



THE CENTRAL CHIMES

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November 2016

Prayers for the Nation

Look graciously, O Lord, upon this land.

Where it is in pride, subdue it.

Where it is in need, supply it.

Where it is in error, rectify it.

Where it is in default, restore it.

And where it holds to that which is just and compassionate, support it. Amen.

(CHURCH OF PAKISTAN, 20TH CENT.)



God of all the ages,

in your sight nations rise and fall,

and pass through times of peril.

Now when our land is troubled,

be near to judge and save.

May leaders be led by your wisdom;

may they search your will and see it clearly.

If we have turned from your way,

reverse our ways and help us to repent.

Give us your light and your truth,

let them guide us;

through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of this

world, and our Savior. Amen.

(PRESBYTERIAN WORSHIPBOOK, U.S.A., 20TH CENT., ALT.)

Prayer for Wisdom

O Wisdom on High, by you the meek are guided in judgment,

and light rises up in darkness for the godly.

Grant us, in all doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us do,

that we may be saved from all false choices,

and that in your light we may see light,

and in your straight path may not stumble;

through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

(THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER, U.S.A., 20TH CENT., ALT.)



Central Thanksgiving Dinner

Sunday, November 6

12:05 pm

Meat will be provided. Please bring a side or dessert to share.



Community Thanksgiving Dinner & Service

Tuesday, November 22

6:00 pm

Mathews Baptist Church
Hudgins

The speaker will be Pastor John Choi.

Please bring a side dish to share with the Antioch, Westville and Mathews Baptist congregations.

From the Pastor's Pen



Friends, this is a note of thanks. Ever since last year's special offering, you have continued giving generously. Our year-to-date offering through September exceeded the previous 4-year average for the

same period by roughly 10 percent. This is to say nothing of other special offerings throughout the year, including towards UMCOR's disaster relief.

My thanks is not merely about the church's financial state. It is on account of your faith. Christian giving is an act of faith and a way of worship. We say in our offering that God is the shepherd of our lives and that we have been given much.

We have the staggering word from the Scripture that God will never leave us or forsake us (Heb. 13:5); that every good and perfect gift is from above (James 1:17); that we do not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. By giving and doing so by faith, we only claim that truth for ourselves.

Thank you for giving out of your faith, your love of God, and your love of God's church. According to Jesus' teaching, God is one "who sees in secret." (Matthew 6:4, 6) You may have given more this year without telling the world, but there is no such thing as a secret to God.

In addition to your giving, you served in many ways. I want to especially thank those who served in various leadership roles this year. You prayed, called meetings, prepared lessons, listened, made phone calls, pulled up your sleeves and got to the work. Thank you for taking the works of the church as callings from God, however small or large they appeared to be. Many of you are also involved in services in the community, and you bring honor to God in all that you do out of faith.

In the end, I am simply thankful for you and

for who you are in Christ. I am grateful for this chance for us to share our faith journeys.

This is a month that culminates in a Thanksgiving holiday; above all let us remember to thank God. As the Scripture says, God is good, and his mercy never comes to an end. Unless we choose to give thanks, we may never be thankful! One who can thank God, is a happy (blessed) person.

Gratefully Yours,
John

Mission & Evangelism

The following is a letter from The Mission Society on behalf of our mission partners, Donald and Carol Paige, printed here for communication purposes. Central Church has committed \$3,000 in support for the year 2017.

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Paige Family,

When I visited Donald and Carol in Paraguay a couple of years ago, listened to their calling, saw their lives, and witnessed their ministry, I knew this couple is uniquely gifted for ministry. During their 7 years in Paraguay together they have pastored a church, shared the gospel, led people to the Lord, and raised up young leaders. The Lord has used Carol powerfully first as a social worker and then as a teacher to shape 2 different Christian



schools, equipping them to more effectively reach the community while loving and educating children in Jesus' Name. They are also powerful intercessors who have been used by God to confront witchcraft and to pray for their communities and the city, seeing God free people to follow Jesus as a result.

What Is Their Vision?

Now, the Lord has called Donald and Carol to put their gifts, skills and experience to use in another country; Spain. Their aim is to move to Pamplona, Spain by Jan. 2018 to work under the leadership of a local church, discipling Spanish believers to be salt and light in their communities. This church runs a residential drug rehab program, a small school, as well as a ministry that focuses on bringing unity among several small, struggling congregations in the surrounding area.

Donald will work with the church leadership doing evangelism and discipleship. Carol has an opportunity to fulfill her strong calling to education by helping their school to become a powerful source of both education and evangelism within the community, as well as working with the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) to train Christian teachers and administrators on a national level.

How Are They Preparing?

The Paige family has been in the U.S. at my request since Aug 2015 in order to prepare for this new adventure of faith. Preparation is happening in 2 phases:

- Phase 1 - U.S. (Aug 2015 – Dec 2016)
 - o Raise the financial and prayer support needed for Spain
 - o Get the education (MA in Christian School Administration) Carol needs for effective ministry in Spain
- Phase 2 - Paraguay (Jan – Dec 2017)
 - o Training with a local church in church planting, forming and leading cell groups, spiritual warfare and intercession
 - o Get the necessary visa for Spain

This may seem like a lengthy time away from ministry. Donald and Carol continue in ministry as they serve in a Spanish-speaking church here in the U.S. while they are working hard to raise support and increase their ministry capacity. However, their desire is to get back to Paraguay as soon as possible so they can

be that much closer to Spain. **The only barrier is financial.**

What Can We Do?

Donald and Carol are full-time missionaries with The Mission Society, responsible to raise 100% funding. They find themselves in a position to have to look for work here in the States because their current level of financial support is insufficient for life in the U.S. Yet, that means less time for raising support for their future vision. So as people who love and believe in this couple, I am calling on your help. It's the partnership of people like you who make their ministry possible.

Here's what you can do:

Give. They need an additional \$3000/month in order to move into Phase 2. This will provide the funding needed for Paraguay, as well as their major move to and the additional expenses of living and working in Spain.

If you are part of the Paige's support team –

Thank You! Would you consider giving an additional one-time gift or increasing your regular support to move them more quickly towards the fulfillment of their vision?

If you have not yet supported Donald and Carol, would you prayerfully consider becoming a financial partner now? If this vision of reaching families in Spain with the gospel through evangelism, discipleship and education is something you'd like to be part of, here's how you can give:

Give on-line at www.themissionsociety.org. Or mail a check, with a note 'for the support of Donald and Carol Paige' to:

The Mission Society
6234 Crooked Creek Road
Norcross, GA 30092

Pray. Their God-sized vision requires God to do what only He can do. **If you are already part of their prayer team - don't stop!** If you'd like to begin praying regularly for the Paige

Continued from page 3
family, let them know so they can keep you informed.

If you have any questions about the future ministry of Donald and Carol or would like to learn more about how to serve the Paiges during this preparation time, don't hesitate to contact me. I am confident that God will continue to use this dear couple to demonstrate and proclaim the Gospel in their life and work wherever He leads them. Let's continue to work together to serve them so that they may be even more fruitful in the years to come.

By Faith,
Becky Stephen
Senior Director of Field Ministry

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Birthdays

Phyllis Lewis	2	Melba Houser	15
Richard Love	3	Emily Lewis	16
Peggy Leigh	9	Jimmy Stewart	18
Tom Tucker	11	Leah Taylor	20
Gabrielle Lewis	13	Leigh Lewis	29
Grace Mortimer	14	Ken Palmer	30

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

Eunice Hyer	Gayle White
Myrtle Faulkner	Dave Davis
Karen Montell	Jane Curfman
Mike Sowden	Barbara Ann Davis
Roland Wilson	

Shoe Boxes for Christmas



The Mission and Evangelism Team continues its sponsorship of the shoebox ministry for needy children in the Mathews Community. The boxes will be distributed through the Mathews Social Services Christmas Store. **Bring filled boxes to the fellowship hall by Sunday, December 4 or deliver donations to Mathews Social Services no later than Monday, December 5 so they can be marked and sorted.**

Shoe Box: Use any empty, clean box. Attach a separate piece of paper to the box and label it for a boy or girl and age category: 2-4, 5-6, 7-9 or 10-14 years. Fill with a variety of all **new** items. Wrap in Christmas paper. Pray for the child who will receive the box.

Toy Suggestions: Small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, playing cards, stickers, puzzles, games, etc.

School Supplies: Pens, pencils, sharpeners, crayons, colored markers, stamps and ink pad sets, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, blunt pointed scissors, or regular ones for older children, glue, colored craft paper.

Hygiene Items: Tooth brushes, tooth paste, mild bar soap in wrapper, combs, washcloths, hand towels, and small shampoo.

Other items: Candy appropriate for age of child, T-shirts, socks, gloves, adjustable ball caps, hair clips, jewelry, flash light (extra batteries), Christmas mugs, hot chocolate packets, gift certificates to Hardee's, McDonald's, etc.

Thank you for your support.

The M & E Team



Friday, November 18

6:30—9:00 pm

Central UMC

Fridays IN the Spirit

Ages: K-12th Grade

Creation Care

Central's Creation Care Team was asked by Mathews' Thomas Hunter Middle School to present our *Recycle Program* to 3 of Jerry Ligon's science classes. Our challenge: within one hour teach 7th graders that when they chose to recycle, they conserve the earth's resources plus help Mathews County financially.

Every 5 minutes students raced to help transform items from trash to valuable recycle items. In each class, every student participated and beat the clock and won prizes. We know that we met the challenge because the remaining science classes have asked Jerry Ligon, "**When can we go to Central's Recycle Class?**".

This challenge was successful because of a great team of volunteers: Valerie Adams, Martha Arnold, Dee Bane, Patty Hertzler, Tim Hill, Ken Lee, Greg Lewis and Louise Witherspoon.

Michael Cannon, Chair



Photos by Louise Witherspoon

United Methodist Women



Central UMW will host the Three Rivers Healthy Families Friday, November 18. The gathering includes instructions on preparing a traditional Thanksgiving meal. We hope you will join us to share recipes and fellowship.

We are planning our *World Thank* offering, our Christmas shut-ins list and donations to the missions we support.

Nancy Jagger,
CUMW President

November 2016

Requiem for the Living
presented by
Richmond's First Baptist Church
2709 Monument Ave., Richmond, VA
Sunday, November 6 at 7 pm
One Accord (Bill Loving is a member),
Youth Girl' Ensemble & Orchestra

Hospitality

Once again, thank you for braving the weather (October 9) and being present to show appreciation on a special day set aside for pastors. To those who were unable to be with us - we missed you.

Pastor John received a "pastor appreciation" card and gift certificate at each service from the church. Helen Lee, Grace Mortimer, and Janet Bowman, accompanied by Pastor John on the guitar, sang *Only a Shadow*. It was very beautiful.



Photo by Louise Witherspoon

We continue to be surprised and blessed with refreshments at Fellowship Time.

Betty Stewart and Mary Marshall will host our Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday, November 6 at 12:05 pm.

For Fellowship Time in December, we request you to share your Christmas baking to be served with our coffee.

Schedules are being set-up for 2017 greeters, ushers and hospitality. If there is a special time more convenient for you to serve, please contact Patty Hertzler or Marcia Fry.

We are grateful for cooperation from our church family.

*Jean Sutton, Patty Hertzler
Marcia Fry, Sherry Hodges*

Greeters/Ushers for November

8:30 am service	Valerie & David Adams and Dee Bane
11:00 am service	Marcia Fry, Betty Stewart and Mary Marshall

Refreshments Providers for November

6	open
13	Dale Smith & James Martin
20	open
27	open

Finance

We are three quarters the way through 2016 and so far, so good for our general account. Our general offering is \$123,843 which is about 10% higher than in 2015 or the previous four year average. YTD expense, excluding new heat pumps and chimes which were paid from other funds, is \$118,860 giving us a positive balance for the year. This includes a large non-recurring expense of \$3,650 for repairing the sanctuary floor. Thank you people of Central for your generous giving, for not only meeting the needs for church operation, but also for benevolences in our community and nation.

Nate Houser, Chair

Christmas Angel Tree

Sponsored by the
Nancy Wroten Memorial Class



Help Mathews Families with their holiday wishes and needs.

More information will be in your Sunday bulletins and December issue of *The Central Chimes*.

*Our Central Church Family
helping Mathews Families in need.*

Trustees

The three Sanctuary door etched-glass windows have been installed. We have the late Mason South to thank for funding the project, Anne South for her support and enthusiasm, Sherry Hodges for the inspiration and artwork, Art Miller for the actual glass production and David Petway for the final installation. Quite a team effort and we thank everyone for their support.

Steve Leap, Chair



Door into the Education Building.

Photos by Louise Witherspoon

(Note: Doors must be seen in person to appreciate the details. Difficult to photograph without reflections of other objects.)









Sanctuary doors. Lighthouse beacon into the night.

Thanksgiving Prayer

God, giver of all good,
you continually pour your benefits upon us.
Age after age the living wait upon you and find
that your faithfulness has no end,
that your care is unfailing.
We praise you that the mystery of life
is a mystery of infinite goodness.
We praise you
for the order and constancy of nature,
for the beauty and bounty of the earth,
for day and night, summer and winter,
seedtime and harvest,
for the varied gifts of loveliness that every season brings.
We give you thanks
for all the comfort and joy of life,
for our homes, for our friends,
and for all the love, sympathy, and goodwill of all people.
Amen.

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>All meeting times & dates are subject to change. If in doubt, contact the committee chair.</p>		1 Alpha 7:00 pm	2 Central Village Homemakers 9:00 am - 1:00 pm Alpha (meet at the parsonage) 10:00 am	3 Children's Choir 6:30 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm	4	5 Daylight Savings Time Ends FALL BACK one hour 
	6 All Saints Day Central Family Thanksgiving Dinner 12:05 pm 	7 Prayer Time 8:00 am	8 Alpha 7:00 pm	9 Alpha 10:00 am Finance 7:00 pm	10 YMCA Lunch With a Purpose 9:00 am - 2:00 pm P. Townsend Class Dinner 6:00 pm Children's Choir 6:30 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm	11 Veterans Day 
13	14 Prayer Time 8:00 am UM Women 10:00 am	15 Alpha 7:00 pm	16 Mission & Evangelism 9:00 am Alpha 10:00 am	17 Children's Choir 6:30 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm	18 Three Rivers Healthy Families 9:00 am - 2:00 pm FINS at Central 6:30 - 9:00 pm 	19 UM Men Breakfast 8:00 am
20 Central Chimes Submissions Due	21 Prayer Time 8:00 am Creation Care (at the Cannon's) 9:00 am Disaster Response Team 2:00 pm SPRC 7:00 pm Trustees 7:30 pm	22 Community Thanksgiving Dinner at Mathews Baptist, Hudgins 6:00 pm 	23	24 Happy Thanksgiving Day 	25	26
27 First Sunday of Advent	28 Prayer Time 8:00 am	29 Alpha 7:00 pm	30 Alpha 10:00 am Administrative Council 7:00 pm	November		