



The Central Connection

MESSAGES & OPPORTUNITIES FROM CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH TO YOU!

April 2009



CELEBRATE THE MIRACLE OF EASTER!

“CHRIST IS RISEN! He is risen indeed!”

This is the traditional greeting for Easter morning, when we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is the most important and most joyful of all Christian holy days, when we proclaim an end to death, the overcoming of sin, and the destruction of evil. God demonstrates his power and his love and make possible our new life and eventual resurrection.

Even though baby chicks, eggs and Spring may remind us of new life, resurrection means rising from the dead, not just plants that look dead producing leaves again. Easter is so much more than the tokens the world uses to decorate the season: bunnies, eggs, chicks, chocolate and candy. Easter is also much more than a celebration of Spring—remember that in the southern hemisphere Easter comes as the days are growing colder and darker. Resurrection says “death is ended.”

A Jewish man wrote to his Christian friend, “Looking at the Christmas thing as a man raised in a Jewish home, the big celebration in Christianity should be Easter. No Easter, no Christianity. So all the focus on Christmas, at least to me, seems misdirected. Why Christians don’t whoop it up more at Easter is a mystery to me. How inspirational! How joyful! That is the time to toast each other, lay on gifts, attend worship services, pack in the

rich food. Something really substantial and holy to remember.”

No Easter, no Christianity. If Jesus didn’t rise from the dead, Christmas is meaningless too. Let us not diminish our celebration of Easter, because the world doesn’t make a big deal out of it. Let’s claim this amazing Christian holiday that makes no sense to the world.

On Pascha, the Orthodox name for Easter, the Church proclaims,

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.

Congregations sing over and over,

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

When we sing together on Easter, “Christ the Lord is risen today,” let’s “whoop it up more” because we have something truly incredible to affirm: God has won the victory, and we are set free!

In the name and power of the risen Christ,

Pastor Stephanie

IF IT SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE,

as the old saying goes, it probably is. Which is exactly what a member of our congregation thought when he recently received a letter and a rather large, unexpected check from a “company” with which he was not familiar. The check (for several thousand dollars) appeared to be legitimate. But the letter which announced that he had won “The Big Game” lottery (which he hadn’t entered/played) was vaguely worded and demanded total confidentiality in order to receive the payoff. Fortunately the member checked with bank authorities, confirmed his suspicion that this was a scam, and let the authorities proceed with their investigation into the matter.

You’ve probably heard other stories and warnings on this subject; along with the tragic results and financial losses that can occur. Let us be reminded of some of the things to guard against to avoid entanglement in these deceptive schemes.

A local bank has this cautionary information posted: If you can answer YES to any of the following questions involving an item (personal check, cashier’s check, or money) you are about to deposit or cash, please notify a representative immediately because these are features of known and active scams.

1. Have you been informed you were a winner in a lottery or sweepstakes?
2. Have you been informed that you’ve won a lottery or sweepstakes you did not enter?



3. Have you been told to keep information regarding this (check) confidential?
4. Is this (check) related to a job you found on the internet or newspaper, where you are being asked to wire or send funds to another individual or business?
5. Have you been asked to assist in any distribution of money (for example, as heir to an estate) from someone you did not know?
6. Is the (check) drawn on a business or individual different from the person or business you are communicating with?
7. Is the (check) from an individual you have communicated with via email?
8. Have you been instructed to send funds to another party as soon as possible?
9. Are the check proceeds for an item you sold on the internet such as a car, boat, horse, jewelry, etc.
10. Is the check drawn on a business or individual different from the person buying your item or product?
11. Is the amount of the check more than the selling price of the item?

So—as far as big fat checks from out of nowhere and email promises of million dollar estates—if it sounds too good to be true... you know the rest!

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

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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



to benefit

Habitat for Humanity

When: Saturday, April 18
4:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Where: Central UMC Fellowship Hall

Price: Adults \$6
Children 6-12 \$3
Children 5 & under Free

Menu: Spaghetti, salad, garlic toast,
coffee and tea, cake

Sponsored by: United Methodist Men of
Central UMC

Help Needed: Cooking
Serving
Setting up
Cleaning up

To help, Contact: Jim Printy (885-6838)

And even if you can't do any of those things, please come and enjoy a wonderful meal and support a good cause!

Ticket Sales: Pre-sale **OR**
At the Door

Tickets, Contact: Vince Ennis (886-7068)

Pre-sale tickets will help with the planning—but, be assured, tickets will also be available at the door.

We hope you'll be a part of this event—and invite several people to support the Habitat ministry by enjoying our "secret" recipe!.



Community Yard Sale

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

Table rental: \$10

You asked for it—you got it! Due to popular demand, the Witness Committee will sponsor a church-wide yard sale May 30th in the Fellowship Hall (rain or shine). So check your basements and attics. Look high and low. Those things you want to clear out can be used to help support various ministries.

No rental fee will be charged for Central's committees/classes who may wish to reserve a table.

Please contact Agnes or Donna to reserve a table or for any additional information (886-3441).

Brother BLOTZ
www.brotherblotz.com



**BRO. BLOTZ, I BELIEVE THE OLDER
YOU GET THE BETTER YOU USED TO BE!**



Lenten & Easter Schedule



CONCLUDING WEDNESDAY NOON LENTEN SERVICES AND LUNCHEON

April 1, 12:05 p.m.

Rev. Bob Edwards, Preaching
Christ UMC Serving

A short Worship/Devotional Service will be held in the Sanctuary, following which a Soup and Sandwich Luncheon will be served in the Fellowship Hall (\$2 donation). The service and lunch time are planned to fit into the noon “lunch hour.” Both are open to the public, and everyone is invited to participate.

EASTER TREE PROJECT

Our Easter Tree project is in full swing. All the names of needy children have been claimed—shoppers are asked to please bring the gifts to the Gathering Room or Church Office no later than Palm Sunday so they may be distributed to the families before Easter. You still may pick a flower from our tree. Each flower has the name and address of one of our homebound members. We invite you to send a note and Easter greeting—please feel free to pick more than one! Thank you for taking this opportunity to share the joy of Easter.



MAUNDY THURSDAY – April 9

Service, 7:00 p.m.

Holy Thursday worship will focus on a reenactment of the last Supper by members of the congregation, with an opportunity for everyone in attendance to participate in Holy Communion.

Good Friday – April 10

Service 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday worship will include a reading of the stations of the cross accompanied by the extinguishing of candles, until the service ends in darkness—signifying the darkness that covers the world when Jesus Christ is in the tomb.



(In addition to our Good Friday service mentioned above, Trinity Episcopal Church invites everyone to participate in the Stations of the Cross walk through downtown Staunton, beginning 11:00 a.m. at Woodrow Wilson Birthplace.)

EASTER — April 12

Morning Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to the greatest celebration of the Christian year!

PALM SUNDAY— April 5

(10:30 Parade through downtown, begins at Trinity Episcopal Church)

Morning Worship Service 11:00

EASTER OFFERING

- + What shall I give during Lent?
- + How shall I celebrate the wonderful victory of Easter?



Order Your Easter Lilies

Easter Lilies are a beautiful part of our Easter celebration! Member and friends who wish to do so may order them in honor or memory of loved ones. Please provide the requested information and submit to the Church Office **no later than Monday, April 6**

Cost: \$12

Name of person ordering _____ Total Lilies ordered _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

To the Glory of God

Given by (wording for bulletin) _____



WANTED:

Members (and friends) who knit, crochet, sew, do artwork, woodworking, or other craft work—to make items for the Fall Festival to be held on Saturday, September 26.

The Festival will include a Silent Auction, and we invite your various donations of new and like-new items, as well as gift certificates for services, etc.

This new fundraising venture for Central is sponsored by the Finance Committee. Now is a good time to get started on those crafts and collecting donations. Please contact the Church Office or Donna Huffer with any questions.

Additional information will be given in upcoming newsletters and bulletins.

*Single
Mingle*

Sunday, April 19

Lunch following Worship

(Boston Beanery)

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

BUY THE USUAL

(groceries, gasoline, pharmacy)

& GIVE to Central at the same time?

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. No catch.



It's like this: Members of Central's congregation may register (we'll tell you how) 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 add additional amounts.

Now back at the Kroger office: The total monies for cards that are purchased by the Church and all funds that are "loaded" or added to 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.

Central's Finance Committee and Church Council approved our application to this program. We'll let you know as soon as we've been accepted and will announce registration dates (several successive Sundays). At that time you may sign up and pay the up-front fee of \$5. We'll order the cards and distribute them when they arrive. And you'll be ready to buy—and give!

Funds raised through this program will benefit our Fellowship Fund and the Food Pantry.

By the way, we're checking for any similar programs at other local stores, and will let you know if other programs may be workable.



YOUNG ADULT BREAKFAST POTLUCK

**Sunday, April 5
9:30 a.m.**

All Young Adults are Invited!

IMMIGRATION RETREAT SCHEDULED

"Sitting on the Fence: The Church and Immigration," a retreat sponsored by the Virginia Chapter of the Methodist Federation for Social Action, will be held April 17-18 at Camp Highroad in Middleburg. The retreat will provide insight and theological reflection about local, state and national issues of immigration. The retreat begins Friday, April 17 with registration at 4:30 p.m. and concludes Saturday at 3 p.m. The cost for the event is \$100, which includes room, meals and registration, plus a student rate of \$75 and a commuter rate of \$50. Register by April 2 with your name, address, e-mail and payment to: Hunter Mabry, Virginia MFSA, 2315 Davis Rd., Waynesboro, VA 22980-2011.



Quote

Anything that cools my love for Christ
is the world.

—John Wesley

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.**



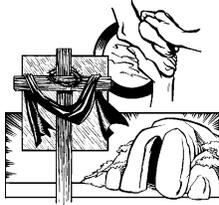
Central United Methodist Church

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