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|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| April 3: Sarah Melton | May 3: Mary Ann Mason |
| April 4: Linda Dinsmore | May 9: Augusta Markley |
| April 5: Chandler Marshall | May 10: Luz Detablan |
| April 7: Constance Mitchell | Suzanne Peeler |
| April 12: Diana Un | May 12: Sheryl Mullenax |
| April 15: Jim Clemmer | May 16: Jack True |
| April 18: Kimberly Mitchell | May 19: Emily Stumb |
| April 25: Wanda True | May 20: Vicki Printy |
| April 26: Kenneth Beals | May 25: Dorothea Bradley |
| Ann Hill | Elvin Nicholson |
| | May 28: Rebecca Ambrogi |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Thanks for your generous Easter Offerings. Together we collected \$2,271 in total. That money will be used to support Valley Supportive Housing in the Staunton area and UMCOR relief on a global level.
- The Drama Club will be performing on April 22 at 5 PM in the Blackfriar's Playhouse as part of Shakespeare's Birthday Party celebration downtown. Come support our Central youth who are involved, Betsy Gutshall and Kainoa Peters.

Central United Methodist Church

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The Central Connection

2018 April/May Newsletter

Update from Trustees

We are so blessed to have our beautiful facility: the sanctuary, classrooms and meeting spaces. In addition to our worship services and outreach efforts, we believe that part of our ministry is to make our building available for use by others in the community. Weight Watchers has been meeting in the Fellowship Hall for many years. Narcotics Anonymous groups meet in Eagon Hall three evenings/week. The first floor of our education building is kept busy with our Clothes Closet and Food Pantry, and third floor is busy with Girl Scouts, Prison Ministry and Sewing Group. With so much building usage, it takes a great deal of work, and money, to keep the church properly maintained. We are blessed to have the resources we need to do this.

The building issue which has been most critical during the past year has been the elevator upgrade, which was completed on April 3. This has been a \$60,000 project made possible with the generous Endowment Funds we have received. We were also able to use funds from the recent sale of the vacant lot bequeathed to Central by Gail Ticknor. Much thanks to Doug Noland for his legal assistance in the sale.

In addition to the major elevator project, we have recently had to complete many smaller, more routine projects, including electrical, plumbing, and heating. We are blessed to have the talents of Mike Melton, Sam Richardson, Ed Smith, and Jack True who are always available to donate their expertise to the church.

You may be aware that this spring the city is going to begin a renovation project on the parking garage located behind city hall. During the renovation, beginning sometime in April, the city will be renting half of Central's large parking lot for \$75/week. The city will be using the two rows of parking spaces nearest to Frederick Street, from 7:30 am until 5:30 pm Monday through Friday. We will be reserving the remaining two rows of parking spaces for Central use, and will ask that others who are presently using the lot, such as Second Presbyterian, make other arrangements. The renovation is expected to be completed by late fall.

The Trustees thank you for your support and understanding in our efforts to provide a safe and welcoming place to worship and serve God. If you have questions or concerns related to the building please feel free to discuss with one of the Trustees: Leslie Artley, Bill Bushman, Martha Bushman, Ellen DeLong, Mike Melton, Jim Printy, Sam Richardson, Ed Smith, and Beth White.

--Jim Printy, Trustees Chair



hello Spring



United Methodist Women

Central United Methodist Women members wish to thank the congregation for its recent support of our Cake Pop Sunday. The proceeds (\$85) will help fund a scholarship (\$450) for one girl to attend All God's Children Camp in June. We haven't quite reached our fundraising goal, so mark your calendars and start saving now for our annual Cookie and Cake Sale, which will be on Sunday, May 6th! What a great opportunity to satisfy even the most discerning sweet tooth!

This year UMW members will assemble 30 School Kits for UMCOR. The date for kit assemblies will be announced later, but it will definitely be prior to Annual Conference. We are grateful to Central's United Methodist Men for partnering with us in purchasing the canvas bags which will hold the school supplies (1 pair of scissors, 3 pads of paper, 1 hand-held pencil sharpener, 1 ruler, 6 pencils, 1 eraser, and 1 box of crayons). A special thanks goes to Lynn Hill, who collected all the school items during the back-to-school sales last August.

The Days for Girls sewing group continues to meet the first and third Tuesdays of each month. We recently welcomed Lynn Hill to the group. She brings incredible sewing talents to the table! We also have UMW members participating from Highland County and Lexington! Don't worry, though. You don't have to be a UMW member to participate. Nor are sewing skills mandatory. There are plenty of non-sewing jobs available. Stop by one Tuesday to see what's going on. We'd love to have you!

Central ladies, if you're not in a circle but wish to be in a community of women who desire to know and serve God better and are moved to combat injustice on behalf of women and children locally and around the world, please consider joining one of our circles. We would love to have you! The Rebekah Circle meets the second Tuesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. at Baldwin Park library (2nd floor). Susan Obaugh is the leader. Light refreshments are served. The Susanna Wesley Circle meets the second Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Connie Davis, 300 Rainbow Drive, Staunton. Caroline Jones is the leader. A pot-luck dinner is held prior to the meeting.

UMW Purpose

United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

--Ellen DeLong, UMW President

Agape Noon Lunch @ Trinity Church

formally known as Trinity Noon Lunch

Every fourth Wednesday you will find a team of Centralites at Trinity Episcopal serving lunch to an eager group of Staunton folks. Barbara Snyder, who heads the team, has developed a popular and nourishing meal consisting of her yummy tater tot casserole, vegetables, fruit gelatin, and beverage (milk is super popular). Central's Food Pantry provides as much non-USDA food as possible and finances the remainder through its budget. Connie Davis's macaroni salad is also a big hit with the Trinity "lunch bunch". In January, 35 meals plus seconds were served and in February 48 meals plus 17 seconds were served. A delicious hot meal on a cold winter's day is a very good thing. Thanks to the Central Agape team who faithfully cook on the fourth Tuesday and serve on the fourth Wednesday of each month! If you like to be part of this team please contact Barbara Snyder at 290-4213 (cell).

Trinity Team

Barbara Snyder	Jim Printy
Blair Sullenburger	Ellen & Jeff DeLong
Anita Jackson	Ken Beals
Sybille Jobin	Judith & Tom King
Connie and Tom Davis	Sam Richardson
Patrick Harrison	Sandy & Brian Welch

Barbara's Tater Tot Casserole

1 lb. ground beef
1 small onion, finely chopped
1 can cream of mushroom soup
½ cup milk
8 oz. shredded cheddar cheese
2 lb. bag tater tots
salt and pepper

- 1) Brown beef with onion and drain. Mix soup and milk and stir into beef. Add salt and pepper.
- 2) Spread in bottom of casserole dish.
- 3) Cover meat mixture with cheese.
- 4) Top with tater tots.
- 5) Bake uncovered at 350 for 1 hour, until tater tots are golden.

Food Pantry

Central's Food Pantry continues to be a strong contributor to the health and welfare of our community by offering nutritious food choices – including fresh produce and bakery items – to all who visit. In January we served 214 Individuals (infants through seniors) representing 98 households. February showed a slight decline with 201 individuals representing 93 households. At the time of this publication (March), 83 individuals representing 41 households had been served. Not surprisingly, client visits fluctuate in winter due to weather conditions since many folks rely on public transportation and/or walking to get their groceries home.

Have you wondered what happens when the pantry isn't open? How do the shelves get restocked week-to-week? What about the Clothes Closet? I'm glad you asked! It's time to tip our hats to the volunteer teams who give of their time, energy, vehicles, and gas to ensure that every Wednesday our Food Pantry is stocked and ready. Listed below are the teams. Each of these missionaries deserves a pat on the back. Central's Food Pantry would crumble without them!

Monday Food Pick-Up (usually averages between 900-1500 lbs. of food)

Jeff and Ellen DeLong
Jim Printy
Bill Bushman
Joe Hill
Tom and Connie Davis, Patrick Harrison (subs)

Monday shelf stockers (involves opening boxes, separating food into USDA/Non-USDA items, packaging bulk products such as frozen meats)

Pick-Up Team listed above plus...

Carolyn Smith
Bobbie Rosson
Connie Davis
Cheryl Kent
Ellen DeLong
Caroline Jones

Kroger Partner Pick-Up (weekly donation of bakery items)

Beth Blackmer
Sam and Beverly Richardson
Jackie Beals
Caroline Jones
Connie Davis & Cheryl Kent (subs)

Wednesday Food Pantry Volunteers

Sandra Clemmer	Patrick Harrison
Jackie Beals	Bobbie Rosson
Ellen DeLong	Jim Printy
Connie Davis	Eleanor Andrews
Carolyn Smith	Caroline Jones
Augusta and Bob Markley	

Clothes Closet

Linda Dinsmore (sorts, straightens, & shelves new items)
Judi Jones

Agape Baskets

Anita Jackson
Beverly & Sam Richardson
Ellen DeLong

A special word of thanks goes to Janet Nuckoles. We can't count her as a volunteer, but she is a vital part of our program and keeps our refrigerators looking good, shelves neat and orderly, and the floors free of dirt and debris. She also helps to keep things moving smoothly on Wednesday mornings!

Also, a word about Agape Baskets is in order. We currently provide weekend meals for 13 children. Thanks to Anita for arranging a direct delivery system to the families we support. The new system is much more efficient and beneficial to the families.

Last but certainly not least, Central members deserve a pat on the back. Without your prayers, donations, and contributions, the Food Pantry would not survive. Thank you for undergirding a very important mission!

--Caroline Jones, Food Pantry Coordinator



United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men of Central United Methodist Church could also be called the Monthly Men's Breakfast Club. We do enjoy our breakfast meetings! But that imagery belies the fact that we undertake various activities on behalf of Central and its many missions through various programs, projects, and sponsorships.

From the United Methodist Church (UMC) General Conference United Methodist Men website (<http://www.gcumm.org/about>):

The 2016 *United Methodist Book of Discipline* charges the General Commission on United Methodist Men with the "primary oversight for the coordination and resourcing of men's ministry with The United Methodist Church." (paragraph 2302)

With this mandate from Nashville, and the long and rich history of United Methodist Men, the Mission of United Methodist Men (UMM) is: "To Help Men Grow in Christ, So Others May Know Christ." At the General Conference level, this is manifest in Four Areas of Focus:

Leadership Development
Church Renewal
Ministry with the Poor
Global Health

In the broader sense, how the Mission and the Four Focus Areas are addressed is through the broader rubric of Ministry to Men. At the Central Church level our hearty, well-fed band of UMM is exemplified in the webpage (<http://www.gcumm.org/ministry-to-men>) description of "a core group of men, partnering with their pastor, to invite and initiate spiritual growth, opportunities for all men of the church." There are described on the webpage several examples that a local church UMM group can undertake that helps support the Mission. These include:

Prayer groups	Worship/Seminars
Missions	Church committee work
Bible studies	Youth ministries
Retreats	Scouting (Girl & Boy Scouts)
External organizations support (e.g., Society of St. Andrew)	

In other words, participating and supporting church activities which help achieve the goal of empowering the ministry of Jesus Christ through men within the congregations of the UMC.

At Central, our UMM group has served and is serving by doing specific tasks such as periodic grounds cleanup around the church; providing physical labor and means to help decorate, clean, declutter, relocate material within the church; by supplementing resources needed to make improvements and procure equipment (e.g., kitchen equipment and supplies);

undertake and support fund raising activities of the church (BBQ & Brunswick Stew sales); donations of money and labor to mission trips; providing physical assistance to members' homes that would otherwise not be possible; donating financial support to the Society of St. Andrew; and many, many other activities and projects currently and in the past.

The one area in which we would like to do better is increasing the number of Central UMC men who participate. Our monthly meeting participation is around 10-12. We recognize Saturdays, particularly with young families, is a very busy day, and getting out with a packed agenda to enjoy fellowship around a breakfast table may be 'a bridge too far,' to borrow a phrase. We would welcome your participation even if it is irregular. We promise the experience will be uplifting and mind expanding. Please watch for our monthly notices of our meeting opportunities.

As the future unfolds for us all at Central, the United Methodist Men will also endeavor to be the supportive, collaborative group we have been. Our UMM provides another way to understand how the work of Central United Methodist Church is important to our ministries, locally and beyond, and that we can all contribute in our own ways "To Help Men Grow in Christ, So Others May Know Christ."

--Bill Bushman, UMM President

Visioning Retreat

A visioning retreat, open to all members of Central United Methodist was held from 6-9 pm on February 27, 2018. After devotions with prayers for wise consideration and discernment were lifted up, the session began.

Pastor Won began the visioning session by introducing an agenda. Each person attending the retreat received a list of projects and programs from the 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, & 2017 Retreats. Those present worked to evaluate vision topics listed below from previous retreats to determine their state of accomplishment.

Ideas and thoughts for Central's future vision were shared by participants attending, as well as those of members who sent their ideas. These ideas included:

•**Communication:** Persistent effort to share what Central is doing through The News Leader and social media like Facebook

•**Increase in membership participation:** Goal to include new church members in the life of Central mission and ministry

•**Children's Ministry:** Effort to include children in active participation in worship such as through reading

•**Prison Ministry:** Consider ways Central might help with this new program

•**Ways to assist VIPs and others:** A plan to assist members particularly with transportation

•**Agape Noon Lunch @ Trinity Church ('Soup Kitchen Ministry')**: To better organize & provide more participation, create two teams, each team having its own schedule to cook, serve, and clean up after lunch.

•**Outside church day trip:** Enjoy fellowship through planned bus trips to points of interest

•**More laity involvement:** Members would support our pastor through various laity needs, ideas, music, participation in worship.

•**Youth Programs:** Continue to create programs of interest to our youth, e.g., a Lego Club for youth.

•**More participation in service by congregation:** Additional members serving as ushers; including youth, participating in worship such as in Faith Sharing Sundays.

•**More Bible Study:** Providing more opportunities for Bible Study sessions for adults and youth/children participants.

•**Christian Education:** Work to provide young adult & adult Sunday School.

•**Joint ecumenical events:** Joining with Augusta Street Methodist in worship opportunities

•**Sponsorship of a school Community Garden**

•**Family Fun Day:** working jointly with Staunton Housing Authority to provide lunch and volunteers

•**Beyond Food Pantry**

•**Diversity celebration**

•**"Lights in the park" project at Christmas time**

•**"Lunch Bunch" to replace Single Mingle:** Include all members of Central

•**More involvement of Worship Committee with input on worship service:** Supporting our pastor through sharing of ideas and ways to support worship.

Here are the previous year's activities that came out of Planning Retreat (2013 - 2016):

- Agape Basket
- Agape Picnic
- All God's Children - supporting scholarship to a camper
- Audio streaming of services
- Become a reconciling community
- Better signage inside and outside building
- Beyond Pantry
- Central Drama Club
- Childcare before and after school
- Children's Choir
- Christian Passover Meal Celebration

- Christmas caroling to nursing facilities around town
- Christmas Eve Service (9 Lessons and Carols)
- Christmas Parade
- Church picnic
- Clothes Closet
- Connecting with neighbor
- Develop strategy for rental of space
- Disaster relief
- Diversity celebration
- Downtown Churches Ministry - serving Christmas dinner at Valley Mission
- Easter Egg/Santa Breakfast/Halloween
- Estate planning meeting
- Faith Sharing Sundays
- Food pantry
- Fundraising for local and global mission
- Halloween Party - participate in Staunton Downtown event by serving drinks and pop corn
- Health screening
- Helping Hands
- Hold a CUMC Mission Fair (M&M)
- Host Mission Teams
- Increased use of our space
- Indoor playground or other facility for youth
- International Dinner Night for Stuart Hall and Mary Baldwin University
- Joint service at Augusta St. UMC
- Kids Lock-In
- Kitchen Rental
- Lenten/Advent Luncheon
- Mission Center @ Marquis Mem UMC
- Outreach to youth
- Parish nurse ministry
- Provide facilities for mission team from out of state
- Queen City Market -sell cookies
- Secret Boutique
- Seminars for adults--mental illness, finance etc. - combine with Socialite
- Showers and bathroom for street people
- Social Fellowship "fun-times" for members (trips, events, etc.)
- Socialite
- SonRise Service
- Soup and Sup Sunday
- Stations of the Cross on Good Friday
- Staunton Housing Authority - Feeding Program and Family Fun Day
- Transportation for the elderly
- Usher training
- Valentine Breakfast at Hometown Grille
- Warm Shelter
- Welcoming package
- Xmas Parade - serving hot chocolate
- Young family ministry

Certificate of Appreciation

This Certificate is Awarded to

Central United Methodist Church

In Recognition of Distinguished Outreach
To the Community in 2017

David J. Rockford

3/23/18

Staunton District Superintendent

Lucy B. Hester

3/23/18

Staunton District Lay Leader



COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

Certificate of Appreciation

This certificate is awarded to

Central United Methodist Church

In Recognition of Exemplary Global Missions in 2017

David J. Rockford

3/23/18

Staunton District Superintendent

Lucy B. Hester

3/23/18

Staunton District Lay Leader



DISTRICT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

This certificate is presented to

Central United Methodist Church

In recognition of 100% support of the
2017 District and Conference
Apportionments

David J. Rockford

Staunton District Superintendent

3/23/2018

DATE

Lucy B. Hester

Staunton District Lay Leader

3/23/2018

DATE