

Lent
2015

Lenten Luncheons Schedule

February 18
Ash Wednesday Service
Noon
@ Central

February 25
@ Marquis Memorial
1611 W. Beverly Street
Guest Speaker (GS): John Benson

March 4
@ Central
14 N. Lewis Street
GS: Janet Knott

March 11
@ St. Paul
2000 Shutterlee Mill Road
GS: Bob Sharp

March 18
@ Jollivue
551 Lee Jackson Highway
GS: Bryson Smith

March 25
@ Augusta Street
325 N. Augusta Street
GS: Taylor Mertins

April 2
@ Central
Christian Seder Meal
6:30 PM (Sign-up)

April 3
Cross Walk
@ Jollivue
11:00AM - 7:00 PM
551 Lee Jackson Highway

SonRise Service
April 5
Service - 6:30 AM
Breakfast - 7:15 AM
@ St. Paul
2000 Shutterlee Mill Road

Connections Newsletter

Central UMC

February-March, 2015

Opening Central's Indoor Playground



Date: Saturday, February 28th, 11:30 AM
Bring: Children, Youth, and Friends of Central

In the cold long winter many of us were busy renovating the old third floor of our Central Church to transform it into an indoor playground for our children/youth and their friends.

This was only possible because of a generous donation from the discontinued Child's Play program. However, it gave birth to a new, never-done-before program - an indoor playground for our children and youth.

Thank God for blessing Central for its part in building His kingdom here at Staunton!



New Year's Resolutions!

Did you make any resolutions this year? We often make resolutions that have to do with our physical health....eating fewer sweets, eating healthier, exercising more....Or maybe resolutions to improve our financial well being... save more, keep to a budget, don't make frivolous purchases. But do we consider making resolutions regarding our spiritual health?

For 2015, what if we would consider:

- ◆ Spending more time in prayer... praying for Central, its minister, leaders, congregation, our community
- ◆ Reading the Bible daily... joining a Bible study group or Sunday school class
- ◆ Attending church regularly
- ◆ Giving generously...of our finances, our time, our talents
- ◆ Participating in a covenant group
- ◆ Volunteering with one of Central's ministries...Agape lunches, AMP'D camp...
- ◆ Serving on a church committee/ ministry team, the choir, or other areas of church service

What could 2015 be like for each of us, for Central, for our community?

Jim Printy
Church Council Chair



Valentine's Breakfast.

Thank you to everyone who came out for the Valentine's Breakfast. We had a great turnout and had a wonderful time together. There was at least 22 of us in attendance and we enjoyed celebrating this special day with those we love. Make plans to attend next year if you did not get the opportunity this time.



Members helped with serving cookies and hot cocoa during the Christmas parade and helped with the breakfast with Santa.

Nurture planned and served a reception following the funeral of Jim Linnane.

Members on the committee helped with the Socialite dinner in January, and will assist with the February dinner.

The Nurture Team helped with the International Dinner for Stuart Hall and Mary Baldwin students in February.

Please remember to call the church office if you need a ride to the store or doctor's appointment.

Barbara Snyder and Sandra Clemmer
Co-Team Leaders

"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." *Galatians 6:2*

John Wesley's Methodist Class Meetings or Covenant Groups

The heart of Methodism during the life of John Wesley was the Methodist Class Meeting. This was a small covenant discipleship support group (accountability discipleship) where members were accountable to each other. They confessed their faults one to another, prayed for each other, and stirred up one another to love and good works. Here the teachings of the Bible were examined in light of actual personal experience. Here leaders were nurtured and equipped.

“Confess your faults one to another and pray one for another...”

“Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ...”

When Stephanie Sault was our pastor, she encouraged us to establish covenant groups, and several groups were started. One of those groups, amazingly and thankfully, still exists. Faithful Friends, includes Jim and Sandra Clemmer, Tom and Connie Davis, Jeff and Ellen DeLong, Jerry and Caroline Jones, and Jim and Vicki Printy.

We meet regularly, at least one or two times a month, in each other's homes. Occasionally we meet strictly for social reasons, but generally our meetings are focused on our spiritual growth and concerns. We have varied our discussions, at times doing book studies, DVD series, or simply

discussions about our personal issues- we all share concerns about children, grandchildren, elderly parents, and health issues.

Covenant groups normally have six to twelve members. They offer members expanding opportunities for growth, caring, connection within a congregation. Members support each other through the transitions, challenges, and joys which life brings. Groups may meet for specific time periods, 3 to 6 or more months, or may meet indefinitely.

Personally, I know how beneficial and rewarding the Faithful Friends group has been for me, and I think each member would agree. As much as we've benefited personally, I believe as a result of the covenant group we have each become more committed and more deeply involved in the life of the church. Pastor Won has expressed the desire for each member of Central to join a covenant group. I hope you will prayerfully consider Won's request.

-Jim Printy

Faithful Friends Covenant Group
Member



Central Bands (CB)

John Wesley, the founding father of the Methodist Church, was brilliant in how he organized the church. This came from years of trial and error, adopting and assimilating, and with careful balance of the works of piety and the works of mercy.

His unique adoption from the Moravian tradition was what is known as *ecclesiolae in ecclesia* which means, "little churches within the church." Over the years, church leaders and theologians learned the vital importance of the small group. The simple truth is that close bonds exist among a few friends. Even Jesus had close bonds with twelve others.

A small group contains between six and twelve people, called a cell or, as John Wesley named it, "Band". This size is personal and intimate, and one can feel close and safe in sharing oneself. The next group size has from twenty to fifty people, and John Wesley named it "Class". As the word indicates, it is a learning group, an ideal size for seminar, workshop, Sunday school, and Bible study. The next size up is one hundred-plus size. John Wesley named it "Society". This is an ideal size for worship. On a side note, Central is inching up to one hundred in worship size (and if we have three Sundays with over one hundred attending, I promised I will sing to you a hymn of your choice in Louis Armstrong Style.

My vision for Central Church is to form seven to nine Central Bands. The idea is to have each group (eight to ten members

and adding one-to-two home bounds) support its members the way good friends do for each other: prayers, study the word together, keep in touch, lend helping hands, meet regularly, dine together, go out together, and, in hard times, support in any way needed. Each Band will grow into its unique personality and that is quite all right. There are many reasons why groups may fail to continue and one of the reasons is a cookie-cutter program that comes down from the top administration. My belief is that the small group (or any other group) must be formed by a ground-up process and be willing to change as needed. Another reason why groups discontinue is because one strong personality dominates the group. Or, the group may live out its usefulness. This can happen to any group over time.

Formation of CB

1. For the next few Sundays, you will receive a blank card.
2. On this blank card, you will write down the names of your close friends (as many as you can think in Central Church).
3. You will put the card on the offering plate during the offering time.
4. Once I receive the cards, I will randomly assign you to one of the **CBs** keeping in mind your friend preferences as much as possible.
5. Once all **CBs** are formed, I will meet with each Band to listen to the group's hopes and dreams for that particular **Band**.
6. Identify one person from the **Band** as a coordinator.

CBs will have a tryout period of four meetings. After the fourth meeting, you will be allowed to change your **Band**. My hope is that **Bands** will continue for years to come and grow to love one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. I also hope and dream that every member will belong to a Central Band of your choice.

For newcomers, my thought is to profile each band (i.e., age, interest, how often they meet, what they study as a band, and such) and list it in booklet format and have it available to present to them and emphasize the importance of belonging to one of the Bands.

This is but one step closer to working me out of my job! I pray each day that it will come but not too soon because I'm having so much fun being a pastor to you folks.

On a more serious note, soon we will enter the season of Lent. Our first event was the Ash Wednesday Service at noon this past Wednesday at Central UMC. Following that are five weeks of Lenten Luncheons. I'm happy to share with you this year UMC Lenten Luncheons, have grown from five churches to eight churches! We now have added Augusta St., Jollivue, and St. Paul from our district.

Thanks to Suzanne Noto, Central Communicator, who has designed a beautiful brochure which explains the theme, schedule, and the ministry our offerings will support this year.

Thanking God each day - what fun and a privilege to serve and work with you at Central UMC. May God unceasingly bless each of us and the Central UMC's mission and ministry.

Won Un, Pastor



Music Notes....Calling All Singers and Ringers!

Our two choirs are a little small at this time due to family and health issues. I am hoping that some of you would join us for the time of Lent, Palm Sunday and Easter. You wouldn't need to commit to being a full-time choir member and hopefully you'd enjoy participating for awhile. Of course, you can always become a regular member if you decide to. But it would be helpful to have some more singers and ringers at this time.

The Chancel choir practices on Thursday evenings at 7:00 and the Handbell Choir meets on Wednesdays at 7:00. Please let me know if you can help or have questions.

Thanks, Sherry von Oeyen

(886-2952 or arveo@ntelos.net)



1 Chronicles 16:23

Sing to the LORD, all the earth;
proclaim his salvation day after day.

Psalms 13:6

I will sing the LORD's praise, for he has been good to me.

Psalms 33:3

Sing to him a new song; play skillfully,
and shout for joy.



Central United Methodist Women members wish to thank our faithful and generous congregation for its continuing support of our mission projects, which touch the lives of women and children not only close to home but also around the world.

Our 2015 mission projects are both ambitious and exciting. See how you can help:

- **Henry Fork Service Center:** The green tub has been filled and its contents will be delivered shortly. Because HFSC serves children year-round, their needs continue year-round. Please continue to donate paper towels, 13- and 19-gallon trash bags, toilet paper, and hand soap. While these items are not particularly exciting, they are a necessary part of the scaffold that supports the children who participate in HFSC programs. If you would like to support an individual on his/her birthday (every child at HFSC gets a gift on his/her birthday), simply purchase a gift (no more than \$10 in value), wrap it in birthday paper, and label it as a gift for a boy or girl of a certain age range. For example, a jewelry making set might be a great gift for a girl between the ages of 8-11. A Nerf football might be a great gift for a boy between the ages of 6-10. Put your gifts in the green tub and they will be delivered along with supplies that are collected.
- **Birthing Kits:** This year we will send 40 kits to conference. We are delighted to report that the major supplies for these kits have already been purchased. We will assemble them on June 7, 2015 – our Ubuntu Day of Service.
- **Sewing Kits:** After learning that sewing kits are in heavy demand throughout the world, Central UMW members decided to set a goal of 25 sewing kits to send to conference. Each kit requires 3 continuous yards of colorful cotton or cotton-blend fabric, a pair of fabric scissors, 8 buttons, a package of needles, and a spool of matching thread. Materials needed for these kits are fairly expensive. The proceeds from our February bake sale (“A Stitch in Time”) totaled \$306.50 and will support purchase of materials for sewing kits. Also, if individuals wish to purchase a pre-made kit, the cost is \$35.00.
- **All God’s Children Camp Scholarships:** The cost of sending one child to camp for one week is \$450. Central UMW members would like to send two children to camp this summer. We are very grateful to Beth Christian, Staunton District Director of Congregational Resources, for sharing about the All God’s Children camps (one on the James River and one on the Eastern Shore). A United Methodist initiative, All God’s Children camps offer a full camp experience to children for whom at least one parent is incarcerated. By the way, the December Cookie Walk raised nearly \$360 toward the first scholarship!

UMW members at Central and around the globe are dedicated to making a difference one life at a time, just as Jesus would have us do. Thank you for joining us in our efforts to eradicate injustice, reverse poverty, and uplift the forgotten wherever they might exist.

-Caroline Jones, President



Love is in the air at MOPS!

February began as a flurry of paper, glitter and glue as moms with little ones gathered to make Valentines for the residents at Shenandoah Nursing, which they will deliver in time for the holiday. They also made placemats for Trinity's Noon Lunch program. Our MOPS group helped Central volunteers prepare Trinity Noon Lunch food for the February 11th. The children, always such eager helpers, chopped, poured, stirred and learned that together we can do big things! The idea to help with this program came from a mother that wanted to help her child find ways to help the hungry. So we are very grateful to Central volunteers to include us in their work with the Noon Lunch Program.

Construction at Central is creating quite a buzz among mothers and children. Visitors to our Monday morning meeting were able to see firsthand the nursery expansion project. The children were fascinated to watch through the window and see the men cutting a BIG HOLE in the wall! Lots of noisy saws and drills were very exciting!! It is also a blessing to extend the invitation to help build our church's much anticipated indoor playground! The hospitality of Central

toward children and young families is very much appreciated! Eagon Hall was abuzz with fourteen children and nine mothers on January 19th, a slushy wintery day. Mothers packed bag lunches for the little ones who enjoyed a showing of "Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood" projected on the wall. They enjoyed having a warm place to ride trikes, run and play. Mothers, of course enjoyed the chance to meet each other! Word is spreading about MOPS and we are growing each month! One mother recently shared with me that while driving her son in downtown Staunton, he recognized another member and exclaimed, "Look, Mommy! There goes a mop!".

If you know of a mother with a pre-schooler who would be interested in getting to know some other moms, please let her know about our group! We love mothers, and mothers love children, and at MOPS we truly believe that together we can raise a better world! We've talked a lot about love this month. There are so many little, seemingly insignificant, maybe even mundane and sometimes exhausting acts of love we give our children each day. They will surely never remember each time we dry a tear, repair a toy, pick them back up, each mess cleaned, each mistake corrected, but they do remember the just of it. MOPS is a blessing for me and others as a place to encourage love, find encouragement in love and to nurture in love our faith in Christ, the greatest example of what love can do.



In keeping with the love theme, I'll leave you with something I shared at our February meeting. During a break in the Superbowl, my son turned to me and said "Mommy, did you know that in tennis "Love" means zero...like zero, nothing. Isn't that crazy? Because, love is everything!"

The children are getting it! Many thanks to Central and MOPS volunteers who provide a place for mothers to be nourished in love so that we have plenty left over for our children!!

Emily Stumb
MOPS Coordinator

Thank you

I am aware of the life and *Presence* of the Holy Spirit which is always with us. Recently, I have come to realize that His Presence can take on many forms. The collective prayers of my Church Family, the cards, meals, phone calls and numerous acts of kindness represent the *Presence of the Holy Spirit and love* of Christ towards me. To all of you I will be eternally grateful.

-Anita

Dear Reverend Un,

I cannot express to you how much of a difference you have made in my life, both mentally and physically. The kindness and assistance given so selflessly by you and your congregation has literally changed my life. I am truly grateful and cannot thank you enough. You have strengthened my faith and will always be a reminder to me that the love of God is all powerful. Emmi (my dog) feels the same way. :)

Blessed with love-

Laura Spivey & Emmi

Happy February from the Witness Team!!!

Each February we are reminded from the radio, TV, social media, magazines and other sources that February is the LOVE MONTH. As Christ followers, we all know that every month should be LOVE MONTH. As Christians, we are to LOVE each other because Jesus first loved us. We need to love unconditionally and be there for each other at all times.

Thanks to Suzanne Peeler, we have four teams that are visiting Central's VIPs once a month, sharing fellowship, and all the good things that are happening at Central. They offer a listening ear and comfort when needed and are sharing/showing their love by giving of their time to members of our church family that can't be with us every Sunday. Thanks so much to each of them for putting a smile on our VIPs' faces and one in their hearts. Please let Suzanne know of anyone from Central that may need a visit or a call from our "Love Team."

The Witness Team will be working with other committees and Won as we prepare for the Bishop's visit in October. We will be asking many of you to help as we start to prepare and finalize the details of this VERY SPECIAL HOMECOMING DAY at Central. Among other events that will take place that day, we will be telling/showing the history of Central on this very special Sunday. If you have important documents, pictures, or stories to share that will help tell "our story," please contact Jerry Jones, Barbara Snyder or Sybille Jobin. (There may be others as

well. We will keep you posted) How exciting our Homecoming is going to be!! Central has so very much to celebrate!

We are in the process of tweaking how we greet our guests on Sundays. We will share the process once we finalize all the details.

Please always be thinking about who you can invite to church. I am always asking friends, co-workers and others to join me on Sunday. You never know who is just waiting to be invited. If you have invited friends and others to come and, for whatever reason, they did not come, invite them again. They may be ready the second or third time you invite them. Keep inviting them!

Looking ahead, we would like to have a display Celebration of Lights in Gypsy Hill park next Christmas. Please let us know if you can help us with this outreach project.

Wow, aren't we a blessed people to be a part of such a loving church family that shows their support and love in so many ways to each other? That love and support helps to heal and touch hearts when that extra TLC is needed most.

We are indeed blessed to be part of a community of faith here at Central that see the value of loving each other and others as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her. Thank you to everyone who gives of their time, talents, gifts of financial offerings, prayers and support.

Thanks be to God,

Connie

Witness Team Leader



NEWS FROM CENTRAL VIP

ELINOR HUTCHISON - Her positive personality is a joy as is her continued interest in all the happenings at Central and her ongoing wish to be here more often! On a recent Sunday morning, she celebrated her birthday in her pew with sons, David from Washington and Mike from California.

MILLICENT BRUBECK - Celebrated her 96th birthday with a gathering of family members at the home of her daughter, Eleanor. Out of town family joined them by Skype. What a perky lady bubbling with news of Central and appreciation for the leaf raking on her lawn by Central men. They enjoyed being entertained with Cappuccino and sweets baked by her!

SALLY DRAPER - Now living at Blue Ridge Christian Home at Raphine. Situated on top of a hill, it overlooks a magnificent panorama of the Valley. It was a thrill to find her with new vision after surgery on both eyes. Happiness abounds with the location and ability to share her musical abilities and opportunities to relate to others. Her recent birthday was celebrated with a visit from her niece.

-Suzanne Peeler

Church Directory

UPDATE



The new church directory is forthcoming. We are circulating a rough draft to make sure we have the most updated telephone numbers as well as home and email addresses. Please make sure you take a moment and look over the information we currently have and make the necessary changes.

In order to defray the cost, the church will charge minimal fee for printing and binding (\$3.00 for one copy and \$5.00 for two).



Please save your used printer cartridges and bring them to church. There will be box near the kitchen to drop off the used items. All brands are being collected. We are able to save money with our Staples account each time we turn them in. Thank you!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars



- ◆ Serving Trinity Lunch- March 9 & April 30
- ◆ Wednesday March 18-Central Socialites
- ◆ Easter Egg Hunt - April 4th, 10:00 AM at Central's Indoor Playground (3rd floor).
- ◆ AMP'D (Art, Music, Performance and Dance) Summer Camp, June 8-12 & 14th

Information on Free Tax Preparation is in the Gathering Area

Easter Word Search Puzzle

Y S E R U T C I P M I G X I T	BASKET	JESUS
D B D Y A S P R I N G N M M A	BONNETS	PICTURES
N Y R R P S O D O O G I I Y E	BUNNY	PINK
A E H E A P G W J R L R Y T S	CANDY	RABBIT
C L Z I L B A G G Z Q O A F S	CHILDREN	RELIGIOUS
H L C T L I B H E B W L D L N	CHOCOLATE	RISEN
C O F A X U G I G A O O N B C	CHURCH	SPRING
R W B Y G H D I T C S C U O S	COLORING	SUNDAY
U S N O I T A R O C E D S J S	CROSS	YELLOW
H E S K C U D H V U G Q Q V O	DECORATIONS	
C A R D P K C K B A S K E T R	DUCKS	
C H I L D R E N O N J D G M C	EGGS	
R P S F U N J E S U S C D T K	FUN	
H O E Y K S T E N N O B B Z I	GOOD	
O Z N W Y N N U B N X P I N K	HAPPY	