



THE CENTRAL CHIMES

P.O. Box 297 ♦ 121 Church Street ♦ Mathews, VA 23109
Office: (804) 725-2832 ♦ Parsonage: (804) 725-3332
Pastor John Choi ♦ Pastor's E-mail: johnchoi@vaumc.org

October 2015



Photos by Louise Witherspoon

Blessing of the Hats, Blankets and Gifts

Blessed with prayers were 104 blankets, 217 hats, 7 prayer shawls, 36 crayon boxes and 36 each boxes of crayons and coloring books. These gifts were distributed to CHKDS and the Peninsula Cancer Institute. Many thanks to Anne South for leading this wonderful annual ministry and to all who contributed in some way. This is a true blessing to all who receive these gifts.



Early Bird Breakfast

The Mission & Evangelism Team were busy "catching the worm" during Market Days. They served hungry festival visitors. The proceeds from this event will go to Central Church's mission partners.



Pat Gwaltney prepares the famous English muffin.



Early Bird Breakfast patrons.

Photos by John Choi

From the Pastor's Pen

"Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, says the Lord of hosts." (Zechariah 4:6)

I once knew a retired corporate executive who went to live in Mexico. He had not always been keen on living overseas, however. What started his wild journey was a mission trip dating back to several years before. At the time he joined the annual service trip to Yucatan so that (as he later confessed) he could make a convincing argument against it to the church leadership.

On the first day of work, this fellow's job was giving shampoos following free haircuts. As he began washing the first boy's hair, he was suddenly overcome with an emotion. Tears flooded his eyes, and they kept coming all afternoon, he said, as he stooped and washed one after another. Later when the church decided to do something long-term in that town, he was chosen to go to get the project started. What was planned to be a three-months stay became three years, and now there is a beautiful community center with a full-time staff serving the local youths and families.

He would jokingly tell me that as a pastor I should come and visit him. One year I took a vacation and did visit him for a week. I had a great time exploring the Yucatan countryside for a few days, visiting Mayan remains, but for the rest of the time I helped him with his work for the local youths. I noticed that he would frequently tear up whenever we prayed together.

His story reminds me that the Holy Spirit inspires us to serve; and sometimes we are led to unexpected places, in addition to the logical ones. Some stories are more dramatic than others, like this man's. But a church would not be a church without the living presence of Christ in her midst in its members.

For three months now I have been blessed to see a congregation serve, share, teach, pray,
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sing, worship and care; and I am grateful for the presence of God's Spirit among us. My prayer is that God will continue to touch our hearts and lead us forward—even if it takes us to new and unexpected places.

Gratefully, *John*



Image Source: pixabay.com/en/
directory-signposts-wood-grain-
235079/ plus WordArt

Mission & Evangelism

Well, Mathews Market Days are over and the *Early Birds* were not as abundant for breakfast this year as they were for last year. We only had about 25% of the *birds* return. The *fowlers* must have been out in large numbers and the *birds* could not get through! We grossed \$286. All proceeds benefit M&E projects.

Hands Across Mathews (HAM) is doing well. I estimate that those Central Church members and friends who are participating in the HAM program have provided 1,800 items of food. I thank you for your effort in providing food for your needy neighbors.

The M&E Team continue to sponsor the *Shoe Boxes for Christmas* ministry for the needy children in the Mathews Community. The boxes will be distributed through the Mathews Social Services Christmas Store. A list of the types of items for the shoe boxes will be in the *November Central Chimes*.

Joe Cromwell,
Team Leader

Central United Methodist Women

Central UMW will meet Monday, October 12 at 7:00 pm. Our program is *Cross Cultural Communication*. Come join us for a discussion on finding ways to enhance race relations.

The *BayBells* concert scheduled for October has been postponed due to a conflict. We will reschedule for the Spring.

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On Friday, November 20 we will host a Thanksgiving meal for Three Rivers Healthy Families. It is always a fun time with activities for all ages. Families will start arriving at 10:30 am. Come out and join the fun.

Grace Mortimer,
CUMW Recording Secretary



Creation Care

Central's Creation Care used battery collection box is located in the passageway between the Sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall. Thanks to David Hudgins who collects them and takes them to *Home Depot*.

(Note: Mathews schools bottle top collection program is over. We are no longer collecting tops.)

The Household Chemical Collection was a big success with many Mathews' residence disposing of stored up paints, other hazardous chemicals and old electronics. We are glad that so many of Central's congregation took advantage of this free opportunity.

The Creation Care Team

Hospitality

Thanks to everyone who uses our fellowship hall and leaves it ready for the next event! Please thank Nancy Jagger for her donation of a John Barber print and a mirror. The print is more in keeping with the beautiful scenery we enjoy in Mathews. Thank you Steve Leap and James Martin for hanging the mirror! We are hoping it will be serviceable for choir practice as well as enhance the look of the room.

We continue to enjoy refreshments following the 8:30 am worship service thanks to those who so generously volunteer. There are only a few Sundays open that we need filled for the rest of the year, so please check the calendar in the kitchen. As always, we encourage all church attendees to join us for coffee, juice, and delicious Methodist cooking!

Blessings,

Emily Leap & Jean Sutton

October 2015

Finance

Central's August year to date general expenses were \$107,467 and general income was \$101,810, so we are running a deficit of over \$5,000. The Finance Committee is working on ways to control costs. In July, we opted to start paying quarterly versus annual insurance premiums and we will not do the usual Fall pre-buy of heating fuel. These one-time steps will reduce our outlay of cash this year by about \$5,000, but in so doing, we give up about \$250 of potential savings.

Some may wonder how Central's income is used; what are our expenses? Well, in 2014, our utility bill was over \$13,000, insurance over \$5,000, office supplies near \$5,000, staff salaries near \$31,000, church building and grounds maintenance and improvements over \$20,000. We are also responsible for a full-time pastor and parsonage, for which the costs ran about \$61,000. As United Methodist, our fair share costs for the Virginia/York River Conference Apportionment was \$28,000, which we have always paid 100%. Missions/Benevolence was about \$12,000. In total for 2014, expenses were approximately \$189,000, but about \$23,000 of this came from designated offerings and from the restricted Bailey Hudgins improvements endowment. The remainder, \$165,000, was paid for entirely from the general offering and our unrestricted savings. Since general offerings were close to \$151,000, we had to make up the \$14,000 deficit from our savings account, which is now near \$20,000, the lowest level in many years.

The outlook for this year points toward another deficit, though perhaps not as deep as 2014. The Finance Committee is working on ways to improve our situation and would appreciate any ideas and suggestions you might have.

Nate Houser,
Finance Chair

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Greeters/Ushers for October

8:30 am service | Dale Smith & James Martin
11:00 am service | Jean Hall & Shirley Snow

Birthdays

Glen Morgan	2	Pat Gwaltney	20
Mae Miles	4	Nate Houser	21
Kate Small	5	Peggy Pierce	23
Marilyn Tucker	9	Soles Small	23
Betsy Duff	14	Steve Leap	27
Gerald Taylor	14	Allen Moughon	30

Refreshments Providers for October

4 Frosty & Gerald Taylor, Eric Stewart, David Hudgins, and Liz & Durward Anderson
11 Ken & Karen Palmer
18 Mary Wade Smith & Louise Witherspoon
25 Chris & Pat Moughon

Our Deepest Sympathy and Prayers go to the...

Family of Lowry Hudgins	Family of Billy Robins
Family of Rev. Don Kensler	Family of Roberta Hughey
Family of Charlie Lawson	Family of Hannah Waring
Family of Emily Winder	

Central United Methodist Men

United Methodist men will meet at 8:00 am on Saturday, October 17 for breakfast to discuss the final plan for the shrimp dinner which will be held on Friday, October 23 . Tickets are available, \$16 for take-out and \$17 for eat-in. Hope to see everyone there.

James Martin,
CUMM President



2015 Cluster Charge Conference
Wednesday, October 21
7:00 pm
Hosted by Central UMC

CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST MEN'S SEMI ANNUAL

Steamed Shrimp Dinner

Friday, October 23rd

4:00-7:00 P.M.



TAKE OUT OR EAT IN
Come out and enjoy great food, fun, and fellowship!!

DONATION

Eat In - \$17.00 or Take Out - \$16.00




Children Age 5 -10 \$6.00 Under 5 FREE

Proceeds Benefit Local Church & Community Outreach

Purchase tickets in advance from any member of the Central United Methodist Men or call 725-8673, 725-2488 or 725-3751 today!



Fridays IN the Spirit
Fall Party
Saturday, October 17
6:30-9:00 pm
St. Paul UMC
Ages: K-12th Grade

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
 <p>Image Source: PUMPKINS pixabay.com; FALL LEAVES freestockphotos.biz/</p>				1 Children's Choir 6:30 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm	2	3
4 World Communion Sunday	5 Prayer Time 8:00 am Creation Care 9:00 am (at the Cannons)	6	7 Covenant Bible Study 10:00 am	8 P. Townsend Class Dinner & Meeting 6:00 pm Children's Choir 6:30 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: yellow; padding: 10px;"> <p>All meeting times & dates are subject to change. If in doubt, contact the committee chair.</p> </div>	
11 Missionaries' Visit - Donald & Carol Paige Both services	12 Prayer Time 8:00 am UM Women 7:00 pm	13	14 Covenant Bible Study 10:00 am Finance 7:00 pm 	15 Children's Choir 6:30 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm	16	17 UM Men Breakfast 8:00 am District Conference and Training 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Chestnut UMC, Newport News FINS 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm St. Paul UMC
18 Laity Sunday Chimes Submissions Due	21 Prayer Time 8:00 am SPRC 7:00 pm	20	21 Mission & Evangelism 9:00 am Covenant Bible Study 10:00 am Cluster Charge Conference Central UMC hosting 7:00 pm	22 Children's Choir 6:30 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm	23 UMM Shrimp Dinner 4:00 - 7:00 pm 	24
25	26 Prayer Time 8:00 am Trustees 7:00 pm	27	28 Covenant Bible Study 10:00 am Administrative Council 7:00 pm	29 Children's Choir 6:30 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm	30	31 Small Congregation Training Day 10:00 am - 4:00 pm www.vaumc.org to register