



The Central Connection

MESSAGES & OPPORTUNITIES FROM CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH TO YOU!

May 2010

The Church — for the World

Erwin McManus, pastor of Mosaic—which is a Christian fellowship in Los Angeles, CA—wrote: “We somehow think that the Church is here for us; we forget that we are the Church, and we’re here for the world.”

What do you think of that statement? It certainly got me thinking.

I was raised thinking that we “go to church”—to worship, to pray, to sing, to learn—then we get to go home. The church was a place where we met with God and other people. We went to get something—reassurance, inspiration, peace or forgiveness—and to give something—money, time, service. Once we’d gone to church, we were “filled up” for a while, until the needle was on empty again. Like going to the gas station.

Is “The church is here for us,” so we can get through another week?

But what if we are the Church? The Bible says all the people who follow Jesus become parts of his Body, an organic union with the Head, who is Christ. We then live as the presence of Christ in the world. The life that is in Christ is lived through us—imperfectly but visibly. We are here to tell others of



God’s love, to demonstrate that love in compassionate service, and to bring healing and hope to a broken world. We’re here to help persons experience

God’s reconciling grace: to receive forgiveness and new life. We, as the church, are here to invite others to be part of the Body, to live under the gracious rule of Christ. We’re here to show that there is another way to live, defined by radical love, not violence.

We hope more and more people will place their trust in God, will follow Jesus, and will live the Spirit’s life in the Kingdom.

“We are the Church, and we’re here for the world.” Without denying that gathering together as God’s people in worship, prayer and fellowship is spiritually nurturing and sustaining, we hope more and more people will discover the Church is not a filling station, but people in constant communion with God (through spiritual practices), living out of the power of God’s life-giving Spirit every day, in order to make Jesus Christ real in the world which Christ died to save.

Then when we are “in church,” we will have something to celebrate.

Pastor Stephanie

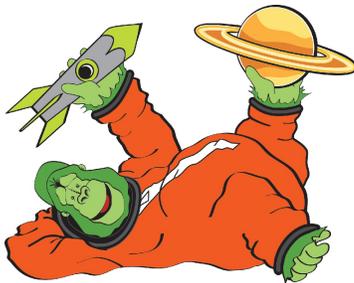
DEADLINES FOR MAY



Bulletin – The usual deadline for our Sunday bulletin is noon each Wednesday. However, the Church Secretary will be on vacation May 13-19. So, **the deadline for May 16 bulletin is 10:00 a.m. May 12.**

Deadline for May 23 bulletin is 10:00 a.m. on May 20.

Newsletter – The usual deadline is the 3rd Friday of each month, and this will be the case for the June newsletter as well. Your announcements and articles are welcomed—by email, attachment, or written. Please be sure to give all the necessary details, because (as one person was heard to say) “We sure don’t want to miss anything!” Thanks!



GALACTIC BLAST!

Vacation Bible School

June 21 - 23
9:00–11:30 a.m.

Please mark your calendars and set aside this special time for your preschool children to learn (and be reminded) of some very special parts of God’s amazing creation.

For questions or registration, please contact Dan Purdom.



Rev. Kathleen Overby Webster is completing her ministry in the Staunton District where she has served as District Superintendent for the past seven years. You are invited to a celebration honoring her and her husband, Rev. Harold Webster:

Sunday, June 6,

3:00—5:00 p.m.

Main Street UMC

601 W. Main St., Waynesboro

You are also invited to send letters of congratulation and greeting for the program book that is being assembled for the celebration. (These must be received no later than Friday, May 28.) They may be sent to:

The Staunton District Office
P. O. Box 1048
Fishersville, VA 22939

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
Pastoral Assistant. Daniel K. Purdom
Retired Missionary Professor. Hunter P. Mabry
Retired Minister. David D. Reed
Professor MBC. Kenneth A. Beals
Minister of Music/Organist. Sherry von Oeyen

NEW BEGINNINGS WEEKEND

Central Church held its *New Beginnings Weekend!* What a joyous and spiritually meaningful experience for all who attended. In our busy lives it is not often that we take the opportunity to spend time giving thought to our own spiritual journeys in the context of not only our church but our larger church family as well. Those who came sharing the stories of their journeys not only provided all of us attending an opportunity to reflect on our journeys, but to begin the discovery process of what hinders us from moving forward.



The success of this weekend is not something that we will be able to immediately measure, if ever. What I do know for sure is that those of us who were a part of the *New Beginnings Weekend* gained a new perspective of our faith and how we will live that out. It will be different for each of us.

Because we are keenly aware of Whose we are, our renewed journeys will be evident at Central Church.

—Anita Jackson, CUMC Lay Leader
New Beginnings Weekend Church Coordinator

The weekend was filled with plenty of good food and fellowship. Team members were from all parts of Virginia including Bumpass, Dry Fork and Troutville. Quite frankly there was nothing out of the ordinary about them except their willingness to share their stories with us. They did so in general sessions, small groups or over a group coffee. They ranged in age from better than 80 years of age to 16 years of age. Their jobs and careers spanned the spectrum from retirees to high school student and everything in between. The one thing that they had in common was a vocation to share their radical love of Christ by words and the manner in which they live their lives.

What was quite amazing was that they took a weekend out of lives which are just as busy and complex as ours to share with us their love of Christ and how that love shapes their lives. However, as they came to give, they also received as they listened to what we had to share. That sharing was from the heart whether it was a problem with one's family life or the ability to find the time in one's day to pray and to listen.

Thank You

All things worth doing are often done by a team and that is also true of the *New Beginnings Weekend*. A huge thank you is given to the following for their hard work to make sure that everything went well: Peggy Rosen, Agnes Campbell, Dan Purdom, Luz de Tablan, Esther Mabry, Caroline Jones, Susan Obaugh, UMM, UMW, Emily Morgan, Suzanne Peeler, Emily Stumb, Jim Printy, Ed Smith, and Susan Black.

Some individuals opened their homes and hearts to our guests, thereby making their presence possible. Thank you to: Ann and Tom Spotts, Suzanne Peeler, Dan Purdom, Ed Pickett, and Luz and Diony de Tablan.

Thanks, also, to those who prayed for this event, to those who helped in various other ways, and to all those who attended!

To: Central UMC
Attention: Pastor Stephanie Sault

Dear Pastor Sault: Thank you for inviting us to coordinate your "A New Beginning" Lay Witness Mission. Several months of planning and preparation were required for the mission. We



appreciate everyone's efforts and time in pulling this together... We pray that spiritual renewal and restoration was felt in the church fellowship and that a spark of greater faith was ignited for each one attending that will be carried into their daily walk of life. May God bless you and Central UMC.

—Gil and Donna Duke, General Coordinators



THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN ASSEMBLY

Shared by: Luz M. de Tablan

This year United Methodist Women Quadrennial Assembly will be held at St. Louis, Missouri, from April 30 to May 2, with its theme: “Faith, Hope and Love in Action.” Women leaders, performers and UMW members from the different states of the United States and some from other countries will be at the Assembly to grace the event. Those leaders will address plenary sessions, lead workshops and conduct “town hall” meetings; and the performers will not only entertain attendees with sacred songs and hymns, but also share and witness their faith, hope and love through their God-given talent in music.

Bishop Joaquina Nhanala, elected female Bishop of the United Methodist Church of Africa in 2008, will lead the women leaders who will be at the Assembly.

Others who will be at the Assembly include

- Judy Woodruff, a broadcast journalist and a senior correspondent at PBS, NBC and CNN who served as White House Correspondent;
- Dr. M. Joycelyn Elders, a United Methodist and a pediatrician who served as the US Surgeon General of Public Health Service in 1993 under President Clinton, first African-American to serve in the position;
- Erica L. Williams, a deputy director of Campus Progress, a project of the Center for American Progress, where she leads a staff advancing progressive policies with and for 18-27 years old across the nation.

- The Rev. Anita Phillips, a member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma and an elder in the Oklahoma Indian Missionary of the United Methodist Church. She was the executive director of the Native American Comprehensive Plan, racial-ethnic national plans within the United Methodist Church.

The performers are:

- Cece Winans, a multi-Grammy-winning Gospel singer;
- Lila Downs, born in Oaxaca, Mexico to Mixtec-cabaret singer Anita Sanchez and Allen Downs, a Scottish/English-American art professor. Ms. Downs is a graduate in voice and anthropology, and the first Mexican to perform on the Academy Awards telecast. Many of her songs address the heated topics of immigration, political justice and transformation. Her compassion and humor are always present in her music.

As Harriet Jane Olson, Women’s Division Deputy General Secretary, puts it: “Real women, real faith, real world engagement, it’s all at the Assembly!” God is active in the world today, and the United Methodist Women is part of it.

(For more info: <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umw>)

SCRIPTURAL CHRISTIANITY



Here I am: I and my Bible

I will not, I dare not,
vary from this book,
either in great things or small.

I have no power to dispense with one jot or tittle
of what is contained therein.

I am determined to be a Bible Christian,
not almost, but altogether.

Who will meet me on this ground?

Join me on this, or not at all.

—John Wesley



Lectionary Readings

May 2

Acts 11:1-18
Psalm 148 (UMH 861)
Revelation 21:1-6
John 13:31-35

May 9

Acts 16:9-15
Psalm 67 (UMH 791)
Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5
John 14:23-29

May 16 *Ascension of the Lord*

Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47 (UMH 781)
Ephesians 1:15-23
Luke 24:44-53

May 23 *Day of Pentecost*

Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104 (UMH 826)
Romans 8:14-17
John 14:8-17 (25-27)

May 30

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31
Psalm 8 (UMH 743)
Romans 5:1-5
John 16:12-15

KITS FOR CONFERENCE

Kits will be collected at our Virginia Annual Conference – June 13-16, and will be used to replenish the UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) supply. UMCOR's Sager Brown Depot reports there is a need for all types of kits. **With the situation in Haiti there is more of a demand for Health Kits and an urgent need for Birthing Kits.** Items to be included in Health Kits and Birthing Kits are listed below. A sheet giving Birthing Kit details/explanations, as well as a list of items to be included in other kits, may be picked up in the Gathering Room or the Church Office.

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 (Sager Brown will purchase in order to monitor expiration date)
\$1.00 to help with processing and shipping

BIRTHING KIT

Place these items inside a one-gallon plastic bag that can be zipped/sealed:

- 1 Hotel-size piece of soap
 - 1 Pair clean latex gloves
 - 1 Square yard clear 4 mil plastic sheeting
 - 3 Pieces clean string, each 12" long
 - 1 Single-use razor blade (wrap in paper/plastic)
 - 2 flannelette receiving blankets, ea. 1 yard.
- \$1.00 to help with processing and shipping

**EVERYONE IS INVITED
TO HELP ASSEMBLE KITS. IT'S
VERY REWARDING
& A GREAT FAMILY PROJECT!**





Central United Methodist Church

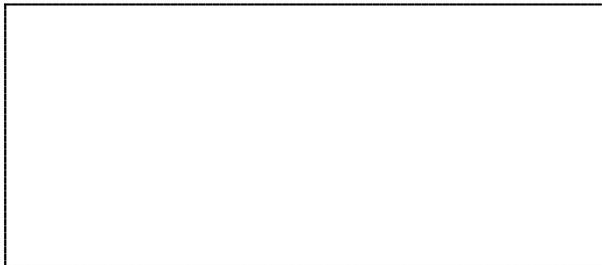
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May 2010

Return Service Requested



**New
Volunteer
List Inside!**

Special Note to the following VOLUNTEERS—
Greeters, Refreshments, Readers, Communion
Servers, Nursery and Preschool Teachers:

Please see the Volunteer Schedule in this
newsletter, which covers the period of
May 2 — July 18.

Please discard any previous schedules—this
updated Volunteer Schedule supercedes any
previous schedule.

ALL our volunteers are special!! Thank you for
your ministry.



**Church Women United
May Friendship Day – May 7**

Marquis Memorial UMC

**Registration 10:00–10:30 a.m.
Program 10:30–11:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30 Cost \$6**

Lunch Reservations by May 3: 886-0059

**All women are invited, as we work together
to transform communities and the world.**