

astounding to see how these two magicians have organized lots of clothing and household items in a small space.

If ever you wonder why we continue this mighty little mission, read and reread Matthew 25:35-36. What a precious blessing and deep responsibility to be an M25er!

Blessings and Peace,
Caroline Jones, FP Coordinator

*Quotes are from the BRAFB website,
<https://www.brafb.org/a-brighter-tomorrow/>



Nurture and Witness

“Take Them A Meal” is a program that gives our members the opportunity to help families and friends of Central who have been sick or hospitalized by providing them with meals during their recovery. Meals can be prepared and delivered on a schedule to accommodate the needs of the recipient.

I would encourage those who would have a need for meals or know someone who may need meals during a time of recuperation, to call Sarah at the church office with information. You will be contacted to make necessary arrangements.

Our Witness team realizes that some Central members may need a ride to a doctors’ appointment, to the grocery store or even while their vehicle is in the repair shop. Any person able to provide this assistance is encouraged to sign up on a sheet in the gathering room, by giving your name and phone number.

If you are in need of transportation, please call Sarah at the church office, and she will have someone call you to make arrangements.

--Sandra Clemmer



Ice Skating Outing

Our children and youth are gearing up for a fun afternoon of ice skating at Generations Park in

Bridgewater on Sunday, **February 18, 2018**. After ice skating, we will meet at Cici’s Pizza in Staunton for dinner and fellowship.

Women’s United Methodist Circle

Rebekah Circle is now led by Susan Obaugh. They continue to meet on the second Tuesday at Baldwin Park’s library. At 10:30 AM there is conversation and refreshments with the program beginning at 11:00 AM. February 13 will be a pledge service.

Susanna Wesley is led by Caroline Jones and now meets on the second Wednesday at Connie Davis’ home at 6:00 PM. We all bring a dish to share, socialize, and hear Carolyn Smith program on February 14.

Cake Pop Fundraiser

Central’s United Methodist Women are at it again! We have declared **March 4th** CAKE POP SUNDAY. On that special day you will be able to purchase individual and bouquets of cake pops. The cost will be a flat rate of 50¢ per pop. They will be available before church and for dessert following Soup Sunday. All proceeds will be used to fund a scholarship to send one girl to All God’s Children Camp in June, 2018.



Church Women United News

Women all over the world gather for services the first Friday of March. Church Women United World Day of Prayer will be held this year at Augusta Street UMC Friday, **March 2nd**. Registration and refreshments begin at 9:30 AM. At 10:00 “All God’s Creation Is Very Good!” service begins. The material this year was written by women in Suriname, a country in the northeastern part of South America. Come join us!

The Central Connection

2018 February Newsletter

2018 Staunton 8 UM Lenten Luncheon

Schedule
Theme: Prayer

- February 14th**, *Ash Wednesday Service at Noon at Central
- February 21st, Noon** - Marquis Memorial (guest speaker: John Benson)
- February 28th, Noon** - St. Paul’s (Dave Rochford)
- March 7th, Noon** - Jollivue (Chuck Cole)
- March 14th, Noon** - Cherryvale (Bryson Smith)
- March 21st, Noon** - Prayer walk (Sarah Payne will lead)
- March 30th, 11 AM** - **The Way of the Cross (“Stations of the Cross”)
Central will join Trinity Episcopal Church and ‘walk’ the downtown. We will meet at Woodrow Wilson’s Birthday and walk to Trinity.
- Sunrise, April 1st, 7 AM** - Oak Lawn Garden (Bob Sharp)



***Ash Wednesday Service** is a service of an imposition of ashes on our forehead to remind ourselves that we are from dust and to dust we shall return. In the short span of life we have in this world – dust to dust – we are God’s if we return to him in prayer, fasting, and repentance.

****The Way of the Cross** is a Good Friday procession through downtown Staunton, beginning at 11:00am at the Woodrow Wilson birthplace and ending at Trinity Episcopal Church, with fourteen stops or “stations” along the way. The entire walk remembers the path that Jesus took from Pilate’s headquarters to Golgotha on his way to Crucifixion. Each station on the way includes a prayer, scripture verses, and responses. A wooden cross is carried in the procession, with participants taking turns carrying the cross from station to station. The procession takes approximately 50 minutes from beginning to end. This is a unique way to bear witness to our faith in public, along the streets of Staunton.

There will be a Good Friday service at Trinity following the procession at 12PM.

Girl Scout Sunday

Girl Scout Sunday and Girl Scout Sabbath/Shabbat give girls an opportunity to attend their place of worship and be recognized as Girl Scouts. It is a time for Girl Scouts to reflect upon the importance of the words “to serve God” from the Girl Scout Promise.

The motivating force in Girl Scouting is Spiritual

We, the members of Girl Scouts of the United States of America, united by belief in God and by acceptance of the Girl Scout Promise and Law.....

Do dedicate ourselves to the purpose of inspiring girls with the highest ideals of character, conduct, patriotism and service that they may become happy and resourceful citizens.

We believe that the motivating force in Girl Scouting is a spiritual one. We affirm that the Girl Scout Movement shall ever be open to all girls and adults who accept the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

Please join us for a special service on March 11, 2018 as we celebrate Girl Scout Sunday.



CONNECTING THE CHURCH IN MISSION

General Board of Global Ministries

458 Ponce de Leon Avenue NE, Atlanta, GA 30308

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January 26, 2018

Conf-Dist-Donor: 803-80-000048410

Central
United Methodist Church
Po Box 953
Staunton, VA 24402

Dear Friends in Mission:

Thank you for your gift received on 12/18/17 of \$436.00 to the General Board of Global Ministries through The Advance, the designated mission giving channel of The United Methodist Church. We are pleased to share that **100 percent** of your contribution will support the missionary community in honor of Disaster Response, United States Advance #901670. Giving through The Advance enables United Methodists to partner with one another in mission and ministry around the world. Thank you for joining with us in God's mission.

United Methodist missionaries serve in more than 60 countries around the world. With your gift and prayers, you have initiated a partnership with missionaries planting churches and developing congregations, providing health care in remote areas, and working in sustainable agriculture and community development. Your gift allows Global Ministries missionaries to be The United Methodist Church's embodiment of Christ in the world. Thank you for partnering with us in God's mission. We are grateful for your support of this life-giving work.

Please let us know if you have questions and/or concerns, as we welcome the opportunity to speak with you. You can reach the Gift Processing Unit at 404-460-7489. Information on Advance projects and missionaries can be accessed online at www.umcmmission.org. We also invite you to sign up on our website to receive our electronic newsletter, *ConnectNMission*. This monthly publication will keep you informed about Global Ministries' work.

May God grant you a sense of hope and joy as you continue your support for mission.

Grace and Peace,

Roland Fernandes
General Treasurer
General Board of Global Ministries

Russell Pierce
Executive Director of Communications, Advance & Fundraising
General Board of Global Ministries

Please retain this letter as your receipt. In compliance with IRS regulations, no goods or services were provided by the General Board of Global Ministries in consideration of your contribution. PRLS-543

CUMC Pays 100% of its Apportionments During 2017

As you are probably well aware, the United Methodist Church is a Connectional church meaning we are part of a large network of churches who support each other and support the network which keeps us together. One way we show this connection is through apportioned giving. Apportioned giving describes how the money we give to Central is divided and distributed throughout the United Methodist Church.

In 2017 Central paid 100% of its Conference and District Apportionments. Perhaps this seems like a non-news item—shouldn't we always pay 100% of our apportionments? Actually this marks the first time in many, many years that we have been able to accomplish this. The CUMC budget basically has four major parts: personnel, expenses, programs, and apportionments. Historically we've been able to pay for the first three of these annually but have usually shorted both the District and Conference of the monies we're asked to provide to them for the clergy retirement system, conference programs, new church development, world service projects, district activities, and many other worthwhile programs.

Thanks to your generosity, the wise spending by the Trustees headed by Jim Printy, astute money management by church treasurers Jim Clemmer and Jeff DeLong, plus solid investments of the Endowment Committee headed by Tom Davis, we met the expectations of our district and conference this past year. This amount, \$41,463 for the conference and \$10,386 for the district, represented 20% of our 2017 budget. For 2018, our total apportionment is a little higher, \$53,988. We trust that with your support and God's help we will again be able to reach this milestone.

Thank you for your stewardship,
Joe Hill, Finance Committee Chair

(See insert.)



Blue Ridge Area
FOOD BANK
Everyone should have enough to eat.



The Blue Ridge Area Food Bank has a new logo! The design "reflects the impact the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank (BRAFB) makes in the lives of neighbors served and conveys our sense of optimism for a brighter tomorrow – one in which everyone has enough to eat."* Look closely at the picture. Do you see the sunrise? It stands as "a symbol for a bright future, warmth, and hope."* Why an apple? It establishes "a clear connection to health and nutrition and the BRAFB's continuing effort to make sure no one goes hungry."* The layers of land and sky "are a way to bring together Virginia's rolling hills, vast farmland, and the Blue Ridge Mountains – and they symbolize the numerous partnerships that make the Food Bank successful."*

Along with the new logo, the BRAFB also refined statements about who they are. Specifically: "Our **VISION** is that everyone has enough to eat. Our **MISSION** is to provide nourishing food to our neighbors in need through vibrant community partnerships and passionate public support. Our **CORE BELIEFS** are that hunger is unacceptable, that everyone deserves access to enough food, that food sustains life and nourishes health, and that we are called to serve neighbors in need without judgment."*

Central has partnered with the BRAFB for more than seven years and has relied upon this agency to help us fill and expand our shelves with an amazing array of nutritious food to share with those in need in our community. In fact, at the time of this writing, Central has placed 324 orders and received a total of 165,231 pounds of food for distribution! Tremendous thanks and huge kudos go to every single Centralite who has prayed for, volunteered in, financially supported, and/or donated food to our pantry. Central's mighty little mission is making a difference in the lives of people who daily must make critical decisions regarding food, shelter, and healthcare.

Central's Clothes Closet is also booming thanks to the dual talents of Judi Jones and Linda Dinsmore. It is