



The Central Connection

MESSAGES & OPPORTUNITIES FROM CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH TO YOU!

May 2009



ATTENDING TO GOD

Perhaps too little is said about prayer in the church: We just assume everyone knows how to do it. Maybe we believe in the value of prayer, but we don't actually pray very much. We know prayer is a good thing, but we're unsure of how to do it "right." We may think of prayer as talking to God, and asking for what we want. We may have prayed for something we thought was good, but our prayer "didn't work."

What if prayer is far more than asking for what we want? Although it is legitimate to seek what we desire from God, this is not the primary aspect of prayer.

Prayer is based on these truths:

- God created us with the capacity to pray.
- God gave us the desire to communicate and relate to a deeply personal God.
- God loves us and desires our company.
- God wants to speak to us, guide us, and provide for our needs.
- Prayer is a gift that begins with God.

Therefore, we come to understand that prayer is essentially our attention and openness to God, a fundamental inward orientation to God. We can't mature into the fullness of Christ

without prayer. Prayer gives us a way to pay attention to God in daily life. Prayer connects us to God and provides refreshment for our spiritual thirst.

Flora Slosson Wueller writes of prayer:

"God the eternal healer, the eternal lover, offers to touch our tiredness, our stress, and our pain. The most direct response to this love, the widest door we can open, is through the relationship we call prayer."

When we don't know how to pray, it can be helpful to begin with the example Jesus gave to his disciples: The Lord's Prayer. This prayer begins with adoration, praise, a commitment to God's purposes, and an offer to be part of what God wills for this world. This prayer is grounded in God's nature—which is hallowed—God's purposes—his kingdom come, his will done on earth—and his supply—our daily bread, forgiveness and protection. It ends by affirming God's reign. When we pray this prayer thoughtfully and slowly, pondering each word, we are placed within God's rest and God's intention.

Let us pray. . . in the name of Jesus, Amen.

Pastor Stephanie

DEADLINES FOR MAY

Bulletin – The usual deadline for our Sunday bulletin is noon each Wednesday. However, the Church Secretary will be on vacation May 25–29. So, **the deadline for May 31 bulletin is May 21.**



Newsletter – The usual deadline is the **3rd Friday of each month**, and this will be the case for the June newsletter as well. Your announcements and articles are welcomed—by email, attachment, or written. Please be sure to give all the necessary details, because (as one person was heard to say) “We sure don’t want to miss anything!” Thanks!

Stewardship Report



For 1st Quarter Ending March 2009

Total Income:	\$63,794.24
Needed to Pay all Askings:	85,431.50
Total Expenses Paid:	62,924.13
Apportionments Requested:	15,429.25
Apportionments Paid:	625.00

“Where are we, financially?” is a question sometimes asked of the Committee on Finance. And even though we give our offerings with love and grateful hearts in response to God our Provider, we also want to let you know *where we are*. In addition, copies of Central’s current monthly income and expense reports are available in the South Narthex.

The Committee on Finance, Church Council, Trustees, ministry areas, and staff members work hard to practice good stewardship of the funds so generously provided for ministry. Thank you for your faithfulness in giving.



Thank You!

The Finance Committee thanks the membership for their generous support of the Easter Offering, which received almost \$5,000. We are especially thankful for these gifts in difficult economic times. Central is truly blessed.

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



Community Yard Sale

Saturday, May 30
7:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Fellowship Hall

Table rental: \$10

It's an indoor yard sale – so come, rain or shine!

Please contact Agnes or Donna to reserve a table or for any additional information (886-3441). No rental fee will be charged for Central's committees/classes who may wish to reserve a table.

Single Mingle

Sunday, May 17
Lunch following Worship
(Scotto's, W. Beverley Street)

Are you an adult and single? Join the group for a fun lunch and good food!



Caring for God's Creation

Saturday, May 30, 2009
9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Cost: \$5.00

Christ United Methodist Church
1512 Churchville Ave., Staunton

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Pat Watkins

Workshops:

- The Roots of Hunger; Composting, Recycling, and More,
- Greening Your Local Church— a local church experience



OH, PEOPLE OF GOD! PRAY FOR ME!

SEND YOUR TRUE EMBARRASSING INCIDENTS TO DOUG DILLARD
 2314 N. SHILOH RD., GARLAND, TX 75044 — OR CALL (972) 495-6728



FALL FESTIVAL:

SATURDAY, SEPT. 26

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 will be a new fund raising venture for Central and is being sponsored by the Finance Committee. Watch for additional information; and please feel free to contact the Church Office or Donna Huffer with any questions. (We have sufficient storage space and can accept items as you make or “discover” them.)

Quote:

All of God’s people are ordinary people who have been made extraordinary by the purpose he has given them.

–Oswald Chambers

KROGER CARES

Sign Up continues through May 3

(Gathering Room)

Cost: \$5 – to order your card



Kroger Cares is a program offered to churches and non-profit agencies in which members of the church purchase a special card, make purchases at Kroger as usual, and a percentage of their purchases is donated back to the church.

Members of Central’s congregation may sign up to purchase one of the special cards—\$5 cost, which then you are able to redeem at the store. But, you will probably want to spend more than \$5, so you may go to the Customer Service window at Kroger and add additional funds to the card by using cash, check, or credit card. (This is called “loading,” and you may load up to a balance of \$500 if you wish.) You will then use your card to make your purchases of groceries, gasoline, or pharmacy purchases—just as you normally would. When your card balance is low, you may load it again.

The accumulating amounts of monies (for cards purchased by the Church and all funds “loaded” onto the cards) are placed into our Kroger Cares account. When that account reaches a total of \$5,000, Kroger will make a contribution of 5% to Central (\$250). The account then resets to zero and we begin working toward the next rebate.

LION SHOP & SHARE

Please also check with Eric Stumb about the Food Lion fund raiser program, which uses your MVP card number (even simpler!). He’ll be in the Gathering Area also to share details.

Note: Proceeds from both programs will benefit our Fellowship Fund and Food Pantry ministry.

KITS FOR CONFERENCE

Kits will be collected at our Virginia Annual Conference – June 14-17, and will be used to replenish the UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) supply.

All items included in the kits must be NEW items, and kits must contain ONLY THE ITEMS LISTED due to very strict rules that often govern emergency efforts in different countries.

Health Kit

Place these items inside a one-gallon plastic bag that can be zipped/sealed:

- 1 Hand towel (15" x 25" up to 17" x 27". No Kitchen towels)
 - 1 Washcloth
 - 1 Comb (Large and sturdy, not pocket-sized)
 - 1 Metal Nail file or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers)
 - 1 Bath-size bar of soap (3 oz. and up)
 - 1 Toothbrush (Single brush only in original wrapper. No child-size brushes)
 - 6 Adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages
- \$1.00 to purchase toothpaste

(Note: UMCOR Sager Brown is now purchasing toothpaste in bulk to be added to health kits before shipping to ensure that the product does not expire before the kits are sent.)

School Kit:

- 1 Pair blunt scissors (rounded tip)
- 3 pads (or loose leaf) of 8½" x 11" ruled paper (approx. 250 sheets total)
- 1 30-centimeter ruler
- 1 Hand-held pencil sharpener
- 6 Unsharpened pencils with erasers
- 1 Large eraser, 2½"
- 1 Box of 24 crayons (only 24)

Prepare a 14" x 16" (finished size) cloth bag with handles and one of these three closures (Velcro, snap or button) and place items in the bag. (Pattern for cloth bags available at <http://glgm-umc.org/uncor/choolbag> pattern>

Baby / Layette Kit

- 6 Cloth diapers
- 2 Shirts or 2 one-piece body suits
- 2 Baby washcloths
- 2 Gowns or sleepers
- 2 Diaper pins
- 1 Sweater, open in the front
- 2 Receiving blankets



Bundle the items inside ones of the receiving blankets and secure with the diaper pins.

Sewing Kit

- 3 Yards of cotton or cotton-blend, solid color or print fabric (must be 3 yards of uncut fabric)
- 1 Pair sewing scissors
- 1 Package of hand-sewing needles
- 1 Spool of thread
- 5-8 Matching buttons.

Wrap sewing notions in the fabric, place in a one-gallon plastic bag that can be zipped/sealed.

P.S.

*EVERYONE IS INVITED TO
HELP ASSEMBLE KITS. IT'S A
GREAT FAMILY PROJECT!*

P.P.S. If you'd prefer to donate funds and have UMCOR provide a kit for you:

- \$12 for Health Kit
- \$11 for School Kit
- \$35 for Baby / Layette Kit
- \$18 for Sewing Kit

**If you can donate
an additional \$1 per kit
it will help with
processing & shipping.**



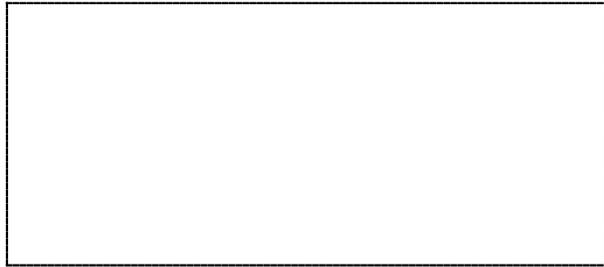
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2009

Return Service Requested



Unusual answer to a mother's prayer

Linda Jo Peters of Terre Haute, Indiana, had her "worry button" pushed when her daughter called from college saying that she was going camping alone in a park in southern Illinois.

Esther, the daughter, said she wanted to spend time alone to sort out what course her life should take in the future. She asked for Bible verses to reflect upon while alone.

Linda knew that Esther felt strongly about her plan. So what was Linda to do? Immediately after the phone conversation, Linda got on her knees and began what she calls "a dialogue with God." She ended her prayer by saying, "I guess you want me on my knees that weekend." That, of course, is where she was when the time came.

The morning after Esther spent her first night in camp, she called her mother Linda on a cell phone. Esther said that she was all right and that no one came near where she camped. She reported that all night long a skunk was nearby, circling her tent. Linda wrote later: "There was no way anyone with evil intent would have approached Esther's tent while the power of prayer in the form of a black-and-white critter was circling it."

—*Presbyterians Today*

