



THE CENTRAL CHIMES

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From the Pastor's Pen


It is hard to imagine but it's true! I am writing my second newsletter article as your pastor here at Central UMC. These two months have been filled with opportunities of getting to know one another. We have worshipped together, socialized together, and gathered together around tables for meeting together. We have eaten together and talked about hopes and dreams together. You have invited me and my son onto your holy ground. For each encounter, I am grateful to our Heavenly Father who has orchestrated the crossing of our paths.

We are still getting to know each other and will for some time to come. The seasons are showing us that soon they will be changing. We are rounding the bend of summer into fall. The same is true for us in the life of the church. Summer is nearing its end and fall is quickly approaching. We will continue to worship, socialize, and gather together for meetings. As we do so, my hope is that we will do so with an even deeper intentionality and commitment to serving God through our interactions. We are already serving God as we get accustomed to how we are called to be in ministry together. I would invite us now, however, to look for ways we are being called to be the church for this season! Even in the seemingly mundane, God is at work through each of us. Isn't that exciting? Thank you, again, for your welcome to Central and to Mathews, VA. I, for one am grateful to be considered among Central UMC and look forward to continuing to partner in


Join us for Worship!
Sunday Worship—9:15 a.m.
Sunday school—10:15 a.m.

ministry for such a time as this! I believe that God has great things in store for us and in his name!

Blessings,
Pastor Rebecca

 Find us on:
facebook®
www.facebook.com/CentralUMCMathews

Blessing of the Backpacks
Sunday, September 3rd
9:15 am Worship Service
Bring your backpack to be blessed for the new school year.



Good News Pantry

The Good News Pantry is in need of a restock of food gifts such as non-perishable can goods and pasta. These items can be placed in the blue Pantry box located in the back left side of Central's parking lot. It is a take-what-you-need, give-what-you-can storage.



You can be a blessing to someone in need!

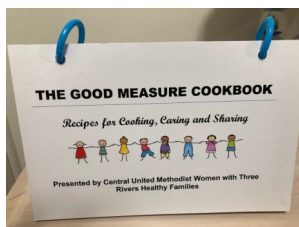
From Admin Council Chair

I've recently read some segments of a book by Roger Ross, a director of congregational excellence in the Missouri Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. He wrote a book called "Meet the Good People", which outlines John Wesley's effective methods of sharing faith. One of the popular ways that Wesley used to reach people after a sermon to a large audience was to encourage meetings in small groups as a follow on. This technique seems to be a tool we use at Central Church quite well. Our picnic on the 20th of August was a great example of the organization of a small group working to encourage others to join in a shared experience. Our Sunday school classes and other small committees are another example. Many good things come from the gathering of these groups and the sharing of the activities that result. Our gifts to the graduates, the birthday luncheon that will be held in September, shared Thanksgiving meals, Rise Against Hunger outreach just to name a few.

This ability to come together results in a transformation of the heart, according to Wesley. It sets up an environment where a spiritual family can be sustained. Not necessarily a family that is always in harmony, but certainly one that encourages discipleship for common goals. That is what Central Church seems to do so well. This is a good thing for the sustainability of the church, and it seems to draw others to our doors.

Dee Bane

Administrative Council Chair



The United Methodist Women, "The Good Measure Cookbook" is still available for \$12. The cookbook makes a great gift. Your support and generosity to our organization are greatly appreciated.

UM Women Plan Annual Birthday Luncheon

The CUMW met on August 21st in the Fellowship Hall. We welcomed Pastor Rebecca and her son, Charles, who were joining us for the first time. And we welcomed Jamie Hall who is becoming a member of our group as well as welcoming back Patty Hertzler who has been unable to attend in recent months.

We are planning our Annual Birthday Luncheon for Sunday, September 24th. Everyone is invited to partake in our offering of fried chicken and birthday cake. As in the past, there will be 12 tables, one for each month of the year. Please grab your food and sit at the table designated for your birth month. This will give you the opportunity to sit with folks who share the month of your birth. As always, we will provide the drinks, the chicken, and the birthday cake. Any side dishes such as salads, beans, pasta, etc. that you wish to share will be appreciated. We hope to see you there.

We will continue our monthly \$50 donation to the organizations that are chosen by the Mission and Evangelism Team. In addition, we voted to send \$100 to Mathews County Social Services for school supplies.

WE CONTINUE WITH THIS URGENT APPEAL!

Hands Across Mathews is still having difficulty in obtaining food from the Peninsula food bank. They are appealing to churches and organizations to donate canned vegetables and fruits, soups, proteins such as tuna fish and chicken, cereals, peanut butter, rice, beans, pasta, etc. As well, they continue need Non-Food items such as toilet paper, shampoos, soap, laundry detergent, toothpaste, etc. There are bins for the food in the vestibule between the church and the Fellowship Hall and there is a bin for non-food items in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your generosity.

Martha Arnold
CUMW President



Budget Time for 2024

The financial picture at Central remained decent through the first half of 2023. The pastoral moving expenses turned out to be more than expected, but thanks to the Mary Wade Smith Fund, we were able to take care of it, for now, without dipping into our reserves. Mary Wade was a blessing to us all while she was among us and she continues to be a blessing as she looks down on us from above. We may need to have a special offering a little later to help cover these expenses as well as finish our updates to the parsonage once Rebecca gets settled in and figures out exactly what is needed. Of course, you can kick in a little extra into the offering plate at any time!

The next couple of months will be busy ones for the Finance Committee as we tackle the 2024 budget (yes, it's that time again). I'll be asking the committee chairpersons for their requests soon, so if you are one, you can start thinking about it now. I'll take them at any time, but I'll certainly need them in September. We'll get it finalized in October ahead of the Charge Conference in early November. I thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter. If anyone has any questions about the 2023 or 2024 budget, don't hesitate to ask me, I'll do my best to answer you.

Blessings,

Chris Moughon
Finance Chair



Give the Gift of Life!



Mathews Community Blood Drive
Tuesday, September 12,
1:00 –6:00 pm
Piankatank Ruritan Building
Must call for an appointment
at 804-725-2485 or go to
redcrossblood.org

Check the website often to see if your time becomes available.

Mission and Evangelism News

At our September 16 meeting, several things were discussed:

*Rise against Hunger: sign up posters were placed in the Narthex. We will need at least 6 strong volunteers to unload supplies and set up the Fellowship Hall. Many more will be needed for food packaging. In addition, young volunteers will be a big help by acting as runners between stations.

We plan to investigate selling Krispy Kreme donuts and Judy will look into finding someone to conduct another Paint Night as possible fundraisers.

*Nancy Jagger reported a new church sign to replace the old one near Glebe Road measuring 24'x40' will cost \$200.00 and installing it would cost \$100.00. We voted to purchase the sign.

*Judy reported on the Paige's missionary visit on September 10th. A covered dish meal will follow Sunday School classes.

*Miriam Cromwell will be the speaker for our September Journey with God. John Lee Callis has agreed to play the organ for us. Four favorite hymns were suggested for the sing along portion of the evening. You really don't want to miss this!

* We will honor Dr Lennon's Dentistry office as our September Community Appreciation. This is done monthly by presenting different organizations in the community with some kind of "goodie" and a letter of thanks just to show them how much we value them. In October we will spotlight Sentara Physical Therapy.

* Discussion about a Christmas Float in the holiday parade was tabled until our October meeting.

Linda Dalgety

Mission & Evangelism Chair

**World Communion Sunday
is October 1**



**September Mission Focus:
TMS Global: The Paige Family**

The Mission Focus of the month is adopted by the Administrative Council. You may give to it by marking your check for the mission/ organization.

The Paige family of Donald, Carol, Cora and Daniel are our covenant missionary partners and will be our mission focus for September. They will be in the US for about 3 months and plan to visit Central next Sunday, Sept. 10th.

The Paige family is very grateful for your prayers and financial support as we join them in furthering the vision that God has for Spain.



**Paige Family to visit Central
Sunday, September 10**

Join us Sunday, September 10th as the Paige family, our covenant missionaries with TMS Global will share an update on their ministry during Sunday's service.

After Sunday school, we will share a covered dish luncheon in the fellowship hall. Please bring a dish to share!

All are invited!



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

- Gary Wayne Brownley
- Judy Phillips
- Jason Ware
- Mike Beavers



Rise Against Hunger Sign-up Sheet

There is a volunteers sign-up sheet in the Narthex for the Rise Against Hunger event planned Sunday, November 19. This will be a fun time that will bless many people!

Note a special need for strong hands to set up at 11:30 am that day. Packaging begins at 1:00 pm. Many hands make light work!



Rise Against Hunger is growing a global movement to end hunger by empowering communities, nourishing lives and responding to emergencies.

www.riseagainsthunger.org

Choir

Come and bring your voices!

next on Thursday, September 14 at 7:00 pm
then sing on the following Sunday.



Journey with God
September 17, 5:00 pm

All are invited to a gathering where we hear one another's God stories. Join us for a time of music, testimony and prayer. Miriam Cromwell will be our speaker and John Lee Callis will play the organ for our sing-a-long. *You don't want to miss it!*



Ten Years of Creation Care

Central United Methodist's 10 year Creation Care Program

Years ago, the Virginia Conference officially designated the Caretakers of God's Creation as a permanent Ministry. Central Church's goal was to create an informative presentation that would let our youth and adults know what we could do in Mathews County to help the county save money and help our planet.

Our presentation showed young people recycling different items. We set up the room with tables on one side filled with "trash." and tables on the other side waiting for recycled materials. After we told the class about an item that was in the trash by mistake, like cardboard, we would have races against the clock to transform the trash into valuable recycled material. At the end, everyone won a prize!

To make sure we had the real facts, we connected with The Virginia Peninsula Public Service Authority (VPPSA) to find exactly what happened to Mathews' recycle materials. We presented first to the Youth of Central and then many other groups: UMW, the Boys & Girls Club, Kings Daughters, Three Rivers Healthy Families, to name just a few. The public schools heard of our program and soon Jerry Ligon, 7th grade Science teacher, was bringing classes to Central to learn about recycling. Throughout the years, we continued to update our information from VPPSA. As our program grew in popularity, Mathews public schools asked us to present to their students in their auditorium. Adult groups like PATH also asked us to come and present to more than 50 members. Other churches invited us to come and present our program to their youth.



It has now been 10 years since our first presentation. We see that some of our youth who participated are now graduating from high school or have already gone off to college.

We hope that we have instilled the ideas that taking care of God's planet is a privilege and a ministry each of us can do.

Michael Cannon,
Creation Care Team








Annual Church Picnic (8/20)



M & E Ice Cream Social (8/06)



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<h1>September</h1>					1	2
3 Communion Service—9:15 am Sunday school- 10:15 am Blessing of the Backpacks 	4 Labor Day	5	6 Central Village Homemakers 9:00 am- 1:00pm	7	8	9
10 Service—9:15 am Sunday school- 10:15 am Paige Family visit <i>Blessing of hats, blankets and crayon boxes</i> <i>Covered Dish Lunch after Sunday school</i>	11 UM Women 10:00 am SPRC 7:00 pm	12 Blood Drive  Piankatank Ruritan Club 1:00 - 6:00pm	13 Trustees 3:00 pm	14 Paul Townsend Mem. class Lunch -Noon  Finance 1:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm	15	16 UM Men 8:00 am
17 Service—9:15 am Sunday school- 10:15 am <i>(Choir Sings)</i> <i>Journey with God 5:00 pm</i>	18	19	20 Mission and Evangelism 10:00 am	21	22 Chesapeake Circle of CHKD & Sons BBQ dinner	23 First Day of Fall 
24 Service—9:15 am Sunday school- 10:15 am <i>Annual Birthday Luncheon Hosted by UMW</i>	25	26	27 Administrative Council 7:00 pm	28	29	30
					<i>All meeting times & dates are subject to change. If in doubt, contact the committee chair.</i>	

Birthdays

Judy Haynes	1
Cheryl Wheeler	2
June Hudgins	4
Chris Moughon	9
Mildred Stillman	10

Ben Leigh	11
Nancy Goldman	17
Jim Dalgety	24
Randy Miles	30

Anniversaries

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