 Memorial Day Prayer Time 8:00 am 	31 Covenant Bible Study B 7:00 pm	