THE CENTRAL CONNECTION

Messages and Opportunities

From
Central United Methodist Church
October, 2011

Pastor's Message

The following prayer speaks of God's presence in our lives. I hope it brings a blessing to you as it has to me.

O God, you are our refuge.
When we are exhausted by life's' efforts;
When we are bewildered by life's sorrows;
We come for refuge to you.
O God, you are our strength.
When our tasks are beyond our powers; when our temptations are too strong for us;
When duty calls for more than we have to give to it:
We come for strength to you.
O God, it is from you that all goodness comes.
It is from you that our ideals come;
It is from you that there comes to us the spur of high desire and the restraint of conscience.
It is from you that there has come the strength to resist any temptation, and to do any
good thing.
And now as we pray to you, help us to believe in your love, so that we may be certain that you will hear our prayer. Help us to believe in your power, so that we may be
certain that you are able to do for us above all that we ask or think;
Help us to believe in your wisdom, so that may be certain that you will answer, not as our ignorance asks, but as your perfect wisdom knows best.

United Methodist Women

"Joy to the World!"

"The Lord is Come!"

Although two years have passed since attending the School of Christian Mission in Blackstone, I still cannot forget the study I took on Spiritual Growth entitled: "*Joy to the World! The Lord is Come",* written by Dr. Dana Robert, for the United Methodist Women's School of Christian Mission, 2010-2011.

Dr. Robert is a professor of World Christianity and History of Mission at Boston University's School of Theology, the oldest United Methodist Seminary in the United States. I took the study because I was curious to know about this seemingly ordinary Christmas song. Based on research by Dr. Robert, the message of this carol should not stop at Christmas Day, and its deeper message is not solely about a baby, but about the fundamental changes His birth brought into the world.

Scriptures tell us that Jesus came to bring abundant life in place of human limitations, brokenness, and death (John 10:10). This truth inspires our global Christian mission. I decided to share it with you, because we Christians carry this message with us wherever we go as living witnesses to the belief that "God is with us."

Dr. Robert notes that "Joy to the World," is not only a Christmas carol written by Isaac Watts in 1819, but it is a shout of celebration that tells every creature that God is ultimately in charge, because "the Lord is come." Isaac Watts writes that even the earth celebrates God's presence, as "fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy." The passage is also a glorious affirmation of Christian hope, and the beginning of Christian mission which is our response to the Good News that God is present in Jesus Christ who came into the world with a message of forgiveness, joy, and hope for all God's creation.

Dr. Robert said that our "proof" of God's presence is the life and ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the coming of the Holy Spirit. So in God's name, we go into the world to share the Good News. She also mentioned that when we, as the United

Methodist sing, "Joy to the World! The Lord is Come! We also declare that we are in mission.

2

We are witnesses to the promises of forgiveness and wholeness that came into the world through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Although life is full of pain and brokenness, the Good News tells us that these are not the final answers to human destiny. As followers of Jesus, we live in the joy of God's presence in our lives and in confident hope of life eternal. Mission and evangelism take place in human history between the first coming of Jesus and the fulfillment of the final Revelation vision:

9 ...After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. 10 They cried out in a loud voice, saying,' Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!' Revelations 7:9-10

Today, according to Dr. Dana, more than at any other time in human history, people from different cultures and nations are followers of Jesus Christ. The scriptures show us that there are many ways of participating in mission. The earliest followers of Jesus Christ proclaimed the Gospel to the world, witnessed through lives of love and holiness, and welcomed those who were different than themselves into the faith. United Methodists inherit the Wesleyan tradition of "free grace," the idea that God's loving presence is available to all who seek it.

The message of grace means that mission is not a matter of spreading guilt and fear but responding joyfully to God's love. The message of free grace leads us to preach salvation to individuals, to cross boundaries for the sake of forming new Christian communities, and to work for peace and justice as part of Jesus' message of the kingdom of God. As followers of Jesus we try to live out our mission in the way He did, and we invite people everywhere to join us in following Him. The United Methodist today, prayerfully practice mission in the fellowship of worldwide church in ways of hospitality, healing and reconciliation around the world which emphasize wholeness-reuniting people with God, with each other, and humanity with God's creation.

Lastly, Dr. Dana said that the transformation that we seek today is that of taking what is broken and restoring it to fullness in the light of the Good News of Jesus Christ. In unity with heaven and nature, We SING…. **Joy to the World! The Lord is Come!**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

Luz de Tablan

LAITY SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2011

Disciples Transforming the World – Through Gifts

Methodism has been a lay movement from the very beginning. The term *laity* means "of the people." The laity are all of the people of God, who serve as ministers witnessing to the work of God in individual lives and in the world. If you look at your bulletin, you will notice that there are 306 General Ministers, another name for laity. On Sunday, October 16th we will celebrate the work of the laity of Central UMC. This is a celebration of us as a community of faith living into our vision statement which is as follows:

By the grace of God, Central UMC will be a diverse faith community which welcomes all people to a growing relationship with Jesus Christ that guides their lives, and which is:

- Centered in faithful and biblical worship of God, which is open to all people
- Marked by ongoing spiritual growth as followers of Jesus Christ, through generous love for one another and engagement in the means of grace
- Characterized by moving out in compassionate witness and service to others, in the power of the Holy Spirit, in order to demonstrate and make visible God's kingdom, and to issue a gracious invitation for all to enter into new life.

The theme for Laity Sunday this year is a challenge to us to, **Transform the World Though Our Gifts**. This notion is taken from I Peter 4:10-11 which reads as follows:

"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gifts each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ."

Recently in the "Companions in Christ" class, we actually looked at our own spiritual gifts though the eyes of our classmates. Each individual listened as others explained what was discerned to be our own spiritual gifts. It was a humbling experience to listen deeply to what Christian friends see as one's own gifts. Even more important is what happens when one internalizes or reconciles with God what was learned in such an exercise.

Examples of Spiritual Gifts include administration, apostleship, compassion, discernment, wisdom, faith, helping, hospitality and more than I can list. In fact the Paul's listing of the gifts of the spirit can be found in Romans 12:6-8; 1Corinthians 12:4-11; 12:27-31 and Ephesians 4:11-12.It needs to be clear that these gifts of the Holy Spirit are possessed by all who are in Christ. We use our gifts not only as a part of the church community or as we worship, but we demonstrate Christ in the world that we are in by using our spiritual gifts. Central Church has been Christ's presence in this community and beyond because of the gifts that each of us has and willingly shares. Our gifts are not for us, but are to be used by us to share Jesus Christ and His Glory with the world..

Recently in our Missions Sunday service, Caroline Jones, Jim Printy and The Rev. Ken Beals not only exemplified their spiritual gifts, but shared with us enthusiastically how they used them to transform the world. What was interesting is that each of them has shown the face of God in different parts of the world. Caroline has used her gifts of compassion and faith in Central's food pantry. Jim Printy uses his gifts of leadership and helping to lead mission trips to Pulaski, VA. Finally, it is clear that Rev. Beals used his gifts of apostleship and exhortation in his visit to Guatemala.

All of us did not go to Guatemala or Pulaski, nor do all of us work in the food pantry. However, as a community we enable those events to occur. There are those who contribute to the food pantry in so many ways, from supplying the bags that are so badly needed, to the food and personal items that may or may not have been requested. Others who were not able to go to Pulaski did send or volunteer equipment. I am really sure of the prayers that went to Guatemala with the Beals.

More importantly, when we follow God's call, we use our spiritual gifts. The smallest things that we do for others regardless of where they are in this world can not only make a difference, but show others the true face of God.

We all have spiritual gifts as a part of this community of faith. On October 16th we will celebrate our collective spiritual gifts that have enabled us to transform the world.

-Anita Jack

This year's ***Child's Play Program*** began Tuesday, September 13. We are excited to have eleven wonderful children and three great teachers. New teachers this year include, Mrs. Suzanne Noto and Mrs. Katelyn C. Wright. Suzanne attends Central United Methodist Church and brings her twins with her to the program. Mrs. Katelyn C. Wright lives in Weyers Cave, and is a junior at Mary Baldwin College studying Sociology. Finally, Mrs. Jo Ann Black, a member of Central, continues in her role as Director/ teacher.

You may remember Child's Play began in 1992 with two of our mothers as teachers. It has continued as an outreach to parents in our church and community as a safe, loving environment for toddlers. It allows children the opportunity to begin relating to peers and to become sensitive to the feelings of others. While the emphasis is on free play, the curriculum also includes stories, music, games, and crafts: Children enjoy learning shapes, colors, nursery rhymes and Bible verses. A blessing is given before snack and lunch.

We are thankful to Central United Methodist Church for continuing their sponsorship of ***Child's Play***. If you happen to be at Central on a Tuesday or Thursday morning, feel free to wave to us from the doorway.

JoAnn Black,

October Birthdays

6	Jackie Beals
8	Bill Bushman
8	Matt Porter
9	Carol Borrell
11	Elizabeth Coltrane
11	Amy Purdom
12	Paul Obaugh
13	Susan Obaugh
13	Scott Schuler
14	Betty Barr
14	Donna Huffer
16	Virginia Ludwig
17	Bonnie Ralston
18	Eugene Blackmer
18	Bette Herr
19	Theran Garner
22	Gladora Grant
25	Robert Bailey
30	Janet Nuckoles
30	Arthur Reid, Jr.
30	Kathy Sensabaugh
31	Vincent Ennis, Jr.
31	Kirby Purdom

May God Bless Your Special

Single Mingle

Lunch
Time & Place

Lunch
Time & Place

Sunday, October 9
Lunch following Worship
(Red Lobster)

All single adults are invited to join the group for a delicious meal and some great conversation,
with a few laughs thrown in!
Please invite a friend to join you for

How Great is Our God

The splendor of a king, clothed in majesty, let all the earth rejoice
He wraps Himself in light, and darkness tries to hide, and trembles at His voice
How great is our God, sing with me
How great is our God, and ALL will see how great, how great is our God.
Age to age, He stands, and time is in His hands, beginning and the end.
The Godhead, three in one,
Father, Spirit, Son, the lion and the lamb.
The lion and the lamb!
Name above all names, worthy of our praise, my

LECTIONARY READINGS

LECTIONARY READINGS

October 2
Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
Psalm 19
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

October 9
Exodus 32:1-14
Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

October16
Exodus 33: 12-23
Psalm 99
1Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

October 23
Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
1Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 22:1-12

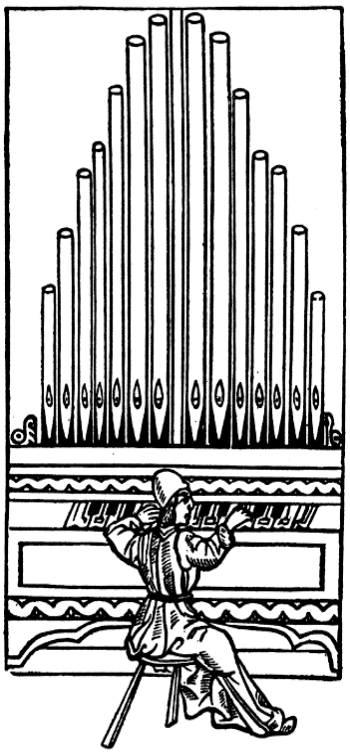
October 30
Joshua 3:7-17
Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
1Thessalonians 2:9-13

Psalm 139:1-18

O LORD, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue,
O LORD, you know it completely.
You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.
Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.
If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night',
even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.
For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.
My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.
In your book were written
all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.
How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!

Matthew 23:1-12

"Why Our Pipe Organ Needs More Repairs"



We want to try to clear up some misunderstandings about some repair work needed on our pipe organ.

Our organ was installed in the Church in the early 1920's. It was built by M. P. Moller of Hagerstown, MD. In the 1960's, the organ needed major repairs. Mark Wetzel of Waynesboro rebuilt the organ using the best of the existing pipe work, added some additional pipes (we now have probably thousands of pipes), a new wind chest, and a new relay. Some thirty years later the relay and console began to wear out, thus the repairs were made in 1992 & 1993.

This means only PART of the organ was rebuilt at this time. The relay was replaced in 1992 and the console (where the organist sits) was rebuilt in 1993. The wind chests swell shade pneumatics, and blow leather strips were patched. The way air is produced was changed from a mechanical system to electro-pneumatic system. There are many, many other parts that make up a complete organ..

In 2009, Xavier Wilhelmy, local organ maintenance firm completed repairs to the pipes, which included straightening the pipes and repairing holes in the pipes. Sherry has noticed recently that several notes on the organ aren't playing or have a weak sound. At the last tuning in July, the organ tuner, Mr. Wilhelmy, said, "This is occurring because of deteriorated leather seals and decades of dust and dirt inside them". We now need to get the air to the pipes through all the leather devices which are deteriorating rapidly

As you can see, many repairs have been made to PARTS of the organ, but we haven't replaced the leathers since the 1960's. We have been patching and band-aiding the leathers, but we have not replaced them. All the information we have gathered about pipe organs stresses the importance of replacing the leathers at least every 40 years. Now is the time to replace them.

This repair includes: The wind chest, blow leather strips, swell shade pneumatics, and leather valves in the pipes. It has been estimated that this will cost around $35,000.

We have a very fine organ that has served our church for many years. Once repaired it will have a good sound and bring musical diversity for the church services here. Your organist feels very fortunate to have such a fine instrumplay. The organ is the "king of instruments" and in its glorious way helps lift our voices, hearts and minds up to our everlasting Lord and Savior.

Con't

If you would like to contribute to this much needed project, just write on the envelope "ORGAN FUND". Don't forget the organ concert on Sunday, October 16 at 4:00 p.m. Larry Taylor, guest organist from Bridgewater College, is presenting this concert gratis. Our offering to be collected will all go toward the "ORGAN FUND."

We hope this article helps to clear up any questions you may have about our organ.
Thank you so very much.

Ed Smith
Ch., Board of Trustees

Sherry Von Oyeon
Organist

Stewardship

"Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this, Says the LORD of hosts, If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.". Malachi 3:10

Do you feel an obligation to tithe? Many people give their tithes out of a sense of duty or as a debt owed to God rather than out of a true understanding of tithing: giving thanks for what they have been given.

God asks that we give our gifts where we are spiritually fed. Many of us receiving this newsletter have chosen Central United Methodist Church to be God's storehouse for our lives. As we begin this season of harvest and thanksgiving and prepare for next year's needs through our giving campaign, please remember the

church and be generous to God as He has been generous to us. Instead of trying to calculate how much money the church needs to sustain itself, let us try to think how we can reflect our gratitude in our gifts. Thoughts about stewardship will be shared in worship starting Sunday, October 9th and will culminate with a luncheon on Sunday, October 30th.

-Josh Gutshall

Make a Scary Snack–

EDIBLE SPIDERS!

They may sound creepy, but these snacks are yummy.

Here's what you need:

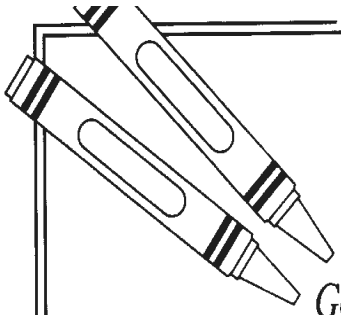
- round crackers
- peanut butter

(Caution!: If you're allergic to nuts, you can use marshmallow cream instead of peanut butter.)

- chocolate chips
- mini-pretzel sticks
- knife

How to make them:

1. Check with a grown-up before you start.
2. Take one round cracker and spread peanut butter (or marshmallow) on it.
3. Push 8 pretzel sticks into the peanut butter. These are the "legs."



Just for KIDS

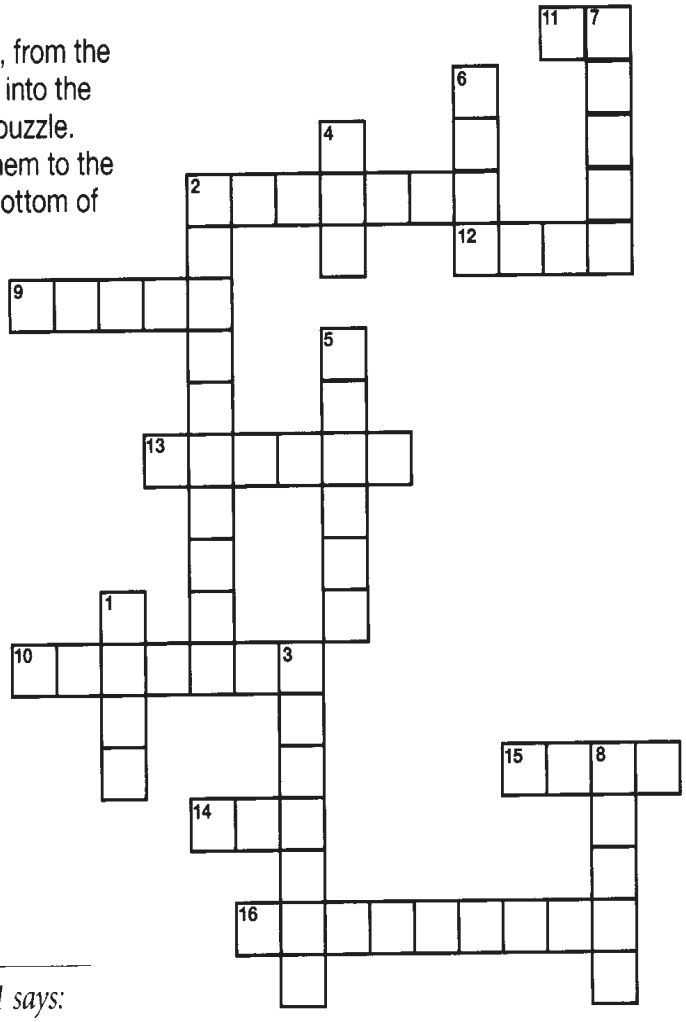
God Does Wonderful Things!

October is a season of change. God causes all things to change for his purpose. Find out some other things God does.

Fit these words, from the Book of Daniel, into the squares of the puzzle. Then transfer them to the blanks on the bottom of the page.

Word List

up
God
his
ever
sets
wise
name
power
times
kings
praise
wisdom
changes
seasons
deposes
knowledge
discerning



Daniel 2:20-21 says:

"_____ (13→) be to the _____ (1↓) of _____ (4↓) for _____ (12→) and _____ (12→); _____ (5↓) and _____ (7↓) are _____ (14→). He _____ (10→) _____ (8↓) and _____ (3↓);

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

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
Paid
Staunton, VA
24401
Permit No. 93

October 2011

Return Service Requested

Our Mission:

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ,

for the Transformation of the World!

The Central Connection
is the monthly newsletter
of **Central United Methodist Church**

IN MINISTRY

Pastor……Stephanie M. Sault