

**THIS WEEK AT CENTRAL, JANUARY 10–16, 2010**

<b>SUNDAY</b>	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:00–10:45	Children's Sunday School
	10:00–10:45	Young Adult Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship Service Following Worship: Single Mingle (Mockingbird)
<b>MONDAY</b>	7:00 p.m.	<i>Pathway to Renewal</i> Study (3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor)
	9:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
<b>TUESDAY</b>	5:00 p.m.	Weight Watchers (Fellowship Hall)
	9:00 a.m.	Child's Play
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	10:00 a.m.	Rebekah Circle (Fellowship Hall)
	2:00 p.m.	Stained Glass Home School Choir (Choir Room)
	6:30 p.m.	Susannah Wesley Circle
	10:00–11:30	Food Pantry
<b>THURSDAY</b>	6:00 p.m.	Women's NA (Eagon Hall)
	7:00 p.m.	Finance Committee (Connections)
	7:00 p.m.	Central Ringers
	9:00 a.m.	Child's Play
<b>FRIDAY</b>	5:30 p.m.	Children's Choir
	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	7:00 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous (Eagon Hall)
<b>SATURDAY</b>	8:15 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous (Eagon Hall)
	6:30 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous (Eagon Hall)

**IN MINISTRY**

General Ministers.....	366
Pastor.....	Stephanie M Sault
Pastoral Assistant.....	Daniel K. Purdom
Retired Missionary Professor.....	Hunter P. Mabry
Professor MBC.....	Kenneth A. Beals
Minister of Music/Organist.....	Sherry von Oeyen
Church Secretary.....	Agnes Campbell
Custodian.....	Janet Nuckoles
District Superintendent.....	Kathleen Overby Webster
Resident Bishop.....	Charlene Payne Kammerer

*The Mission  
of Central UMC  
is to make disciples  
of Jesus Christ.*



**Central  
United Methodist  
Church**

(Founded 1797)  
Lewis Street at Beverley  
Post Office Box 953  
Staunton, VA 24402  
(540) 886-3441  
FAX 886-5771

centralumc@centralumcstaunton.org  
www.centralumcstaunton.org

Rev. Dr. Stephanie M. Sault, Pastor  
pastor@centralumcstaunton.org  
Home: 885-1662



*Morning Worship*  
*Wesley's Covenant Renewal Service*  
January 10, 2010 11:00 a.m.

*The Entrance*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude. . . "When the Stars Are in the Heavens Bright"  
Carol Shamory

\*Greeting

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

**From everlasting to everlasting,  
you are God.**

\*Hymn 606.. "Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine"

\*Opening Prayer..... *U. M. Hymnal*

**O God, Searcher of all our hearts,  
you have formed us as a people  
and claimed us for your own.  
As we come to acknowledge  
your sovereignty and grace,  
and to enter anew into covenant with you,  
reveal any reluctance  
or falsehood within us.**

**Let your Spirit impress your truth  
on our inmost being,  
and receive us in mercy,  
for the sake of our Mediator, Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Children's Focus

*\*Please stand as able*

Litany of Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks for all of God’s mercies.

O God, our Covenant Friend,  
you have been gracious to us through all the years of our lives.  
We thank you for your loving care, which has filled our days  
and brought us to this time and place.

**We praise your holy name, O God.**

You have given us life and reason,  
and set us in a world filled with your glory.  
You have comforted us with family and friends,  
and ministered to us through the hands of our sisters and brothers.

**We praise your holy name, O God.**

You have filled our hearts with a hunger after you,  
and have given us your peace.  
You have redeemed us, and called us to a high calling in Christ Jesus.  
You have given us a place in the fellowship of your Spirit  
and the witness of your Church.

**We praise your holy name, O God.**

You have been our light in darkness  
and a rock of strength in adversity and temptation.  
You have been the very Spirit of joy in our joys  
and the all-sufficient reward in all our labors.

**We praise your holy name, O God.**

You remembered us when we forgot you.  
You followed us even when we tried to flee from you.  
You met us with forgiveness when we returned to you.  
For all your patience and overflowing grace.

**We praise your holy name, O God.**

*Proclamation and Response*

Prayer for Illumination

*(After the reading of the Scripture Lesson the reader will say: “This is the Word of the Lord.”  
The congregation responds: **Thanks be to God.**)*

First Reading. . . . . Isaiah 43:1-7 (Pew Bible, Page 585)

Psalter 761. . . . . Psalm 29

Second Reading. . . . . Acts 8:14-17 (Pew Bible, Page 892)

Musical Offering: “The Grace Divine”. . . . . arr. Roger Price

\*Gospel Reading. . . . . Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 (Pew Bible, Page 834)

Introduction to God’s Covenant and Our Response. . . . . Rev. Dr. Stephanie Sault

Proclamation

Brothers and sisters in Christ,  
The Christian life is redeemed from sin and consecrated to God.  
Through baptism, we have entered this life  
and have been admitted into the new covenant  
of which Jesus Christ is the Mediator.  
He sealed it with his own blood, that it might last for ever.  
On the one side, God promises to give us new life in Christ,  
the Source and Perfecter of our faith.  
On the other side, we are pledged to live no more for ourselves  
but only for Jesus Christ, who loved us and gave himself for us.

From time to time we renew our covenant with God,  
especially when we reaffirm the Baptismal Covenant  
and gather at the Lord’s table.

Today, however, we meet, as the generations before us have met,  
to renew the covenant that binds us to God.  
Let us make this covenant of God our own.

## WESLEY'S COVENANT SERVICE

### Invitation

Commit yourselves to Christ as his servants.  
Give yourselves to him, that you may belong to him.  
Christ has many services to be done.  
Some are more easy and honorable,  
    others are more difficult and disgraceful.  
Some are suitable to our inclinations and interests,  
    others are contrary to both.  
In some we may please Christ and please ourselves.  
But then there are other works where we cannot please Christ  
    except by denying ourselves.  
It is necessary, therefore,  
    that we consider what it means to be a servant of Christ.

Let us, therefore, go to Christ, and pray:

**Let me be your servant, under your command.**

**I will no longer be my own.**

**I will give up myself to your will in all things.**

Be satisfied that Christ shall give you your place and work.

**Lord, make me what you will.**

**I put myself fully into your hands:**

**put me to doing, put me to suffering.**

**Let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you,**

**let me be full, let me be empty,**

**let me have all things, let me have nothing.**

**I freely and with a willing heart**

**give it all to your pleasure and disposal.**

Christ will be the Savior of none but his servants.  
He is the source of all salvation to those who obey.  
Christ will have no servants except by consent.  
Christ will not accept anything except full consent to all that he requires.  
Christ will be all in all, or he will be nothing.

Confirm this by a holy covenant.

To make this covenant a reality in your life, listen to these admonitions:

First, set apart some time, more than once, to be spent alone before the Lord;  
    in seeking earnestly God's special assistance and gracious acceptance of you;  
    in carefully thinking through all the conditions of the covenant;  
    in searching your hearts  
    whether you have already freely given your life to Christ.

Consider what your sins are.

Consider the laws of Christ, how holy, strict, and spiritual they are,  
    and whether you, after having carefully considered them,  
    are willing to choose them all..

Be sure you are clear in these matters, see that you do not lie to God.

Second, be serious and in a spirit of holy awe and reverence.

Third, claim God's covenant,

    rely upon God's promise of giving grace and strength,  
    so that you can keep your promise.

    Trust not your own strength and power.

Fourth, resolve to be faithful.

You have given to the Lord your hearts,  
    you have opened your mouths to the Lord,  
    and you have dedicated yourself to God.

With God's power, never go back.

And last, be then prepared to renew your covenant with the Lord.

Fall down on your knees, lift your hands toward heaven,  
open your hearts to the Lord as we pray:

### Covenant Prayer

*The people kneel or bow.*

**O righteous God, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
see me as I fall down before you.**

**Forgive my unfaithfulness in not having done your will,  
for you have promised mercy to me**

**If I turn to you with my whole heart.**

God requires that you shall put away all your idols.

**I here from the bottom of my heart renounce them all,  
covenanting with you that no known sin shall be allowed in my life.  
Against your will, I have turned my love toward the world.  
In your power  
I will watch all temptations that will lead me away from you.  
For my own righteousness is riddled with sin,  
unable to stand before you.**

Through Christ, God has offered to be your God again if you would let him.

**Before all heaven and earth,  
I here acknowledge you as my Lord and God.  
I take you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for my portion,  
and vow to give up myself, body and soul, as your servant,  
to serve you in holiness and righteousness all the days of my life.**

God has given the Lord Jesus Christ as the only way and means of coming to God.

**Jesus, I do here on bended knees accept Christ as the only new and living Way,  
and sincerely join myself in a covenant with him.**

**O blessed Jesus, I come to you,  
hungry, sinful, miserable, blind, and naked,  
unworthy even to wash the feet of your servants.**

**I do here, with all my power, accept you as my Lord and Head.**

**I renounce my own worthiness,  
and vow that you are the Lord, my righteousness.**

**I renounce my own wisdom, and take you for my only guide.**

**I renounce my own will, and take your will as my law.**

Christ has told you that you must suffer with him.

**I do here willingly put my neck under your yoke, to carry your burden.**

**All your laws are holy, just, and good.**

**I therefore take them as the rule for my words, thoughts, and actions,  
promising that I will strive**

**to order my whole life according to your direction,  
and not allow myself to neglect anything I know to be my duty.**

The almighty God searches and knows your heart.

**O God, you know that I make this covenant with you today  
without guile or reservation.**

**If any falsehood should be in it, guide me and help me to set it aright.**

**And now, glory be to you, O God the Father,**

**whom I from this day forward shall look upon as my God and Father.**

**Glory be to you, O God the Son,**

**who have loved me and washed me from my sins in your own blood,  
and now is my Savior and Redeemer.**

**Glory be to you, O God the Holy Spirit,**

**who by your almighty power have turned my heart from sin to God.**

**O mighty God, the Lord Omnipotent, Father, Son, and Holy spirit,  
you have now become my Covenant Friend.**

**And I, through your infinite grace, have become your covenant servant.**

**So be it.**

**And let the covenant I have made on earth be ratified in heaven.**

**Amen.**

*You are advised to make this covenant  
not only in your heart, but in word;  
not only in word, but in writing.*

*Therefore, with all reverence,  
lay the service before the Lord as your act and deed.  
And when you have done this, sign it.*

*Then keep it as a reminder of the holy agreement  
between God and you  
that you may remember it  
during doubts and temptations.*

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Response to the Word*

Pastoral Prayer and Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Prayer

*(Let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.)*

Offering: “Let Me Be Thine Forever” . . . . . J. C. Bach / Lani Smith

\*Congregational Response: Hymn 95. . . “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

**Praise God, from all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Thanksgiving and Holy Communion*

Invitation to Holy Communion

Celebration of Holy Communion . . . . . Pages 19-20, Musical Setting B

Hymns: 369, 382, 378

*Sending Forth*

\*Hymn 698 . . . . . “God of the Ages”

\*Blessing and Sending Forth

\*Congregational Response: Hymn 605, vs. 3. “Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters”

**O how deep your holy wisdom! Unimagined, all your ways!  
To your name be glory, honor! With our lives we worship, praise!  
We your people stand before you, waterwashed and Spirit-born.  
By your grace, our lives we offer. Recreate us; God, transform!**

\*Postlude: “In Thee Is Joy” . . . . . Marcel Dupre

**GREETERS:** Constance Mitchell, Kim Mitchell

**READER:** Judd Bankert

**COMMUNION:** Carolyn and Ed Smith; Lynn and Joe Hill

**USHERS:** Tom Spotts, Jim Printy, Jack True, Tom Davis, Judd Bankert, Ed Smith, Joe Hill, Mike Melton, Jim Linnane

**FLOWER CALENDAR:** Placing flowers on the altar for our worship service can be done in honor or in memory of a loved one, in appreciation of a person or persons, or just because you desire to honor God. If you would like to add to the beauty and significance of our worship service, you will find a flower calendar in the south narthex. Please write your name and phone number on the line for any available Sunday and you will be contacted by Sandra Clemmer. Or you may call Sandra (885-5453), or contact the Church Office.

**PASSION MISSING . . .** The DVD for *The Passion of the Christ* is missing, although the case was returned. If you viewed this movie recently, would you please check your DVD player or recently-viewed DVD cases to see if you still have it? Thanks for your help!

**CHILDREN’S CHOIR** rehearsals will be held each Thursday 5:30–6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Jennifer Reed, director, invites all children to join the group for a fun time of learning and ministry.

**LET’S TURN THE FOOD PANTRY GREEN** – with **CANNED GREENS**, that is. Canned greens and spinach are frequently requested and important in a balanced diet. Other current needs include canned salmon, orange juice, shampoo, men’s deodorant, dish liquid, laundry detergent; also small, empty plastic water/drink bottles. Thanks for sharing your abundance with the less fortunate!

**WEST BEVERLEY STREET PARKING LOT . . .** Members are asked to use our larger parking lot (corner of Lewis and W. Frederick Streets) on Wednesday mornings in order to provide convenient parking for our Food Pantry clientele. Thanks for your help and understanding!

**TO OUR GUESTS:** We are delighted to have you worship with us. All the opportunities and programs of Central are available to you. To become a member of this fellowship, please talk with the pastor after the service. Following the service will be a time of refreshment and fellowship. Please join us so that we might get better acquainted.

**PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT** to sign the attendance slip in your pew; and, if you are a member here, please introduce yourself to anyone who might be visiting with us today. Your warmth and hospitality will be a blessing in someone's life today.

**THE COMMUNION RAIL** is open for prayer at any time, but particularly during the pastoral prayer, during Communion, during the final hymn, and after the worship service. If you would like someone to pray with you, please let the pastor know.

**CHILDREN** are invited to worship with their parents in the Sanctuary. Following the Children's Focus, children under 6 years of age may go to the play room. Later, during the Doxology, they will be brought back into the Sanctuary to participate with their parents in the Great Thanksgiving and receiving the Lord's Supper. We welcome the participation of the youngest members of the family of faith.

**DO YOU HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST?** Please note it in our Prayer Book (located in the Narthex), and our prayer ministry team will join you in praying for the person/need.

**OUR STEWARDSHIP** (Jan. 3)                      Attendance: 83  
Received toward budget/operating expenses: \$5,806.3