



# The Central Connection

MESSAGES & OPPORTUNITIES FROM CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH TO YOU!

June 2009



Because my mother grew up during the years of the “Great Depression”, she would often talk about the difficulties her family faced. No work. . . no money for clothes or shoes. . . no heat . . . and sometimes no food. Largely because of her experience, I was raised to be thrifty: we saved everything from wrapping paper to rubber bands and string. We cleaned with cold water, so we wouldn’t waste money to run the water heater. I wore my brother’s hand me downs, and we shopped regularly at the Good Will store. We washed and reused jars and bottles—there was no Tupperware. We took care of things, so they would last. To waste anything was a sin.

I grew up thinking about life the same way: don’t waste money. Be careful of your possessions. Take care of the environment. Protect the waterways. Be thrifty with the physical gifts God has given you—like a house or church building. Eat your vegetables and clean your plate.

When I became a Christian, I thought being a good steward had to do with

saving money, only buying what you really needed, and conserving by turning off the lights and heat when you didn’t need them. Being a good steward meant getting the best deal on every purchase, so the money would go further. Stewardship meant protecting ourselves. Somehow stewardship was linked with the fear of not having enough if we wasted or misused our resources.

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**Stewardship isn’t about our scarcity  
but about God’s abundance . . .**

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While those may seem like responsible practices, they miss the point of biblical

stewardship. Biblical stewardship means using all of God’s resources for God’s purposes, and not our purposes. With the understanding that everything we have comes from God and belongs to God, as stewards we are first to discern God’s will, and then use the resources God has given us to obey. Stewardship involves the whole of life, everything a Christian does after he or she says “yes” to the Lordship of Christ.

We are to use our God-given talents in God’s service. Our time is not our own, but is God’s resource. Our bodies are to be treated as temples of the Holy Spirit,  
*(Continued on next page)*

*God Is Great, continued from front page*

which belong to God. God may ask us to spend money we would rather save. God may ask us to forgo something like new carpeting for ourselves, in order to help the poor. God may ask us to spend our time for others instead of for ourselves. God may ask us to stop being so concerned for our own comfort, and to remember the church doesn't exist for us, but so that we will share the good news of salvation with others. Stewardship doesn't have to do with fear of not having enough for ourselves, but in serving a God of infinite resources. Stewardship means trusting God to take care of us, as we are obedient to God.

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**Stewardship doesn't have to do with fear of not having enough for ourselves, but in serving a God of infinite resources.**

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Stewardship isn't about our scarcity but about God's abundance—God has been generous with us, so we in turn can be generous toward others, using all we have and all we are to the glory of God. When we are stewards, we do what God wants, not what we want. We do what God asks, not what makes sense to us.

Thank you for your obedience to God, from whom every blessing comes.

In Christ, Pastor Stephanie

**Brother BLOTZ**



Before Bro. Ed comes to sing his solo, let me say to the TV audience...  
The trouble is NOT in your set!

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### FOOD PANTRY

Thank you for your generous support of our community Food Pantry—both in gifts of food, money, and volunteer hours! The ministry continues growing, and your support is very helpful to many people in our community.



Current needs include jelly, fruit juice, canned tuna, canned chicken, fruit cocktail, spinach, greens, snack cakes or cookies, toilet tissue, deodorant, shampoo and conditioner.

*The Central Connection* is the monthly newsletter of Central United Methodist Church, Lewis and Beverley Streets, Staunton, VA.

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*The Central Connection* Editor: Agnes Campbell

### IN MINISTRY

*The Mission of Central UMC is to make disciples of Jesus Christ.*

Resident Bishop. .... Charlene Payne Kammerer  
District Superintendent. .... Kathleen Overby Webster  
Pastor..... Stephanie M. Sault  
Lay Assistant to the Pastor..... Donna R. Huffer  
Retired Missionary Professor..... Hunter P. Mabry  
Professor MBC..... Kenneth A. Beals  
Minister of Music/Organist..... Sherry von Oeyen



## **PRESCHOOL VBS**

**June 22–24**

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

**For Children ages 2–5**

This year's theme is SonRock, a camping adventure featuring nature, crafts, and stories of Jesus' miracles. To register, please call the Church Office at 886-3441.

For more information, please contact Donna Huffer. Volunteers are encouraged!

## *Single Mingle*

**Sunday, June 14**  
**Lunch following Worship**  
 (Applebee's)

**Monday, June 29**  
**Covered-Dish Picnic & Concert**  
 (Near Gypsy Hill Park Gazebo)

Adult & single?  
 Bring a friend and join the group!



## **FALL FESTIVAL:**

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 26**

Pancake Breakfast  
 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 Noon

Silent Auction  
 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

### Needed:

- Craft Items – all kinds
  - Knit, Crochet, Sew
  - Art
  - Jewelry, beading
  - Woodworking
  - Other medium
- Items for Silent Auction
  - New / Like New
    - Household Items
    - Decor, regular & seasonal
    - Tools, home, auto, garden
    - Theme Baskets
  - Gift Certificates for Services, Meals

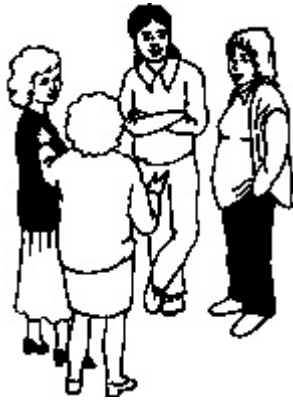
This new fund-raising venture for Central is being sponsored by the Finance Committee. Please contact the Church Office or Donna Huffer for additional information of with any questions.

(Please note that we have sufficient storage space and can accept items as you make or “discover” them.)

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

### NURTURING THROUGH

The United Methodist Women had the following types of nurturing other women and helping them grow spiritually to be faithful in fulfilling our PURPOSE as United Methodist Women:



- ▶ **COMMUNICATING EFFECTIVELY** – Sharing ourselves and our resources to tell the mission story of our organization with potential members.
- ▶ **BEING HOSPITABLE AND AFFIRMING** – Creating a welcoming climate celebrating each woman’s individuality, encouraging, energizing and challenging each woman to contribute, participate, and support personal and holistic growth of members.
- ▶ **CREATING A DIVERSE COMMUNITY** – Creating partnerships with other women embracing inclusivity and acceptance as well as finding new ways to reach out and to expand our communities and circles.
- ▶ **MISSION OPPORTUNITIES** – Putting faith into action by interpretation and advocacy for financial support of mission and ministry of the United Methodist Women and studying current and emerging issues and needs of women.
- ▶ **MISSION EDUCATION** – Engaging in study and reflection to transform individuals and systems by providing spiritual grounding for justice and advocacy.
- ▶ **UTILIZING RESOURCES** – Disseminating information to all members for further edification and discovery.

From the Service Center  
General Board of Global Ministries

# We Need:

Needed (to help with our Preschool Vacation Bible School crafts):

- Empty toilet tissue cardboard rolls
- Empty, clean milk or juice cartons

Don’t forget: Please invite your preschool friends (ages 2–5 years old) to sign up for VBS. See article in this issue.



## Virginia Conference School of Christian Mission

(VUMAC in Blackstone)

July 24-26 (weekend session)

July 27-30 (weekday session)

Sponsored by the conference Board of Global Ministries and United Methodist Women, this year’s theme is “Together at the Table.”

The three studies will be

- *Food and Faith*
- *The Beauty and Courage of Sudan*
- *Giving Our Hearts Away: Native American Survival*

There will also be a class offered in the Korean language. The plenary speaker will be Angelo Maker, one of the “Lost Boys” of Sudan. Register early to receive your class choice. Deadline to register is July 13. For more information, pick up a registration brochure or visit [www.vaumw.org](http://www.vaumw.org).



## Central United Methodist Church

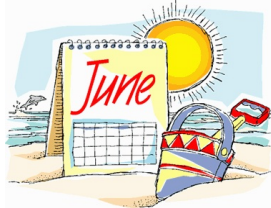
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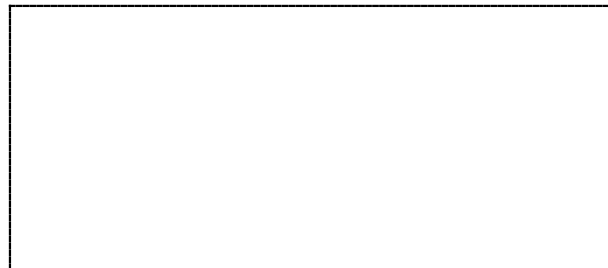
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**2009**

Return Service Requested



### QUOTE:

Billy Graham was once quoted as saying, "A good father is one of the most unsung, unpraised, unnoticed, and yet one of the most valuable assets in our society."

### CAMP OVERLOOK WISH LIST

- Skill Saw
- Hand tools and garden tools for youth to use in CSI: Mission Camp. The youth will be doing mission projects in a 45-minute radius of camp.
- College-age young adults to serve as summer camp counselors. Lifeguard certification a plus but not required.
- Volunteer parents, pastors, and teachers to serve as counselor for one week.

GRADUATION



CELEBRATIONS

### GRADUATES?

What an exciting time of the year as commencements are held and tassels are moved! We'd like to recognize the graduates in our congregation and church family and invite you to contact the Church Office with the graduate's name, school, and degree (886-3441).