

The Central Connection

2017 June Newsletter

Pastor's Corner

We will be observing Pentecost on Sunday, June 4th. Pentecost is the coming of the Holy Spirit, who gave new birth to the church. The Holy Spirit prompted the church to convey the Good News of God in Jesus Christ for the transformation of ourselves and the world.

In this season of Pentecost let us briefly reflect on the current state of Central United Methodist Church and look to our new future.

When I arrived at Central four years ago, Central was at low tide in the areas of mission and ministry. However, I quickly learned that Central has an amazing ability to bounce back because of her strong leadership, open communication, and faith in God through Jesus Christ.

We tried various programs to spark our interest and to engage in the mission and ministry of Central United Methodist Church. We had some great successes and some not so great successes. Ironically, one particular program called AMP'D (Art, Music, Performance, and Dance) lasted two years, and due to the lack of participation Central made the difficult decision to discontinue it. After it was discontinued I ran into mothers of campers who asked me when we will start again.

About a month ago I received an email from Lia Wallace (you might know her as Lia Razak), one of the AMP'D drama teachers, asking if she could volunteer two hours each week to teach drama at Central for our youth and their friends.

This made me smile because I thought the AMP'D program was in the category of the less-successful ministries but as it turned out to be the opposite. In my mind, AMP'D is one of our most successful programs in these last four years. This is because we first gave a "fish" and now Lia has returned to teach our youth how to fish. This is exactly where our mission and ministry wants to be. Ultimately, we want everyone to know how to fish. Jesus worked to teach us that our faith that will make us well and enable us to accomplish many things – even to move mountains!

Central is in a much healthier place now.

We are hosting a food pantry that could that is one of the largest, most productive in our area, and we are in the process of upgrading our pantry ministry by making it bigger and more efficient. Read Caroline Jones' article in this Newsletter.

Trinity Noon Lunch ("Soup Kitchen") is well organized and run by dedicated Centralites each month. It embodies Matthew 25's Christian practice of feeding and welcoming strangers.

Central is the only church in Staunton to have an indoor playground for children to come and play in a safe environment.

We are currently hosting eight organizations that meets regularly: Narcotic Anonymous, Girl Scouts, homeschool co-op, Adult/Children of Alcoholics, Weight Watchers, Jazzercise, and Green Camillion. Central United Methodist Church is supporting others to carry out their important work and ultimately to be a service to our community.

What is our future?

1. Strive to be the Christians that God in Jesus meant for us to be.

Central must be about making true Christians. This is done by actively participating in hearing the Word, studying the Word, practicing the Word, and sharing the Word.

2. Increase membership.

Various studies indicate that it is not the pastor but the members inviting friends are most successful when it comes to increasing members. But the purpose of increasing member is means to the end. The end being we gather together in His name to serve we can accomplish a great many things.

3. Make mission and ministry sustainable.

Traditionally, the church did her mission and ministry by "giving fish". Of course, it is important to keep that aspect of the mission and ministry of the church, but it has to be more. Giving fish is hardly sustainable in the long run. In order to give away we need to have something, and that something has to be replenished in order to keep giving.

I would like to introduce you to a new

direction as to how we may help others. An expert in community development, Robert D. Lupton, once said that giving fish over a period of time is toxic charity which creates a toxic community. He means that in order for the community to be healthy it must give and take. This is because receivers have no motivation to improve their current situation. Instead, they will fall into a cycle which results in low self-esteem, resentment, and self-loathing. Basically, we are empowering them to rely on others for their well-being.

4. Shift our mission and ministry to teach how to fish.

A few members of Central and I attended two workshops on Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) hosted by our Staunton District. The idea behind ABCD is to work with our community in Staunton to:

- a. Identify leaders of the community.
- b. Discover assets that exist currently in the community.



Staunton Clergy and Laity attending Asset-based Community Development Seminar at Greenville UMC. There were 74 attending.

- c. Utilize and multiply assets of the community to transform it into a self-sufficient and safe community for families to live and grow.

The most important thing to remember while we look to the new future is to enjoy! Enjoy being together, enjoy worshipping together, enjoy studying the word together, enjoy praying together, and enjoy being hands and feet for God.

Let me know what you think.

You will be hearing more about my new direction for Central in the near future.

Currently, the book, called *Toxic Charity* by Robert Lupton, is circulating among us. If you are

given this book by the previous reader, then please read the book and write your name on the front cover. If you wish not to read it then pass it on to the next Centralite.

Summer is upon us and if you are traveling be safe. If you are staycationing the church can always use your service.

Love and service,

Won Un

Won Un, Pastor

Food Pantry Facts and Figures

Central's Food Pantry (FP) is getting ready for some pretty big changes. Read on to learn all about them.

- First, your FP is more than just a weekly pantry offering. It also includes Clothes Closet (CC); Agape Basket (AB) program (currently serving 10 children); Trinity Noon Lunch (TNL) program (averages 40-50 delicious meals served on the fourth Wednesday of each month at Trinity Episcopal Church); and Kroger Bakery (KB) donation partnership (Kroger donates dated bakery items to our FP; volunteers pick up the donation every Tuesday morning).
- After being awarded an Agency Capacity Grant, Central's FP will receive a new 1-door cooler for better storage of fresh items and two new computers loaded with special Food Bank software, which will greatly reduce the use of paper.
- In an effort to improve and expand food distribution capabilities at Central, our FP will soon expand into two rooms. Church Trustees have approved and are coordinating the opening of two doors that will connect the current FP and Clothes Closet rooms. At the present time, clients select food by filling out a grocery sheet that is updated weekly according to food and non-consumable items that are available. Once construction is complete, the grocery sheet system will be replaced with a walk-through program.
- Notably, the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank has encouraged local agencies to utilize a walk through system whenever possible. While Central's faithful volunteers will have to adjust to a new system, being able to offer clients more freedom and flexibility in food/non-consumable

options is a good thing. Speaking of faithful volunteers, Central's FP team is absolutely wonderful. Active volunteers are (in alphabetical order):

Eleanor Andrews – FP
 Leslie, Kylie, and Eli Artley – FP
 Jackie and Ken Beals – FP and TNL
 Beth and Eugene Blackmer – KB
 Millie Brown – AB
 Sandra and Jim Clemmer – FP
 Connie and Tom Davis – FP and TNL
 Luz and Diony de Tablan – FP
 Ellen and Jeff DeLong – FP and TNL
 Linda Dinsmore – CC and TNL
 Patrick Harrison – FP and TNL
 Anita Jackson – FP and TNL
 Sybille Jobin – TNL
 Judi Jones – CC
 Cheryl Kent – FP
 Judy and Tom King – FP and TNL
 Augusta and Bob Markley – FP
 Vicki and Jim Printy – FP and TNL
 Donna Rhafiri – FP
 Beverly and Sam Richardson – FP
 Bobbie Rosson – FP
 Carolyn and Ed Smith – FP
 Barbara Snyder – TNL



Central, where it's unloaded and shelved. At times the food order nears or tops 1,000 lbs.!

- Not only do we have a village of active volunteers, so many more of our congregation offer support through financial support and/or supplying clothes and food to help stock our shelves. Some of our congregation have taken special interest in clients and have graciously provided specific anonymous support to clients. All of you- through prayer and support-have helped create a FP that extends far beyond just giving extra meals to our neighbors in need; you have helped us build a community bridge that supports friendship, extends loving assistance, and provides genuine care to our neighbors. Thanks to each and every one of you.

Hopefully, by now you are aware that Central's Food Pantry is active in many ways. It is self-sustaining thanks to

each and every one of you.

Caroline Jones, FP Coordinator

Rewarding Mission Experience

Central recently sent a team of ten to Evergreen VA, to assist in the recovery from the Feb 2016 tornado. It was a very rewarding and productive week. Team members included: Won Un, Anita Jackson, Jerry Ruckman, Jackie and Ken Beals, Ellen and Jeff DeLong, Richard Brown, and Vicki and Jim Printy. It was wonderful that our team included our minister, and lay leader, as well as Ken who has served in our pulpit on numerous occasions. It was helpful to have some very skilled team members who were able to lead and instruct the rest of the team, and was crucial that we had a team of ten people willing to serve in any way they were needed. We were hosted by Evergreen UM Church, which graciously allows work teams to sleep in their church and use their wonderful kitchen.

Our team completed approximately 250 man hours of work, and accomplished many tasks on a new home being constructed for a VietNam veteran who had lost his home in the tornado. We laid laminate flooring in the entire house, hung guttering and downspouts, installed doors throughout the house, caulked and painted all window frames inside and out, painted and installed baseboard, completed exterior and interior painting of house, painted porch

- While Janet Nuckoles is on Central's paid staff and not a volunteer, her help in FP is invaluable. Not only does she help keep the FP shelves organized and the space clean and neat, she assists with signing in clients on Wednesday mornings. Her coffee is extremely popular with community neighbors. In fact, our Wednesday coffee ministry is an important hospitality factor in the success of our FP.
- We also want to welcome Bill Bushman and Joe Hill to the volunteer roster. They will assist with food pickup at the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank. Food pickup volunteers bring food from the Verona Food Bank back to

ceiling and front door, completed some drywall touch up, and sealing around doors. In addition, since the construction was nearing completion we spent time cleaning up the work site and hauling away surplus materials.

It was very rewarding to see the work we were able to complete. However, in striving to complete the work, we didn't lose sight of the importance of building relationships with team members, and most importantly relationships with the people of Evergreen. Unfortunately, we were never able to meet Bear Bryant—the home owner—as he was always at his job. But we did meet neighbors who had stories of surviving the tornado, and also stories of loved ones who died. And we met local people in stores and restaurants who were so friendly and appreciative of our work.

It's amazing how rewarding these mission trips are, especially in hind sight—you forget how hot or dirty the work may be; you forget about sleeping on the floor, or maybe hearing someone snore; you forget the sore muscles; and maybe you forget the copperhead that shows up unexpectedly. But you don't forget the people you meet, the people you



work with, eat with, spend all week with, and you don't forget how good it feels to serve.

Jim Printy, Mission Coordinator

The Ultimate Ukulele Experience

June 2nd in the Fellowship Hall

Pork Dinners and Hawaiian Music (provided by the Cold Steel Benders 5:30-7:30PM

Come out Friday, June 2nd, for an evening of fun, fellowship, and food. The Cold Steel Benders will be selling pork dinners from 5:30-7:30PM. The proceeds will go towards sending some Central members to the Massanetta Springs Summer Music Program. The group will also be performing a set of Hawaiian music at this event to make your dining

experience more memorable. It will be the ultimate⁴ ukulele experience and the social event of the season. If you can't go to the islands, then let us bring some of the flavor of Hawaii to you. The dress is informal but if you have a lei, Hawaiian Shirt, or grass skirt, wear them to complete your tropical experience. Aloha.

Menu: BBQ pork, White Rice, Hawaiian Macaroni Salad, Spinach Salad, and Watermelon. Price: \$8.00.

Dear Drama Club families,



Thank you so much for sending your kids to drama club these last few Sunday afternoons. It has been very informative for me, and I hope not terribly boring for them. Since I run the ASC Theatre Camp, I am unable to hold Drama Club over most of the summer. However, I am more than happy to start up again in the fall and will talk with Pastor Won about how to set that up and get the word back out. As far as this first "trail run" goes, our last meeting will have to be on Sunday, June 4.~Lia

LOCAL MISSION OPPORTUNITY

Renewing Homes, formerly known as Rebuilding Together, is a local nonprofit organization that works with volunteers to provide critical home repairs for low-income homeowners in Staunton, Waynesboro, and Augusta County. Critical home repairs are ones that make a home safe, warm, dry and accessible. These repairs could include bathroom repair, roof coating or replacement, gutter replacement, wheelchair ramps, trailer underskirting, kitchen repairs, floor repairs, weatherization, plumbing repairs, and home accessibility modifications.

Central has agreed to partner with Renewing Homes to complete a home repair project in Verona in June. We have been sending teams throughout Virginia to work on homes damaged by tornadoes and felt this would be a good opportunity for those unable to travel on our mission trips. Since it will be in June we are also hoping some of our middle and high school students will join us.

Our project will include replacing the roof, repairing/
replacing
storm
doors

and



windows, repairing/replacing window sills and door sills, and painting the exterior of the home. We recently raised almost \$700 at our church barbecue to help defray the cost of materials. We will be announcing the work date soon — please check your June calendars and consider volunteering for a day or more!

For more information contact Jim Printy.

DISTRICT VOICE

This year's theme for Annual Conference will be "A New Thing" (See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." Isaiah 43:19)

For information on Kits for Conference, the Annual Conference Mission Offering, Banquet Schedule, Child-care information, the Potato Drop, the Virtual Promo Packet, Agenda, etc., go to the Conference website at <http://www.vaumc.org/AC2017>.

Helping Hands- A Virginia Conference Children's Mission Event:

Join us for an exciting Two-Day mission Experience for children (rising 4th through 6th Graders) offered to all member churches of the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church. Registration information is on the VAUMC website: <http://www.vaumc.org/Children>. July 12-13 at St. Paul's



UMC (Staunton, Va). Contact: Chris Lyle at lyle.chris@gmail.com.

Old Time Revival- July 9 from 3:00 until 6:00 p.m. at Verona UMC. There will be Dynamic Preaching, Inspiring music, Free Refreshments, Great Fellowship and a Free-Will Offering. Our revival preacher will be Bishop Sharma Lewis, presiding Bishop of the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church. Michael Berkley, Associate Director of Music at Woodlake UMC, will lead us in a powerful time of worship. Pre-registration is not necessary, but it will help if we know you and your group are coming. Call 540-248-7777 to pre-register or for more information.

It's that time of year again when you are asked to gather at least "**4 Cans 4 Conference!**" The Peninsula Food Bank, which provides supplies for a great many agencies and ministries in the York River District Area, is at a low ebb at this time of year, like a great many groups, and at the same time, there is the usual summer spike in needs, with children home from school, and a great many other stressors on the system. Please consider bringing 4 paper-case-sized BOXES, or 40 Bags or something outrageous and extraordinary to Conference this year. As usual, please don't bring glass- or home-canned items, exotic delicacies, or cans that are dented or beyond their expiration dates. In addition to the 4 Cans, bring dry goods and easy to prepare one-pan meals, like Rice-a-Roni and Hamburger Helper. We will put a Sign Up Genius page up in the near future, so if you, your church, youth group, UMW/UMM, choir, etc., would like to help receive the gifts, you can choose our best time! We topped 10,000 pounds last year in Roanoke! Let's do it again in Hampton.

THE MISSION NETWORK of the Staunton District is a NEW Mission outreach by and for the churches of our District. This is in direct response to the many natural disasters that have afflicted our communities in the District and in the Conference. Many of our churches are unable to afford the purchase and maintenance of a missions trailer and the storage of one. By combining our resources in the District each UM Churches able to be in mission. The MISSION NETWORK of the Staunton District desires this trailer and its contents to be used by our churches to do ministry in their parish and in other areas.

What do you need to do for your church to use this trailer?

- First, we are requesting churches to send people to UMVIM Team Leader Training
- Second, your church can provide used or new tools to help fill the MISSION BOX (trailer) so it is ready for use.
- Third, join with other churches to support the MISSION NETWORK of the Staunton District through prayer, service, and gifts.

Thank you for your support and action.

In Christ Jesus,

Doug Hollenbeck, President

The MISSION NETWORK of the Staunton District

The Story of the "The Mission Box"

Many churches in the District have been actively involved with mission repair projects locally, throughout Virginia, and in many other states where disaster has struck. When these disasters occur, the availability of volunteers to assist is crucial. Fortunately, many of these volunteers are well equipped with tools. However, there are often individual volunteers, or smaller congregations who are not as well equipped. To help address that need, in January, the Staunton District purchased a utility trailer with the intent to create a tool trailer, or Mission Box, as it has been named. The trailer is currently housed on the parking lot at Central UMC in Staunton, but will be available to any church in the District to use.

We are presently in the process of outfitting the Mission Box with tools, and have received an extensive list of suggested tools, both manual and power, from the Conference. This list has been forwarded to all ministers on the District to share with their congregations. We are soliciting new and used tools, as well as cash donations to make tool purchases.

In addition to making tools available, it is hoped that the presence of the trailer will be a visible reminder encouraging churches to become active in mission, reaching out to others in time of need. If you would like to plan an event to support the Mission Box,

arrangements can be made to have the trailer visit your church. Questions should be directed to Jim Printy, Central UMC, at jrprinty@gmail.com.

Secret Boutique

BIG NEWS! Thanks to the gracious folks at Marquis Memorial, I learned earlier today that **we have a new location for Secret Boutique**. The boutique will be opening in Marquis Memorial's former Scout Hut, located behind their storefront building at 1600 W. Beverly St. (Across from the Valley Mission). Our MM brothers and sisters are also going to allow us to use their storefront as storage for boutique fixtures, supplies, and out-of-season clothing. Thanks, Pastor Sharp!

And, there's more! June 12-15, two teams of teen

mission workers are being sent to Secret Boutique in Staunton and Waynesboro from churches in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County. Each team of 8-12 students will be accompanied by 2 adult volunteers, and will be ready to provide any help we need.

It gets even better!

These churches will provide all paint and supplies needed for their teams to do their work. That means **FREE PAINT and LABOR**, friends!!! My, oh my, how God is blessing this ministry!

I am working with their mission team coordinator to determine the work schedule, but in Staunton we anticipate having them do the following:

- **June 12:** One team will sort and box clothes at the News-Leader location, and begin moving fixtures and supplies from that building into storage at 1600 W. Beverly. Team TWO could be cleaning and prepping the new location for painting.
- **June 13:** Cleaning and Priming paneling walls for paint.
- **June 14:** Painting
- **June 15:** Touch-ups and possibly begin moving-in fixtures

But, I need help to make this happen, as we'll also have another team working in Waynesboro as we expand that location.



Secret Boutique
(540) 649-7149

HERE'S THE BIG HELP that's required if we are to take advantage of this incredible offer:

1. Prayer. We've got a lot to organize in a short time, much of which I will spend in licensing school in Hampton (May 25-June 2). Friends, this ministry urgently needs your prayers and those of your congregation so that we can take full advantage of the jump start we've been afforded. Join me, won't you?

2. Adults to direct the work of the H'burg crew. This person/people would work closely with me to provide direction to the teens and their leaders, letting them know what needs to be done, answering questions, and providing support. We will need at least one Secret Boutique volunteer to remain with the team at all times. This responsibility can be spread out among volunteers, but first **WE NEED TO GET THE VOLUNTEERS!** While our teens can not be in supervisory roles for this week, we would love to have a responsible teen to come alongside our project directors. **Who can help me with this URGENT NEED?**



3. Organization. We've formed a leadership team in Waynesboro made up of key laity in each of those churches. We will need to do the same for Staunton so that we can hit the ground running once the building has been cleaned and painted. **One adult and one student** (middle- or high-school, if your church has students) **from each church is what is needed now to move forward.** These people will work together to recruit volunteers, donations, and begin building enthusiasm and support within your congregation. Friends, I know time is short and demands are high right now, but if there's any way you can help, it would certainly be appreciated. As I can't be at two sites at once, if I don't have help the week of June 12-15, we may have to decline this incredible offer from our brothers and sisters in Harrisonburg.

Thanks so much to each of you for your continued support of the Secret Boutique ministry. Pastor Sharp and I are beyond excited to see what the Holy Spirit has in store.

Blessings, Jenelle Watson
Basic UMC Youth

2017 Annual Conference Offering

This year the Annual Conference special offering goal is \$200,000. Bishop Sharma Lewis is requesting contributions to support the six ministries listed below.

- **Methodist Mission in Cambodia** as they continue to purchase property for new churches and expand their fast growing mission
- **Brazil Methodist Church** to keep children off the streets with the Shade and Fresh Water Project
- **UMC in Mozambique** funding resources for training laity throughout the region for its growing churches
- **VA Conference Disaster Response** to help repair and rebuild homes in Virginia destroyed by natural disasters
- **Ethnic Minority Missional Ministries** to help fund grants toward ministry outreach to immigrants and other marginalized groups
- **VA Volunteers in Mission** to provide funds to small membership faith communities to engage in mission that may lack resources

You may bring your offering to Annual Conference in Hampton (June 16-18) or mail it to the Conference Treasurer's Office in advance. Please designate as Fund #5500- Annual Conference Offering and include your GCFA # if you would like it reflected on your apportionment statement.

***Wishing you safe
and relaxing Summer!***

Hello Centralites,
My name is Christine Anderson. I am the new

Administrative Assistant. Although born in Los Angeles, I have spent most my life as a resident of Staunton. I graduated from Salem College in Winston-Salem, NC. I have a 7-year old son named Gabriel who is the light of my life. I am excited to serve you. My office hours are Monday-Thursday 8:30 A.M.-2:30 P.M.

Thank you,
Christine Anderson

Our vision statement:

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.

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