



THE CENTRAL CHIMES

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December 2017 - January 2018

From the Pastor's Pen

Friends, another year is drawing to a close. For one more year we sought to follow Christ, as in his name we gathered, worshipped, prayed, learned, and served. I am thankful to be part of a community that has none other than Jesus Christ himself as its cornerstone. I am unaware of any other organization that stands on such a spiritual and real foundation.

Some of you know that I follow baseball, although this year I was a little less of a fan. It was not just because my favorite team was regularly blown out of water all season long. For some time, the team has been in a so-called "rebuilding" mode: They traded away players with high salary and acquired young players with future potential. Many popular players were sent off to other teams; new names joined the roster, sometimes from yesterday's foes. Competition was fierce among the prospects to make the team.

Every team does a rebuilding at some point. Often it is how a team can become better. But I saw what happened when the front office decisions took over. It broke apart something essential from the game—that camaraderie among teammates and the childlike spirit inherent in the sport. The team struggled, and the game was just not the same. Even though this was professional baseball, the team could not propel itself by professionalism alone. As it turned out, they did not get their business ethics straight, either, as they were put under investigation for illegal recruiting.

Holy Baptism Celebrated

Bri'onna and Leeah Taylor were baptized on Sunday, November 12, 2017. They were presented with certificates and crosses and a reception was held after the worship service in their honor. Welcome to the Lord's family!!



Photo by Nancy Jagger

Pictured with Bri'onna and Leeah are their parents, Kelly and Robby Taylor, Robby's mother, Beverly Taylor, and Pastor John.

Janet Gomez



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*Christmas Eve
Candlelight &
Communion
Service
at Central UMC
8:00 pm*

Christmas Community



Sing-a-Long

At Central UMC

Sunday, December 3

3 p.m.

Sponsored by the
Central Village Homemakers

The church has the form of a social organization. We live, however, to the extent that we are inspired by the Spirit of God, even as we adhere to good organizational principles. Even the administrative and 'business' decisions we make are guided by faith and by the Holy Spirit. A great team is above all an inspired team, even as it practices solid business works.

I will not forget once attending a year-end business meeting of a local hospice service. The meeting, attended by some 40-50 people as I recall, was as business as it gets. The director calmly gave reports of income and expenses, as well as budget; officers were announced, and future plans were discussed. There was nothing fancy about the meeting, and simple refreshments followed at the end. But during the entire time a deep sense of purpose filled the room. Each person present in the room represented a life profoundly touched by the work of the hospice care. There was a genuine sense of taking part in something worthy, even spiritual. There was joy in the room.

Some of our most precious moments this year as a church may not have made headlines, but we were part of something larger than we are. The Bible suggests that our life lies in our connection with Jesus Christ himself. "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5) For example, the church lives by giving, as Jesus said, "Give, and it will be given to you." We live when we turn our attention to the world. "Go and make disciples of all nations ..." (Mt. 28:19); "I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent." (Luke 15:7)

The seasons of Advent and Christmas call us back to our foundation story. Let's welcome these sacred times once again. Let us worship fully so that our life may grow, both as

individuals and as a church.

Gratefully,

John



Hospitality

It has been a real joy to serve as co-chairman of the hospitality committee for the past year with Patty Hertzler, Marcia Fry and Sherry Hodges under the guidance of our Pastor John Choi.

November has given new meaning to Thanksgiving this year. Betty Stewart, Mary Marshall, Marcia Fry and Frances Ellis hosted a luncheon for our church family. What a bountiful meal and tasty food. It was immensely enjoyed by all who attended. They will also host a Community Thanksgiving dinner at Central with Mathews Baptist, Westville Baptist and Antioch Baptist churches on Tuesday, November 21st at 6:00 pm. Central will provide turkey, dressing, gravy and beverages. All in attendance will bring a covered dish.

Michael and Ed Cannon with the assistance of Dee Bane served as greeters for the 8:30 am service and Marcia Fry, Mary Marshall and Betty Stewart greeted at the 11:00 am service.

On November 12th, James and Dale Martin served morning refreshments, another delightful display. On the 19th, Louise Witherspoon, Martha Arnold and Mary Wade Smith followed with delicious goodies. Phyllis and Bobby Hudgins will serve on the 26th and their reputation promises us that we can look forward to another bounty of treats.

For the month of December, we request that you share your Christmas baked goods each Sunday and coffee and juice will be offered by hospitality.



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A reception following the funeral service for Durward Anderson was well attended and we appreciate the response from the church family for the food supply. The Paul Townsend Sunday School Class, of which Durward was a member, came through in all the details.

This will be my final entry in the Chimes but I want each person that has served and each person that has been present for the time of fellowship to know how much you are appreciated.

By the time this has been printed, my hope is that each of you has enjoyed the best Thanksgiving ever.

All are wished a blessed and Holy Christmas along with a Happy New "2018".

Merry Christmas,

Jean Sutton, Co-chair Hospitality

From Financial Secretary

Once again I express my sincere thanks to all those who so willingly assist with counting the offerings and special contributions. Doing this is truly a team effort, and I appreciate what each person does to make the team successful. Next month I will begin scheduling counters for 2018.

Marcia Fry, Financial Secretary



Refreshments Providers for December

Central UMC Member will share baked goods.

Greeters/Ushers for December

8:30 am service | Hal & Patty Hertzler

11:00 am service | Children's Ministry & parents

UM Women

The Central UMW would like to thank all of you who donated to our Hat and Glove tree in the Fellowship Hall. We collected over 50 items.. This winter you will give someone at Henderson Settlement in Kentucky hats and gloves to keep them warm.



We appreciate you loving support and so does Henderson Settlement.



Photos by John Choi

3 Rivers Healthy Families Event

November 17th we hosted the Three Rivers Healthy Families for a nice Thanksgiving Service, pie making and meal.

We are in the process of sending out our Annual Christmas Donations and will be Caroling and delivering gifts Dec 11th for our shut-ins.

Nancy Jagger and all the UMW members.....

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

Durward Anderson



Mission and Evangelism

In 2018 we welcome Jean Hall to our committee, who will serve as chair. We are most excited to have her with our ministry. On Jan. 28, we are set to have our 4'S ... Soup, Salad, Sweets and Songs. There will be music by guests as well as by our own, and a great fellowship afterwards. Any free-will donations given will go to United Methodist Family Services, an organization dedicated to work with at-risk children and their families in Virginia.

Looking ahead: For February, we are planning a family "tea" gathering that will also feature updates from Donald and Carol Paige's ministry in Paraguay. Stay tuned!

Children's Ministry

The children will serve as greeters and take up the offering the five Sundays in December. Their family members will participate with them.

Janet Gomez will be chair as of January 2018. God has blessed us with her leadership. I will be there for support as long as needed.

Thank you so much for the support of the teachers, Nancy Jagger, Janet Gomez, and Brenda Lewis. Thanks to Richard Moughon, Superintendent of Sunday School for all his support. A very good 2017. Merry Christmas and a Very Happy, Safe, New Year!

Pat Gwaltney, Chairperson Mission and Evangelism and Children's Ministry.



5th Sunday Joint Service
December 31
Sunday School 9:00 am
Worship Service 10:00 am
Song Service 2:15 pm
at Riverside Convalescent
All are welcome!

Youth Sunday (October 29th)



Photos by Louise Witherspoon

What Is UMFS?

Both the **poinsettia offerings**, and donations for **Soups, Salads, Sweets & Songs** (Jan. 28), will be our gifts to United Methodist Family Services (UMFS). I thank you especially for giving towards the first, which this year replaces a multitude of flowers in the sanctuary with two on the chancel.

Begun as an orphanage in 1900 by Virginia Annual Conference, UMFS was once called Virginia Methodist Children's Home. It serves high risk children and parents in our state with the following services: Foster care and adoption, residential treatment, specialized education, and various

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community-based services. It has nine locations across Virginia, including one in Norfolk.

UMFS serves our neighbors in greatly challenging circumstances, and theirs are the kind of works where people pour themselves out personally as well as professionally. You may wish to check out their website (umfs.org) as well as the YouTube channel.

John Choi



The Advent Conspiracy

(From www.adventconspiracy.org)

Several years ago a few pastors were lamenting how they'd come to the end of an Advent season exhausted and sensing they'd missed it again: the awe-inducing, soul-satisfying mystery of the incarnation. No wonder there was a dread at the beginning of each new season as they prepared to proclaim, celebrate, and worship around the story of God entering our world as one of us.

It seemed as if all were drowning in a sea of financial debt and endless lists of gifts to buy. An overwhelming stress had overtaken any sense of worship. People now believed the marketing lie that spending money is the best way to express love. This, combined with the American mindset that "more must be better" was now consuming pastors and congregations alike.

Somehow, this had become the new normal. This had become everyone's Christmas routine. Every year people were being devoured by the Christmas frenzy, and every year the Advent season ended with a sinking feeling that once again, they'd missed the point.

So three pastors—Rick McKinley from Imago Dei Community in Portland, Chris Seay from Ecclesia in Houston, and Greg Holder from The Crossing in the St. Louis area—decided to try something different.

They called it the Advent Conspiracy, and came up with four tenets—**Worship Fully, Spend Less, Give More, Love All**—to guide themselves, their families, and congregations through their season of preparation for Christmas.

Worship Fully - Because Christmas begins and ends with Jesus.

Spend Less - Feel less stress, and free resources for things that matter to Jesus.

Give More - Give relationally to offer one another presence, rather than merely presents.

Love All - Love the forgotten, the poor, marginalized, and sick in the ways Jesus asked us to.

And along the way a revolution was born.

A video posted on YouTube went viral with more than a million views. In those first few years hundreds of churches in 17 countries on four continents were participating, and millions of dollars had been directed to Living Water International to provide safe drinking water for people around the world.

The beauty of the Advent Conspiracy, however, is not in its re-direction of resources, but in its power to transform us personally, as a community, and as the Body of Christ. Churches that participate consistently share that what they love most about AC is how it transforms their season into one that is happier, more connected, and freer to focus on Jesus.

That's what it's all about.

Scholarships Available: Students in post-secondary schools returning for their second term in spring may apply for scholarships.

Application should include 1) the latest transcript, 2) proof of active enrollment at least half-time in an accredited institution beyond the high school level, and 3) a letter describing intentions for continued study for the upcoming calendar year. Send application by Jan. 12, 2018 to: Bobby Hudgins, PO Box 1, Hudgins, VA 23076.

Creation Care

Thanks to Jerry Ligon, Central got publicity in the Gazette Journal last month: "A group of Thomas Hunter Middle School students learned the positive benefits of recycling at class held earlier this month at Central United Methodist Church, Mathews. The class, called Creation Care, was hosted by members of the Central UMC..."

Creation Care met at the Cannons for their November meeting. For our last project for 2017 the team checked and repaired over 100 children's books. These books were then passed on to Louise Witherspoon to be offered each Wednesday to participants of Hands Across Mathews. We all felt this was a great recycle activity to end the 2017 year.



Michael Cannon




Creation Care

SPPRC

If there are any matters which need to be addressed by the Staff, Pastor, or Parish Committee, they can be discussed confidentially with any committee member. Thank you.

Dee Bane

SPPRC Chairman



Mathews County Blood Drive
Piankatank Ruritan Club
Hudgins, VA
Tuesday, December 5, 2017
1:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Paul Townsend class

The Paul Townsend Memorial class will be celebrating Christmas by preparing and delivering baskets to shut-ins on December 17th. We also plan a class dinner party on the 14th. We wish a blessed Christmas season to all in our Central Church family.



Patty Hertzler

Class president

Finance Committee

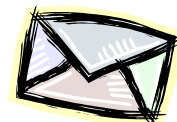
The Finance Committee completed its work on the 2018 budget which was approved by the Admin Council in September. It will be presented to the Charge Conference at the December 3 meeting.

Stewardship has been good all year with deposits and expenditures running neck and neck for the year. Your generosity to Central is greatly appreciated! Since the end of the year is fast approaching, you may want to consider a special year-end gift to Central. While a designated gift will never be turned down, a gift to the general operating fund would be the most helpful. Of course, all gifts are tax deductible, if you are looking for help in that area. I thank you in advance for your consideration.

I thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Finance Chairman this past year and look forward to the new one. May you all have a most blessed Christmas and the best New Year ever!

Chris Moughon

Finance Chair



2018 Offering Envelopes are ready for pick-up.
They are on the back pew in the Sanctuary.


SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<h1>December</h1>					1	2
3 Central Village Homemakers Sing-a-Long 3:00 pm Charge Conference 3:00 pm	4 Prayer Time 8:00 am Women's Choir 7:00 pm	5 Mathews Blood Drive Piantatank Ruritan Club 1:30-7:00pm	6 Central Village Homemakers 9:00 - 1:00 pm	7 Children's Choir 6:30 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm	8	9
10 UMW Caroling 2:30 pm followed by covered dish at Grace's.	11 Prayer Time 8:00 am UM Women 10:00 am SPRC 7:00 pm	12	13 Mission & Evangelism 10:00 am	14 P. Townsend Class Christmas Dinner 6:00 pm Children's Choir 6:30 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm	15	16 UM Men Breakfast 8:00 am
17 Chimes Submissions Due P.Townsend Class/Baskets 10:00 am	18 Prayer Time 8:00 am	19	20	21 Children's Choir 6:30 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm	22	23
24 Christmas Eve Service 8:00 pm	25 Christmas Day 	26	27	28 Children's Choir 6:30 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm	29	30
31 Joint Service New Year's Eve	Year-End Giving The last day to make a contribution in 2017 is Sunday, December 31.					

December Birthdays

Raymond Mountford	5	Richie Hogge	10
Shirley Snow	5	Betty Stewart	11
Carl Bochau	6	Pat Moughon	15
Jerry Jagger	8	Jill Moughon	18

December Anniversaries

Anne South	18	Gerald & Frosty Taylor	20
Brennan McKenzie	22		
Evelyn Mountford	24		
Neena Putt	30		

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1  January	2	3 Central Village Homemakers 9:00 am - 1:00 pm	4 Children's Choir 6:30 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm	5	6
7	8 Prayer Time 8:00 am UM Women 10:00am Women's Choir 7:00 pm	9	10 Finance 7:00 pm	11 P. Townsend Class 6:00 pm Children's Choir 6:30 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm	12	13
14	15 Prayer Time 8:00 am	16 Creation Care @ Cannons 9:00 am	17 Mission & Evangelism 10:00 am	18 Children's Choir 6:30 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm	19	20 UM Men Breakfast 8:00 am
21 Central Chimes Submissions Due	22 Prayer Time 8:00 am Trustees 7:00 pm	23	24	25 Children's Choir 6:30 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm	26	27
28 4S Celebration 5:00 pm	29 Prayer Time 8:00 am	30	31 Administrative Council 7:00 pm	<i>All meeting times & dates are subject to change. If in doubt, contact the committee chair.</i>		

January Birthdays

Richard Sadler	4	Hal Hertzler	17
Emily Leap	6	Audrey Knight	25
Billy Snow	13	Ann Miles	27

January Anniversaries

Raymond & Evelyn Mountford 20

