

## Volunteers Needed for Repair & Maintenance for Valley Supportive Housing

Here are three projects for church outreach to consider. They are both outside jobs and relatively fairly COVID-safe:

- 1314 W. Johnson – the porches in the front and rear of the 4-unit structure to the right of the main building need scraping and painting. It is all outside work. The VSH maintenance man will have power-washed the porches before the painting crew would arrive. Estimated time – two days.
- Enclosed wooden trash can area – also 1314 West Johnson – needs repair and a construction of some wood supports to keep the containers off the ground. Estimated time – one to two days. If rebuilding is necessary, it would be a week.
- Kalorama Street – separate garage facing Coalter Street – both doors are rotting and now need replacing. Estimated time – 7 days.

Contact Karen Cochran 540-337-4682 or email her at [cochrancom@aol.com](mailto:cochrancom@aol.com) for more information.

- Doug Cochran



## Small Sister Grace Grill (SGG)

Did you know that Central has two Grace Grill sisters? Big sister GG was purchased several years ago and has worked hard to provide BBQs for Central mission works. We helped a woman who lost everything in a fire, cooked hot dogs for Helping Hands, as well as numerous fundraisers for Central and also around the world such as Nepal. The latest event helped raise funds to help Sarah Russell's family pay medical bills for their newborn baby.

Now, big sister GG (BGG) has a small sister GG (SGG). Richard and Millie Brown donated SGG in memory of Richard's sister, Carol Roberts, in May of this year.



SGG got busy and has already worked hard to provide meals for two occasions: Central Chow Down and Covid Testing Centers (Staunton, Harrisonburg and Waynesboro).

Thanks to Richard and Millie Brown for their generous gift of SGG. This new addition will certainly serve Central well to feed the "sheep" on various occasions.

# *The Central Connection*

*2020 September Newsletter*

## August 2020 Council Minutes

The Church Council of Central UMC was called to order by Chairperson Tom Davis at 7:03 pm on August 25. Due to COVID-19, Council met electronically via Zoom. Mary Douglas presented the devotions. The minutes from the July 28 meeting were approved. Those present included Tom Davis, Connie Davis, John Myers, Mary Douglas, Linda Dinsmore, Sybille Jobin, Bill Bushman, Susan Black, Won Un, Yi-Ping Chen, Maddie Buttitta, Mike Melton, Sandra Clemmer, and Joe Hill.

Tom led a discussion about **Central's reopening plans**. Joe Hill said that we should not use finances as a reason to open back up; our current financial situation is not ideal but we can pay our bills. Connie Davis said that she didn't want people to get out of habit of worshipping. She said that we should listen to our members. Susan Black reported that teachers at her school have now reported back to work and she realizes how much she has missed the communication with others. Sybille Jobin warned that one person can infect multiple people which is something to be taken under consideration. Many places have reopened only to have lots of infections result. Connie added that there have been many false positives from the testing. Bill Bushman said that he has monitored the rate of transmission statistic for Virginia. Over the last three weeks this rate has plummeted below 1%. Linda Dinsmore said she is for opening the church; people are missing out on the Word. She believes that if we are careful and follow the guidelines we will be OK. Mary Douglas said that it would be good to get opinions from the entire membership. She is personally conflicted with this decision. Tom mentioned that there is a danger for those with

underlying conditions returning to an enclosed worship service. Mike Melton said that schools are opening back up; perhaps we should wait and see how they fare. Yi-Peng reported that she is concerned about her teaching at JMU where she will be in contact with people in Harrisonburg. Several people commented about the local universities reopening now. Susan Black commented that our members will be more careful than college students! John Myers also suggested that we survey our membership. He said that once schools are started and we get a feel for how successful they are we will be in a better place to decide. He asked if anyone had talked with Christ UMC or St. Johns UMC about their in-person services. Joe Hill added that he wishes that the online services should be continued even if we have in-person services. Bill Bushman commented that the audio for the online has needed improvement. Tom Davis mentioned that the Staunton Rotary has its meeting where some attend in-person and some attend via Zoom. He would like to see this option when we resume in-person services. He reminded us that Won's son John is living with him now and his health is of concern since he recently had heart surgery. He said that his biggest concern is that there are people who are searching for a church at this time and we are not able to offer them a home-church. He is worried that people may lose interest and stop being active at Central. He said if we do open, we would have to strictly observe guidelines and offer Zoom for those who choose to not come. John Myers added that while Virginia is in Phase 3, the church is still in Phase 2 as per the Virginia Conference. John suggested that we would do well to wait at least 30 days. Sandra Clemmer would like to see us wait for a month to six weeks and evaluate then. She asked if we could poll the congregation. Won commented that he had noticed that fewer people appeared to be viewing the services on YouTube. Won added that when we do re-open we would need ushers to seat

those in a socially distant fashion. We would need a video camera operator. Offering would be made in a drop box. We would need to have the special air conditioning filter replaced regularly. There would be no singing and no bulletin. Every other space in the parking lot would need to be blocked off. There will be no nursery. The service would last approximately 30-40 minutes. Bill Bushman moved that we tentatively set October 4 as our re-opening date pending the outcome of the survey to be conducted. The motion carried. Won will prepare and distribute a survey to the membership and require that the surveys be returned by September 8. John reminded us that the District must approve our re-opening plans.

**Committee Reports:**

**Note:** Committee Reports were limited since we devoted most of the meeting to the discussion about reopening of Central. The following reports were given:

**Finance:** Joe Hill reported that the July income from all sources was \$27,974.30 and the expenses were \$20,798.34. During July we paid \$3,954 of our apportionment and \$492 of our Retired Clergy Health Benefit apportionment. Central’s finances are in fairly good shape thanks to four sources of revenue in the past three months: the PPP grant from the federal government, our quarterly income from our endowment accounts, a \$15,000 anonymous donation for general expenses in memory of two of our former members, and membership giving which has stepped up since the low point in April. The Finance Committee met today and agreed to pay \$3,000 toward the Retired Clergy Health Benefit apportionment during August. Maddie Buttita is learning how to use QuickBooks. There are a few issues with how some items are categorized on her monthly reports; she may receive some help from Jeff DeLong or Sarah Russell if necessary. Online giving is going well. Central has been receiving

approximately \$2,000 per month from members via Vanco online. A new category has been created for online giving so givers can designate the Russell Family Fundraiser if they choose since we are sponsoring a fundraising event this Saturday for the Russells.

**Endowment:** Tom Davis reported that the Endowment accounts have recovered from the COVID-19 drop in March and are now in excess of what they were at the first of the year. The Parsonage Endowment account balance is now \$407,092. It was \$387,525 a month ago and \$388,053 on December 31. \$6,500 has been transferred to the General Fund for Pastor Won’s housing thus far this year. The General Schwab General Endowment balance is now \$166,744. It was \$157,176 a month ago and \$158,166 on December 31. \$7,000 from this fund has been transferred to the General Fund so far this year. The First Bank Endowment balance is now \$838,060. It was \$818,500 a month ago and \$843,712 on December 31. \$31,452 has been transferred to the General Fund thus far this year.

**Trustees:** Bill Bushman reported that the Trustees anticipate that the awnings will be installed on September 14. The balance owed is approximately \$2,800.

**Nurture/Witness:** Susan Black reported that the four Wednesday nights in August have been taken care of regarding providing meals for the Russell Family. A visitation schedule has also been set up for visiting Audrey Bocock.

**Outreach:** Connie reported that Central has been doing so much good outreach. This Saturday we have a BBQ fundraiser for the Russell family, 11:00 – 2:00. Won has been delivering cleanup kits from the flood. The District Superintendent and Connie worked cleaning out basements. Trinity Luncheons are going well on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Central. We now have two teams who work on this. Central will likely keep hosting the luncheons until October. Food Pantry is likewise doing well. It is possible that we will open a Saturday Food Pantry.

**At Large:** Linda Dinsmore reported that she has been having a “free yard sale” on Wednesdays for the Clothes

Closet. She has been able to add several new items of clothing.

**Pastor:** Won has requested that our charge conference be held in late September or early October via Zoom. Won would like to know if current team leaders want to continue in their capacity by September 15. All committee chairs are asked to begin looking at their budgets for 2021 and have recommendations in to Joe Hill by September 15.

The next Council meeting will be a called meeting to discuss the survey results and re-opening plans on September 15, 2020 at 7:00 pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting is on September 22, 2020. Anita Jackson will provide devotions for the September 22 meeting.

Respectfully submitted by  
Joe Hill, Council Secretary



**September**

- 1: Gloria McQuain
- 1: Joshua Gutshall
- 5: Patrick Harrison
- 6: Donna Rhafiri
- 7: Susan Sutton
- 17: Cheryl Kent

**October**

- 6: Jackie Beals
- 11: Elizabeth Burket
- 12: Paul Obaugh
- 13: Susan Obaugh
- 17: Shannon Mowery
- 18: Bette Herr
- 18: Eugene Blackmer
- 18: Kelly Peters
- 24: Brian Buchanan
- 29: Steve Eakins
- 30: Janet Nuckoles
- 30: Billie Quigley
- 30: Arthur Reid



Words of Thanks



Thank you for all of your support and caring during the flooding of my hair salon "Touch of Beauty".

Words cannot express the thanks and appreciation for all the outpouring of support and sharing of your church and the community provided during this difficult time.

Thanks again.  
Kathy Gayhart