

Agape Baskets Program

We continue the program even though our processes and numbers have changed. We serve three families with a total of eight children. Most of the families live at Farrier Court. The Farrier Court location gives us the opportunity to deliver the food directly to the families since not all of the families have cars to drive to Elizabeth Miller Gardens during office hours. The one family that lives at Elizabeth Miller Gardens is related to one of the families at Farrier Court. We are therefore able to deliver food to that relative's family member with the assurance that it will be picked up.

One of our families consists of a single father who has custody of his 9-year-old son. There is also one family that has one girl who is 10 years old. The remaining family has six children whose ages range from 1 to 13 years old. The two related families are from Puerto Rico. The mother of the six children works, but her husband is disabled and unable to work. Her mother is the individual who has the one daughter, and they live in Farrier Court. The mother and daughter work together and the mother drives them to work. This gives the mother the opportunity to pick up her food from the daughter's home.

The two families from Puerto Rico have been deeply troubled since the hurricane hit last year. Some family members refused to leave, even when their families here asked them to. One family member did recently move because of a

serious medical condition. Communicating with the adults is difficult if one does not speak Spanish. The children naturally speak English and Spanish very well. Most often, it is important for us to be able to talk adult to adult. Fortunately, Lynn Hill has agreed to help us engage in the conversation. We just need to find a time that works for all of us to get this done.

Sam and Beverly Richardson, Ellen DeLong and I pack the meals. Sam is very methodical in making sure that the count is correct. Larry Foresterling and I deliver the meals in the evening. Since one recipient lives on the second floor we call him in advance to make sure he is available to get his food.

We are always accepting food such as powdered milk, crackers and cereals. If you would like to help with this program in any manner, please let me or Ellen DeLong know.

Finally, we provide back to school supplies, Christmas baskets and Easter Baskets. Effective June 1st, we will be providing each family with 5 meals per week for the duration of the summer. All these efforts are received by the families with quite a bit of joy and thanks.

-Anita Jackson

Adult Sunday School

Our summer Bible study starts **June 3rd** with the theme "Justice in the New Testament". Readings will come from Matthew, Luke, 2 Corinthians, and Colossians, and lessons will focus on justice as presented in the New Testament. Justice is portrayed as a primary characteristic of God's nature. Human beings are called to emulate God's justice toward one another. The 2 units are summarized below:

God Is Just and Merciful

The four lessons in this unit remind us that human interpretations of the Law must not conflict with mercy and justice as acted out in our daily lives. The lessons from Matthew look at conflicts between Jesus and the Pharisees on questions of mercy and justice. The lesson from Luke looks at how God dispenses justice and mercy.

Jesus Calls for Justice and Mercy

The five lessons in this unit explore Jesus' teachings on God's justice in Matthew and Luke. Included is Jesus' demand for leaders to practice justice as well as to understand the universality of God's justice and mercy.

Come join us June 3rd in the Connections Room as we begin this new series.

The Central Connection

2018 June Newsletter



Many thanks to **Susan Black** for her work on our Central display case. Stop by the first floor to check it out!

Welcome Yi-Ping!

Devoted to influencing future music lovers and educators, Dr. Yi-Ping Chen is thrilled to finish her first year as the conductor of Shenandoah Valley Youth Symphony. Her connection with the Harrisonburg community is strengthened by her work as conducting instructor at James Madison University and executive director of JMU's Spring String Thing camp. Previously she served as the Orchestra Director of the joint-orchestra of University Orchestra at Minnesota State University Moorhead and North Dakota State University. She conducted the Northern Valley Youth Orchestras in Grand Forks for five years. Having established the importance of live music for ballet, she continues to serve as conductor of Fargo-Moorhead Ballet Company's Wonderland Orchestra in their annual production of Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker. She received the Distinguished Service Award from North Dakota String Teacher's Association for her efforts as a music educator. Dr. Chen holds a DMA degree in conducting from University of Minnesota and a Master's Degree in Orchestral Conducting from Northwestern University.



Yi-Ping resides in Staunton, Virginia with her husband Foster and daughter Amelia. During her free time, she enjoys playing chamber music with Cavaransera, a group of three mothers who frequently perform classical music for their own children and others with children in an effort to promote a friendly and accessible musical environment for music lovers of all ages.



June 1: Peggy Rosen	July 3: Zachary Snyder
June 2: Mary Douglas	July 4: Beth White
David Granfield	July 8: Andrew Reed
June 3: Reed Ambrogi	July 9: James Mullenax
Laura Beth Garner	Steven Puffenbarger
June 6: Jason Melton	July 15: Kay Linnane
Suzanne Noto	Jennifer Reed
June 13: Keith Artley	July 21: Emily Morgan
June 28: Bobbie Rosson	July 22: Tammy Obaugh
June 29: Martha Bushman	July 23: Judith Jones
June 30: Jeff DeLong	July 25: Lynn Hill
	July 28: Richard Brown
	July 30: Betty Hanger

Church Council April Minutes

The Church Council of Central UMC was called to order by Chairperson Tom Davis at 7:00 pm on April 24, 2018 in the Wesley Fellowship classroom. Bill Bushman presented a devotion. The minutes of the February 27, 2018 envisioning retreat were distributed. Those present included Tom Davis, Connie Davis, Won Un, Anita Jackson, Jim Clemmer, Sandra Clemmer, Virginia True, Bill Bushman, Barbara Snyder, Ellen DeLong, Sam Richardson, and Joe Hill.

Committee Reports

Lay Leader: No report

SPRC: Sybille Jobin reported that Brian Buchanan has applied to be the director of choral music. There have been two new applicants for organist/pianist. SPRC will make a recommendation after the new applicants have been interviewed.

Treasurer/Finance: Joe Hill presented the monthly balance sheet for March 2018 as well as a summary of all first quarter accounts on behalf of Jeff DeLong. The balance sheet shows the income for March was \$12,090.50 and the expenses were \$54,458.70 which includes \$38,265.15 for the Trustees’ work on the elevator. During the first quarter of 2018, Central’s investments lost nearly \$25,000 and the sale of the Ticknor Pine Glen Road lot resulted in a net loss of around \$26,000 though the Trustees were very happy to sell that lot. On a positive note, the total Easter offering was \$2,372. That money will be used to support Valley Supportive Housing in the Staunton area and UMCOR relief on a global level. Treasurer Jeff DeLong reported that, in general, the average weekly offerings for 2018 are down by nearly \$900 though there were several Sundays with inclement weather including one Sunday CUMC did not meet. In order to meet our \$265,178 budget for 2018 the average monthly income needs to be approximately \$22,000.

Endowment: Ed Pickett is the chairman. Tom reported that the market is currently down, but the long term forecast is good.

Trustees: Jim Printy was not present but reported via e-mail that the following information from the April newsletter would accurately represent what the Trustees have been doing:

Central is so blessed to have our beautiful facility: the sanctuary, classrooms and meeting spaces. In addition to our worship services and outreach efforts, we believe that part of our ministry is to make our building available for use by others in the community. Weight Watchers has been meeting in the Fellowship Hall for many years. Narcotics Anonymous groups meet in Eagon Hall three evenings/week. The first floor of our education building is kept busy with our Clothes Closet and Food Pantry, and third floor is busy with Girl Scouts, Prison Ministry and Sewing Group. With so much building usage, it takes a great deal of work, and money, to keep the church properly maintained. We are blessed to have the resources we need to do this.

The building issue which has been most critical during the past year has been the elevator upgrade, which was completed on April 3. This has been a \$60,000 project made possible with the generous Endowment Funds we have received. We were also able to use funds from the recent sale of the vacant lot bequeathed to Central by Gail Ticknor. Much thanks to Doug Noland for his legal assistance in the sale.

In addition to the major elevator project, we have recently had to complete many smaller, more routine projects, including electrical, plumbing, and heating. We are blessed to have the talents of Mike Melton, Sam Richardson, Ed Smith, and Jack True who are always available to donate their expertise to the church.

This coming spring the city is going to begin a renovation project on the parking garage located behind city hall. During the renovation, beginning sometime in April, the city will be renting half of Central’s large parking lot for \$75/ week. The city will be using the two rows of parking spaces nearest to Frederick Street, from 7:30 am until 5:30 pm Monday through Friday. We will be reserving the remaining two rows of parking spaces for Central use, and will ask that others who are presently using the lot, such as Second Presbyterian, make other arrangements. The renovation is expected to be completed by late fall.

Nurture/Witness: Sandra Clemmer and Barbara Snyder reported the committee met on April 22. Bibles will be presented to four rising third graders. There is a secret activity planned for Mother’s Day. A “lunch bunch” group is possibly being planned for the future.

Outreach: Connie Davis reported from Jim Printy that there has been a need for volunteer work at the Johnson Street project. A new fundraising committee has been formed involving Martha Bushman, Bill Bushman, and Connie Davis to come up with ideas for raising money. July 13-14 and September 14-15 are dates for the Meating Place fundraisers. September 28-30 there will be a Queen City Mischief and Magic (aka Harry Potter) festival in Staunton. CUMC will have a food booth for it operating out of our parking lot. On June 2 there will be a BBQ fundraiser at Sharp Shopper in Waynesboro to raise funds for Staunton UM district mission trailer. Anita Jackson reported that the children in the Agape project are primarily Hispanic. There are three families. Easter baskets were provided for the children. Caroline Jones reported that the new computer project for the Food Pantry will be launched in June. Outreach is considering a lighted Christmas display for Gypsy Hill Park for 2018. Barbara Snyder reported that lunch will be prepared for the Trinity luncheon on April 25 and will be prepared again May 23. Barbara Snyder reported that on December 8 there is going to be a special program in downtown Staunton. Central was asked to provide a live nativity for this program.

Children/Youth: No report.

UMW: Ellen DeLong reported that the circles have been meeting early. The sewing group meets twice per month making items for Days for Girls. A bake sale to support All God’s Children will be on May 6. May 17-22 Anita and Ellen will be attending the UMW assembly in Columbus OH.

UMM: Bill Bushman reported that the UMM sent \$200 to the church in the Chosun UMC in Philippines. \$105 was sent to Caroline Jones for the canvas bag school kits. There are ongoing jobs around the church that haven’t been done yet but should be taken care of now that the elevator is working again. The next breakfast meeting is Saturday, May 5.

Pastor: Pastor Won reported that Connie Davis is being nominated as Annual Conference alternate. He proposed in May, June, July and August on the 4th Sunday to have retired pastors present their faith sharing. They will be asked “What would you preach if you were preaching your last sermon?” Won is currently contacting retired ministers for this. Won reported that Staunton Music Festival will be from August 10-19. There will be a concert at Central on August 16. The Heifetz group is presenting its finale at Central on August 10, 5:00 – 8:30. Won reported that the District informed him that money has been raised to replace the mission trailer. Won reported that a bowling league team may be sponsored from Central. Won discussed “The Commission on the Way Forward” Committee and the sexuality issue that the United Methodist Church is wrestling with.

Reports of District or Conference Meetings: No report

The next meeting will be on May 22, 2018. Won Un will provide the devotions. The meeting concluded by reciting the Lord’s Prayer at 8:52 PM.

Calendar Dates

June 2: Pork BBQ fundraiser for replacing mission trailer

June 14: Music Club

June 15 – 17: Annual Conference at Hampton, VA

July 13 – 14: Meating Place Fundraiser

July 30 – August 3: Helping Hands

August 3: Elizabeth Miller Garden Family Fun Day

August 10: Heifetz Concert

August 10 – 19: Staunton Music Festival

August 12: Musicians from Staunton Music Festival will play at Morning Worship

September 14 – 15: Meating Place Fundraiser

October 27 - 28: Staunton Music Festival at CUMC



UMW Assembly

The Power of Bold

Ellen DeLong and Anita Jackson attended the recent assembly of the United Methodist Women in Columbus, Ohio. Women from all over the world traveled to participate in the gathering, to celebrate and inspire women to continue their biblically based work. 89 countries were represented at the gathering to celebrate 150 years of work and to inspire future generations to continue this important work. We celebrated our Foremothers’ Legacy and recognized and encouraged our present day ‘heroes’.

Our biblical understandings of who and whose we are and what we are called to do was evident in the opening morning prayer, hymns, and dramatic presentations of each day’s subject. The young women performers were inspiring in their contributions and presentations of various artistic forms. It was awesome to listen to Marian Wright Edleman (Civil Rights Activist and founder of Children’s Defense Fund) and Michelle Alexander (author of The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Color Blindness) on stage at the same time discussing current issues of child hunger, imprisonment, and lack of proper education. This was a perfect representation of two generations involved in the same work and a continuation of the UMW legacy.

There was much singing, laughing, and praying by an obviously large gathering of sisters. We celebrated 150 years of work, not just on our own soil, but around the world. What we witnessed was the UMW Purpose being lived out. We who have journeyed from our homes know there is still much more work to do. Here at Central, we know that the sewing that is done on the 3rd floor and the work of the Food Pantry is a part of that work. It does take **BOLDNESS** to undertake this work and to continue it. It may at times feel insignificant, but it is important that we are able to look at the aggregate work that we do and that we are a part of.

-Anita Jackson & Ellen DeLong