



The Central Connection -Messages and Opportunities-

May, 2012

“Change”

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Sometime between 540 and 480 BC, Heraclitus said, “nothing endures but change.” WE all love change, right?

Even when we have chosen them, changes can be stressful and anxiety producing. The unknown often makes us a little fearful, even when the change is positive. We don't know what to expect (as if life is ever predictable!).

A change of pastors is particularly stressful, for both the pastors involved and the congregation.

Our natural response when we feel threatened by change is either 1) fight, or 2) flight. We may resist the change, and dig in our heels, or we may avoid change altogether. Christians have a third alternative however: we can choose to respond rather than react. We can operate out of faith rather than fear. We can trust God.

We can even learn to embrace God-given changes with some excitement. After all, we are constantly under the influence of the Holy Spirit, who is changing us little by little into the image of Christ. As God prompts us, we let go of old ways of thinking and behaving, and adopt new ways. Even in the church, which we may want to remain the same especially when changes in our culture seem upsetting or disturbing, God brings change. How can we celebrate God-inspired changes in our church and in our lives, without reacting with anxiety and fear?

While anxiety is a natural reaction to stressful changes which can keep us alert and open to new possibilities, too much anxiety, coupled with fear, can lead to the fight or flight responses mentioned earlier. But Jesus speaks peace to our anxiety, and reminds us that He is with us. Though all about us may change, Jesus Christ is the same today, yesterday and forever. We can grow in our ability to put our trust in God rather than trusting in the things around us that are subject to change. The peace of Christ can guard our hearts and minds, so that we are less reactive and fearful, and more able to respond faithfully and thoughtfully.

The church is a living organism and living things change. We will change, the church will change, the community will change. This is an invitation to remain actively involved in what God is doing to create God's future here at Central UMC. Jesus is the Lord of history and is moving everything toward God's new creation.

We give thanks to God for God's faithfulness in and through times of change. Think of the miraculous change in a person's life when he or she receives new spiritual life through faith in Jesus. Think of the new beginnings God makes possible. Thank God that we don't stay the same, but are part of the new thing God is bringing forth in our midst.

Change? Love it or hate it, Heraclitus was right. It's here to stay.

In Christian Love-

Pastor Stephanie

JESUS CHRIST
THE SAME
YESTERDAY
TODAY AND
FOREVER

Hebrews 13:8



The Connectional Church

This is an important year for the United Methodist Church. It's not only us at Central Church, or in the Virginia Conference, but the entire world.

The United Methodist Church's top legislative body is the General Conference, which meets every four years. The delegates from around the world set policy and direction for the church, make changes in the *Book of Discipline*, and handle other general church business. General Conference is the only entity that speaks for The United Methodist Church.

General Conference is currently meeting in Tampa, Florida, (from April 24-May 4). Ponder this: All of Methodism in one big meeting! Frankly that puts our council meeting or any of our meetings into a new perspective. I have listed the make-up of this huge meeting:

- ◆ 988 Total Delegates (Half Lay / Half Clergy)
- ◆ 606 Delegates from the US (26 from VA)
- ◆ 282 Delegates from Africa
- ◆ 42 Delegates from Europe
- ◆ 48 Delegates from the Philippines
- ◆ 10 Delegates from Concordant Churches (Caribbean & the Americas, Great Britain, Mexico, Puerto Rico)
- ◆ 1,100 Petitions (Approximate)
- ◆ 13 Legislative Committees

It takes all of the various congregations of Methodists throughout the world to make up the Church. We are bound together by our mission, *"To make disciples of Jesus Christ to transform the world"* and our common governance which enables us to go out into the world in ministry and mission. All of our congregations, whether in

Staunton, VA or Santiago, Chile are connected by the identical clergy appointment process.

Central UMC will experience that process up close and personal this year. The process is an orderly one in which a pastor who agrees to itinerate or go where she or he is sent, is appointed by the Bishop and Cabinet to a particular church or charge. There may be some consternation not only on the part of the pastor and family, but the receiving congregation as well. However, the pastoral change process works out positively for all concerned.

While we are awaiting the new pastor and preparing for the retirement of a pastor whom we have loved and who has loved us, a bit of anxiety can set in. We know whose we are but we do not know who will walk beside us on the next phase of our Central UMC journey. It is important to give ourselves time for this process to work out--as it will. Prayer and faith coupled with love for one another will get all of us through this process and we will love again and be loved. Our faith is a lifelong love relationship with Christ and each other.

Back to this General Conference! As a legislative body what are some of the issues on the agenda for this year? I have listed a few of them below.

- ◆ Elimination of guaranteed appointments for clergy as a part of the ordination process.
- ◆ Creation of a set-aside bishop who will not serve an Episcopal area.
- ◆ Consolidating 10 of the denomination's 13 general agencies into five offices that will be part of a new United Methodist Center for Connectional Mission and Ministry.

The center would have a 15-member board of directors, which will be accountable to a 45-member advisory board that will "represent the diversity and

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Make Disciples
of Jesus Christ
to Transform
the World

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
GENERAL CONFERENCE 2012 • TAMPA, FL



inclusiveness of our Church.” Under the recommendation, the consolidation will take place in two phases and be completed by 2014.

The United Methodist Board of Pension and Health Benefits is asking the denomination’s top lawmaking body to choose between two new pension options for clergy. At General Conference, the finance and administration agency’s main task will be to present a proposed whole church budget for 2013-16.

Finally, the issue of homosexual practice and church membership, participation and ordination will be addressed.

It is evident through the development of mission and ministry that the United Methodists are involved together by doing and giving, locally and worldwide. The ministries in which we participate are outlined in our weekly bulletins and monthly newsletters. For example, we have not gone to Haiti, but have supported UMC relief efforts there. Last year the birthing kits that we prepared for Annual Conference were sent to Haiti. We were a part of a global effort to end Malaria through the “Nothing but Nets” movement. Central has also embraced our local community through the ministry of the Food Pantry which we sometimes coordinate with our neighbor, Trinity Episcopal Church. Central Church is not in ministry alone. We work with others in numerous efforts because we are connected and called to serve.

As for the Virginia Annual Conference, this year we will be meeting June 22-24 in Roanoke. This will be the last time that Bishop Kammerer will preside over Virginia’s Annual Conference as she is retiring. The theme this year is “You Are the Seeds” which emphasizes fruitful and growing congregations as a goal for all of us.

Please be in prayer for General Conference, Annual Conference & Central UMC that the will of God would be accomplished on earth as it is in heaven.



Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

Matthew 6:9-13

Anita Jackson-
Lay Leader



Recently I had the pleasure of meeting of a lady by the name of Judy Kelliher. Judy is involved in the International Prayer group- "Mom's In Prayer". Her desire is to extend information and invitation to anyone who is wanting to partner with this group in praying for our schools- children, administrators, teachers, counselors, support staff etc... She describes the prayer initiative as -Praising God for Who He is, silently confessing sin, thanking God for what He has done, and interceding for our children and their schools - that's what it's all about. Scriptural, specific prayer. It's for those who have never prayed in a group, and for those who have prayed for years. For moms of preschoolers through moms of young adults. For moms with children who are walking closely with the Lord and moms wit children who are in rebellion have addictions, are depressed, etc.. We pray to the God of hope who lives forevermore, who is Faithful and True.

Below are a list of schools we know are covered in prayer through Mom's in Prayer.

Augusta County: Fort Defiance High School, S. Gordon Middle and Beverly Manor Elementary.

Staunton City: Grace Christian, 'other' (moms with college-age children), Lee High and Shelburne Middle.

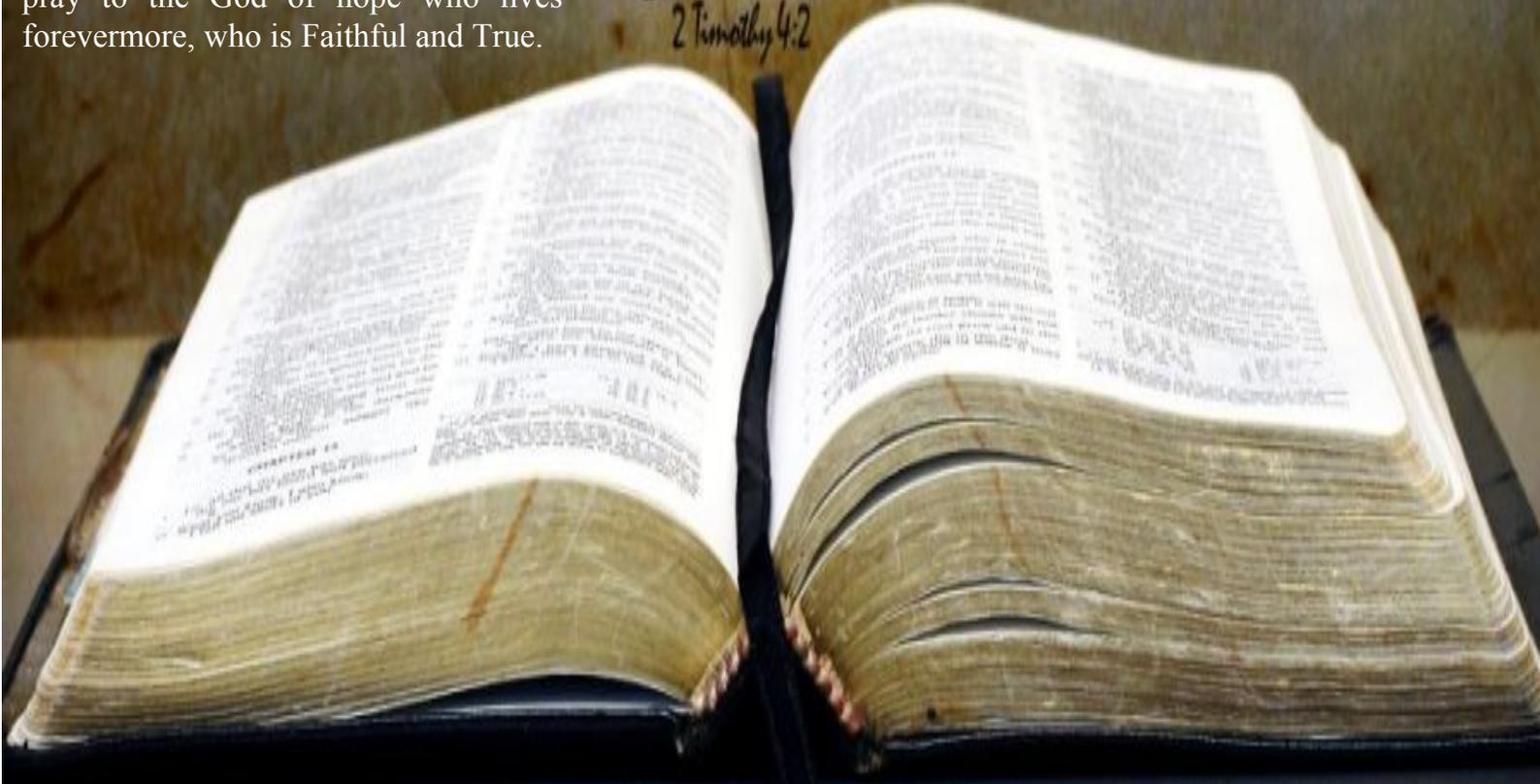
There may be other schools that have prayer groups though are not registered with MIP. Please visit the website for more information or contact Judy if you are interested.

Judy Kelliher
540-886-1253 (home)
540-294-6481 (cell)
jmk81686@yahoo.com



The website is www.momsinprayer.org

In His Service- Dana Wade





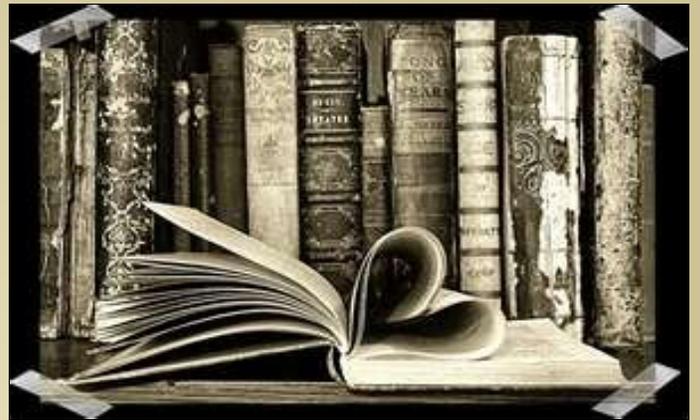
United
Methodist
Women

UMW NEWS

Several months ago in our Circle meetings we were introduced to the word Ubuntu. This Zulu term is best described as the African philosophy "I am human because you are human." We are all part of a community and what better way to experience God's presence in our lives than to engage in works of mercy for others. On June 3rd following church we will have an Ubuntu Day of Service. Enjoy a potato bar luncheon as we gather to assemble the birthing kits.

May 8th the Rebekah Circle meets at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall and 6:30 pm is the covered dish dinner meeting at Connie Davis' home. All ladies are welcomed to participate.

Ellen DeLong- President



Do you enjoy reading? The United Methodist Women have a reading program that is worth checking out.

You can find these books in several locations:

- ◇ Our Church Library
- ◇ City/County Libraries

The purpose is to encourage critical thinking about issues facing us today. Some books you may agree with and some you may not. 😊

The books are intended for both men and women. For more information- please contact

Audrey Bocock- 885-6036



**Food Pantry
Ministry**

Food Pantry News

March Food Bank Report

Total of Children Served (18 & Under)

108

Total Individuals Served (Elderly+ Children+ Adults)

255

Total Households Served

108

May Lectionary Readings

Sunday 6th

Acts 8:26-40
 Psalm 22:25-31
 1 John 4:7-21
 John 15:1-8

Sunday 13th

Acts 10:44-48
 Psalm 98
 I John 5:1-6
 John 15:9-17

Sunday 20th

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
 Psalm 1
 1 John 5:9-13
 John 17:6-19

Sunday 27th

Acts 2:1-21
 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
 Romans 8:22-27
 John 15:26-27; 16:4-15



Staff Parish Relations Committee

Invites the congregation to contribute to a gift of love and farewell for Pastor Stephanie and David. Their journey into retirement will take them to California and we hope this gift of gratitude will help defray the expense of the move. Please mark your contribution envelope "Love Gift for Pastor Stephanie".

IN MINISTRY



General Ministers.....	305
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 Pastor.....	David D. Reed
Professor MBC.....	Kenneth A. Beals
District Superintendent.....	D. Michael Houff
Resident Bishop.....	Charlene Payne Kammerer

May Birthdays



- 2 Eric Stumb
- 3 Mary Ann Mason
- 7 Erin Printy
- 9 Augusta Markley, Caitlin Shoemaker
- 10 Suzanne Peeler
- 12 Sheryl Mullenax
- 13 Evelyn Butler
- 16 Jack True
- 19 Emily Stumb
- 20 Vicki Printy, Matthew Yates
- 25 Dorothea Bradley, Margaret Helms
- 28 Rebecca Ambrogi
- 29 Martha Hamrick



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, May 20

Lunch Following Worship

(Massaki Japanese Restaurant)

All single adults are invited to join the group for a meal with great

conversation,

Invite a friend

Worship and



and laughter.

for

Lunch!



Song Corner

Your Grace is Enough

-Matt Maher Copyright

Great is Your faithfulness, O God
You wrestle with the sinner's restless heart
You lead us by still waters into mercy
And nothing can keep us apart.
So, remember Your people,
Remember Your children,
Remember Your promise, O God.
Your grace is enough.
Your grace is enough
Your grace is enough for me
Great is Your love and justice, God of Jacob
You use the weak to lead the strong
You lead us in the song of Your salvation
and all Your people sing along.
Yeah, Your grace is enough
Heaven reaches out to us,
Your grace is enough for me
God I sing your grace is enough
I'm covered in Your love
Your grace is enough for me, for me
It's enough for me.

<http://youtu.be/8wN-fspKg1Q>



Pulaski Recovery Continues

-Jim Printy

Central volunteers were recently honored to receive an invitation to the Anniversary Recognition of the Pulaski Tornado Recovery, on April 7, 2012. However, because the event fell on Easter weekend we were unable to attend. The celebration included music, food and a program to highlight the community's accomplishments in the past year. Sixty homes have been repaired, and eight new homes have been constructed. Eight additional homes are under construction, with plans to build at least three more homes during 2012. The April 7th event was held to recognize and celebrate the generous support of hundreds of volunteers. We celebrate the opportunity to express our Christian love, and ability to serve and help others.

We have scheduled a fourth trip to Pulaski on May 11 and 12, a Friday and Saturday. We presently have six people committed to the trip, but are anticipating a number of others will join us. Although most of us will be working for two days, it is an easy 2 ½ hour drive so we are encouraging members to consider joining us for the day on Saturday if you are unable to commit to two days. If you have questions please contact Jim Printy at 292-2029.

¹⁶You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you and I have appointed you [I have planted you], that you might go and bear fruit and keep on bearing, and that your fruit may be lasting [that it may remain, abide], so that whatever you ask the Father in My Name [as ^{la} presenting all that I AM], He may give it to you.

John 15:16

Music Notes



I have two special thank you's to make. First, I want to express my gratitude for the "surprise" set of chimes given as a gift to the music ministry. They will be played by the Handbell Choir and at other times by the children. What a generous gift that Ellen DeLong and the United Methodist Women presented at church on April 22. The chimes will be much appreciated and played.

Secondly, I want to thank so many of you who have contributed to the organ fund. We are now able to have the necessary work done to bring the pipe organ up to proper standards.

Xavier Wilhelmy of Staunton will do the re-leathering and major cleaning. Because of the restoration work the organ will not be played for 2-3 months during this process. Fortunately, we have a fine piano that will provide the music for our worship services during that time.

With the addition of the chimes and the up-grading of the organ, we in the music ministry look forward to every opportunity we have to minister here at Central utilizing the wonderful gifts of instruments in song.

Praise the Lord! Praise Him with singing and ringing and all sorts of instruments!

Make a joyful noise!

Sherry von Oeyen

Children's Activity Page



Puzzle



Worthy of honor

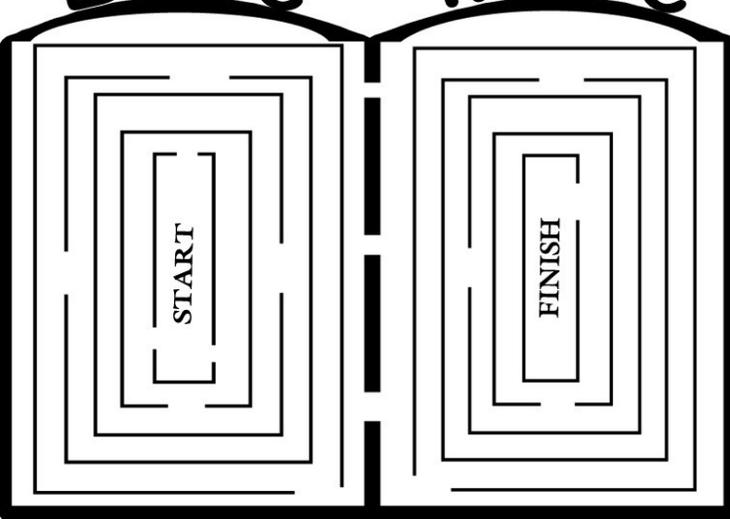
What does God mean when he commands us to honor our fathers and mothers (Exodus 20:12)?

Complete this word search to discover words that mean the same as *honor*.

admire • adore • appreciate • cherish • esteem
look up to • praise • respect • revere • value

E	S	T	E	E	M	U	H	A	L	G	Z
F	K	M	R	Q	E	X	H	P	C	C	I
N	O	L	D	U	Y	S	S	P	R	N	E
I	P	J	L	J	I	R	T	R	M	Y	R
D	X	A	S	R	K	E	J	E	Z	K	O
R	V	O	E	J	P	S	X	C	F	A	D
Z	E	H	U	R	H	P	C	I	C	D	A
V	C	V	A	Q	N	E	Y	A	P	M	G
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Z	S	X	C	R	X	T	P	E	N	R	G
E	O	X	U	Y	E	U	A	Y	O	E	H
B	R	E	O	T	P	U	K	O	O	L	Q

Bible Maze



START

FINISH

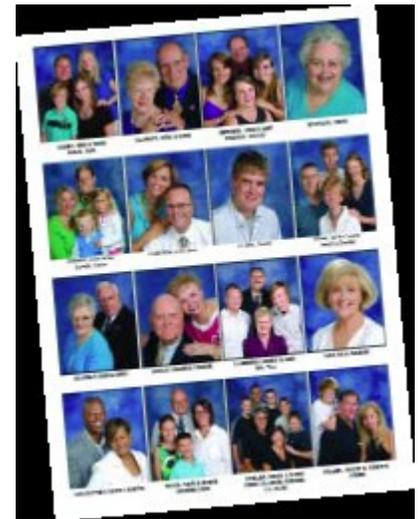


JUNE 1-2 (Family Picture Directory)

Friday Evening- 2:30-9:00 pm

Saturday- 10:00-5:00 pm

Please be a part of our new Family
Directory Program—we need YOU to
make our new family album complete!



Let's put names with faces. We have chosen to partner with Lifetouch for professional photography that will connect our members and tell our story.

In your one-hour session you will:

- Check-in
- Be professionally photographed
- Immediately view your portraits
- Have an opportunity to purchase additional portraits

Online scheduling will be available using a link on the homepage of our church website or you can call Dana in the church office and she will schedule you. Please call the church office if you have questions. 886-3441



Central United Methodist Church

Lewis Street at Beverley
Post Office Box 953
Staunton, Va. 24402-0953

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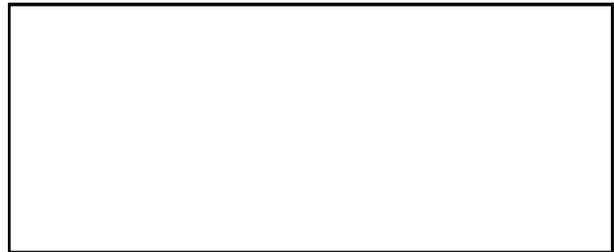
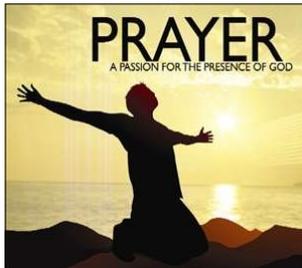
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Staunton, VA

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Permit No. 93

**MAY
2012**



¹⁴if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14

The Central Connection

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