



THE CENTRAL CHIMES

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From the Pastor's Pen

Hurricane Harvey has devastated the coastal Texas, and hundreds of thousands of people have been affected by the historic flooding. It appears recovery is going to take sustained effort for years to come.

Among others, United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), the disaster relief arm of the United Methodist Church, has begun responding to the situation. They will continue working together with churches and disaster coordinators of Texas Annual Conference and Louisiana Conference. The initial batches of cleaning buckets are being delivered to local depots, per UMCOR website.



Central Church will receive special offerings towards UMCOR during the month of September. Please designate your gift to UMCOR. Since our UMCOR Sunday (formerly 'One Great Hour of Sharing') offering across our connection underwrites the administrative cost, these special gifts will entirely go to the disaster relief efforts.

An awesome display of nature's power makes us feel small by comparison. Houston is a large city, and it has been flooded to a standstill. Natural disasters are part of life on this lively planet, and sometimes the impact is devastating. Over 15,000 people lost their lives from the 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan, a country as well prepared for such disasters as any other place. The human life is fragile everywhere.

Our response is to call on love's greater power and to act with compassion. In an interview with CNN, an Aransas, Texas man said, "I just lost everything I worked for. Everything. The only thing I got are the clothes on my back." The TV crew was able to use a satellite phone to connect him to his father for the first time since the hurricane hit. Crying, he said, "Dad, I love you." This is indeed a time for an "I love you".

Therefore let's not forget to pray for those affected by the storm as well as all who are involved in the rescue, relief and rebuilding efforts. Let us pray that the people of Texas, Louisiana, and all who suffer elsewhere may be held by God's love.

Peace of Christ,

John



Get Ready Now

As I type this, Hurricane Harvey is making landfall as a major Cat 3 Hurricane with sustained winds of 121 mph. It is too late for coastal Texas and even inland flooding is predicted from extraordinary rainfall. By the time you read this, Harvey will more than likely be noted in the record books.

No one planned to be in the path of such a horrific storm. No one realized the depth of the water flooding into their homes and their life. What about you? Are you ready?



We are heading into the peak time of the hurricane season. Don't wait until a storm is bearing down on Hampton Roads to get ready. September is National Preparedness month. Make it

a point to get you and your family ready. Take care of things around your house. Trim back bushes and tree branches. Clean out rain gutters. Build up your kit. Sit down as a family and develop that plan. Get your kids involved and assign them jobs to help. Pick up the Emergency Preparedness brochures in the Social Hall and get your Disaster Kit Ready. The time to do it is now.

Dare to Prepare

Educate yourself & your family

Create a family plan & practice it

Be a good neighbor

Store adequate supplies

Take care of utilities

Create a home evacuation box

Janet Burgess


Central Church Disaster Coordinator

Paul Townsend Memorial Class

The Paul Townsend Memorial class has been invited to the home of Grace Mortimer for a potluck picnic the evening of September 14th beginning at 5:30 pm.

The monthly business meeting will also be held. Please join us and get to know the members and teachers of our class.

Patty Hertzler, Class President



Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, September 3rd

11:00 am Worship Service

Bring your backpack to be blessed for the new school year.

webweaver.nu

Creation Care



In August, Creation Care gave Recycle Presentations for the *Mathews Boys and Girls Club Summer Program*. The kids loved it and they participated or cheered the entire time. We are getting wiser in how we set up and what is the most important information to present. For half of the young people, they had not seen any importance in recycling in the past. By the time they had won their race, seen how they could help their earth and their County plus go home with a prize, they had a new positive viewpoint on recycling.

Our goal was to plant new seeds...Many thanks to all of you who were able to help during those three days.

Everyone at church got a *Household Chemical Collection and Electronic Recycling Brochure* in their church bulletin. Many thanks to Michele Evans for helping us achieve that goal. Many church members said they really appreciated having that detailed information and it led them to participate in the event.

The earth is the Lord's and everything in it!



Michael Cannon, Chairman Creation Care

Mission and Evangelism

Take your everyday, ordinary life – your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life-and place it before God as an offering....You'll be changed from the inside out. Romans 12:2

Your committee through the congregation continues to support Donald and Carol Paige and family as our Covenant Missionaries as they return to Paraguay. We recommend for 2018 supporting another missionary or a mission trip.

We are excited about participating in the Early Bird Breakfast and Cool Waters for Mathews Market Days, Sept. 8th and 9th, the weekend after Labor Day. Come help with this event as volunteers, cooks, order takers, servers, host and hostesses and shifts to give out waters.

Children's Ministry

Wishing all our children an eventful return to school. Macedonia Baptist Church will host FINS, Friday, Sept. 15th. A scavenger hunt, rock painting and games are planned.

We have been seeing newer faces at Sunday School and church: Toy and Graham Black; Evelyn, Casey, Madison, Jeffery and Joshua West.

OPEN MINDS, OPEN HEARTS AND OPEN DOORS

Pat Gwaltney

Chair of M/E and Children's Ministry

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

Shirley Fleming	Susan Neighbors
Daniel Forrest	Beulah Sadler
Don Keith Haynes	Gloria Mae Smith
Julia Jones	Wilton Ford
Colie Hudgins	



September 2017

Spiritual Formation Class

"For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope." (Romans 15:4)

During the last two years, we looked into Covenant Bible Study, a 24-week survey of the entire Bible around the theme of a covenant; we also had *Alpha*, a 15-session introduction to the Christian faith. These were fairly systematic look at the essentials of our beliefs. This fall we begin with something slightly different—a biographical study.

Beginning on Sep. 19th (Tue), a six-week study on Moses will be offered. Our resource will be "Moses: In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet," a six-week study by Adam Hamilton, pastor of The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Missouri. It includes videos of his visits to the biblical sites of Exodus in Egypt.

The story of Moses may be especially appealing for us for several reasons. It is about someone who faced both his inner conflicts (he was an adopted son of an Egyptian royal, yet a child of a Hebrew slave) and the conflicts of his society (his people, the Hebrews, were being oppressed). He becomes part of some of the most dramatic and fascinating stories in all of the Scriptures including the plagues in Egypt, the Passover, the receiving of the law, and the Israelites' wilderness journey. These stories are replete with deep spiritual meaning, and they form foundations for the biblical narrative.



After *Moses*, I am planning for a study on spiritual disciplines. In other words, we will explore how to practically go about seeking the transformation of a Spirit-led life. Any successful athlete orders his or her life—including food, sleep, exercise and practice—in order to excel on the field. Likewise, a spiritual life is supported by certain patterns

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and disciplines. That is the subject of Ruth Haley Barton's "Sacred Rhythms: Arranging Our Lives for Spiritual Transformation." Topics include: solitude, scripture, prayer, sabbath, discernment, self-examination.

The value of a faith-led, Spirit-enabled life cannot be measured! I hope God will lead our church down the road of new discovery this fall.

John Choi

United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women sponsored a picnic and play day for the Three Rivers Healthy Families program in the surrounding area. There were about 40 people who attended including families in the program, counselors and members of the Three Rivers staff.

The families gathered first at Port Fun park to enjoy the beautiful weather and then came to the church for a program. Nita Carter, a former Charlottesville music teacher, and Mathews County resident presented a class on music with bells. After a few practice songs, the music began to be pleasant and fun. The children also presented a rhythm marching band complete with bells and drum sticks.

A wonderful lunch was prepared for the families and we all enjoyed the fellowship.

Dee Bane



Ice Cream Social and BayBells Concert

Sunday, Sept. 17
2:00 pm
To benefit the
Mattaponi Healing
Eagle Clinic
Sponsored by
Central UM Women

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee finished (at least for now) its work on the monthly finance report and is now turning its attention to the 2018 budget process. In September we'll complete it and present it to the admin council, who will in turn present it to the charge conference in October.

The weekly offerings continue to hold their own against expenditures, so we thank you for your continued generosity.

Chris Moughon

Chair of Finance Committee

United Methodist Men

The UMM did not meet in August. Our next meeting will be on Sept. 16, and we will be planning our shrimp dinner. This is a very important meeting and we need a large turnout.

The shrimp dinner will be on Friday the 20th of Oct. Please put this date on your calendar now. I know we will need lots of help.

Ken Palmer, President



Hospitality

In our coffee hour food has been appearing for our enjoyment. We don't always know the donor but we are grateful whenever it shows up. Sometimes when we go in church it looks a little sparse but when we return it has grown abundantly.

Thank you to each one who participates in any way. The clean-up crew is equally appreciated. What a pleasure to work together. Our church gave a tray of chicken drumettes for the Smith Family reception held in our fellowship hall on August 26th.

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Knitting Display for Cancer Patients & CHKD



Items for the Children's Hospital of the Kings' Daughters and Sons and the Peninsula Cancer Institute will be on display in the sanctuary

Sunday, September 10. See the September 10th church bulletin insert for more details.

Please take the time to view the display and, as you do, say a prayer for the baby, child or cancer patient who will receive them.

Generous contributions have made possible:

48 crayon boxes	48 coloring books
4 baby layette	139 blankets
5 youth dresses	5 youth sweaters
8 Shawls	16 book marks
48 boxes of 24 crayons	22 Head Wraps
191 hats (11 were donated to family & friends)	12 note pads and pencils

Contributors:

Kitty Arnold	Janette Hogge
Martha Arnold	Lois Faye Jenkins
Bible School Children of 2017	Katy
Janet Bowman	Maymie Lambert
Polly Barnes	Peggy Leigh
Miriam Cromwell	Leigh Lewis
Louise Owens Diggs	Mildred Lockwood
Laura Fleige	Christy Love
Marcia Fry	Jane Maney
Esther Gauthier	Mary Marshall
Janet Gomez	Mathews Baptist Church
Pat Gwaltney	Grace Mortimer
Jean Hall	Judy Moughon
Lois Henderson	Karen Palmer
Patty Hertzler	Mary Wade Smith
	Louise Witherspoon

September 2017

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The UMW had set up tables for another function and left them for the caterer with flower arrangements on each table. Our hospitality reaches out in many directions.

Keep up the good work Central United Methodist Church. God is good all the time and all the time God is good.

Hospitality Team



Annual Church picnic (8/7, photos by Louise Witherspoon)



Greeters/Ushers for September

8:30 am service	Ken & Helen Lee
11:00 am service	Ben & Peggy Leigh

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
September 2017					1	2
3 Blessing of the Backpacks	4 Labor Day Prayer Time 8:00 am	5 First Day of School Women's Choir Practice 7:00 pm	6 Central Village Homemakers 9:00 am - 1:00 pm	7	8 Early Bird Breakfast 8:00 to 10:00am	9 Early Bird Breakfast 8:00 to 10:00 am 
10 Knitting Display for CHKD & PCI Cancer Patients  District Conference 3:00 pm	11 Prayer Time 8:00 am UM Women 10:00 am SPRC 7:00 pm	12 	13 Finance 7:00 pm Nominations Committee 2:30 pm	14 Children's Choir 6:30 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm Paul Townsend class Picnic at Grace Mortimer's Home 5:30pm	15 FINS 6:30 to 9:00 pm Macedonia Baptist Church	16 UM Men 8:00 am
17 Central Chimes Submissions Due Ice Cream Social/Bay Belles Concert 2:00 pm	18 Prayer Time 8:00 am Trustees 7:00 pm	19 Creation Care (at the Cannon's) 9:00 am Moses*	20 Mission & Evangelism 10:00 am	21 Children's Choir 6:30 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm	22 First Day of Fall	23
24 Christian Education Sunday  • Promotions • Teacher Recognition	25 Prayer Time 8:00 am	26	27 Administrative Council 7:00 pm	28 Children's Choir 6:30 pm Youth Choir 6:45 pm Adult Choir 7:15 pm	29	30

Birthdays

Judy Haynes	1	Chris Moughon	9
Carey Hogge	2	Mildred Stillman	10
Cheryl Wheeler	2	Ben Leigh	11
Joe Cromwell	3		

Anniversaries

Tom & Marilyn Tucker	7
Hal & Patty Hertzler	9
Mark & Brenda Lewis	12
John & Sherry Hodges	21
Greg & Leigh Lewis	27

* Further meeting times to be determined.