



THE CENTRAL CHIMES

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September 2015

Seven Secrets

Twenty eight young people from the Mathews Boys and Girls Club's Summer Program participated in Central's Creation Care Recycle Class. They were between the ages of 6 and 13. The Team of youths had fun learning the "**7 secrets of the Dump.**" After each lesson, names were drawn. The chosen youths **raced the clock** to transport a particular bit of trash, such as cardboard or plastic, to the correct recycle table. Everyone was cheering for their teammates. After a while they were raising their hands to volunteer.

The Director of the Club, Andrew Wickliffe, said that we held their interest from the first minute to the very end of the program. He stated that they also loved the prizes: magic balls that flashed light when you bounced them, as well as picking one book each to keep from a selection of about 80 books.

Our goal was to help young people get excited about the importance of recycling. Director Wickliffe mentioned that they talked about it when they returned to the club. A son and parent have already made plans to set up recycling in their home. The Mathews Boys and Girls Club would like to have another presentation for the regular school year kids.

Creation Care, as a team, worked many hours to produce this class. Greg Lewis donated his valuable skills in helping us set up

the video aids. We are thankful to David Hudgins for recycling a gazillion tons of trash that we had collected for many weeks for the Recycle Program.

The Creation Care Team



Photos by Louise Witherspoon

From the Pastor's Pen

Years ago I was in Santiago, Dominican Republic, working with a local church for a week of outreach projects. One evening, after a particularly moving worship service, people began to disperse—except for two young men. They stood in embrace, weeping on each other's neck. I instantly recognized them as a couple of youths whom I had seen exchanging a few sharp words earlier in the day.

One of them, Omar, was an intelligent and charismatic lad who loved to dance. He was often the first to show up and help around the church, and he was endeared by everyone. I also knew that he was a target of jealousy by some youths. Clearly something had blown up between Omar and the other boy. It was just a sharp retort followed by another, but it was enough to break the genial spirit we had enjoyed all week.

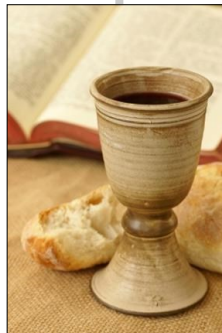
I was stunned to see these otherwise normal kids overcome by the power of the Holy Spirit. I did not understand the words, but clearly they were asking for forgiveness, over and over again. After some fifteen minutes, they still had not separated! By this time the other youths were already in the buses. People were getting anxious, and the mission pastor's wife was becoming incensed. The buses could not wait much longer. But that evening we all waited, and everybody went home a little late.

I often think of that episode when we celebrate the Holy Communion, including the Peace. Our hugs and handshakes stand for God's gift of reconciliation, something that only the Spirit of God can give. You might say that The Peace is *sacramental*, because it, too, is **an outward sign of inward grace** (a classic definition of sacrament).

The Communion itself is a sign-act for a truly holy gift, something similar to what God did

for those two young men. It is nothing less than an encounter with God, though it comes through the common things of bread and juice. We can think of it this way: Ideally, taking part in the Holy Communion is a mysterious but real meeting with Jesus. Just as God became an ordinary man in Jesus, so he gives himself to us today through those common elements that we eat and drink.

Therefore there will always be an element in the Holy Communion that defies human understanding. On one level it is an event that we need to plan and execute appropriately; on another level, it is a supper with Christ. In our recent Gospel lessons Jesus repeatedly says, "Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life." The main idea is that we do not simply acquire Jesus as possession, either as knowledge or power; but we receive and 'digest' him in a way that changes us from deep within.



You can see why the United Methodist Church's General Conference in 2004 adopted a study titled *This Holy Mystery*, which recommends that our congregations move towards a weekly celebration of the sacrament, and that a complete Sunday service include the Word as well as the Table. John Wesley reportedly took Communion up to five times a week. At the same time, however, it does place a great burden and responsibility to plan the occasion in a faithful manner.

In the past two months I have been frequently asked about our church's practice of the Holy Communion. Everyone clearly shares a desire for the sacrament to be special. So far there has been really one thing I wanted to say, i.e. that I hope we recognize and grow in the spiritual meaning of the sacrament—it is a meal with Jesus. If it is the most impressive display of solemnity and yet not a supper with Jesus, then it is not true sacrament; even if it was a humble and ordinary celebration but is

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a supper with Jesus, then its value cannot be measured.

My hope is that, regardless of how often it is served, or who administers it, we will continue to make it for ourselves a supper with Jesus by faith. Every time there is a Communion, let us consider ourselves invited by the very Jesus. He is gracious to come to us through the word and the Spirit.

Gratefully, *John*

Central United Methodist Women

The Central UMW has had a very educational summer of programs. The July meeting featured a film on Human Trafficking. It was very disturbing as well as informative. After a discussion at our August meeting, it was decided to make and distribute a card with the contact information to report suspicious activity and other vital websites. They will be available to our congregation and the community.

Our next meeting is Monday, September 14 at 7:00 pm. Sheri Stone from the Laurel Shelter will be our speaker.

Put Saturday, October 17 on your calendar. *The BayBells Handbell Choir* will perform in the fellowship hall at 3:00 pm followed by cobbler and ice cream treats. Bring a friend and enjoy a musical afternoon. The concert is free, but donations will be accepted to benefit The Mattaponi Healing Eagle Clinic in West Point, VA.



We will host a Thanksgiving Dinner with *Three Rivers Healthy Families* on Friday, November 20. Families will arrive between 10:30 am and 11:00 am. We hope you will join us.

Grace Mortimer,
CUMW Recording Secretary

September 2015

Paul Townsend Memorial Class

Our final class meeting of the year was celebrated at the lovely home of Gerald and Frosty Taylor on Gwynn's Island overlooking the Hole-In-the Wall and Chesapeake Bay. A delicious picnic of grilled chicken and hot dogs with side dishes and desserts prepared by class members, were enjoyed by all. There were 30 in attendance. It was also nice to have Pastor John share the evening with us.

A short business meeting followed the meal. Prayers were lifted up for those who were to have surgery or recovering from surgery or illness. The class voted to give \$200 toward expenses for our class literature; \$200 to the Social Service School supplies; \$250 to HAM-Fresh Start and \$384 to the TRIAD-Life Alert program (the cost of sponsoring one unit for one year).


The Class Officer Nominating Committee, (Bobby Hudgins, Cheryl Wheeler and Betsy Duff) presented the slate of officers for 2015-2016. The class voted to accept the following as their Class Officers beginning in September:

- President, David Hudgins
- Vice President, Janet Burgess
- Secretary, Cheryl Wheeler
- Treasurer, Ben Leigh
- Corresponding Secretary, Judy Moughon
- Teacher Co-coordinator, Alvin Knight

Between 9/1/2014 and 8/31/2015 the class has given *Love Gifts* totaling over \$4,000.

May God continue to bless us all.

Phyllis Hudgins,
Outgoing Class President
2013-2015



Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, September 13
BOTH Services

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

Finance

We are over halfway through the year, so it is a good time to take a look at how we are doing financially. As of the end of July, our Operating Expenses were \$94,603. These were routine expenses such as conference apportionment, salaries, maintenance, utilities, office, etc. and are paid for almost entirely out of general non-designated offerings, which were \$88,060. We are running a deficit of over \$5,000 so far this year.

For church improvements, rather than routine services, we can draw on our Hudgins endowment income which thus far has not been used. Otherwise, we have to draw from savings. There is adequate reserve in savings to cover our deficit, but we cannot sustain this indefinitely.

Offerings are running about 2% ahead of the average for the previous three years, but are about even with 2014, which was also a deficit year. Growth in offerings at Central peaked around 2011 and has been mostly flat ever since, while expenses have continued to climb.

I am hopeful that Central will return to the growth that we had in previous years and can continue our outreach. Help us do that, and remember to tithe.

Nate Houser,
Finance Chair

Health and Welfare

Our committee has received several requests this year for help from non-members. We were able to provide funds for food, power, rent, a doctor bill and transportation for some. Others were helped by several local churches, or had already been provided for within the last year. Non-members are eligible for consideration once per rolling calendar year. Members are



eligible once per six months, dating from the last event.

We want to thank you for your donations for this special ministry, whether by an occasional check or your gift at the communion rail.

Marilyn Tucker,
Health and Welfare Chair

Mission & Evangelism

The Hands Across Mathews (HAM) program is being well supported by the members and friends of Central. From Sunday, December 28, 2014 through Sunday, August 23, 2015, there have been 36 Sundays with an estimated 25 items of food per Sunday. This amounts to approximately 900 non-perishable food items so far this year.

The *Early Bird Breakfast* is in its fourth year in conjunction with *Mathews Market Days*. The breakfast will be in Central's fellowship hall Friday and Saturday September 11 and 12 from 8:00 am - 10:00 am. The



breakfast fare includes coffee, juice, sweet roll, and our "famous" English muffin with fried egg, Swiss cheese and Black Forest ham. The meal is eat-in or carry-out. The cost is on a donation basis. The M&E Team needs help in preparing and serving the breakfast. If interested, please contact Joe Cromwell, 725-3473 or Pastor John, 725-3332.

The Mission and Evangelism Team continues to sponsor a shoebox ministry for needy children in the Mathews Community. The boxes will be distributed through the Mathews Social Services Christmas Store. Look for more information in the October *Central Chimes*.

Joe Cromwell,
Team Leader

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 13.

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.

CHILDRENS HOSPITAL of the KINGS DAUGHTERS & SONS and THE PENINSULA CANCER INSTITUTE

Generous contributions by the following have made possible:

- 36 crayon boxes**
- 36 coloring books**
- 36 boxes of 24 crayons**
- 104 blankets – for CHKD & SONS**
- 7 Prayer Shawls**
- 217 hats - 120– for CHKD & SONS**
- 96 – for Peninsula Cancer Institute**

Kitty Arnold – donated yarn delivered by Martha and Joe Arnold

Martha Arnold – donated yarn

Janet Bowman – donated yarn

Doris Clements – donated yarn

Miriam Cromwell –donated yarn and made and donated 1 blankets

Louise Owens Diggs – made 17 blankets

Herb Fowler, Jr. – donated \$100.00

Marcia Fry – donated yarn

Suzanne Gibson – donated yarn

**Jean Hall – made and donated 1 adult blanket with hat, 1 child blanket with hat,
6 adult hats with scarf, 3 baby blankets with hat, and 5 baby hats**

Phyllis Hudgins – donated 10 boxes of 24 crayons each, 2 blankets, and yarn

Brenda Lewis – donated yarn

Mildred Lockwood – made 33 blankets

**Mary Marshall - made and donated 3 blankets, 12 plastic canvas crayon boxes,
each with a box of 24 crayons, coloring book, necklace cross,
and 12 wood craft crosses with ‘ Jesus loves you’ to color**

Virginia McDaniel – donated yarn

Dorothy Pagano – donated yarn

Georgie Preston – donated yarn

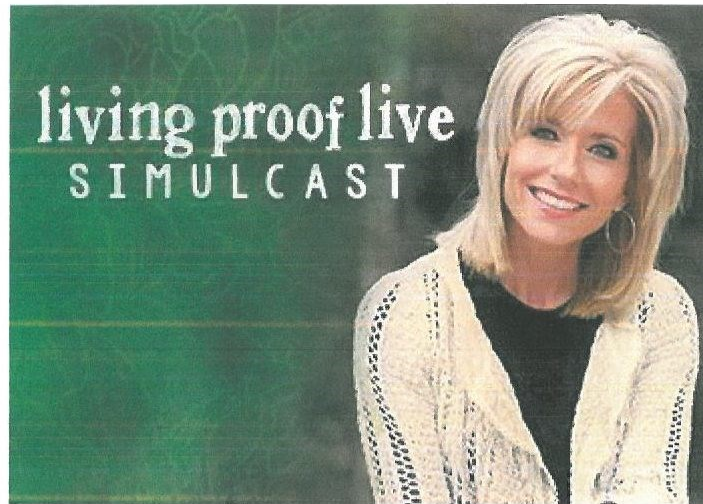
Jean Whitmore – made and donated 32 hats, 7 prayer shawls, and 5 blankets

If you know of someone needing a hat or blanket, please let me know.

Knitters and crocheters will be greatly appreciated.

Thanks to PHYLLIS HUDGINS for this beautiful display.

Many Thanks, ANNE SOUTH



Beth Moore

Audacious

Glancing over the years of ministry behind her and strengthening her resolve to the call before her, Beth Moore came to the realization that her vision for women was incomplete. It lacked something they were aching for. Something Jesus was longing for. What was missing? Well, let's just say, it's *audacious* and it's for *all* of us. And it's the path to the life you were born to live.

September 12, 2015

Susanna Wesley UMC

Ordinary, VA

Doors Open at 9:30 a.m.

Worship Begins at 10:30 a.m. and ends at 5:15 p.m.

Please register by September 9th at www.susannawesleyumc.org.

Tickets are \$21 without a boxed lunch and \$26 with a boxed lunch.

We are unable to provide childcare.

For more information, contact Sarah Chowning at (804) 832-1691

The simulcast is sponsored by the Susanna Wesley UMC Titus 2 Women's Group.

Support Central Mission Projects



Early Bird Breakfast

During Mathews Market Days
Fri. & Sat.- September 11 & 12

8:00 am -10:00 am Central Fellowship Hall
Coffee, Juice, Sweet Roll, Egg & Ham Muffin
Eat-in or Take-out

IMPORTANT STUFF!!

New Church Office Hours

TUESDAY 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
WEDNESDAY 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
THURSDAY 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

It's best to call before you stop by
to be sure someone hasn't been
called away. 804-725-2832

E-Mail addresses:

Leigh office
Admin. @centralumcmathews.org
Assistant
Becky treasurer
Treasurer @centralumcmathews.org

openclipart.org;

Coming in October...

- 4 World Communion Sunday
- 9-10 How to Reach New People Workshop
- 17 District Conference and Training
- 21 Cluster Charge Conference
Central UMC hosting
- 23 UMM Shrimp Dinner
- 31 Small Congregation Training

Greeters/Ushers for September

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

Refreshments Providers for September

9/6	Michael & Ed Cannon and Nate & Melba Houser
9/13	Dave & Grace Mortimer
9/20	UM Men
9/27	Dee Bane

BIRTHDAYS






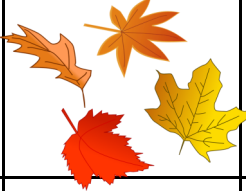
Judy Haynes	1	Ben Leigh	11
Carey Hogge	2	Kirby Moughon	13
Cheryl Wheeler	2	Brooke Moughon	14
Joe Cromwell	3	Mark Planitz	20
Chris Moughon	9	Randy Miles	30
Mildred Stillman	10		

ANNIVERSARIES

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

Our Deepest Sympathy and Prayers go to...

Family of Eugene Hudgins
Family of Ella Brown
Family of Tony DeLaurentis
Family of Margaret Ward
Family of Jackson Simmons
Family of Sidney Dize
Family of Michael Brandon Teter
Family of Shane Todd
Family of Tommy Kimball
Family of Robert Groome
Becky Pittman and the family of
Nora Pittman
Family of Tommy Edmonds
Family of Katherine Dehnert

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
 <p>September 2015</p>		1 Nominations & Leadership 7:00 pm	2 Central Village Homemakers 9:00 am - 1:00 pm	3 Youth Choir Practice 6:30 pm Adult Choir Practice 7:15 pm	4	5
6	7 Labor Day Prayer Time 8:00 am	8 First Day of School 	9 Finance 7:00 pm	10 P. Townsend Class Dinner & Meeting 6:00 pm Youth Choir Practice 6:30 pm Adult Choir Practice 7:15 pm	<div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 5px;"> <p>41st Annual Mathews Market Days</p>  </div> <div style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 5px;"> <p>Missions & Evangelism Early Bird Breakfast 8:00 - 10:00 am Proceeds benefit missions.</p> </div>	
13 Knitting Display for Cancer Patients & CHKD  Blessing of the Backpacks at BOTH Services 	14 Prayer Time 8:00 am UM Women 7:00 pm	15	16 Mission & Evangelism 10:00 am	17 Youth Choir Practice 6:30 pm Adult Choir Practice 7:15 pm	18	UM Men Breakfast 8:00 am <div style="border: 1px solid yellow; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>All meeting times & dates are subject to change. If in doubt, contact the committee chair.</p> </div>
20 Chimes Submissions Due	21 Prayer Time 8:00 am Creation Care 9:00 am (at the Cannons) SPRC 7:00 pm Trustees 7:30 pm	22	23 Administrative Council 7:00 pm First Day of Fall 	24 Youth Choir Practice 6:30 pm Adult Choir Practice 7:15 pm	25	26
27	28 Prayer Time 8:00 am	29	30			