

Extra!

The Central Connection

2019 July Newsletter

Collecting Back-to-School Kits

This year, Central's Outreach committee has decided to support two schools, Bessie Weller Elementary and Shelburne Middle, with back-to-school kits. Each school will receive 5 back-packs filled with the below supplies. Back-to-School is a great time to find discounted prices on many of the items needed for the Agape backpacks. Below is the complete list should you choose to assemble them. If you can even purchase one item from the list that will be just grand. The collection box will be located in the **Gathering Room** with a label "Agape School Kits".

Important Notes

- All items must be new.
- Please do not include any personal notes, money, food, or additional materials in the kits.
- Contents of kits or the containers of kits should not be imprinted with cartoon characters, advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols.

School Kit Materials

- **One pair of blunt scissors**
Round tips only (No plastic scissors)
- **One box of 24 crayons**
Only 24-count boxes are accepted
- **Three one-subject notebook**
No marble composition books
No 3 or 5-subject notebooks
- **One pack of loose-leaf paper**
100 or 200-page packets are acceptable
(Wide or college rule accepted)
- **One hand-held pencil sharpener**
1-inch or longer (Remove from packaging)
- **One ruler**
12 inches or 30 centimeters long (Sturdy or flexible material accepted)
- **Six un-sharpened pencils**
- **One eraser**
Two inches or larger

Thank you all in advance,
Connie Davis, Outreach Chair

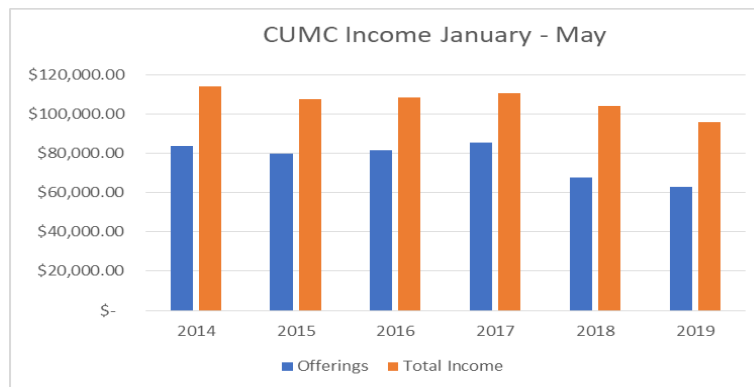
Last Day of Summer
BBQ Pork & Live Music
August 31st (rain or shine) 4pm

Central UMC
14 N. Lewis Street
Upper parking lot



Financial Position

I apologize for being the bearer of bad tidings regarding our financial picture, but the graph below shows my concern:



In short, our income has fallen considerably over the past two years, especially in the area of offerings which have declined by 25%. Our expenses and budget have remained mostly flat for the same time period. There are perhaps many reasons for our loss of income such as declining membership, loss of some substantial givers, concern about the future of United Methodism, etc. Regardless of the reason, I hope we can together stop this trend. Please consider Central in your summertime giving plans.

Joe Hill, Finance Chairman

My thought on Financial Position

What Joe Hill described in his report is not unique to our church but a new norm across most of the churches in the USA.

During the 1970's, churches were able to sustain missions and ministries through members' contributions to such an extent that it was not unreasonable to host million-dollar building campaigns for family centers with full size gymnasiums. Based on the decline we have witnessed in European Christianity, those prosperous days will not return again.

In the past, when the church was faced with an offering shortage we asked members to give more – and we still do. I remember hosting Pony Express and Pledge

Card to increase annual giving. This has not changed much in fifty years. We know now that this fifty-year old method is no longer effective. Sunday used to be synonymous with church attendance, but this isn't true anymore.

Congregations are aging with limited incomes, overall membership is slowly decreasing, and young parents are pulled in ten different directions while trying to make ends meet.

The Central Fundraising Committee has been working extra hard to make up the shortages in our budget and our giving: Meating Place, Holly Jolly Christmas Market, Queen City Mischief and Magic (one year), yard sale, BBQ fundraisers are a few examples. These

fundraisers supplement giving, but in the big scheme of things these are small efforts. We know the fundraisers are not sustainable solutions in the long run.

In addition to vigorous tithes and offerings and church fundraisers, we can increase revenue by implementing the following ongoing fundraising practices:

1. "Sell" something we have plenty of and can be replenished in a short period of time. Examples are human resources and renting our building space and parking space to non-members. And speaking of non-members, this is where the additional revenue must come from instead of our own church members.
2. Central Church must offer something that is unique and special only to us that we do better than anyone else. BBQ pork is our signature fundraiser but it was not been a big fundraiser in terms of money raised.
3. Own a for-profit business in town funded and ran by Central Church and the revenue it generates will return to church mission and ministry expenses.

I would love to hear your entrepreneurial ideas.

Pastor Won

June Council Minutes

The Church Council of Central UMC was called to order by Chairperson Tom Davis at 7:03 pm on June 25, 2019 in the Wesley Fellowship classroom. Bill Bushman presented the devotion. The minutes from the May 28, 2019 meeting were approved. Those present included Tom Davis, Connie Davis, Mike Melton, Bill Bushman, Sam Richardson, Sandra Clemmer, Linda

Dinsmore, Virginia Buchanan, and Joe Hill.

Committee Reports

Lay Leader: Connie Davis reported that she had attended Annual Conference in Roanoke during June along with Tom and Rev. Won Un. They also visited with Kay Linnane while in Roanoke. She will be making a report to the congregation on June 30.

SPRC: No report.

Finance: Joe Hill distributed the January-May 2019 financial statement and expressed concern about Central's income thus far in 2019. As reported in last month's minutes, in April, our total income had exceeded our expenses by approximately \$2,000 but by the end of May our total income of \$95,862.33 was nearly \$10,000 under our total expenses of \$105,786.69. Especially troubling was that the offering income for May was \$8,908 compared to \$15,266 for April. As a comparison, a year ago the May offering was \$10,542.50. He also shared that over \$2,000 had been paid in apportionments during June; this amount does not show on the May 31 report though we are further behind paying our apportionments than we were a year ago. A detailed report will be provided to Council in July which will compare income and expenses over the past five years. He also reported that the annual audit of Central's finances will begin on July 1 by himself and Sam Richardson. He also reported that of the \$1,000 sought for a special offering for a children/youth coordinator, \$795 has been collected thus far.

Endowment: Tom Davis reported that the value of our endowment funds of approximately \$462,000 on January 1 had increased to approximately \$515,000.

Trustees: Bill Bushman reported that the new phone/internet system is to be installed on June 26.

Nurture: Sandra Clemmer reported that a signup has been held for the June and July Socialite programs and the Meating Place fundraiser. They plan to do something for Emily Morgan's 98th birthday on July 21 and Betty Hanger's 100th birthday on July 30.

Choir/Music: No report.

Outreach: Caroline Jones reported that the cooler and new freezer are in place. The clothes closet is running smoothly. Linda Dinsmore requested more clothes, especially larger sizes for men and women, and linens. Connie Davis reported that five representatives from the CUMC Food Pantry attended a workshop sponsored by the Blue Ridge Food Bank. Connie reported that she and Diane Baker are cooking for the June 26 Trinity Luncheon. She reported that Central had 6 youth who participated in a mission trip to Epworth United Methodist Church in Covington. The youth painted and did some yard work. She reminded us of the Meating Place Fundraiser July 5-6. Volunteers are still needed. There is a Family Fun Day scheduled at Elizabeth Miller Gardens on July 26. The Outreach Committee meets July 7. Connie reported that Keith Artley plans to assist Blair Sullenburger making a display for the Christmas Celebration of Lights in Gypsy Hill Park. Connie reported that the Secret

Boutique will be opening soon at Marquis Memorial UMC. Sam Richardson commented that Ken Beals has been working with an organization which is upgrading homes for adults with certain disabilities.

Children and Youth: Kelly Peters is going to serve as the Youth Director for the summer.

UMW: UMW is having a brunch on June 29 at Kathy's Restaurant. Ellen DeLong will be presented an award.

UMM: Bill Bushman reported that UMM will be assisting with the Meating Place fundraiser and will be providing a hot dog luncheon after morning worship on July 14.

At Large: Linda Dinsmore suggested that an article in our upcoming newsletters feature our VIP's. She and Susan Black had recently visited Sally Draper and learned lots about Central's history from her. Mike Melton reported that he is still working on providing a speaker to our sound system in to the kitchen. Virginia Buchanan

Pastor: Pastor Un was absent due to an injury but sent in the following information for Council:

- He is working on having a panel discussion at the July Socialite about Central's options as a result of the issues from the February General Conference about same sex marriage and ordaining members of the LGBTQIA community. The purpose of this program is to provide information. At some point in the future, prior to the June 2020 Annual Conference, he would like for Central to choose which

direction Central will go.

- Kelly Peters was offered the position of Children/Youth Coordinator and she accepted. She will work 8 weeks starting July 1st. She will help to coordinate the Sunday School Class plus some fun activities for both children and youth during the summer. Won thanked those who contributed to the fund for this position.
- On August 2nd Central is hosting Staunton new clergy dinner night from 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm.
- Won would like to recognize Millie and Richard Brown for their endless care and generous gift of Central gardening including the latest achievement of the Central Courtyard. We will be celebrating its opening June 30 with refreshments.
- Won added that the Teen Mission Trip was success not only sprucing up the church but also building relationship among our teens and other teens in our district. He thanked Connie Davis for being a wonderful co-leader with Beth Christian for being a great chaperon to our Central teens.
- Central is upgrading the phone system and internet service with Lingo networks.
- Central has donated \$400 (\$200 each from UMW and UMM) for Conference Kits.

Tom and Connie added comments from the Annual Conference. Both were encouraged from attending the Conference that a majority of those in attendance were in favor of the One Church plan instead of the Traditional Plan as adopted by the General Conference. At Annual Conference attendees voted to request the General Conference to delete from the Book of Discipline those sections about same sex marriage and ordaining members of the

LGBTQIA community which are causing turmoil throughout the denomination.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for July 23, 2019. Jim Printy will provide devotions. The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer at 8:20 pm led by Virginia Buchanan.

Calendar Dates

July 23: Finance & Council meetings

July 24: Agape noon lunch @ Trinity

July 26: Family Fun Day @ Elizabeth Miller Gardens

August 2: Staunton Clergy Welcome @ Central

August 11: Children/Youth Sunday

August 14-25: Staunton Music Festival

August 21: Bingo Socialite

August 27: Finance & Council meetings

August 28: Agape noon lunch @ Trinity

August 31: Last Day of Summer BBQ @ upper parking lot



July

4: Beth White

9: Jim Mullenax

21: Emily Morgan

22: Tammy Obaugh

23: Judi Jones

25: Lynn Hill

28: Richard Brown

30: Betty Hanger

August

2: Tom Davis

4: Andrew Noto

7: Bob Markley

13: Audrey Bocock

16: Betty Jo Obaugh

22: Arcadia Nicholson

23: Valerie Noto

Self-Eulogy

Who knows you best? You!

You of course, but we let others write about you when you die.

What say you we write your own eulogy (sounds morbid, but I actually think it is a pragmatic and loving act) while we are still kicking? This could be the last love act you give to your loved ones who are grieving of their loss.

I have prepared an online eulogy template and a hard copy for Centralites. If you are using a hard copy then return the copy to the church office and we will keep the record for you in our membership software. I know it is not something we are 'dying' to do, but your loved ones, funeral directors and your pastor will appreciate your work.

The following headings are meant as a general guide:

NAME / ANNOUNCEMENT

- Full name of the deceased, including nickname, if any
- Age at death (not applicable unless you can predict the future)
- Residence (for example, the name of the city) at death
- Day and date of death (remember to include the year)
- Place of death
- Cause of death

LIFE

- Date of birth
- Place of birth
- Names of parents

- Childhood: siblings, stories, schools, friends
- Marriage(s): date of, place, name of spouse
- Education: school, college, university and other
- Designations, awards, and other recognition
- Employment: jobs, activities, stories, colleges, satisfactions, promotions, union activities, frustrations
- Military service
- Places of residence
- Hobbies, sports, interests, activities, and other enjoyment
- Charitable, religious, fraternal, political, and other affiliations; positions held
- Religious affiliation; date joined, baptized, favorite hymns and scriptures, office held
- Achievements
- Disappointments
- Unusual attributes, humor, other stories

FAMILY

- Survived by (and place of residence):
 - ✦ Spouse
 - ✦ Children (in order of date of birth, and their spouses)
 - ✦ Grandchildren
 - ✦ Great-grandchildren
 - ✦ Great-great-grandchildren
 - ✦ Parents
 - ✦ Grandparents
 - ✦ Siblings (in order of date of birth)
 - ✦ Others, such as nephews, nieces, cousins, in-laws
 - ✦ Friends
 - ✦ Pets (if appropriate)
- Predeceased by (and date of death):
 - ✦ Spouse

- ✦ Children (in order of date of birth)
- ✦ Grandchildren
- ✦ Siblings (in order of date of birth)
- ✦ Others, such as nephews, nieces, cousins, in-laws
- ✦ Pets (if appropriate)

SERVICE

- Day, date, time, place
- Name of officiant, pallbearers, honorary pallbearers, other information
- Visitation information if applicable: day, date, time, place
- Reception information if applicable: day, date, time, place
- Other memorial, vigil, or graveside services if applicable: day, date, time, place
- Place of interment
- Name of funeral home in charge of arrangements
- Where to call for more information (even if no service planned)

END

- Memorial funds established
- Memorial donation suggestions, including addresses
- Thank you to people, groups, or institutions
- Quotation or poem
- Three words that sum up the life

Central Online Eulogy: <https://forms.gle/7AUfh4RjbCo3RGb17>

