



# THE CENTRAL CONNECTION

## Messages and Opportunities

From

**Central United Methodist Church**

**November, 2011**

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### Saint's

In the Bible there is no such thing as a singular saint. Paul wasn't addressed as St. Paul or Matthew as St. Matthew until years later. The saints were always addressed in community: "To the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus" or "to all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi" or "to all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints"—"grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ".

Saints were simply those who are united by their common faith in Jesus Christ, their experience of God's grace in salvation, and their responsiveness to the Holy Spirit in a life of discipleship.

They were "going on to perfection" in love, but not yet perfect.

So we can let go of the idea that saints are those few individuals who are perfect, who never have an angry impulse or an uncharitable thought or an unspiritual moment. Saints do not spend their time trying to escape the trials of earth by focusing on heaven, but rather try to live the kingdom life in the midst of earthly trials.

To be a saint is to be a person set apart by God, chosen by God, for God's purposes. It is God who declares us holy. God chooses us, and then equips us, for service. And as we engage in God's good work, our characters are changed to become more Christlike: "We rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope."

Saints live by hope in the glory of God, which is now revealed through our modest attempts to be faithful as God's people, and will be revealed fully in the ages to come.

On November 6 we will celebrate the saints: those who have gone before us and have now joined that great cloud of witnesses, as well as those with whom we worship and live today. I thank God for you, the saints of Central UMC: for your love, your faithfulness, your generosity and your desire to do God's will.

God Bless you-

*Pastor Stephanie*

# United Methodist Women

## "And It Is Good"

*Luz de Tablán*

My husband and I had a wonderful flight coming back from Boston, Massachusetts. We flew U.S. Airways to Philadelphia where we had our connecting flight back home. It was a beautiful and clear afternoon when our plane took off from Logan International Airport at 4:30 pm. I had a window seat and when the plane ascended I could clearly see the Logan Airport and its surrounding vicinities.

The clouds were so far away from the path of our plane that it seemed as if they were standing at attention as we flew by. From my perspective the rays of the sun were brightly penetrating through the clouds like a flame, while down below on the ground a big span of shade was created by those same clouds.

As I saw this picture in the sky, I was reminded of the scriptures in Exodus 13: 21-.... when Pharaoh let the Israelites leave Egypt and God led His people through the desert toward the Red Sea. ... "*By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light.*"

Exodus 40:34 says: "*Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.*" V.38- "*For the cloud of the Lord was over the tabernacle by day and fire was in the*

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*cloud by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel during all their travels."*

What a wonderful and amazing sight it must have been and I thought...

### **"AND IT IS GOOD!"**

As I flew this time I realized that domestic flights don't fly as high as international flights and I was able to see things from a unique perspective. I saw the tiny waves of the water created by boats as they sailed below on the lake. I noticed the lands and the mountains were well defined and the farmlands were beautifully manicured. The roads and bridges that connected were busy with cars, buses and tractor trailers which suggested the traffic flow of life below, while our plane traveled far above it all. I paused and reflected at God's creation and its beauty as I flew this time. What a blessed opportunity for me to enjoy God's revelation of wisdom and power in devising such a plan.

I thought of God's great love toward us and how it has been revealed through his creations and how He never stops providing for, protecting, watching over us... and how He is continually involved in our individual lives every single day. So I said again....

## “AND IT IS GOOD!”



It was about 9:15pm when we boarded the plane again, this time bound for Charlottesville after a four hour layover in Philadelphia’s airport. This plane was small, and again my seat was by the window. The night was dark and hazy and there were very few stars out. On the ground I could see lights from buildings and street lights. It was almost a two hour flight to Charlottesville and we were about to land when the moon appeared. Although it was hazy out, I enjoyed the moon while flying, and again I remembered what God said in Genesis 1:5—

*“and God called the light Day and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning the first day.”*

Dr. Charles Stanley says: “the things that our eyes see in the heavens and on the earth reveals God’s wonderful and beautiful handiwork and it means that the Lord has established His throne in the

heavens and his sovereignty rules over all because He is in control.”

The creation, as fashioned and ordered by God, had no lingering traces of disorder and no dark or threatening forces arrayed against God. According to the New International Version of the Bible,

*“even the darkness and the deep were given benevolent functions in a world fashioned to bless and sustain life.”*

And so I thought....

## “AND IT IS GOOD,”

I shared with my husband the joy I experienced on this trip, seeing the expanse, the atmosphere “like a canopy” (Isaiah 40:22), and the great cosmic realities of day, night, land and seas that surround the dry land on all sides and into which the waters of the lakes and rivers flow. That night I could barely contain my excitement and I believe God deserves my joyous thanksgiving for all his creation.

Before going to bed that night my mind was shifted to the mission works of the ***United Methodist Women***, because they are called to “creation care.” They are good stewards of God’s gift. They are like parents being accountable to care for their children and raise them properly. They connect their missions with environment and suffering humanity. Through the love of God they let their light shine in places of darkness and make a difference in someone’s life every day. So again I thought...**AND IT IS GOOD!!**

# Worship News

## Help Central Celebrate the Advent Season

### "A Season of Hope"



The congregation is invited to celebrate the season with several giving opportunities:

- Purchase of poinsettias for placement in the sanctuary beginning December 11;
- Build the banner fund to help purchase seasonal banners for the sanctuary;
- Help sustain the organ through contributions to the fund designated for repairs and upkeep.

**\*\*PLEASE PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER THESE GIVING OPPORTUNITIES\*\***

**THE DEADLINE FOR PURCHASING POINSETTIAS IS DECEMBER 5.**

Order forms for the poinsettias (including the cost) and contributions to the banner /organ funds will be in the church bulletins beginning November 20<sup>th</sup>.

All memorials or gifts in honor of someone-whether for poinsettias, banners, or the organ fund- will be noted in the church bulletin on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

# *United Methodist* Student Day



## Sunday, November 27

“You ought to serve the world with your gifts,” said Josh Union, United Methodist Student Day scholarship recipient and student at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. He plans to use his degree in business management and computer science to make the world a better place.

- ❖ United Methodist Student Day supports U.M. scholarships and the U.M. Student Loan Fund.
- ❖ Annual Conferences participating in the Rebate Program may award one or more merit scholarships to the United Methodist students.
- ❖ Participating conferences may award scholarships to U. M. students who reside in the conference and who attend or will attend a U.M. related college or university.



## District UMMen's Dinner December 8, 6:30

We are privileged to once again be hosting the annual District UMMen's dinner on Thursday Dec 8. The UMWomen of Central will be providing the meal, which I'm pretty sure is going to be delicious. Our speaker will be Chaplain (Col) James S. Park, Institute Chaplain of Virginia Military Institute. Dinner will begin at 6:30, and tickets are \$10. We would like to have a nice turnout from our Central men. Let me emphasize you do not have to be a member of our men's group to attend, and spouses are welcome also. Please come, for the meal, the fellowship, and the message from Chaplain Park. Contact Jim Printy for tickets.



# Red Kettle Ringing

## A Christmas Tradition

One of my earliest, and fondest, childhood memories of Christmas (besides all the gifts) is the sound of the Salvation Army bells, and the sight of money being put in the red kettles. I'm sure I didn't completely understand what was going on, but I felt so important each year when my grandmother would give me money to donate when my mother took me shopping. I have added to those memories with more recent memories from Central's bell ringing last year.

We are establishing a new Christmas tradition at Central to go along with supporting the WTON Children's Christmas Party, and our own Christmas tree loaded with mittens, hats and scarves. We tried to do bell ringing two years ago but got snowed out. Last year we did get the chance to ring. What a great experience. I can admit that I do not enjoy asking people for money, but the red kettles are such a familiar sight that people are anxious to give. Our booth was located outside Wal-Mart, and the great majority of people gave. It was touching the number of young children who gave; and the number of people, who by their appearance had little to give. We had approximately a dozen volunteers, and we each had our favorite story from the experience. I think mine was the young person who didn't walk by the kettle, but actually drove up to the door for the purpose of giving, and dumped two huge handfuls of change into the bucket.

We'll be ringing again this year—Saturday Dec 3 at Wal-Mart, from 9am until 9pm and I hope you will consider joining us. We will have a signup sheet in the Gathering Room beginning Nov 6. We prefer to schedule two people for each two hour shift, but if you are only able to work one hour we will be glad to have you.

Thanks and Merry Christmas!

*Jim Printy*  
Mission/Outreach

# From Your Music Director

“I do this day in the presence of God and my own soul renew my covenant with God and solemnly determine henceforth to become His and to do His work as far as in me lies.”

Henry Alford wrote these words when he was sixteen years old. He was a remarkable young man, born in London, England in 1810, who came from a long line of clergymen. When he was six years old, he wrote a biography of the apostle Paul. At ten years old, he wrote a pamphlet titled, “Looking into Jesus: the Believers’ Support under Trials and Afflictions.”

When he was ordained, he wrote: “I went up to town and received the Holy Orders of a Priest; may I be a temple of chastity and holiness, fit and clean.....O my beloved Redeemer, my dear Brother and Master, hear my prayer.”

Henry Alford was a very versatile artist. He was an organist, singer, poet and a powerful and loving preacher. He was much beloved at his first charge in Wymeswold and in the fall of 1844, as the people decided to have a harvest festival, rejoicing in the abundant harvest already gathered into their barns, Alford wrote this very familiar song.

**Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest-home:  
All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin;  
God, our maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied:  
Come to God’s own temple, come, raise the song of harvest-home.**

As we approach Thanksgiving, may we be so thankful to God for His many blessings and let us share our blessings with others.

-taken from -Devotionals from Famous Hymn Stories -by Lindsay L. Terry

Then Sings My Soul (Hymn Stories) by Robert J. Morgan

*Sherry von Oeyen*  
Director of Music

# Open Letter to the Men of Central UM Church

The UMMen's group has been active at Central for over 20 years. During those 20 plus years, we have completed countless work projects, prepared numerous luncheons, and have held almost 300 monthly meetings. Our meetings have traditionally been held at 8:30am, the first Saturday of each month, normally at Rowe's Family Restaurant. At times we have had programs and speakers, but generally our meetings are to conduct business/planning, and most importantly men's Christian fellowship.

We have had a wonderful, active group. Personally, my involvement with the UMMen has given me the opportunity to form close friendships with many men at Central. Our "membership" has fluctuated over the years, and unfortunately we have lost many members through death, and relocation to other churches or cities. I use the term "membership" loosely; anyone is always

welcome to join us for a breakfast meeting, a work project, or help with a luncheon without "joining" UMM. We would, however, benefit from participation by more Central men. And we believe each of you would benefit also.

In the interest of increasing participation, we would greatly appreciate if each of you would complete this short survey, and return it to the collection plate, the church office, or mail it to Jim Printy at 507 Robin St, Staunton.

We would like to hear from you if you are presently active with the men or not. You may remain anonymous, but signing your name would be helpful, especially so we can address your concerns and questions.

Thank you-  
Jim Printy  
United Methodist Men

# *Men's Survey*

Are you presently an active member of UMMen? \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be more likely to attend a meeting if we met at a different time, day or place?

We could meet on a weekday evening for example, and we could meet at the church instead of a restaurant.

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What would work best for your schedule? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you prefer a social/business meeting, or prefer a meeting with a speaker or program? Ideas?

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Are there programs/projects you would like to see the men involved with?

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If you were active with the men at one point, but not any longer, could you share the primary reason?

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Would you say that no matter when and where we meet, and no matter the format, you are not interested in participating? \_\_\_\_\_ Can you share the primary reason?

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## Feeding the Community

# Blue Ridge Area Food Bank

- ◆ Number of People that are food- insecure in the Food Bank's 25- County service area: **152,840**
- ◆ Number of people that are food- insecure in Buena Vista, Harrisonburg, Lexington, Staunton, Waynesboro, and the Counties of Augusta, Bath, Rockingham and Rockbridge: **34,950**
- ◆ The Blue Ridge Area Food Bank relocated to Verona in: **1982**
- ◆ Last year the Food Bank partnered with agencies in all 25 counties and cities in our service area to distribute: **20.9 million lbs of food**
- ◆ Last Year in the Central Shenandoah Valley are the Food Bank partnered with local agencies to distribute: **9.3 millions lbs. of food**
- ◆ The fair market value of the food distributed through our partner agencies in the Central Shenandoah Valley last year was: **15.4 million dollars**



**Annual Charge Conference  
Thursday, November 3  
7:30 p.m.**

All are invited to participate in this annual meeting, as we celebrate this year's accomplishments and look ahead to next year's opportunities.



*Sunday, December 11  
Christmas Luncheon and  
Children's Program*

Immediately following worship the children will present a Christmas program, so mark your calendars now to attend.

A covered dish luncheon will be served in the Fellowship Hall, following the children's program. Please bring your favorite dishes to share. Meat, bread and drinks provided!



# Single Mingle

**Sunday, November 13  
Lunch following Worship  
(Depot Grille)**

All single adults are invited to join the group for a delicious meal and great conversation, with a few laughs thrown in!

Please invite a friend to join you for Worship and Lunch!



## song corner

### You Are More

On the day I called, You answered me and the hope in my soul increased. I lift my hands and turn my eyes, to the God who heals my heart and gives me peace.

You are more than my words could ever say,

You are Lord over all, over all my days.

I will see this season through, I will fix my eyes on You and only you.....and only You.

I worship You and lift You high, God forever let Your name be glorified. I will lift my voice and sing Your name, For You gave Your life to cleanse my sin and wash away my shame. Yes....You are more than my words could ever say! You are Lord over all, over all my days. I will see this season through, and I will fix my eyes on You and only You!

-Harrison Wood- Hillsong

## November Birthdays

- 3 Joe Hill
- 3 Stephen Lilly
- 3 Jean Smith
- 3 Barbara Snyder
- 3 Virginia True
- 7 David Reed
- 8 Elinor Hutchinson
- 9 Henry Gutshall
- 9 Sarah Huffer
- 9 Shawn Melton
- 15 Cynthia Fauber
- 17 Catherine VanFossen
- 18 Susan Black
- 18 Edward Sutton
- 19 Megan Dietz
- 20 Jason Melton
- 20 Sherry von Oeyen
- 21 Stephen Gayhart
- 21 James Harris
- 23 Robin Reed
- 24 William Fauber
- 26 Sally Draper
- 27 George Hanger
- 30 Mark Hall

**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.

## LECTIONARY READINGS



**November 6** – All Saints Day Celebrated

Rev. 7:9-17

Psalm 34:1-10, 22

1 John 3:1-3

Matthew 5:1-12

**November 13**

Judges 4:1-7

Psalm 76

I Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30

**November 20**

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalm 100

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46

**November 27**

Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

1Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:24-37

### GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE:

Give thanks to him who alone does mighty miracles. His faithful love endures forever. Give thanks to him who made the heavens so skillfully. His faithful love endures forever. Give thanks to him who placed the earth on the water. His faithful love endures forever. Give thanks to him who made the heavenly lights -- His faithful love endures forever. The sun to rule the day, His faithful love endures forever and the moon and stars to rule the night. His faithful love endures forever.

[Psalm 136:4-9](#)



### THANKSGIVING

As we enter the season of Thanksgiving, here are some scriptures to meditate on.....

Offer to God the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and pay your vows to the Most High.

[Psalm 50:14](#)

Giving thanks to the Father, Who has qualified and made us fit to share the portion which is the inheritance of the saints (God's holy people) in the Light

[Colossians 1: 12](#)

O give thanks to the Lord, call on His name; make known His doings among the peoples!

[1 Chronicles 16: 8](#)

Thank [God] in everything [no matter what the circumstances may be, be thankful and give thanks], for this is the will of God for you [who are] in Christ Jesus [the Revealer and Mediator of that will].

[1 Thessalonians 5: 18](#)

I will give to the Lord the thanks due to His righteousness and justice, and I will sing praise to the name of the Lord Most High.

[Psalm 7: 17](#)

I give thanks to Him who has granted me [the needed] strength and made me able [for this], Christ Jesus our Lord, because He has judged and counted me faithful and trustworthy, appointing me to [this stewardship of] the ministry.

[1 Timothy 1: 12](#)

# *Children's page*

## **We're all the same in God's eyes**

On the first Thanksgiving, the Indians and pilgrims thought they were very different from each other. But God helped them see that all people are the same to Him. Look carefully and you'll find 10 things that are different between the two pictures.



**NOS 51**

## **Praise God for His good gifts**

This month we take time to thank God for His gifts. Find some of the things we should be thankful for in the puzzle below. They read in a straight line vertically, horizontally, diagonally (and backwards of course). Circle each letter of each word. The letters remaining spell out the secret word

Art	Friends
Bible	Fun
Church	Health
Family	Home
Food	Jesus

Music
Prayer
Safety
Talents

T	H	H	C	R	U	H	C
R	H	S	A	F	E	T	Y
E	C	O	A	R	N	L	L
Y	I	K	M	I	T	A	I
A	S	U	S	E	J	E	M
R	U	S	L	N	G	H	A
P	M	B	U	D	O	O	F
I	I	F	V	S	I	N	G
B	S	T	N	E	L	A	T

**NOS 52**



## Central United Methodist Church

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**November  
2011**



### \*NOTE THE CHANGE\*

Beginning Nov. 13, refreshments will no longer be served following worship on a weekly basis.

However, we will have refreshments the first Sunday of each month. If you are interested in joining this group of volunteers please call the church office.

**The Central Connection**  
is the monthly newsletter  
of Central United Methodist Church  
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*The Central Connection* Editor: Dana Wade

### IN MINISTRY

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