



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

SEPTEMBER 2019

Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, September 1st

11:00 am Worship Service

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



From the Pastor's Pen

Sin of Losing Humanity

"The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost." (1 Tim. 1:15)



'Being human' often implies imperfection, as in "I'm only human." The goal of Christian discipleship, however, is not to escape from being human but to become fully human again. Christ was fully divine AND fully human, who called himself the Son of Man; and he shows us how to be truly human. It is not angels that we are called to become, but humans!

Losing humanity is a dangerous thing. Where I come from, one of the worst things to be called is "one who gave up being human." Genocidal warlords and brutal dictators have been charged with "crimes against humanity." In the Book of Revelation, the chief villain to come at the end time is ... a beast.

Many of the Bible's calls for repentance are calls to retain humanity. Jesus was particularly harsh against the religious

leaders, who strictly followed the law but preyed on the vulnerable. (Mt. 23:23-24) Once Jesus' disciples, passing through the grain fields on the sabbath, plucked heads of grain and ate them, because they were hungry. When the Pharisees charged that they were breaking the sabbath, Jesus countered: *"If you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless."* MT. 12:7)

We must be on guard that we do not lose our being human. Years ago, during a baseball game between two rival teams, a young star player was drilled in the back with a fastball, and people in the seats erupted in cheers! I was horrified. Apostle Paul once called himself "the chief among sinners." He had allowed his zeal to make him a violent man, and he knew how far he had gone before Christ rescued him. Crimes against humanity begins with selling away our humanness.

In seeking to be human, I am not saying we can make excuses for our selfishness and ignorance. The Bible recognizes that we have sinned, and human nature came to stand for our brokenness. But Jesus Christ restores us into new humanity according to his own image:

Continued on page 2



Sept. & Oct. **Upper Room**

is available
on the
Narthex.

Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all! (Col. 3:9-11)



This fall, why not examine our Christian discipleship by how 'human' we are; how "like a child" we are (Mt. 18:3); how merciful we are with our neighbors; in other words, how like Christ we are?

Gratefully,
John



Fall / Winter Spiritual Formation Classes

COMPANIONS IN CHRIST (5 weeks each)

This fall's small group learning opportunities are based upon the well-regarded *Companions in Christ* series. First published in 2001 by Upper Room Books and revised since, *Companions* goes beyond the learning of beliefs and touches primarily on the living out of the faith. A class will consist of a weekly meeting (1.5 hours) and daily suggested exercises. Tuesday evening classes will be at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship hall, and Wednesday morning classes will be at the parsonage. One may register for one of both of the following topics.

1) *Companions in Christ*, Part 1 – Embracing the Journey: The Way of Christ (5 weeks)

- From the week of Sept. 15, Tuesday evenings or Wednesday mornings
- Participant's Guide - \$8

This is a foundational segment that explores Christian spirituality.

PRAYER COVENANT GROUP (Sep. — Dec.)

Prayer Covenant Group offers 3-5 individuals to commit to the following:

- Daily time of prayer, half and hour or more
- A monthly meeting where participants may share their experiences and the leader will offer topics for reflection (time & place TBD)
- Men's and Women's groups will meet separately

We explore prayer specifically as taught by Jesus. Within that framework, suggestions may be shared for different ways that can enrich our prayer life.

To register for classes or for additional details please speak to Pastor John (johnchoi@vaumc.org).

(Continued)

The listed topics are:

- The Christian Life As Journey
- The Nature of Christian Spiritual Life
- The Flow and the Means of Grace
- Sharing Journeys of Faith
- Living As Covenant Community

2) *Companions in Christ*, Part 5 – Exploring Spiritual Guidance: The Spirit of Christ (5 weeks)

- From the week of Oct. 27, Tuesday evenings or Wednesday mornings
- Participant's Guide - \$8

This is a more specific discussion on seeking spiritual guidance.

- How Do I Know God's Will for My Life?
- Spiritual Companions
- Small Groups for Spiritual Guidance
- Re-Visioning Our Life as Companions in Christ
- Discerning Our Need for Guidance

Creation Care

Recycling Books for HANDS ACROSS MATHEWS

Central's Creation Care Team spent time going through hundreds of children's books. They repaired any that were slightly damaged and got rid of ones in poor shape or not appropriate.



At the end of our meeting we had prepared 210 books for HANDS ACROSS MATHEWS!



Books were then delivered to Louise Witherspoon who with other HAM volunteers will be offering some each week to parents and children.

Michael Cannon,
Creation Care Team



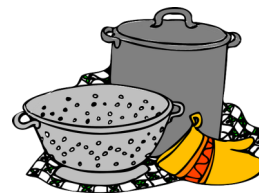
Finance Committee

Thanks to the foresight and generosity of Bailey Hudgins years ago, the wonderful improvements to our beloved Fellowship Hall are being paid out of the fund he left to our church and not our general operating funds. It would not be possible otherwise without a sizable fund raising campaign.

Deposits to the general fund are running about \$5000 behind expenditures for the year through July. We just paid our semi-annual comprehensive insurance (\$3315) and paid for the parsonage painting earlier in the year (\$1400, which did not come out of the Bailey Hudgins Fund). These two items alone account for over \$4700 of the shortfall.

We still have a fair amount in reserve, but we need to cut that deficit before the end of the year, so please continue to prayerfully consider your church with your gifts, tithes, and offerings. I promise you that you won't be sorry!

Chris Moughon,
Finance Chair



If you see kitchen supplies running low in the supply room, please make a note on the notepad on the refrigerator for David Hudgins.

Thank you



Mathews County Blood Drive

Piankatank Ruritan Club

Tuesday, September 17 from 1:30 pm - 7:00 pm

**Please help prevent a summer shortage
and save a life!**

Mission and Evangelism

At our meeting on August 21, we discussed how the Holy Spirit is leading the ministry of Donald And Carol Paige and voted to continue our financial support for them.

We would also like to support another missionary. Each of us will review the bio of different missionaries associated with GBBM and bring our thoughts to the next meeting.

We affirmed our desire to assist with eliminating world-wide hunger and voted to hold a *Rise Up Against Hunger* event at our church. This is a costly effort on our part and to make it more feasible, we would like to invite other United Methodist Churches to partner with us. In addition to help defray the costs we will hold one or two Paint Nights. This would be open to the public and may provide a means of inviting others to our church. The first Paint Night will be after October 15. We will also provide our congregation to be a financial supporter of the effort by asking for a free will offering.

In the past, we had noted that the church website is an important ministry tool. Committee members will pray about the purpose, scope and what message we want to communicate and discuss it at our new meeting.



Since our Market Days Early Bird Breakfast wasn't widely attended last year, we voted not to continue with it this year. We will, however,

continue distributing free water. Committee members will man the station during different shifts. Any help from the congregation would be appreciated.

Eric brought up the idea of a revival to be held within our church. Speakers may be members of our church or from the outside. We all have "God Stories", our own personal testimony, and the idea would be to share them. The committee really liked this idea and we will discuss it further at our next meeting.

Also, we decided to pray about what we see as our vision for our next year's ministry and bring our ideas to our next meeting, which will be held on September 11.

Linda Dalgety

Mission and Evangelism Chair



Central Set to Take Part in Rise Against Hunger

This Thanksgiving season, why not express your thankfulness to God and make a difference in the world by working with our hands? In November Central will host a meal packaging event for *Rise Against Hunger* (www.riseagainsthunger.org).

We will gather in the fellowship hall and put together meal packages—each containing enriched rice, soy protein, dried vegetables, and essential vitamin and nutrients—that will be sent away to help alleviate hunger. RAH provides supplies and equipment, along with guidance on how to put together the packages. Children and adults alike can participate easily.

Each meal packages costs .31-.34 cents, and we hope to assemble as many as 6700 meals. You can start giving towards this project from now until November by earmarking your gift as Rise Against Hunger.

Stay tuned for further information!

Hospitality Committee

Thanks go to Christine Ulrich for serving as his month's Hospitality Host. Those serving refreshments for Sunday hospitality time are as follows: Aug. 11, Karen Palmer and Patty Hertzler; Aug. 18, Pat and Chris Moughon; Aug. 25, Bobby and Phyllis Hudgins. Please remember, as always, the first Sunday in each month is "Cookie or snack" Sunday where everyone has a chance to bring and share their favorite treat with others.

I can't believe September is here a-l-m-o-s-t. Where did the summer go???

As you see and enjoy the beautiful new updates to our Fellowship Hall and Kitchen, please remember it is everyone's responsibility to keep it fresh and clean. If we ALL do our part, the lovely floor and paint job will stay beautiful. Those providing and serving refreshments as hosts each Sunday "Thank-You" in advance!

Our September Hospitality Host will be Ruth Ann Hutson. Please phone her at 694-7445 if there is a need for cards, visits, or prayers. Those serving refreshments are as follows: Sept. 1, "Cookie Sunday"; Sept. 8, Sherry and John Hodges, and Louise Witherspoon; Sept. 15, Grace Mortimer and Jean Sutton; Sept. 22, James & Dale Martin.

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

Janet Abrams
Sally Callis
Iris Foster
Jack Kling



Tim Sadler
Lauren Halle Owens
Adam Hutchisson

Thanks to everyone for your service.

The 27th is "Fifth Sunday" where we have one joint service at 10:00 AM. Hope to see you at Church. Blessings to all!

Phyllis Hudgins, Chairman
Hospitality/Visitation Committee



Hospitality Host for September

Ruth Ann Hutson—804-694-7445

Greeters/Ushers for September

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



October 6, 2019
Envelopes will be provided.



5th Sunday Joint Service

September 29

Sunday School 9:00 am

Worship Service 10:00 am

Song Service 2:15 pm

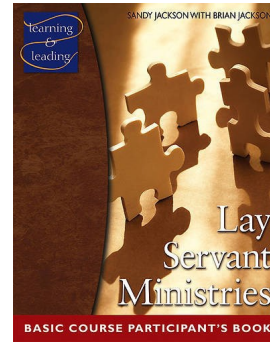
*at Riverside Convalescent
Center - All Are Welcome*



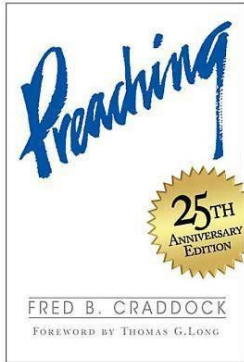
Lay Servant Training

October 5th at Chestnut Memorial UMC

The BASIC Course with *Dick Barnes*,
Associate District Director of Lay Ministries



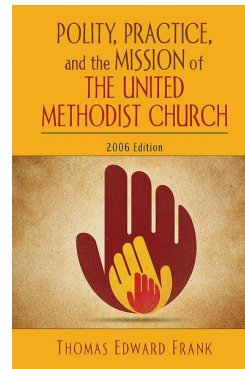
OR



Preaching with *Pastor Tom Tipton*,
Christ UMC, Newport News

OR

Polity with *Judy Moughon*,
District Associate Leader,
YRD Ministry Excellence Team



More details:

\$30 fee covers the cost of textbooks and lunch

- Chestnut Memorial UMC, 124 Harpersville Rd., Newport News 23601
- Saturday, October 5, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
- Register online at YorkRiverDistrict.org or via email to YorkRiverDistrict@vaumc.org

Please make checks payable to York River District and indicate LSM training **and** your course choice in the memo. Please mail your checks to the YRD Office, 6515 George Washington Memorial Highway, Suite 203, Yorktown, VA 23692

*Spaghetti Dinner
to Benefit CHKD
Friday, September 27
4:00 - 7:00 pm
Central UMC*

Sponsored by:
Chesapeake Bay Circle of the King's
Daughters and Sons

Donations: \$10 Adult
\$6 Children 8 and under

For tickets:
Betty Stewart
Mary Marshall
Marcia Fry

pixabay.com



Knitting Display for Peninsula Cancer Institute & CHKD (Sept. 8th)

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 8th. See the September 8th 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	171 hats
48 boxes of 24 crayons	119 blankets
48 coloring books	3 quilts

Contributors:

Kitty Arnold	Peggy Leigh
Martha Arnold	Nancy Lindgren
Janet Bowman	Mildred Lockwood
Central UM Women	Mary Marshall
Doris Clements	Mathews Baptist Ch.
Louise Owens Diggs	Judy Moughon
Herb Fowler	Karen Palmer
Cindy Hall	Anne South
Jean Hall	Jean Sutton
Patty Hertzler	Christine Ulrich
Melba & Nate Houser	

Special thanks to *Helen Lee* and *Grace Mortimer* for setting up the nice display, also to *Pastor John* and *David Hudgins* for bringing all of these items from my home and setting up the tables. Without their help, I could not have done this, plus loading my car for delivery on Monday.

Many Thanks,
Anne South

September 2019




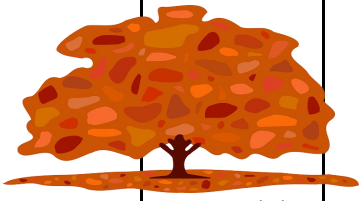
Central's Annual Church Picnic (8/5/19)



Fellowship

Photos by
Louise
Witherspoon
& John Choi



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<h1>September 2019</h1>						
1 Blessing of the Backpacks	2 Labor Day	3 First Day of School 	4 Central Village Homemakers 9:00 am - 1:00 pm	5 Choir 7:15 pm	6 M & E Water bottle give away 9:00 - 3:00 pm	7 M & E Water bottle give away 9:00 - 3:00 pm
8 Knitting Display for CHKD & PCI Cancer Patients	9 UM Women 10:00 am SPRC 7:00 pm	10	11 Mission and Evangelism 10:00 am Finance 7:00 pm	12 Bay Quilters 9:00 am - 1:00 pm Paul Townsend class 6:00 pm Choir 7:15 pm	13	14
15	16 Trustees 7:00 pm	17 Blood Drive  Piankatank Ruritan Club 1:30 - 7:00pm COMPANIONS 7:00 pm	18 COMPANIONS 10:00 am	19 Nomination 2:00 pm Choir 7:15 pm	20	21
22 First Day of Fall  Central Chimes Submissions Due	23	24 COMPANIONS 7:00 pm	25 COMPANIONS 10:00 am Administrative Council 7:00 pm	26 CB Circle of CHKD Dinner Set up 9:00am - 9:00pm Choir 7:15 pm	27 CB Circle of CHKD Dinner 4:00 - 7:00 pm	28
29 5th Sunday Joint Service	30					
Sunday School 9:00 am Service of Word 10:00 am Song Service at Riverside Convalescent. Ct., 2:15 pm York River District Conference , 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm Warwick Memorial UMC, 38 Hoopes Rd., Newport News				 pixabay.com		

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