



# THE CENTRAL CHIMES

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November 2017

## Janet Goes to Saipan

*"Well, here we go again. Janet is always up in the air, doing something. Where is she headed this time? Saipan, North Mariana Islands. Where is that? I never heard of that place."*

Janet Burgess is headed on another mission trip. Remember, her travels are always mission oriented. She just returned from Tangier Island, VA where she helped the residents with home repairs, cutting hedges, and developed her own 'ministry of presence' while sitting with others on a porch or under a tree.

This time she has answered the call in the wake of the Soudelor Typhoon. There, amongst the South Pacific Islands, 158 homes were destroyed and 296 sustained major damage by the Category 4 Storm's devastation in 2015. Since Saipan is a Commonwealth of the US, the event received a Presidential Disaster Declaration for both individual and Public Assistance activating the full response of FEMA resources to the island.

Getting there was not easy as Janet discovered. No direct flights to the 300 square mile island. She travelled to Norfolk, VA to Houston TX, to Honolulu Hawaii, to Guam, and then onto Saipan. Prior to leaving she made a friend, who was a friend of one of Janet's mission buddies. They met up in Houston and continued the flight together. This Mission Trip was sponsored by the Mennonite Disaster Services. Janet heard of the trip through UVMIM.

## Janet answers the question "Why Saipan?"

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**Fall Back**

One Hour  
Saturday, Nov. 4  
for daylight  
savings time!



## Central Thanksgiving Dinner

Sunday, November 5  
12:05 pm

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



## Community Thanksgiving Dinner & Service

Tuesday, November 21  
6:00 pm  
Central UMC

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

Several months ago I found a binder of letters my father wrote to my mother, his then sweetheart. They corresponded daily. They were all the letters he wrote to her while stationed in Bainbridge, MD for the Navy Basic Training. Absent were my mother's letters. I was concerned that they had gone missing until I read one of my Dad's notes. "Sorry Sweetie Pie, I had to burn your letters. The Commander did not like all the paper in my sea bag."

I thought I would never read my mother's letters to HER sweetheart until I stumbled on a plastic bin full of correspondence between both, while Dad was at sea in the South Pacific during World War II. Here I had the most wonderful documentation of their steadfast love during the long separation. And what else did I find? My Dad's visit to Saipan! His ship, the USS Bangust, Destroyer Escort-739, had been there.

I then recalled the stories he would tell of his voyage. He would leave out portions, the most graphic and sorrowful, but I was grateful to read his journey in his own handwriting. I am still perusing the letters as my parents wrote to each other everyday while separated by oceans and continents. Another component of their 60-year marriage. What a joy it will be to see the cliffs and landscape of this so much talked about island. What a superb privilege it will be to add my hands in God's work as our team helps to rebuild the structures and lives of so many.

Why do I make these trips? If you really want to know the answer, ask God. He is the One leading my adventures and I praise Him for the guidance and opportunities. Travelling for more than 25 hours one way will be tiring if not exhausting, but the satisfaction will be multiplied many times as God's does great things through me.

Consider what you want to do to help the survivors, consider what you **can** do, and then take a chance to go the distance.

## Pastor's Pen

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1 Thess. 5:16-18)*

*Those who bring thanksgiving as their sacrifice honor me ... (Psalm 50:23)*

Recently it appeared some extra clay seeped into the parsonage well, and a reddish hue came to tint my shower room floor. At times the water would appear as if I had forgotten to flush (The first time I heard that a prehistoric meteor had something to do with the water characteristics in the region, I wondered if it was a joke). Before I even thought about complaining, however, a series of images flashed across my mind.

One was the yellow plastic jugs lined up by the roadside, something I had seen daily in Tanzania. People were constantly transporting water from some unknown sources. Another image was that of a child drawing water from a muddy creek. I must have seen something similar on TV. I knew that in many parts of the world clean water was hard to obtain. I have been to those places. By comparison, what I had was a complete luxury (not to mention the water softener is being fixed).

I was once again reminded how much I have been given. I could easily name ways I have been blessed that defied price tags. I realized that I have so much more to be thankful for than the water softener.

I did once hear that comparing ourselves with others is not an authentic path towards gratitude, because they can also make us feel small by comparison. Plus some of us are truly in the valley of hardship. It is when we see by faith the grace of God in our own lives that we find contentment and even joy. What we have, we have been given by the kindness of God in Jesus Christ, something God promised will never depart. One biblical prophet said:

Con-

Though the fig tree does not blossom, and no fruit is on the vines; though the produce of the olive fails, and the fields yield no food; though the flock is cut off from the fold, and there is no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will exult in the God of my salvation. God, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, and makes me tread upon the heights. (Habakkuk 3:17-19)

Soon we will find ourselves at Thanksgiving meals. Let us remember the One whose grace gives us our daily bread and much more. I for one will hold on to a sense of thankfulness, and I will try to find ways to express it.

Gratefully,

*John*

### Creation Care

Creation Care Team had an active week of Recycle Presentations for Thomas Hunter Middle School 7th graders. Eighty two of Jerry Ligon's Science students participated during 5 classes.



Students worked as a team and cheered teammates on. They eagerly volunteered.



The school considered it an important learning experience at Central and provided transportation back. As the students got on the bus they were cheerful and enthusiastic about their experience. They were also a little wiser on how they could be **leaders** in helping our planet, our wild life and our County. Thanks to Ken Lee, David Hudgins, Martha Arnold, Ed Cannon, Louise Witherspoon, Bobbi Hatton and Cindy Fisher for their time and energy to support this training.

*Michael Cannon*, Creation Care Team



### Box Lunch Fundraiser

**Tuesday, November 7**

From 10:00 to 11:30 am

Mathews High School

\$10.00

Box Lunch includes:

chicken salad on lettuce w/ crackers  
potato salad, broccoli salad and  
homemade pound cake

Pick-up at Mathews High School Cafeteria  
Delivery to all businesses in Mathews/Gloucester

**Preservation Mathews, Inc.**, a non-profit group dedicated to the identification and preservation of historic sites and buildings in Mathews, has created a 15-month calendar for 2018 featuring many of the historic churches of Mathews County. Central Methodist Church is featured for the month of December.

These calendars are FOR SALE as part of our on-going fund raising efforts, and we would so appreciate your support. A sample is available in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you.

*Tim Hill*, President  
Preservation Mathews, Inc.




### 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...*

Leonard Bogueau	Lear Ponton
Fred Crittendon	Bobby Respress
Liz Fischer	James Walton
David Mitchell	



**Friday, November 17**  
6:30—9:00 pm  
**Mathews Chapel UMC**  
Ages: K-12<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Fridays IN the Spirit**

## 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 3.**

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*

## Disaster Recovery

We have seen many disasters in the news recently, mostly one right after another. We see the pictures on the TV of Irma and the next day it seems there are videos of Jose and then Katia. Who can keep track of them? The names become confusing as to which state received the brunt of what hurricane or firestorm. It is indeed difficult to keep track of them all. Eventually we forget the names of the storms and unfortunately the victims follow into oblivion. How can we forget the scenes and cries for help? It is easy if we are not connected to the people and the locale.



When I decided last Spring to answer the call to go to the South Pacific to participate in the disaster recovery from Typhoon Soudelor no one remembered the name or the area affected. I made up my mind to go; to prepare myself physically through necessary surgery, spiritually through prayer and reflection; and emotionally by depending on God to calm my anxiety of travelling the distance necessary. I will board the plane with the determination to help rebuild structures and individuals and to spread the faith on which I depend.

Ironically, I recently discovered letters written almost 75 years ago between my parents, which also encouraged me on this journey. As I leave Mathews I pray that you will remember the survivors of all the recent catastrophes and reflect on what part you may play in the rebuilding of their lives.

*Janet Burgess,*

Disaster Response Team Leader

## Hospitality

We have been blessed each Sunday in October to have volunteers at refreshment time. October 1st Steve and Emily Leap, October 8th Ed and Michael Cannon with

Nate and Melba Hauser, October 15th The United Methodist Women had an enjoyable and well attended birthday brunch in lieu of their annual birthday luncheon, October 22nd Frosty Taylor, Karen Palmer and Cindy Butterworth. Each were displayed nicely and certainly enjoyed by all who attended.

The hospitality committee appreciates each of you that had a part including Ken Palmer and James Martin for preparing coffee after the shrimp dinner clean-up. Our ushers and greeters also did a superb job. James and Dale Martin at the 8:30 worship service and Tom and Marilyn Tucker at the 11:00 and 5th Sunday worship services.

May God bless each participant in service as well as in attendance.

## *Hospitality Team*

*Photos by Louise Witherspoon*



Marilyn Tucker, Pat Gwaltney, Judy Moughon, Dee Bane and Christine Ulrich.



## UM Men

The United Methodist Men sponsored shrimp dinner was a success once again. The men would like to thank the church for their involvement in this project. The dinner is sponsored by the UMM but it would not have been successful without the help and dedication of the church.

At the present time I am estimating that the dinner will net about \$ 2,500. This money will be distributed to various groups on the vote of the men at the November meeting.

Thanks again to the members of the church for a great job.

*Ken Palmer*, President

## From Financial Secretary

Once again I express my sincere appreciation to all those who so willingly volunteer to count offerings each Sunday. It is a pleasure to work with such wonderful people.

*Marcia Fry*, Financial Secretary



## Celtic Worship

Kingston Parish Chapel  
370 Main Street, Mathews  
Sunday, November 12th  
5:30 pm



Enjoy an evening of contemplative worship with beauty and serenity of our first *Celtic Eucharist* with its lighted candles, prayers, scripture and beautiful Celtic music and hymns.



## UM Women Hat/Glove Tree Collecting for York River District Project



UM Women are collecting hats & gloves for the *Henderson Settlement* in Frakes, Kentucky. Women's, children's and men's hats & gloves are needed for this very cold and impoverished Appalachian area.

Consider placing hats or gloves on the tree located in the Fellowship hall by

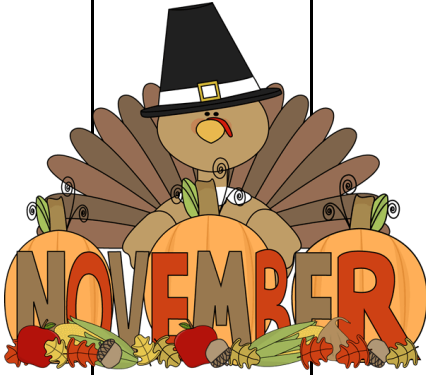






**November 15th**



Photos by Louise Witherspoon

## Greeters/Ushers for November

8:30 am service	Ed & Michael Cannon
11:00 am service	Betty Stewart, Marcia Fry & Mary Marshall

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Central Village Homemakers 9:00 am - 1:00 pm	2 Children's Choir 6:30 pm   Youth Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm	3	4 <b>Daylight Savings Time Ends FALL BACK one hour</b> 
5 <b>All Saints Sunday</b>  <b>Central Family Thanksgiving Dinner 12:05 pm</b>  	6 Prayer Time 8:00 am  Women's Choir 7:00 pm	7 Meals On Wheels Fundraiser at MHS 10:00 to 11:30 am	8 Finance 7:00 pm	9 P. Townsend Class Dinner 6:30 pm  Children's Choir 6:30 pm   Youth Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm	10	11 <b>Veterans Day</b>  
12 Celtic Worship at Kingston Parish 5:30 pm	13 Prayer Time 8:00 am UM Women 10:00 am  SPRC 7:00 pm Trustees 7:00 pm	14	15 Mission & Evangelism 9:00 am	16 Children's Choir 6:30 pm   Youth Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm	17 3 Rivers Healthy Families 9:00-2:00pm <b>FINS Mathews Chapel UMC 6:30-9pm</b> 	18 UM Men Breakfast 8:00 am
19 <b>Central Chimes Submissions Due</b>	20 Prayer Time 8:00 am	21 Creation Care 9:00 am  <b>Community Thanksgiving Dinner at Central UMC 6:00 pm</b>  	22	23 	24          <div style="background-color: yellow; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>All meeting times &amp; dates are subject to change. If in doubt, contact the committee chair.</p> </div>	25
26	27 Prayer Time 8:00 am	28	29 Administrative Council 7:00 pm	30 Children's Choir 6:30 pm   Youth Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm		