CENTRAL UMC

# The Central Connection

## -Messages and Opportunities-

## January, 2012

## *A New Year Prayer*

*by Pastor Stephanie*

This Edition


- Pastors Message/New Years Prayer
- Music Notes
- Office Remodel Pictures
- The Flower Calendar
- Lectionary Readings
- WTON/Rotary Club Radio-thon Results
- Birthday List/Single Mingle, Song Corner
- Blue Ridge Area Food Bank and Centrals Food Pantry Statistics
- Calendar
- Volunteer Chart
- Children's Page (Not Online)


***As far as resolutions go, in many ways you are the same person on January 1, 2012 that you were on December 31, 2011. Before you gather up your will power and say, "This year things will be different!" remember that God doesn't always make things different, but God can make us different when we spend time with God.***

It is hard to start over. The past clings to us—regrets follow us—guilt troubles us. It is hard to draw the line in the sand and step over it into new life.

With the beginning of a new calendar year, we often want things to go differently this year. I hear people say, "2011 (pick a year) wasn't a good year for me." They hope 2012 will be a better year, as if time comes in 12 month packages.

A Christian practice, an examination of conscience, allows us each to begin again daily, so we can live with more freedom and joy. At the end of each day, enter God's presence and reflect on the day, noticing where we resisted God's love, ignored God's leading, or affirmed God's grace. We view our day in the light of God's truth and love: we confess and are forgiven; we rejoice and are at peace. We can rest.

In this way, we can begin again, freshly renewed by God's abundant grace. We can dare to believe we are truly forgiven, and then we dare to live as forgiven people—without the burden of a whole year of guilt. We can learn to distinguish between true guilt (a violation of God's laws or God's love) and guilt feelings (learned or imposed feelings that arise when we have been blamed or shamed). God takes care of the guilt; we can reject the guilt feelings as being false representations of who we are.

As far as resolutions go, in many ways you are the same person on January 1, 2012 that you were on December 31, 2011. Before you gather up your will power and say, "This year things will be different!" remember that God doesn't always make things different, but God can make us different when we spend time with God. We all have ways we would like to be better: be encouraged because "the One who began a good work in you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ." Phil. 1:6

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# Prayer for the New Year

**Creative God, you make all things new in heaven and on earth.**
**We come to you in a new year with new desires and old fears,**
**new decisions and old controversies,**
**new dreams and old weaknesses.**
**Because you are a God of hope,**
**we know that you create all the possibilities of the future.**
**Because you are a God of love,**
**we know that you forgive all the mistakes of the past.**
**Because you are God of the new creation, you are making us new in Christ.**
**We enter your gates with thanksgiving and praise,**
**we come into your presence with gladness and a joyful noise,**
**and we serve and bless you. Amen.**

(adapted from Maren C. Tirabassi)

## Come Take a Look at the Church Office...

# Music Notes From Your Director

# Happy New Year!

## WE NEED YOU!

**Come Join the Choir!!!!!**

**We need more singers, especially sopranos and altos, however all are welcome. The church choir adds so much to**

**the atmosphere of the worship service. Please consider using your gift to bless the congregation.**

### Psalm 95

[1]O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

[2]Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

[3]For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

### Psalm 96

[1]O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

[2]Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.

**Rehearsals are every Thursday from 7:00-8:30 P.M.**

**Call Sherry at 886-2952 or just come to rehearsal, we would love to have you.**

# The Flower Calendar

Placing flowers on the altar for our worship service can be done:

* **In honor of a loved one**
* **In memory of a loved one**
* **In appreciation of a person or persons**
* **Just because you desire to honor God**

If you would like to add to the beauty and significance of our worship service, you will find a flower calendar in the South Narthex. Please choose any available Sunday and write your name and phone number on the line. You will be contacted by Sandra Clemmer. Or you may call Sandra ( 885-5453) or the church office.

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## THANK YOU

### Nurture Ministry Team

The Nurture Ministry team would like to thank all the church members who helped make the Christmas dinner a success. We appreciate all the hard work and wonderful food that was prepared.

### A resolution for the New Year

Let us resolve; First to attain the grace of silence; Second to deem all fault-finding that does no good a sin and to resolve when we are happy ourselves not to poison the atmosphere for our neighbors by calling on them to remark every painful and disagreeable feature of their daily life. Third to practice the grace and virtue of praise.

-Harriet Beecher-Stowe

# Lectionary Readings D

# JANUARY

| Sunday– 1st | Sunday-8th | Sunday-15th | Sunday-22nd | Sunday 29th |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Isaiah 61:10-62:3 | Genesis 1:1-5 | 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20) | Jonah 3:1-5, 10 | Deut. 18:15-20 |
| Psalm 148 | Psalm 29 | Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 | Psalm 62:5-12 | Psalm 111 |
| Galatians 4:4-7 | Acts 19:1-7 | 1 Cor. 6:12-20 | 1 Cor.7:29-31 | 1 Cor. 8:1-13 |
| Luke 2:22-40 | Mark 1:4-11 | John 1:43-51 | Mark 1:14-20 | Mark 1:21-28 |

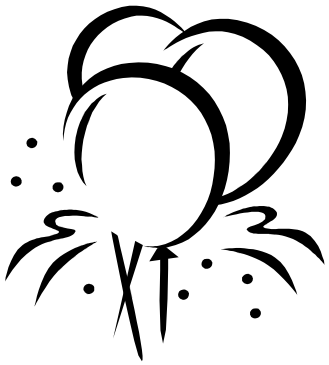
## 2012 WTON /Staunton Rotary Club Radio-thon

A great big thank you from the Staunton Rotary Club/WTON for the generous support during the radio-thon this year. Doug Noland & Benham Black represented the Staunton Rotary Club/WTON Children's Christmas Party Radio-thon on November 29, and with your generous support raised $1220.00 towards the $22,000.00 total amount. It wouldn't have been possible without your help. Many families will benefit from donations this Christmas.

## In Ministry

General Ministers……302
Pastor…….....Stephanie M. Sault
Minister of Music/organist….....Sherry von Oeyen
Church Secretary…….Dana F. Wade
Child's Play Director……Jo Ann 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

# January Birthdays



4 Richard Hamrick, Jr.

8 Michael Melton, Jason Helmick

14 Mary Ann Shoemaker

16 Sandra Clemmer, Ronald Jones, Allen True

18 Milicent Brubeck, Beth Cobb

20 Jim Printy

24 Agnes Campbell

26 Thelma DePriest

28 Mark Marshall

29 Susan Shover

31 Neal Noland III

**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.

# Single Mingle

## Sunday, January 8

## Lunch Following Worship

## (Mrs. Rowes)

All single adults are invited to join the group for a meal with great conversation, and laughter. Invite a friend for Worship and Lunch!

## Song Corner

### *How He Loves*

(David Crowder Band)

He is jealous for me, loves like a hurricane I am a tree, bending beneath the weight of His wind and mercy. When all of a sudden I am unaware of His afflictions eclipsed by glory; And I realize just how beautiful You are and how great Your affections are for me. And oh…. how He loves us so, oh how He loves us, how He loves us so.

He loves us oh how He loves us , oh how He loves us, oh how He loves……..

And we are His portion and He is our prize, drawn to redemption by the grace in His eyes. If His grace is an ocean we're all sinking. Then heaven meets earth like an unforeseen kiss and my heart turns violently inside of my chest, I don't have time to maintain these regrets when I think about…...the way…...He loves….. oh how He Loves, Oh how He loves, Oh how He loves!

**http://youtu.be/TWgeUrD4MHI**

# BLUE RIDGE AREA FOOD BANK

The Blue Ridge Area Food Bank reports they are preparing for cuts in federal nutrition programs, some of which supply 25% of the most nutritious food we distribute. Even more alarming is the significant drop in donations from major food manufacturers. New technology has allowed them to become more efficient and produce less excess inventory. As a result, we're losing 2 million pounds of donated food this year. All the while, request for help continue to mount. Today, we're feeding a record 103,000 people each month.

-Lawrence M. Zippin, Chief Executive Officer

## Central's Food Pantry

**OCTOBER-** we served 197 individuals from 83 households, including 67 children

**NOVEMBER-** we served 261 individuals from 114 households, including 88 children

Janet, Anita and Sandra (above)

Wanda, Bobbie, & Caroline

Bob & Augusta Markley ( middle)

***Central United Methodist Church***
Lewis Street at Beverley
Post Office Box 953
Staunton, Va. 24402-0953

**Return Service Requested**

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**Paid**
Staunton, VA
24401
Permit No. 93

January
2012

*Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.*

Martin Luther King, Jr.

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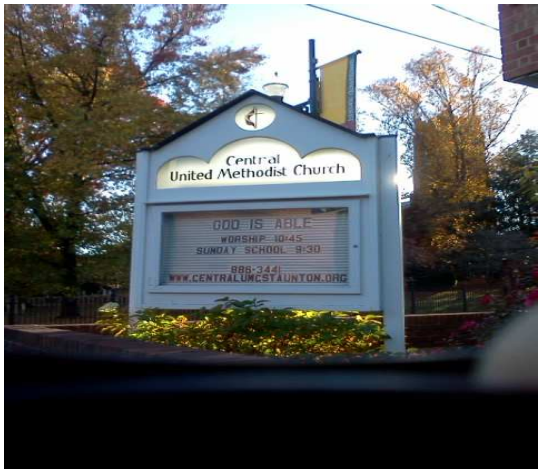
### *The Central Connection*

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