

## Boston College Students

During the first week of March, Central was honored to host a group of students from Boston College. This kind, grateful group of students chose to spend their spring break being the hands and feet of Jesus helping Habitat for Humanity work on homes in Staunton.

Thanks to Won for greeting the students when they arrived on Sunday, March 1st and preparing them a delicious dinner.

On March 2nd, Millie cooked the students an amazing breakfast. They were blown away with the spread. Thanks Won for adding to Millie's spread by cooking up a big patch of eggs for the students. The students were well feed and ready for their first day of hard work in Staunton.

On March 5th, Millie prepared a delicious dinner for the students, Habitat's board members and their families, and in true Millie style, they were treated to delicious desserts. Thanks to all who helped Millie with setting and cleaning up for these meals.

The students left on Friday, but I have a feeling we will see some of them next year . It was a win-win experience for everyone involved.

Many thanks to the YMCA for opening their doors so the students could shower during the week.

Having met the students, I can personally say, they were a polite, grateful, and kind group of young adults.

*-Connie Davis*



### April

3: Sarah Melton  
4: Linda Dinsmore  
12: Diana Un  
15: Jim Clemmer  
18: Kim Mitchell  
25: Wanda True  
26: Ken Beals  
Ann Hill

### May

9: Augusta Markley  
10: Luz Detablan  
12: Sheryl Mullenax  
16: Jack True  
20: Vicki Printy  
27: John Myers  
30: Sybille Jobin



# *The Central Connection*

2020 Spring Newsletter

## Online Giving Now Available

Central has taken advantage of an opportunity we learned about from the District Superintendent. He informed us that the Virginia Conference Treasurer has made use of the power of our Connection and has negotiated with a vendor called VANCO the free short-term use of their on-line giving services for local churches. This service has now been set up for Central and is available two ways:

1. Using your computer or tablet access the Central website (<https://centralumcstaunton.org>) where you will find a link for **Online Giving with VANCO** under the Worship tab.

Or,

2. Using your phone or tablet download the free mobile app from VANCO. Go to your phone's app store or Google Play and search for "GivePlus Church" to find the app quickly.



A video is available at <https://vimeo.com/262292774> that will walk you through using the GivePlus app.

Whether you choose to use the link or the app, you have two options:

- Create an online profile so you can easily log back in for future giving and want to be able to view the history of all your giving to Central UMC. This is the preferred option for CUMC members. Note that your gifts can be one-time or recurring.
- Give as a guest without creating a profile. In this case you will not have access to your history of giving at Central.

You can give through your checking account or by credit/debit card. All transactions with VANCO are secure. You will receive a receipt for your donation via e-mail.

If you have any questions about online giving, contact Administrative Assistant, at the church, 540-886-3441. Or, e-mail Joe Hill, Finance Chair

## UMW Honor Betty Hanger



On March 3, the Central United Methodist Women presented Mrs. Betty Hanger with a Lifetime Membership Pin. Mrs. Hanger is pictured below with Anita Jackson, Sybille Jobin, Beth Blackmer, her daughter Lynn Hill, Cheryl Kent, Susan Obaugh, and Linda Dinsmore. Mrs. Hanger will be 101 years old this coming July and is Central's oldest member. The program to honor her took place at The Legacy in Staunton where she now resides.



**Be still**

And

**Stay Home**

And

**Be Safe**



## **February 2020 Council Minutes**

The Church Council of Central UMC was called to order by Chairperson Tom Davis at 7:00 pm on February 25 in the Wesley Fellowship classroom. Connie Davis presented the devotion. The minutes from the January 28, 2020 meeting were approved. Those present included Tom Davis, Connie Davis, Mary Douglas, Linda Dinsmore, Sybille Jobin, Bill Bushman, John Myers, Susan Black, Sandra Clemmer, Marina Foltz, and Joe Hill.

### **Committee Reports**

Lay Leader: Connie Davis reported that she is getting prepared for the Virginia Conference in June.

SPRC: Sybille Jobin reported that Sarah Russell's official last day will be May 31. SPRC is in the process of setting up interviews. The interviews will start the week of March 2. She expressed concern that it will be difficult to replace Sarah since she currently fulfills both the administrative assistant and bookkeeper duties. Sybille reported that there was some question about how the bookkeeper's duties would be allocated.

Finance: Joe Hill distributed the January 2020 financial statement which showed income of \$32,420.70 and expenses of \$15,879.59. He pointed out that less than \$9,000 of the income was from offerings; the bulk of the income was from our investment accounts including \$5,000 that was used to pay 2019 apportionments. He also reported that an anonymous donation had been received for the boiler fund in the amount of \$25,000. He also reported that the Finance Committee recommends to Pastor Won that the Offering/Offertory portion of the Sunday worship not be discontinued in lieu of an offering box.

Endowment: Tom Davis reported that the stock market has taken a hit recently thanks to the COVID-19 virus. Of course, this affects our endowments. Once advancements are made in the containment and treatment of this virus the market will rebound. He expressed concern about the fact that we know little about COVID-19.

Trustees: Bill Bushman reported that the boiler is not likely to be replaced in kind. One bid was \$56,000 plus required chimney work. The total bill for replacement using this option might run close to \$100,000.

However, a very viable alternative is to use forced air heat using the ductwork from the air conditioning system. The trustees are in the process of receiving quotes for this option and hopefully will get this information by March 1. Bill hopes to be able to put together a presentation for the membership. Shawn Melton has been giving great advice for this project. He also reported that the insurance contract has been renewed with NGC group.

Nurture/Witness: Susan Black reported that Socialites will meet three times: 1) Thursday, March 19 with entertainment provided by Gene Blackmer's Cold Steel Benders, 2) Wednesday, April 15 Wayne Nolde from the Tunnel Foundation will present a program, and 3) Wednesday, May 20 Joe McCue from Friends of Middle River will present a program. She announced that on March 28 there will be a memorial service for Emily Morgan and on May 31 there will be a reception for Sarah Russell. Kim Mitchell will provide snacks for the March 15 morning worship. Volunteers are needed for the subsequent months.

Choir/Music: Even though there is no organ or children's choir, we are glad that handbell choir is performing once a month regularly and choir is improving steadily every week!

Outreach: Connie reported from Caroline Jones that Food Pantry will likely start opening one night per month. Food Pantry is going well and has recently been well attended. Linda Dinsmore likewise reported the clothes closet is going well but more men's clothing is needed. She expressed a hope that we could partner with another church to find more men's items. Connie reported that she had met with Lance Barton from Habitat for Humanity. He, Connie, and Won took a tour of three houses which will be built in Staunton. Jill Bader, the administrative assistant in the Habitat office, has started a volunteer program every Saturday. Connie reported that she and Millie Brown are currently working with the New Directions group. Billie Quigley, Susan Obaugh and Connie are volunteering with the Secret Boutique. She also reported that the Trinity luncheons are going well and thanked the regulars who assist including Barbara Snyder, Judy King, Blair Sullenberg, Won Un, Sam Richardson, and Jim Clemmer.

Children and Youth: Mary Douglas reported that the Pancake Supper sponsored by the Youth had gone well. The supper had income of \$712. The youth did a good job of working on the dinner. The profits will go towards their Coffee House project. John Bauman has been doing a great job working with the youth including organizing the Pancake Supper. The youth may possibly join the youth from Calvary UMC in Stuarts Draft doing mission work at Basic UMC in Waynesboro this spring. She reported that there will not be a Children and Youth Easter presentation this year.

UMW: No report.

UMM: John Myers reported on behalf of Jim Printy that the February meeting was held at Armstrong's Restaurant on February 15. Twenty five members and guests were in attendance for the annual Valentine's breakfast. The UMM has decided to not have a spring Brunswick Stew fundraiser. However, they are going to prepare some stew for the March Socialite with an alternative recipe. The men also plan to wait until favorable weather in March to complete a work project for the city which involves demolishing and removing a section of a wall on Trout Street. Their next meeting will be on March 7.

At Large: Linda Dinsmore reported that there will be a yard sale on May 9. She is recruiting helpers and items for the sale.

Pastor:

Pastor Won asked CUMC leaders to participate in Lenten Luncheons starting February 26 with the Ash Wednesday service.

He reported that the next Soup and Sup Sunday would feature a menu of Navy beans with ham and vegetable soup.

Won asked members to be in prayer for Connie Davis who will have rotator cuff surgery on March 5. Won reported that a Habitat for Humanity group from Boston University will be with us March 1-7. Millie Brown and Connie Davis will help serve breakfast on Tuesday and dinner on Thursday for the group.

Won reminded us that the theme for this year's Lenten Luncheons will be from Mark 12:30. On March 31, Sybille Jobin, Susan Obaugh, Connie

Davis and Won will be attending a Faithful Aging Conference at Roanoke, Va.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2020. Sybille Jobin will provide devotions for the March meeting. The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer at 7:55 pm led by Marina Foltz.



### **New Directions Partnership**

New Directions Center, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing support and advocacy to those affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and stalking. It is our hope that Central UMC will be able to adopt this organization as part of our ministry. New Directions is largely supported by donations and volunteers. They keep a donation wish list of items they need. Items that we would like to highlight this month include towels, washcloths, and diapers (especially 4t/5t). If you are able to donate any of these items, donations can be dropped off between 10AM-3PM at New Directions Center, 110 W. Johnson Street, Suite 102, Staunton. Please call the office before dropping off donations to ensure staff is there. Their number is 885-7273.





## Common Grounds

Common Grounds Youth Fellowship has some Great News!!! The Virginia Conference Youth Service Committee has awarded our Common Grounds Youth Coffee House Fellowship a \$600.00 dollar grant to help us move forward with our idea of an area wide monthly youth fellowship.

The committee reviewed applicants from all other youth projects seeking grant money this year and weighed each one based on merit, viability and completeness of information. So we are thankful and excited at the same time. This grant money along with money already raised by the youth as well as contributions from church groups and members gives us a great start on making this fellowship meeting place a reality.

For those of you who do not know about the Common Grounds Coffee House Fellowship, here is a description.

The Common Grounds Coffee House is for Youth ages 14 through 18 who would like to meet socially to build bridges between themselves and others. The emphasis of the evening will be social with spaces to drink healthy drinks and snacks, play cooperative team building games as well as fun competitive games like ping pong, cards etc.. Group challenges as well as

group discussions will give teens an opportunity better understand themselves and others. We plan to have some opportunities for local musicians to perform uplifting music and possibly open mic opportunities. Three times a year we hope to have guest speakers that will bring to Common Grounds ideas of how best to build and support strong relationships, strong communities as well as how to set and reach personal goals.

The Vision of Common Grounds has been the result of discussion among the youth of Central United Methodist Church and the adults supporting their hopes for a better community of love and respect for all. This is to be a non-denominational setting, one emphasizing principles of love and compassion set forth in our own Christian teachings and that of many other religions and community minded organizations. The intended outcome is to foster common ground and understanding with in our social, race, gender, ethnic, political, religious and non religious youth communities.

If you have ideas or would like to help in any way please feel free to contact us on our [Facebook page](#) or by sending an email to [commongroundsyf@gmail.com](mailto:commongroundsyf@gmail.com) We look forward to more youth and adults joining us in supporting this endeavor.

--John Bauman

Opening Date  
March 27th 2020

# COMMON GROUNDS

## MONTHLY YOUTH COFFEE HOUSE FELLOWSHIP

Fourth Friday of each Month @7:00 to 8:30

Egan Hall 14 N Lewis St, Staunton VA 24401  
& Other Venues

## Central's Food Pantry and COVID-19

### A Q&A Update



**Are we open?** YES! During a time of crisis, food assistance programs, such as the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank (BRAFB), are considered essential services. We will remain open as long as we have volunteers to manage it.

**Are we seeing the impact of the crisis in our community?** YES! In addition to our regular visitors, last Wednesday we gave a box to a new client who recently lost his job due to the pandemic. We anticipate that he was the first of many to come.

**Are adjustments to food distribution necessary?** YES! Like most (or all) local pantries, Central now pre-packs boxes for food distribution. Clients do not enter the building. Thanks to our faithful volunteers, we

continue to get food from the food bank on Mondays. Boxes are packed on Tuesdays with distribution on Wednesdays. Clients can also make "on the spot" selections from a variety of fresh and frozen options, such as meats, fresh vegetables, and dairy products. The picture shows pre-pack boxes for distribution during the COVID crisis. Yes, you do see some ABC store boxes. Don't panic; they're the perfect size!

**How do we maintain safety during the crisis?** Outside signage encourages clients to maintain safe distances while waiting. Pantry volunteers maintain social distancing as much as possible and practice good hygiene. In addition to gloves, disinfectant wipes, and good old soap and water, Lynn Hill made masks for volunteers.

**What role does the BRAFB play?** Staff at the BRAFB are doing everything they can to assist local pantries during the pandemic. For example, their webinars instruct and update pantry volunteers on best practices and changes in programming; they are working on ways to broaden the eligibility umbrella to include more people in need; they have made it as easy as possible for area food pantries to fill their shelves with food for distribution.

**Can Central do more?** Even without the pandemic, there exists a need to help the working poor. Very few pantries have evening hours. As a result, many of the working poor can't get food assistance. Central can help alleviate that problem by offering an evening pantry. Initially, we would open the pantry only one Monday per month from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The starting date is yet to be determined.

**Do we need extra help to expand our pantry mission?** Yes! While some of our regular volunteers are willing to participate in an evening pantry, we cannot expect them to do it all. If you are interested or would like more information, please email your name, contact info, and best Monday to volunteer to Caroline Jones at [jonescaroline@comcast.net](mailto:jonescaroline@comcast.net). Even if you are not able to volunteer, please join us in praying for discernment and guidance as we endeavor to meet the challenge of alleviating food insecurity for the working poor.

Thank you!

-Caroline Jones,  
Pantry Coordinator