



The Central Connection

MESSAGES & OPPORTUNITIES FROM CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH TO YOU!

August 2010



What Did You Expect?

Expectations. Everyone has them. When our expectations are not met, we feel everything from disappointment to anger. It seems we all have a personal sense of what is supposed to happen and how other people are supposed to act. Sometimes, in reaction, we work hard to try to get people to act the way we think they should, or punish them because they don't measure up to our standards.

Expectations are not bad in themselves, but we need to test them to see if they are realistic or unrealistic. For example, because my grandfather and father were both able to fix anything, build houses, paint, do plumbing

and electrical repairs, weld, thread pipes, fix lawnmowers, and on and on, I initially expected that all men would be able to do those things. Imagine my surprise when my expectations weren't met! I felt they were reasonable, but obviously they were not.

Often our expectations are shaped by our families, our backgrounds and our personal experience—but they are not always realistic. And it can be disillusioning when they are not met.

In our spiritual journeys disillusionment can be a time for growth. After all, we don't want to have illusions: An illusion is not reality or truth. Rather than getting angry when our expectations aren't met, we can ask ourselves: Is what I'm expecting realistic, or am I living under an illusion of how other people ought to be? Of how the church ought to be? Of how governmental leaders ought to be? Of how my spouse or child or parent should be? (We do well to get rid of "shoulds" and "oughts".)

When the church does not meet our expectations, when a spouse or a child does not measure up, when a supervisor isn't as responsible as he or she "should" be, when the repair person does a lousy job and charges too much—these are all opportunities to check our expectations to see if they are realistic or unrealistic, and then decide how to respond.

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were both able to fix anything...
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(Continued on next page)

What Did You Expect? continued

Maybe we need to respond by changing our expectations. Why do we expect sinful people to be less than sinful, for example? Why do we expect people not to be greedy or selfish,

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broken or in bondage? Jesus knew what was in our hearts, and how we all needed to be rescued from sin and alienation from God, ourselves and others. Even Christians, who love Jesus and seek to serve God faithfully, are not wholly restored to the image of Christ. We can encourage one another to live into wholeness, but we aren't there yet.

We love, not because we unflinchingly meet each other's expectations, but because we are loved and forgiven by God.

The full version of the Serenity Prayer, by Reinhold Niebuhr helps us live realistically and with spiritual health:

God, grant me serenity to accept the things (people too) I cannot change,
courage to change the things I can (mostly myself)
and wisdom to know the difference,
living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time,
accepting hardship as a pathway to peace,
taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it,
trusting that You will make all things right if I surrender to Your will,
so that I may be reasonably happy in this life
and supremely happy with You forever in the next. Amen.

–Amen. Pastor Stephanie

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 D. Michael Houff
Pastor Stephanie M. Sault
Pastoral Assistant Daniel K. Purdom
Retired Missionary Professor Hunter P. Mabry
Retired Pastor David D. Reed
Professor MBC Kenneth A. Beals
Minister of Music/Organist Sherry von Oeyen
Church Secretary Agnes Campbell
Custodian Janet Nuckoles



TAIZÉ WORSHIP

Wednesday, Aug. 4

&

Wednesday, Aug. 18

7:30 p.m.

- ▶ Hear the Scriptures
- ▶ Silence as we let the Scripture speak to us
- ▶ Singing of prayers, choruses, hymns
- ▶ Times for prayer

Please contact Pastor Stephanie with any questions. All are invited to the services.



TWO KINDS OF CHURCHES



The anonymous wit who wrote the following words was no doubt a bit excessive, but many may think he has made some astute observations. He wrote:

A live church has parking problems; a dead church has lots of empty spaces.

A live church will have changing programs and ministries for service. A dead church says, "We've always done it that way."

A live church has lots of noisy children and youth; a dead church is very quiet.

A live church's expenses often exceed income; a dead church has enough money to maintain its existence...but barely.

A live church supports missions enthusiastically; a dead church keeps its money at home.

A live church moves out in faith and takes risks; a dead church lives totally by sight.

A live church welcomes new people into leadership; a dead church is cold to new people.

A live church is filled with tithers; a dead church is filled with tippers.



- ◆ On behalf of the Cohasset Appalachia Service Project, thank you for once again letting us stay overnight in your church on our trip to Appalachia. As many times as some of us go, we can't always be exactly sure what to expect as to the places, jobs and people we deal with in Appalachia. The nervousness is certainly helped, though, by the constant of your familiar and comfortable facilities. We really appreciate it. See you next year. –Tom Callahan
- ◆ The Volunteers in Mission Team from northeastern PA thank you for letting us spend the night "camping" in your facility. We took a walk around town and were impressed by the cleanliness of your streets and sidewalks. We are returning from a week in Centerville, TN where we helped reconstruct 5 homes of people flooded out by the May 1st & 2nd heavy rains. We are all volunteers and we thank you for your part in this outreach mission. Please know that your kindness is appreciated. –Bill Beebe & Team
- ◆ Thanks to Ed Smith for meeting these groups (June 26 and July 17, respectively) and helping them get settled in for the night. Thanks, members of our church family, for providing this wonderful facility for ministry!

STAUNTON MUSIC FESTIVAL

SUMMER SOUNDS

August 20–28



A number of the concerts of this festival are being held in Central's Sanctuary. Please check a poster, brochure, or the website [stauntonmusicfestival.com] for the full schedule, works, musicians, and costs of those concerts/activities requiring tickets.

The lunch-time concerts (see our calendar in this newsletter) are free and all are welcome!



NEW DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

Please welcome our new District Superintendent, The Rev. Dr. D. Michael Houff, and his wife, Joy.

Dr. Houff became the District Superintendent as of July 1, 2010. He comes to the District from First UMC in Salem, where he has served since 1999. Prior to that he was appointed in Springfield, Warrenton, Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, Newport News, and as a student pastor in Elkton, Staunton, Middlebrook and Swoope.

Dr. Houff has an undergraduate degree from Randolph-Macon College, did his master's work at Eastern Mennonite and Wesley Seminaries, and has a Doctor of Ministry degree from Boston University School of Theology. He is currently on the Conference Board of Church and Society and formerly was a member of the Board of Ordained Ministry.

Everyone is invited to a Welcoming Service and Reception Sunday, August 8, 3:00–5:00 p.m. at St. Paul's UMC, Shutterlee Mill Road.

A DEDICATED LIFE

Many years ago, a young man from Scotland named Peter Milne became a missionary to the people of New Hebrides. He gave his all to the people on behalf of Christ. Finally, Christ called him home. When he died, the people he had served so lovingly and faithfully put up a headstone with his name on it. Beneath his name were inscribed the words:



“When he came, there was no light;
when he died, there was no darkness.”

—Copied

APPORTIONMENTS 101: MINISTERIAL EDUCATION FUND

What is it?

Men and women choose the ministry because God calls them. The Ministerial Education Fund is our way of helping them answer that divine call. Our United Methodist seminaries lead the way in the effort to proclaim God's word in a world that needs that message desperately. Partnering with the local church to help men and women answer God's call, our seminaries are crucial to the future of The United Methodist Church.

How the Fund Works

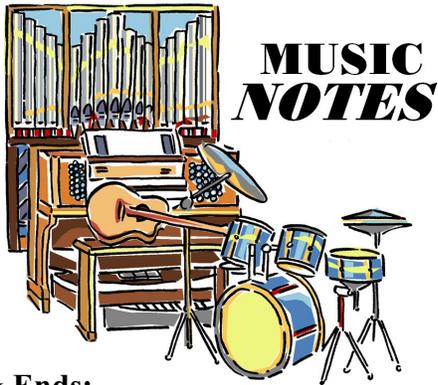
The Ministerial Education Fund is supported by a general church apportionment. Twenty-five percent remains in the annual conference and is used for scholarships, continuing education and other programs developed by conference boards of ordained and diaconal ministry. Seventy-five percent supports the 13 United Methodist seminaries and ministerial education programs carried out by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry Division of Ordained Ministry, according to the formula in *The Book of Discipline*.

Through the Ministerial Education Fund, we:

- enable our churches to unify and expand financial support for the recruitment and education of our future pastors and bishops; and
- equip our annual conferences to meet the increased needs of people in the ministry.

The 13 United Methodist Seminaries:

- Boston University School of Theology, Boston
- Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta
- Claremont School of Theology, Claremont, CA
- Drew University, The Theological School, Madison, NJ
- Duke University, The Divinity School, Durham, NC
- Gammon Theological Seminary, Atlanta
- Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, IL
- Iliff School of Theology, Denver
- Methodist Theological School in Ohio, Delaware, OH
- Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas
- St. Paul School of Theology, Kansas City, MO
- United Theological Seminary, Dayton, OH
- Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, DC



Odds & Ends:

- # The Organ Fund, was established several years ago to provide support for the soon-to-be-needed re-leathering and special cleaning of the organ. We have a fine instrument and want to keep it in good shape for years and decades to come. All donations will be very helpful and very much appreciated. And, of course, the organist will be very grateful!
- # Regular Chancel Choir rehearsals resume Thursday, Sept. 2. Please join us. It's a very rewarding way to serve God and the church. If you love to sing, choir is the place for you. You are very welcome!
- # Handbell Choir rehearsals begin on Wednesday, Sept. 8. Since Virginia True is moving away, we need a new ringer to take her place. You do not need handbell experience to join, but it's helpful if you read music a little, particularly rhythm.
- # Speaking of rhythm—on Saturday, Sept. 18, your Music Director will offer a “Rhythm Workshop” in the Fellowship Hall. This is especially for handbell ringers, but absolutely open for other choir members or anyone else who would be interested. I really encourage you all to come. Be prepared to be up and moving around, and expect to have fun! More info later.
- # Chancel Choir members—Please mark your calendar NOW for our Christmas Music Retreat on Saturday, Oct. 23, at Massanetta Springs. This is always so enjoyable with singing and fellowship and the pleasure of being at Massanetta. I really hope all of you will come.

Enjoy the rest of the summer. Start each day with a new song!

—Sherry von Oeyen, Director of Music Ministries

Hunter Mabry has volunteered to update our e-mail list to help enhance communications. Would you please send him an e-mail showing your current e-mail address—and include your name if it isn't obvious in the address! (We might not know which one of you is the “beachcomber” or “soccerfan”!) If you have more than one address for your household, please include addresses for each member. Thank you!

You can e-mail Hunter at:

hmabry@gmail.com



NEW ADDRESS DIRECTORY

Central's latest Address Directory is available in the Gathering Room and Church Office. Be sure to pick up a copy.

Please contact the Church Office if any changes are needed in your listing in the directory.

Thanks for helping us stay in touch!



Lectionary Readings

August 1

Hosea 11:1-11
Psalm 107:1-9, 43 (UMH 830)
Colossians 3:1-11
Luke 12:13-21

August 8

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20
Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23 (UMH 783)
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Luke 12:32-40

August 15

Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19 (UMH 801)
Hebrews 11:29—12:2
Luke 12:49-56

August 22

Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6 (UMH 794)
Hebrews 12:18-29
Luke 13:10-17

August 29

Jeremiah 2:4-13
Psalm 81:1, 10-16 (UMH 803)
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16
Luke 14:1, 7-14



UMM 5th Sunday Fund Raiser Luncheon

August 29

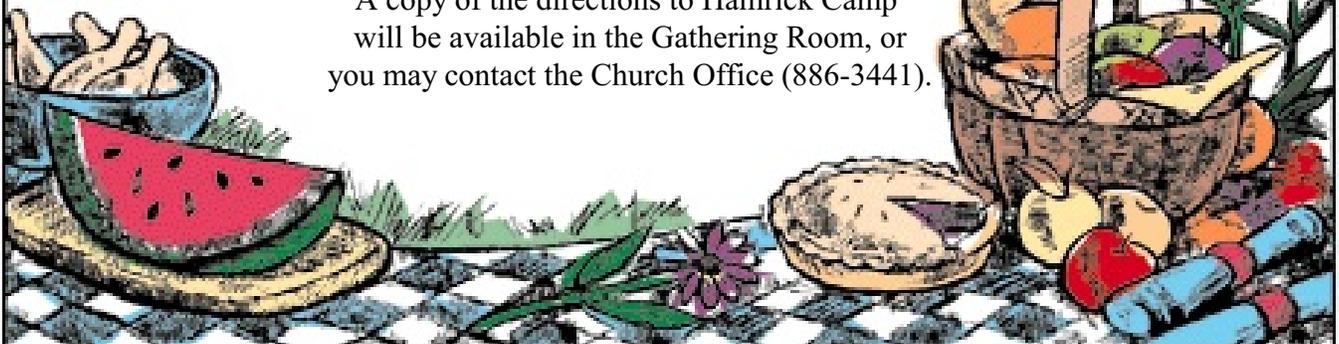
Please invite a friend or two to join you for worship and lunch. Menu to be announced—but you can be sure it will be something delicious!

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC Saturday, September 11 — 1:00 – 4:30 Hamrick Camp

Please bring:

- your favorite picnic foods
- lawn chairs
- a neighbor or friend

Tableware, drinks, and fried chicken will be provided.
Please come and enjoy an afternoon of good food, fun and fellowship.
A copy of the directions to Hamrick Camp will be available in the Gathering Room, or you may contact the Church Office (886-3441).



FREE INDEED

By Luz M. de Tablan

When we were still in the Philippines, every 4th of July we took our two sons to celebrate Independence Day in a park called Luneta. This park is in the heart of the City of Manila; and every year we had a parade of beauty queens, marching bands, mini carnival rides, big fancy fireworks, and a Thanksgiving prayer officiated by both Catholic priests and Protestant ministers. There's a monument in the park honoring our national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal. Two guards in full military uniform are on duty 24 hours a day all year round. The changing of the guard ceremony, patterned after that of the Buckingham Palace in London, takes place every two hours; and thousands of people, tourists and natives alike, come to view and enjoy this ceremony. It is also a tradition that our President places a flower wreath to honor our hero and to commemorate the day of freedom.

As we enjoyed the celebration with our boys, we'd explain how our forefathers fought to defend our freedom so that our country would be "the land of the free." Dr. Jose Rizal fought, not by might, but by his "pen". His two famous books that exposed the tyranny and oppression of the Spaniards against the Filipinos are: "Noli Me Tangere" (Touch Me Not) and "El Felibusterismo" (The Filibuster). For more than three hundred years Spain dominated the Philippines, and his books helped spur the Philippine Revolution of 1896.

Children must know how freedom is won, so they will not take for granted the lives that were lost and will be able to cherish the victory that was won. We have to instill in their young minds how our Founding Fathers bravely fought to defend our country to see that our people will be "FREE INDEED."

A country's independence may be won by waging war or presenting a mighty display of power; but true liberty and justice for all can only be found by obeying the truths of the Word of God—the Bible. Being free from sin has an everlasting effect on people, and is beyond comparison to the "here and now" temporal geo-political freedoms we enjoy.

When my family immigrated to the United States, our children were given more opportunity to experience the truth that our forefathers were strongly influenced by the Bible when they established our Constitution, Bill of Rights, and justice system. Our trip to Washington Dc showed us that America is really the "Land of the Free." Our nation's dependence on the Word of God was displayed openly in all government buildings. Psalm 16:1 says: "Preserve me, O God: for in Thee do I

trust." The Supreme Court displays the Ten Commandments, affirming that American laws were founded on the laws of God. The world-renowned Statue of Liberty symbolizes the freedom that Americans cherish and seek to share with the oppressed around the globe. The Lady of Liberty seems to say, "I will guide your way to freedom, come and enter into the 'land of the free.'"

The United Methodist Women are called the "Modern Day Freedom Fighters and Champions," because of the works they do to help the children, youth and women of the world to:

- ease their pain and suffering
- liberate from exploitation and human trafficking
- provide equal opportunities to education, training and health care
- champion social and racial justice
- advocate for the oppressed, left-behind children
- provide adequate food, clean water and sanitation
- provide safe and affordable shelter
- work to alleviate poverty

The United Methodist Women's mission community challenges the evils of the world and strives to recreate and transform today's world through the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Freedom from sin, though, is yours for the asking because Jesus Christ has already done the work and paid the price. Ask for His forgiveness and He will break your bondage to sin, and you can say: "FREE INDEED."



SEASONS

by Anita Jackson, Lay Leader

So, we are in the middle of summer or is it just about over? Depends on our perspective. Hard to believe it but, it feels like it was just the other day that we were awaiting those times when the days were longer and we would have more time to do all of those things that we haven't been able to get to. One of my favorite songs is Cole Porter's "Summer Time" as sung by Sam Cooke. The song begins, "Summer time and the living is easy. Fish are jumping and the cotton is high."

Has your summer been like that? If it has been easy give me a call. This time of year certainly calls for a different life style. It seems like only a few months ago that we were digging out from one snow storm after another. Driving around was a simple adventure. Now it is so hot, and we are worried about staying cool and cutting the grass or not because it is so dry. On the upside there is watermelon, ice cream and fire flies. However, next month we will begin to settle back into a different season with a different life style.

The great thing about living where we do is that we do have four seasons which are distinguished by differences which affect our life styles from the way we dress to what we actually eat. There should be one constant in all of this, and that constant is our relationship with God. Our faithfulness or commitment should not be dependent on anything because His love for us is unconditional. So, there are some things that remain the same while the seasons change and challenge all of us. Do we remain the same? Do we forget about what is important and really matters because we are caught up in the activities of the season?

I am preparing for a visit to one of my favorite places on earth, Peaks of Otter. This will not include the normal hike because of knee problems. The real purpose for me is to take the time and opportunity to connect with God in the midst of His splendor. I know I will feel better during and after my visit there. How blessed we are that we can experience God in this and every season with all of our senses and our hearts. Just being there not walking but seeing, smelling, feeling and touching all put me in touch with the Creator in a special place. Where is your favorite place to encounter the Creator? Please take the time to experience it while the weather is cooperative. You may not have to go out of your neighborhood or your home. I encourage to you visit that special "Holy Place" to experience God in His splendor. It will bring you to an added and oft-times needed closeness to Him.

Meanwhile, what do you think of my special place? I will share it with you..





Central United Methodist Church

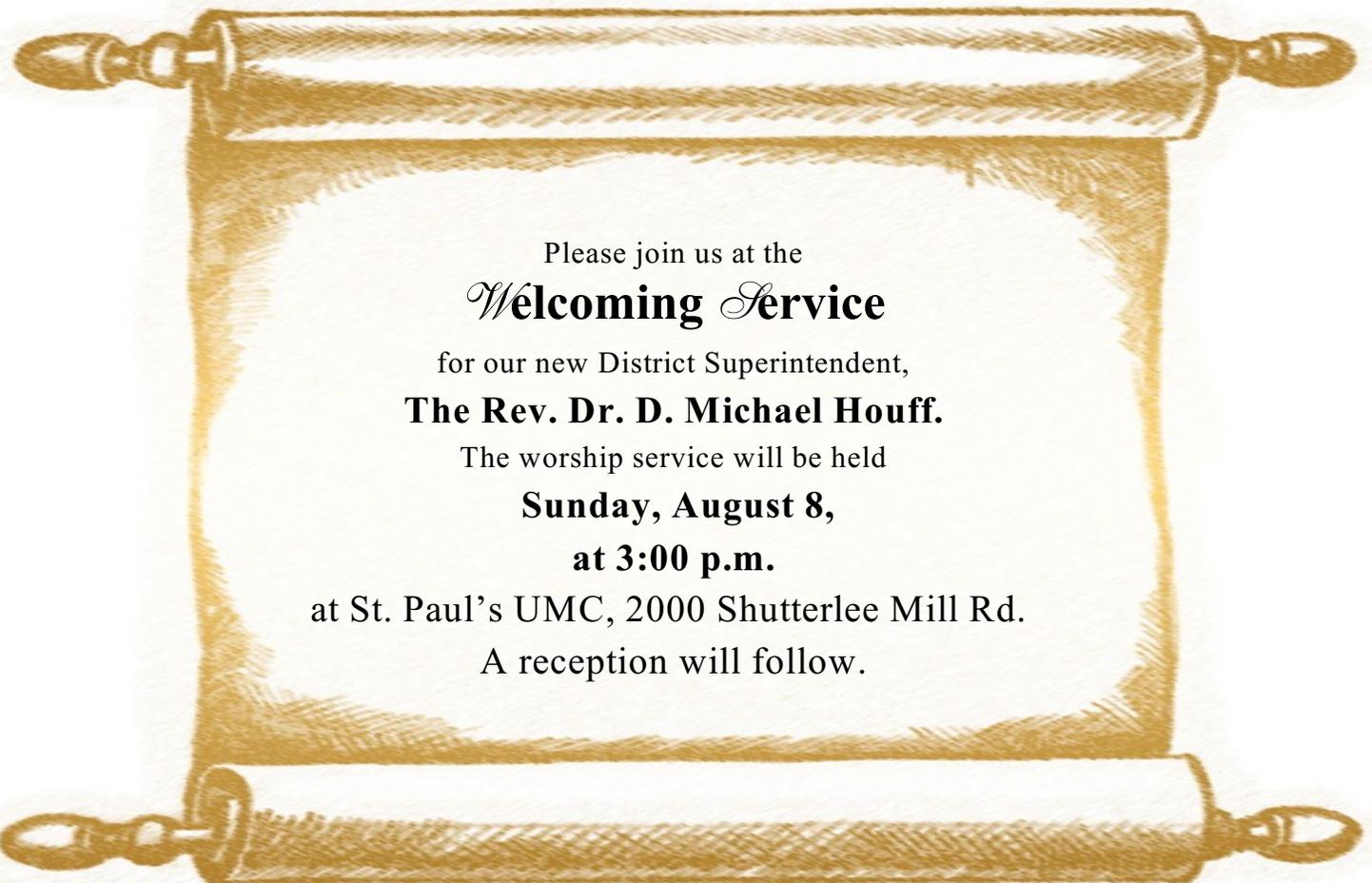
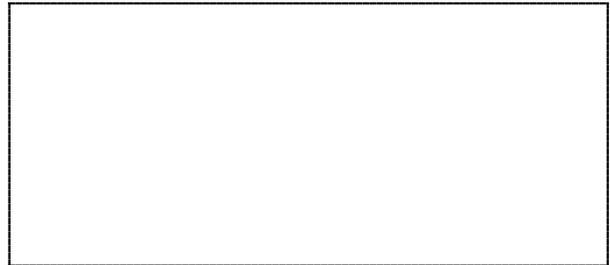
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August 2010

Return Service Requested



Please join us at the

Welcoming Service

for our new District Superintendent,

The Rev. Dr. D. Michael Houff.

The worship service will be held

Sunday, August 8,

at 3:00 p.m.

at St. Paul's UMC, 2000 Shutterlee Mill Rd.

A reception will follow.