



December 1: Leila Granfield  
 December 3: William Bushman  
 December 4: Eleanor Andrews  
                 Beverly Coltrane  
 December 6: Deborah Reed  
 December 10: Frederick Gutshall  
 December 13: Debbie Harris  
                 Kekoa Peters  
 December 14: Randy Lindamood  
                 John Un  
 December 15: Amelia Coltrane  
 December 23: Anita Jackson  
 December 26: Ed Pickett  
 December 29: Kylie Artley  
 December 30: Connie Davis  
 December 31: Thomas Mitchell  
                 Kainoa Peters

\*\*\*

January 2: Won Un  
 January 3: Arabelle Stumb  
 January 5: Lauren Granfield  
 January 8: Michael Melton  
 January 14: Mary Ann Shoemaker  
 January 16: Sandra Clemmer  
                 Ronald Jones  
 January 18: Millicent Brubeck  
                 Ellen DeLong  
 January 20: Jim Printy  
 January 26: Thelma DePriest

## Announcements & Events

- **December 15:** Central Staff Christmas Lunch
- **December 24:** Christmas Service at 11 AM
- **December 25-26:** Office closed
- **January 1-2:** Office closed
- **January 7:** Wesleyan Covenant Service/Soup & Sup Sunday
- **January 27:** Sat. 9-12 Lunch served. Central Planning Retreat/Party



**Central United Methodist Church**  
**14 N. Lewis Street @ Beverley Street**  
**PO Box 953 Staunton, VA 24402**

\*\*\*

**Office-(540) 886-3441**  
**Email: [centralumc@centralumcstaunton.org](mailto:centralumc@centralumcstaunton.org)**  
**Website: [www.centralumcstaunton.org](http://www.centralumcstaunton.org)**  
**Facebook: Central UMC Staunton**  
**Office Hours- 8:30 A.M. - 2 P.M.**  
**Monday-Thursday**  
**8:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. Friday**

# *The Central Connection*

2017 December Newsletter



*Merry Christmas  
 &  
 Happy New Year  
 to you and your family!*

*Bob Markley*  
*Carolyn Smith*  
*Augusta Markley*  
*Caroline Jones*  
*Janet L. Buckles*  
*Bebbie Foster*  
*Sarah Russell*  
*Ed Smith*  
*Sandra Clemmer*  
*Angela Scott*  
*Won Un*  
*Love & Service*  
*Jim Clemmer*





## **GOOD NEWS!**

By Suzanne Peeler

**Luke 1:8-10 (NIV).** And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were terrified. But the angel said to them “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people.”

Advent is a time of hope and anticipation! The good news of great joy brought by the Angel so many years ago announcing Christ’s birth comes again now at a time so needed when many issues hang heavy, casting dark instead of light upon lives.

We recall the Old Testament prophesy of his coming and the longing of the Jews for a Messiah. When he came, they did not recognize him. Not so for us but even the common ventures of life in today’s world seem to cloud over the joy of good news announced by the Angel. Where is the peace and goodwill so longed for? In- stead there is much hate and fear.

We have heard the message before. Let us open our hearts so that we can hear it again. With it comes the joy of salvation and eternal life. In Advent, 2017 there is good news of great joy for all to hear!

Let us pray: “Into my heart, into my heart, come into my heart, Lord Jesus. come in today, come in to stay; come into my heart, Lord Jesus. Amen.”



## **November Council meeting**

The Church Council of Central UMC was called to order by Chairperson Tom Davis at 7:00 pm on November 28, 2017 in the Wesley Fellowship classroom. Connie Davis presented a devotion. Minutes from the October meeting were distributed and approved.

### **Committee Reports**

**Chair:** Chairman Tom Davis reported that our investments have done well in 2017. All investment accounts have increased substantially in value in addition to paying out their distributions.

**Lay Leader:** Anita Jackson reported that she and Ellen have continued with the Agape Basket Program including our annual Christmas gifts to them. There are 11 children who receive assistance.

**SPRC:** Ed Pickett reported that the director of music position is still open. A new applicant is Rev. Steve Young who is willing to be our church organist. He hesitant to manage the entire music program. Volunteers would be needed to direct the choir. SPRC is going to invite him to do a demonstration for the choir.

**Finance:** Joe Hill presented the monthly balance sheet for October 2017 on behalf of Jeff DeLong. The balance sheet shows the income for the month was \$21,053.75 and the expenses were \$18,120.99. Additionally, we are on track to meet 100% of our conference apportionments this year for the first time in many, many years. The finance committee plans to send a letter to all members reminding them to keep Central on their gift list for this year. The committee is also recommending that we have a special Christmas offering and offered that Council may direct the purpose of this offering. Council unanimously decided to earmark this offering for SACRA.

**Trustees:** Jim Printy reported that the sale of the Tichnor lot has fallen through. The St. Stephens property has also not been transferred yet. The trustees decided to remove the defibulator. For 2018 the Trustees will review our emergency response plans. The elevator is still not working. Representatives from the elevator company will meet with the Trustees in the next few weeks to develop the repair plan.

**UMW:** Caroline Jones reported that Ellen DeLong will be the 2018 President, Connie Davis the Vice President,

and Caroline Jones the Susanna Wesley circle leader. Susan Wesley Circle will meet on the second Wednesday beginning in January. The UMW provides gifts for a patient at Western State Hospital and support for Casa de Amistad, the Henry Fork Service Center, and Kingsway Prison Ministry. The Days for Girls sewing group is going strong.

**UMM:** Jim Printy reported that the UMM are planning to meet December 1. After the business meeting the men will assist decorating the church and perhaps cleaning up leaves from the perimeter of the lot. Jim announced that the amount raised was approximately \$740 from the Brunswick Stew project and thanked all those who assisted.

**Nurture/Witness:** Sandra Clemmer reported that the committee met on November 12. The committee provided refreshments for the annual Staunton Christmas parade. Approximately 600 cups of hot chocolate were provided. They are also sponsoring the upcoming Socialite Dinner on November 29 at which time the children will be making Chrismons for the Christmas tree. Sarah Russell is making address labels for our VIPs so members can send Christmas cards to them. Barbara Snyder and Cheryl Kent are going to work on plans for new banners for the sanctuary.

**Outreach:** Connie Davis reported that the Food Pantry is going well with the average number of clients per week increasing. Early in 2018 the Pantry will receive computers for record keeping. The new “choice” method has been working well. The Pantry recently received the donation of an entire pig. A refrigerator was offered by Tom King for the Pantry. Based on the Trustees recommendation, it could be used to replace one of the existing refrigerators. The Trinity Luncheon in November went well. Approximately 40 people were served. Jim Printy mentioned that the Tool Trailer has been used by Calvary United Methodist and St. Paul’s UMC. Pastor Won reported that the district mission coordinator, Valerie Ritter, has requested its use during February or March for a mission trip to Florida. Jim reported that the Johnson Street project has two apartments completed and occupied and a third is being worked on. The tree for hats and gloves will again be provided for members to donate to. These will be offered first to the Agape group and the remainder taken to the Salvation Army.

**Children/Youth:** The Children’s Night In for December has been canceled. A potential outing to Massanutten Ski Resort is being planned for January.

**Pastor:** Pastor Won reported that his trip to South Korea went well. There will be a Christmas newsletter and is seeking two people to write articles on the meaning of Christmas. He desires to involve more people in the morning worship service. He proposed a planning retreat on January 27.

Council decided to not meet in December. The January devotion will be provided by Barbara Snyder. The meeting concluded by reciting the Lord’s Prayer at 8:47 PM.



### **Pastor’s Christmas Message**

As we anticipate the coming of the Lord once again, what is your expectation of the One who will show us the way of the Father in heaven?

Do you expect health and wealth? If Jesus met those expectations, what would you do with it?

Do you expect Jesus to show us the way to be good and faithful Christians? What would that look like in the life of your home, church, neighborhood, state, nation, and world?

These are some of the expectations we might have of Jesus, but have we thought about what would be Jesus’ expectation for us as His followers?

I pray that God in Jesus will expect nothing short of Christian perfection from us, and we will rise to meet that expectation with help from God. Glory in the highest!

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**Won Un, Pastor**