



# The Central Connection

MESSAGES & OPPORTUNITIES FROM CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH TO YOU!

July 2009



At Annual Conference we usually hear thought-provoking speakers and preachers who each year urge congregations to try new things, whether different music or additional ministries with the poor. Sometimes it seems they are giving us “answers” or programs that we are supposed to take back to our local churches and implement.

This year Dr. Gil Rendle encouraged us to begin asking the right questions, instead of trying to solve problems. An example would be to ask “Are we doing the right things?” instead of asking “Are we doing things right?” The first question connects us with God, as we discern God’s purpose for our congregation. The second too often connects us with those in the congregation who complain when “things aren’t done the right way”—which usually means the way things have *always* been done.

What are the appropriate questions for the saints at Central to ask?

**If God wrote our congregation  
a letter. . .  
what would it say?**

Here are some suggestions:

- What is the fundamental purpose of the church?
- What scriptures are foundational to our understanding of what a congregation is supposed to be and do?
- What difference is a congregation supposed to make in the lives of its members and in its surrounding community?
- How is God active in the world today?
- What is the purpose of our congregation in God’s eyes?
- Who are we? Who is our neighbor? Why are we here?
- What does God want to do through us?
- If God wrote our congregation a letter, what would it say?
- What is the ultimate aim we’re trying to achieve? How will we know when we’ve accomplished that?

I believe that it is in prayerfully struggling with the questions, that we discover God’s answers, God’s guidance, and God’s best for his church and for the community.

In Christian love, Pastor Stephanie

# Single Mingle

**Sunday, July 12**  
**Lunch following Worship**  
(T-Bone Tooter, Churchville)

**Thursday, July 30**  
**Dinner at Ming Garden Restaurant**  
Waynesboro  
*To carpool, meet at 5:30 p.m. at the entrance to Wal-Mark parking lot, row #5.*

**All single adults are invited!**

## FOOD PANTRY NEEDS



Thanks to everyone who's contributed to and helped with the Food Pantry ministry. It's going quite well—just ask any of our volunteers!

Current needs include:

- Jelly
- Hash
- Chili
- Beef Stew
- Canned Spaghetti
- Ramen Noodles
- Bath Soap
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Dish Detergent
- Bathroom Tissue

## BULLETIN BLOOPERS

“The congregations is asked to remain seated until the end of the recession.”  
—via Rev. Harry Mahoney, Dedham, MA

“Father Ed is trying to arrange a sabbatical for himself. If you wish to be married or buried soon, please make an appointment with him.”

—from *The Joyful Noiseletter*, June-July 2009



The Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 provides for persons 70½ and older in 2009 to make contributions up to \$100,000 from a Traditional or Roth IRA to qualified charitable organizations, without having to pay federal income taxes on the **direct transfer**. This is a

wonderful opportunity for special gifts. Donors should ask the custodian or trustee of the IRA for more information, or contact Jim Printy, Chairperson of Central's Endowment Committee.

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

Mailing address: P. O. Box 953  
Staunton, VA 24402

Telephone: (540) 886-3441

FAX: (540) 886-5771

e-mail: [centralumc@centralumcstaunton.org](mailto:centralumc@centralumcstaunton.org)

[www.centralumcstaunton.org](http://www.centralumcstaunton.org)

**The Central Connection** Editor: Agnes Campbell

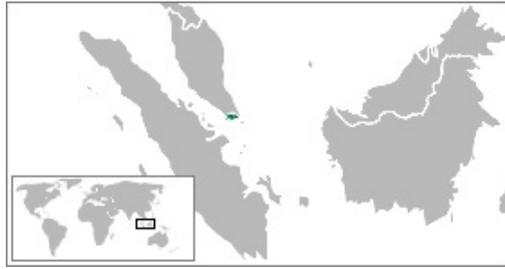
## IN MINISTRY

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
Retired Missionary Professor. . . . .	Hunter P. Mabry
Professor MBC. . . . .	Kenneth A. Beals
Minister of Music/Organist. . . . .	Sherry von Oeyen
Church Secretary. . . . .	Agnes Campbell
Custodian. . . . .	Janet Nuckoles

## DONNA'S PARTING NOTE

Malaysia is a peninsula that juts out into the Pacific Ocean. It lies below China, bordered by Thailand to the north and Indonesia to the south. The country has 25 million inhabitants who are a mixture of Malaysian, Chinese, Indian, and Polynesian. Because of its location at the crossroads of the world, the country has attracted people from all over to form an international community.



Singapore, city-country, is located at the tip of the Malaysian peninsula. It grew as a result of British rule, international commerce (pirates!) and the tropical climate. It



A view of downtown Singapore

became its own country in 1965, separating itself from the mainland. Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Christianity all flourish there. I recently read that there are 25 United Methodist Churches on the island. Most of the services are in Chinese!

Steve's company, Invista, has a lycra plant that Steve helped assemble and equip with machines designed by his lab. They have asked him to help solve some problems the plant has developed, and so we are traveling to Singapore. We hope this will be an interesting adventure. Although it is sad to leave our friends at Central, we believe the church will continue to push forward into the future. We expect Christ to transform the congregation into active disciples who will reach out to the community, broadening the mission of the church. I hope you will volunteer to be a part of that transformation. While I may be in Singapore, my heart will be with you at Central.

Donna Huffer

### **“GOD BE WITH YOU ‘TILL WE MEET AGAIN”**

We send Steve and Donna Huffer with our love and prayers, as they leave us to begin living in Singapore this July. Steve and Donna joined Central UMC in January of 1993 and have freely shared their multiple gifts with us during their 16 years of ministry here. In addition, Donna has devoted herself to the church as Lay Assistant to the Pastor for the last 3 years. They will be sorely missed—but we ask God's blessing on them for health, safe travel, and new opportunities to share Christ. They will be away from us for about a year, and we will miss them.



## Make the Vision Plain

The local unit of Central United Methodist Women has been continuously interpreting the mission work and PURPOSE of the United Methodist Women abroad and at home, in the City of Staunton. Through our organization we were able to carry on our mission service in response to the need of the people around us. Through our financial support and hands-on projects and services, we “make the vision plain.” We are hoping that the people we serve can see and feel that the hands of Jesus are the ones at work with them and it’s only realized through us.

At our unit meeting on June 9, 2009, Ann Spotts invited two volunteers from SACRA as our guest speakers: Mrs. Julia Boward and Mrs. Sue Obenschain. They spoke about the services done by SACRA for the needy and poor people of the city, providing them goods and financial support to ease their financial difficulty. The volunteers of the organization work hard to see that their needs are met. They encouraged churches and other organizations like the United Methodist Women, to give more support to SACRA so no family will be left unattended. As a sign of our gratitude to our speakers our unit gave a financial gift to our two guests in support of SACRA; this gift was aside from our regular support.

On June 11, 2009, we served dinner to the volunteers of Augusta Free Clinic. The food and drinks provided by our United Methodist Women were good for 25-30 volunteers. I want to say thank you to all of them especially to Eleanor Andrews and Caroline Jones who had put all things together in behalf of our Unit. The Central United Methodist Women are really in the forefront of mission service and trying to “make the vision plain.”

Luz de Tablan  
UMW President



summer  
music  
notes

Congregational singing is the heart and soul of worship. The choir's primary ministry is to support congregational singing. The choirs in our church, singers and ringers, also offer special music during the service; the organ, piano, and other instruments also contribute to the service. But the congregation is the main choir, singing hymns, psalms, songs and responses. Often people remember the music they sing at church for their lifetimes, partly because of the repetition but also because putting words to music make for easier recollection. This is true from young childhood in many learning areas. Remember the "ABC" song?

To encourage our congregation to feel more like the "big choir", the Chancel Choir (initially through the summer weeks) will sit amidst the congregation during the services. Special music during the summer will be provided by soloists and other arrangements. I hope you enjoy sometimes having a choir member next to you so you may feel more comfortable singing out with joy! I remember a little quip from long ago. It said "God respects me when I work, but He loves me when I sing!"

From Psalm 147 and 149:

Praise the Lord!

How good it is to sing praises to our God;

for He is gracious,

and a song of praise is fitting...

Sing to the Lord a new song,

His praise in the assembly of the faithful.

Sherry von Oeyen  
Minister of Music and Organist



# Central United Methodist Church

Lewis Street at Beverley  
Post Office Box 953  
Staunton, Virginia 24402-0953  
www.centralumcstaunton.org

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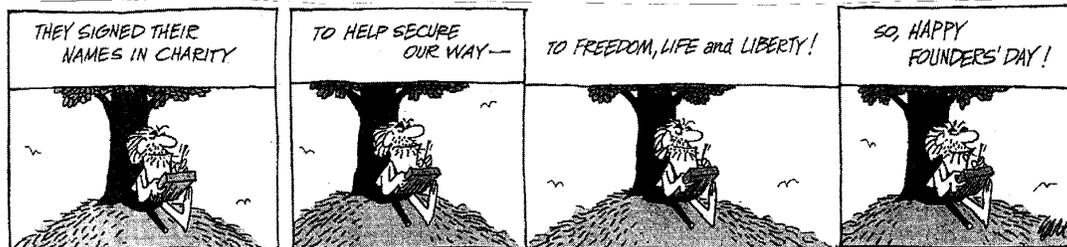
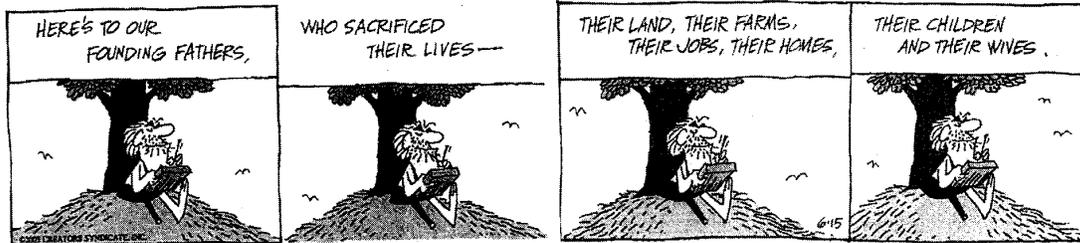
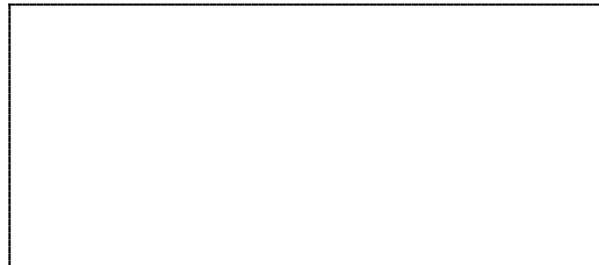
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# July 2009

C = Connections; H = Heritage Room; FH = Fellowship

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
[Church Custodian on Vacation July 6-12]			1 10:00 Food Pantry 10:30 QiGong (FH)  6 pm Women's NA 7 pm Charge Conf.	2   7 pm NA	3 Church Office Closed  8:15 pm NA	4   6:30 pm NA
5 9:30 am Sun. School 11 am Worship	6 9:30 Staff Meeting  5 pm Weight Watcher	7  7 pm Endowment	8 10:00 Food Pantry 10:30 QiGong (FH)  6 pm Women's NA 7 pm Finance (C)	9  7 pm Mission/Out. 7 pm NA	10  8:15 pm NA	11  6:30 pm NA
12 9:30 am Sun. School 11 am Worship  Single Mingle	13 9:30 Staff Meeting  5 pm Weight Watcher	14  6:30 pm WE CARE	15 10:00 Food Pantry 10:30 QiGong (FH)  6 pm Women's NA	16  7 pm NA	17  8:15 pm NA	18  6:30 pm NA
19 9:30 am Sun. School 11 am Worship	20 9:30 Staff Meeting  5 pm Weight Watcher	21  6:30 pm WE CARE	22 10:00 Food Pantry 10:30 QiGong (FH)  6 pm Women's NA	23  7 pm Staff/Parish 7 pm NA	24  8:15 pm NA	25  6:30 pm NA
26 9:30 am Sun. School 11 am Worship	27 9:30 Staff Meeting  5 pm Weight Watcher	28  7 pm Church Council	29 10:00 Food Pantry 10:30 QiGong (FH)  6 pm Women's NA	30  6pm Single Mingle 7 pm NA	31  8:15 pm NA	