

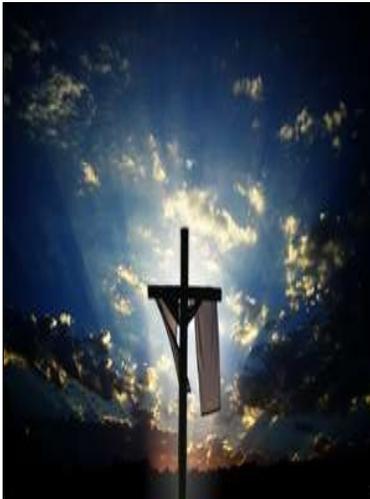


# The Central Connection

## -Messages and Opportunities-

April, 2012

*“Pascha”*



### This Edition

- Pastors Message
- Music Notes
- Finance - Easter Blessings
- Mission/Outreach
- Lectionary Readings
- UMW
- Birthday List/Single Mingle, Song Corner
- General Conference News
- Children’s Page
- Calendar
- Address Page

Frederica Mathewes-Green wrote an article entitled, “Merry Easter?” in which she compares our somewhat secular celebration of Christmas with our celebration of Holy Week. She points out that we have trivialized Christmas, between the Chipmunks’ versions of carols and special holiday sales. But “somehow we just don’t make the same boisterous fun of Holy Week that we do of Christmas. No one plans to have a holly jolly Easter.”

Her point is that, for the casual observer (and maybe especially for children), compared to Christmas, Easter is pretty boring and serious. No matter how hard the stores try to sell us candy and new dresses, there is no real “payoff” in the toy box. (However, I remember finding a candy-filled Easter basket on my bedside table on Easter morning—which was a tremendous treat, because I was never allowed candy unless I ate all my veggies, and I never ate all my veggies. Easter was pure indulgence!)

I am glad the resurrection defies trivialization. I hope the world never does get a hold of Easter as it has Christmas. I hope the resurrection remains forever uncommercialized. But the Christian celebration of the resurrection ought to be a joyful, lavish, extravagant event: after all, no resurrection, no Christianity. If Jesus didn’t rise from the dead, Christmas is meaningless too. If Christ was not raised, we are still dead in our sins.

To deepen our celebration of the resurrection, I would suggest that we reclaim the Greek word “Pascha” for Easter,

which is derived from the Hebrew “Pesah” meaning Passover. The word Easter is derived from the Anglo-Saxon word for Spring or from an obscure Germanic goddess of spring. But we are celebrating much more than Spring and fertility, with flowers, baby chicks and rabbits. We are celebrating Jesus Christ’s passing over (pesah) from death to life (the Paschal mystery): Jesus, our Paschal (Passover) Lamb was slain, and now He lives again. Alleluia!

In response to the text “O Death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory?” an ancient hymn of the church proclaims:

“Christ is risen, and you (Death) are overthrown.

Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen.

Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice.

Christ is risen, and life reigns.

Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in the grave.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.”

When we light the paschal candle and sing songs of praise on resurrection Sunday, this is what we celebrate! Alleluia!

Pastor Stephanie



# Music Notes From Your Director



## "And the Glory"

In the Christmas portion of Handel's Messiah, we sing "And the glory, the glory of the Lord shall be revealed", foretelling Christ's coming.

Ann Weems' poem -"And the Glory"- shows the continuation of Jesus' Glory in the resurrection.

*The silence breaks into morning  
That One Star lights the world.  
The lily springs to life and  
not even Solomon.....*

*Let it begin with singing  
And never end!  
Oh, angels, quit your lamenting!  
Oh, pilgrims,  
upon your knees in tearful prayer,  
rise up  
and take your hearts  
and run!*

*We who were no people  
are named anew  
God's people,  
for He who was no more  
is forevermore.*

But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;<sup>10</sup> who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

1 Peter 2:9-10



We are approaching Easter, the most holy time of the year, a time of great sorrow, but ultimately of rejoicing. As we go through Lent and begin preparation for Easter, we often focus on denying ourselves of certain pleasures. It is my understanding that this denial is to help us become closer to God, to help us focus on our relationship with God. When we don't eat that piece of chocolate, we're not supposed to be focusing on how much we want the chocolate, but rather we should pause at that moment to think about God and be thankful.

Serving, giving, and rededicating our lives to Christ are other ways to honor and prepare for the Easter season. As children we are excited to see how many pieces of chocolate are in our Easter baskets. As mature Christians we need to be just as excited counting our many blessings. We can be thankful for family, friends, our health, our financial wellbeing, the beauty of nature, our

church, and our Risen Savior. Too often in our busy day to day living we don't take time to count, and give thanks for our blessings. I hope that this Easter season your basket is overflowing with blessings, and that you are thankful.

Every year the church receives a special Easter offering, giving us the opportunity to express our thankfulness. These funds are used to support the many ministries of the church, and of our Savior. As you consider your blessings, please remember the church and the many ways we are serving.

Thank you-  
Jim Printy



Central recently sent its third work team to Pulaski to work on homes damaged or destroyed by last April's tornadoes. It was a very successful trip, as we had our largest team, and completed the most work we have yet in Pulaski. Team members included: Benham and Susan Black, Jeff and Ellen DeLong, Ken and Jackie Beals, Jim and Vicki Printy, Vince Ennis, Lowell Moore, Kaysha Perrin, Joe Riley, and Dana Wade.

The team travelled to Pulaski on Friday March 9, and returned home on Sunday March 11. While in Pulaski the team completed work on four houses; worked on two decks, built three sets of steps, installed window shutters and a mailbox, sanded drywall in a seven room two story house, spackled the ceiling in six rooms, and installed siding, soffit and fascia. Although it was satisfying and rewarding to complete each of the tasks, building one set of steps was most rewarding. A lady had been waiting six months for steps, and in the meantime had been using a board ramp. Unfortunately on one occasion she slipped and fell, resulting

## Pulaski News



in a concussion and back injury. She watched the entire time we built, and it was amazing the joy a simple set of steps could bring.

Completing our work was rewarding, but the opportunity to fellowship with team members, residents of Pulaski, and other volunteers was another benefit of the trip. We once again enjoyed the hospitality provided by First United Methodist Church. Although we worked very hard, we took time on Saturday, to pause at 2:00pm, when Benham lead us in prayer and remembrance of Bob Rader, who had enjoyed working with us on past mission trips.

There is still much work to be done in Pulaski, and we are hoping to send another team in April or May. If you are interested in participating please contact

Jim Printy.





Team members pictured above include: Benham and Susan Black, Jeff and Ellen DeLong, Ken and Jackie Beals, Jim and Vicki Printy, Vince Ennis, Lowell Moore, Kaysha Perrin, Joe Riley and Dana Wade



# April Lectionary Readings



**Palm Sunday**

*(Liturgy of the Psalms)*  
 Mark 11:1-11  
 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29  
*(Liturgy of the Passion)*  
 Isaiah 50:4-9a  
 Psalm 31:9-16  
 Philippians 2:5-11  
 Mark 14: 1-15:47

**Easter Sunday**

Acts 10 34-43  
 Psalm 118:1-2,14-24  
 1 Cor. 15:1-11  
 John 20:1-18 or  
 Mark 16:1-8

**Sunday 15th**

Acts 4:32-35  
 Psalm 133  
 1 John 1:1-2;2  
 John 20:19-31

**Sunday 22nd**

Acts 3:12-19  
 Psalm 4  
 1 John 3:1-7  
 Luke 24:36b-48

**Sunday 29th**

Acts 4:5-12  
 Psalm 23  
 1 John 3:16-24  
 John 10: 11-18



# UMW



A big thank-you goes out to all those who helped with their service and financial support to the Birthing Kit Project. To date we have raised \$505.16 from the Valentine Fundraiser and Soup and Sandwich Luncheon.

Ladies join us on April 10<sup>th</sup> at the Rebekah Circle at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall or at 6:30 pm for a covered dish dinner meeting at Connie Davis' home.

## IN MINISTRY



General Ministers.....	304
Pastor.....	Stephanie M. Sault
Minister of Music/organist.....	Sherry von Oeyen
Church Secretary.....	Dana F. Wade
Child's Play Director.....	Jo Ann Black
Custodian.....	Janet Nuckoles
Retired Pastor.....	David D. Reed
Professor MBC.....	Kenneth A. Beals
District Superintendent.....	D. Michael Houff
Resident Bishop.....	Charlene Payne Kammerer

## April Birthdays



- 1 Bill VanFossen
- 3 Sarah Melton, James Southers Jr.
- 5 Chandler Marshall
- 6 Judy Hupman, Jean Nicewander
- 7 Constance Mitchell
- 10 Brayden Stumb
- 13 Samuel Ambrogi, Candace Smith- Nicolls
- 15 James Clemmer, Mildred Davis, Tom Davis  
Raegan Puffenbarger
- 18 Kim Mitchell
- 25 Wanda True
- 26 Ken Beals, Ann Hill
- 30 William Mowry



**May God Bless Your Special Day with Joy and Love!!!**

Please contact the church office if your name is not on the list and should be (or vice versa) \*so that we may correct our records.

# Single Mingle

**Sunday, April 15**

**Lunch Following Worship  
(Byers Street Bistro)**

All single adults are invited to join the group  
for a meal with great

conversation, and laughter.

Invite a friend

for

Worship and

Lunch!



## Song Corner

### Hosanna

*Brooke Fraser-Copyright*

I see the King of Glory  
coming on the clouds with fire  
the whole earth shakes, the whole earth shakes. I

see His love and mercy  
washing over all our sin  
the people sing, the people sing....

Hosanna, Hosanna,  
Hosanna in the highest!

I see a generation  
rising up to take their place  
with selfless faith, with selfless faith.

I see a near revival  
stirring as we pray and seek  
we're on our knees, we're on our knees.

Heal my heart and make it clean  
open up my eyes to the things unseen  
show me how to love like You have loved me.

Break my heart for what breaks Yours  
everything I am for Your Kingdom's cause as, I  
walk from Earth into eternity



## Keeping Up with and Praying for General Conference

General Conference 2012 will open on Tuesday, April 24, at the Tampa (Fla.) Convention Center and remain in session through Friday, May 4. As the only body that can speak as The United Methodist Church, the 988 delegates from around the world will write *The Book of Discipline 2012* and *The Book of Resolutions 2012*, adopt a budget for general church operations during 2013-16, elect members of the Judicial Council and the University Senate and take other actions.

The assembly will open with **worship and Holy Communion** at 4 p.m. (all times are EDT), April 24, gather for morning prayers at 8 a.m., April 25-28 and April 30-May 4, worship together at 8:30 p.m., April 25-26 and April 30-May 3 and close with worship on May 4. Other worship services and special events include:

- ⇒ **An Act of Repentance: Toward Healing Relationships with Indigenous Peoples**, Friday April 27, 7:30 p.m.
- ⇒ **We Need a River: A Celebration and Challenge of Mission and Ministry**. Sunday, April 29, 7 p.m.

**GC2012.umc.org** is the official General Conference website. It will feature live streaming of all plenary sessions and worship services listed above, petitions tracking, news and information. Visit often for pre-General Conference updates.

**Subscribe to the daily news digest** from United Methodist News Service. Go to [umns.umc.org](http://umns.umc.org), scroll down the right side to “Get the Latest Headlines by Email.”

**Download the General Conference** mobile app from United Methodist Communications. The iPhone, iPad, and Android apps are now available.

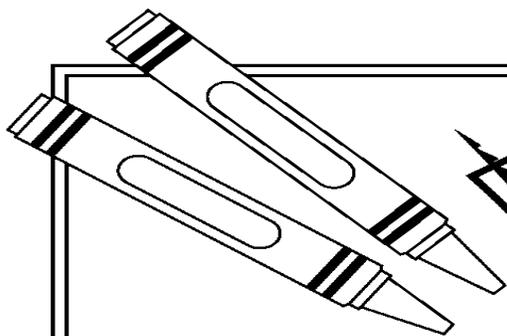
**Direct questions about General Conference** to InfoServ, [infoserv@umcom.org](mailto:infoserv@umcom.org), or click on “Questions” at [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org).

**Use social media**, including Facebook, [www.facebook.com/gc2012](http://www.facebook.com/gc2012), and Twitter, [www.twitter.com/2012](http://www.twitter.com/2012). The Twitter hashtag is **#gc2012**.

Subscribe to the *Daily Christian Advocate* at [www.cokesbury.com](http://www.cokesbury.com) or by calling (800) 672-1789. The *Advance Daily Christian Advocate* is available at [gc2012.umc.org](http://gc2012.umc.org)

**Visit your annual conference website** for updates of special interest to people in your area.

-Kathy Noble  
Advocate Magazine

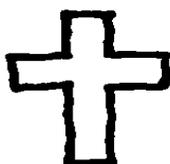


# PUZZLE

## FIX YOUR EYES ON JESUS

Remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection helps us live with gratitude every day.

Use the picture and number code to fill in the blanks for Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV.



- |               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1. Jesus      | 5. cross    |
| 2. weary      | 6. endured  |
| 3. endured    | 7. scorning |
| 4. opposition | 8. shame    |



- |            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| 1. Jesus   | 5. perfecter |
| 2. lose    | 6. him       |
| 3. pioneer | 7. faith     |
| 4. sinners | 8. hand      |



- |          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. eyes  | 5. right  |
| 2. us    | 6. grow   |
| 3. joy   | 7. God    |
| 4. heart | 8. throne |

"... fixing our  on , the  and  
 of . For the  set before   
 he  the ,  its , and  
 sat down at the  of the  of  of .  
 Consider  who  such   
 from , so that you will not    
 and  ." HEBREWS 12:2-3, NIV

Answer: "...fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV



**Central United Methodist Church**

Lewis Street at Beverley  
Post Office Box 953  
Staunton, Va. 24402-0953

**Return Service Requested**

Non-Profit Org.  
U. S. Postage  
**Paid**  
Staunton, VA  
24401  
Permit No. 93

**APRIL  
2012**



CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD, TRAMPLING OVER DEATH, BY  
DEATH, AND ON THOSE IN THE TOMBS BESTOWING LIFE.

-PASCHAL TROPARION

---

***The Central Connection***

is the monthly newsletter of **Central United Methodist Church**  
Located on the corners of Lewis & Beverley Streets in Staunton, Va.

Mailing address:

P.O. Box 953

Staunton, Va. 24402

Telephone (540) 886-3441

Fax (540) 886-5771

Email: [centralumc@centralumcstaunton.org](mailto:centralumc@centralumcstaunton.org)

On the Web: [www.centralumcstaunton.org](http://www.centralumcstaunton.org)

Pastor- Rev. Dr. Stephanie M. Sault

Email: [pastor@centralumcstaunton.org](mailto:pastor@centralumcstaunton.org)

Editor: Dana Wade

