



The Central Connection

MESSAGES & OPPORTUNITIES FROM CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH TO YOU!

October 2010



ON THE JOURNEY

The Christian life is often viewed as a journey. For any journey, it's helpful to have a guidebook that describes how to prepare, what to expect, and how to get where we want to go. The

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premier guidebook for the Christian journey is, of course, the Bible. But other study guides, books and resources have also proven to be helpful.

One such guidebook is called "Companions in Christ," a resource designed to help Christians grow spiritually while they travel with Jesus and others on the journey of faith. The areas of study in this resource enable participants to immerse themselves in the streams of living waters through the spiritual disciplines of prayer, scripture, study, worship, ministry and Christian conversation.

Those interested in joining with fellow-travelers can do so by attending the first class on October 4, at 7:00 pm in the library at the church.

Together we will:

- Learn to listen to God through scripture
- Experience new ways of praying and opening to God
- Learn what it means to practice the presence of God
- Reflect on Christ's call in our lives
- Discover the gifts that God has given each of us for living out our personal ministries
- Develop Christian community

If you are spiritually hungry and seeking a deeper experience of God in company with others in the Christian community, please come. This series is for persons who do not think they have all the answers, and who acknowledge their need to grow in God's grace. While the entire course is 28 weeks in length, we will be taking a break about every 5 weeks after we cover each section. Please contact Pastor Stephanie, 886-3441 or pastor@centralumcstaunton.org if you have questions or want to review the book ahead of time.

I look forward to traveling with you!

In Christ, Pastor Stephanie

OUR STEWARDSHIP

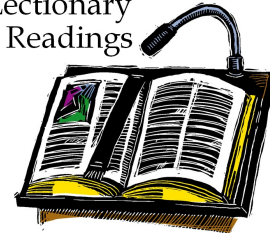
*Bring all the tithes
into the storehouse,
that there may be food
in my house,*

*And try me now in this,
says the LORD of hosts,
If I will not open for you the windows of heaven
and pour out for you such blessing that
there will not be room enough to receive it.*

—Malachi 3:10



Lectionary Readings



October 3

Lamentations 1:1-6
Psalm 137 (UMH 852)
2 Timothy 1:1-14
Luke 17:5-10

October 10

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7
Psalm 66:1-12 (UMH 790)
2 Timothy 2:8-15
Luke 17:11-19

October 17

Jeremiah 31:27-34
Psalm 19 (UMH 750)
2 Timothy 3:14—4:5
Luke 18:1-8

October 24

Joel 2:23-32
Psalm 65 (UMH 789)
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
Luke 18:9-14

October 31

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4
Psalm 119:137-144 (UMH 840)
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12
Luke 19:1-10

Do you feel an obligation to tithe? Many people give their tithes out of a sense of duty or as a debt owed to God rather than out of a true understanding of tithing: giving thanks for what they have been given.

God asks that we give our gifts where we are spiritually fed. Many of us receiving this newsletter have chosen Central United Methodist Church to be God's storehouse for our lives. As we begin this season of harvest and thanksgiving and prepare for next year's needs through our giving campaign (which begins September 27), please remember the church and be generous to God as He has been generous to us. Instead of trying to calculate how much money the church needs to sustain itself, let us try to think how we can reflect our gratitude in our gifts.

—Josh Gutshall
Stewardship Chairperson

The Central Connection is the monthly newsletter of Central United Methodist Church, Lewis and Beverley Streets, Staunton, VA.

Mailing address: P. O. Box 953
Staunton, VA 24402

Telephone: (540) 886-3441

FAX: (540) 886-5771

e-mail: centralumc@centralumcstaunton.org

www.centralumcstaunton.org

The Central Connection Editor: Agnes Campbell

IN MINISTRY

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

Pastor..... Stephanie M. Sault
Minister of Music/Organist..... Sherry von Oeyen
Church Secretary..... Agnes Campbell
Child's Play Director. Jo Ann B. Black
Custodian. Janet Nuckoles
Retired Missionary Professor..... Hunter P. Mabry
Retired Pastor..... David D. Reed

CELEBRATION OF THE LAITY

By Anita Jackson, Lay Leader

On Sunday, October 17, Central Church will celebrate *Laity Sunday*. In the UMC this means all of us who are not a member of the clergy. We are all listed as ministers. If you look at the back section of our weekly bulletin (“In Ministry”), you will see that there are 360 of us lay ministers at Central.

There’s a song that reminds me of who we are, “We are the Church.” We are responsible for the ministries that go on here. We support them in numerous ways by our gifts, graces and presence. Each of these methods of support is equally important. However, what we cannot forget is that we are also called to be Christ’s servants in the world, to the glory of God and for human fulfillment. As the community we participate in Christ’s ministry of grace. This ministry grows and stretches out of human needs, wherever service may convey God’s love and ours.

In our membership vows, we promise that we will support the church with our prayers, **PRESENCE**, gifts, service, and witness. Just what does **PRESENCE** mean? And how can we possibly transform the world through it?

The word **PRESENCE** is the source of our emphasis for now. On the face of it, all of us can be present in a lot of things and

at a lot of events if the meaning here is purely physical. I have been “present” at the viewing of basketball games. That is what my spouse wanted. Was I fully present? Not really, my heart just was not in it.

So when we attend worship every Sunday, are we always fully present? When we are served or when we serve others, are we fully present? Are our hearts really in it or are we off somewhere else solving a work problem, making a grocery list or planning our week? What do we miss when we are not fully **PRESENT**? In worship we miss the presence of the Holy Spirit when we don’t pay close attention to the children’s time or the words of a hymn. It might even be some words in the sermon.

More importantly we miss the opportunity to experience fellowship with other believers. We need to be in relationship with each other to reach out to the rest of the world.

On Sunday, October 17, several members of our congregation will share with us what joy they have gained from not only their active presence at Central but how it has, through the power of the Holy Spirit, enriched and touched them to make a difference inside and outside of our church community. We hope you’ll be... **PRESENT!**



Just what does PRESENCE mean?
And how can we possibly transform
the world through it?

MUSIC NOTES

by Sherry von Oeyen, Director of Music Ministries

I recently attended an inspiring session at Massanetta Springs on the book of *The Revelation to John*. This book can seem confusing and difficult; however, we were encouraged to not get bogged down with all the symbolism (which can actually be quite interesting!), but to focus on the key meaning throughout the book—that God indeed has the last word and that word is Jesus, our Savior, King of kings and Lord of lords.

We discovered that *Revelation* is filled with songs and hymns. So many hymnwriters have composed their texts from these verses. Consider that when we sing hymns, we're not so much analyzing the texts as much as we are actually encountering and experiencing them. The hymns we sing transform us. I'd like to give you some examples of hymns and songs taken from *Revelation*.

In Chapter 4:8, we read "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is to come!"

In hymn #64 (*The United Methodist Hymnal* ©1989), we sing

"Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

All the saints adore thee, casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;

cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee; which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be."

Hymn # 154, "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name," pulls from verses throughout the book.

Verse 1 sings,

"Let angels prostrate fall; bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all."

And verse 6 says, "We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all."

In Chapter 22:3, we are told to worship the Lamb at the throne of God.

In hymn #181, "Ye Servants of God," in verse 3 we sing,

"...Let all cry aloud and honor the Son; the praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
fall down on their faces and worship the Lamb."

Also, I think Hymn #168, "At the Name of Jesus" reflects not only Philippians 2:10,11, but this verse from *Revelation*.....

"At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, every tongue confess him King of glory now;

'tis the Father's pleasure we should call him Lord, who from the beginning was the mighty Word."

Most exciting to me are the choruses from Handel's oratorio, *The Messiah*, that so strongly echo the words in *Revelation*. The very familiar *Hallelujah Chorus* is taken from Chapter 11:15:

"...the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign for ever and ever."

Chapter 19:6 cries, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns;"

and in verse 16, "On his robe and on his thigh he has a name inscribed, King of kings and Lord of lords."

The final chorus of the oratorio before the *Amen* is from Revelation 5:12, 13:

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and hath redeemed us to God by His blood,

to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and blessing.

Blessing and honour, glory and power be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne and unto the Lamb."



**Worthy is the Lamb...
blessing and honor,
glory and power be to Him!**

(Continued on next page)

Music Notes, continued from previous page

This significant closure certainly brings *The Messiah* to the spectacular summation of Jesus, Jesus, Jesus above all (!) as we move to the awareness of the new Jerusalem with Jesus at the throne of God.

A song you may know, *The Holy City*, very beautifully tells about the new Jerusalem:

“I saw the holy city beside the tideless sea:
The light of God was on its street,
the gates were open wide;
and all who would might enter
and no one was denied.
No need of moon or stars by night
nor sun to shine by day;
it was the new Jerusalem
that would not pass away!”

From chapter 21:2:

”And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God..”

As we come to the end of the book, in chapter 22, John sees the river of life. The hymn, *Shall We Gather at the River* #723, gives us this hope and joy of being with God, having laid up our burdens.

”Yes, we’ll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.”

Finally, as we sing #211, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” during Advent to remind us of Jesus coming to earth as a baby to grow and be with us, teach us, love us, we can meditate on Revelation 22:20:

“Come, Lord Jesus!”

God was, is, and will be forever and ever.
Hallelujah!

Why not take some time to sit with *The Revelation to John* and the hymnal and enjoy reflecting on God’s Word to us.

Also, on page 926 in the hymnal is a list of other hymns which make reference to this special book in the Bible.

CROP WALK

October 31, 2:00 p.m.



The 2010 Crop Walk will take place on October 31 at 2:00 p.m. beginning at the Central UMC parking lot. Walkers’ registration/pledge materials will be available in early October.

Please consider being a Crop Walker or making a contribution to support a Crop Walker. All contributions must be turned in by October 31.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY



OCTOBER 3, 2010

World Communion Sunday Offerings provide scholarship funds which enable people from around the world to serve and lead in their home churches and communities by making higher education a reality. Ethnic scholarship recipients study in a wide variety of fields: family pastoral care, clinical psychology, peace and governance, crop production, law, and more.

Your generous contributions support:

- World Communion Scholarships, related to the General Board of Global Ministries—50 percent of the offering. These are for international and U.S. (racial- and ethnic-minority) graduate students. At least half of the annual amount goes to ministries beyond the United States.
- Ethnic Scholarship Program, affiliated with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM)—35 percent of offering. This benefits undergraduate students.
- Ethnic In-Service Training Program, GBHEM—15 percent of offering. Racial- and ethnic-minority persons seeking second careers in church-related vocations receive these scholarships.

World Communion Sunday Offerings are integral to making a difference for the future by preparing and nurturing the students of today.

OUR FOREMOTHERS

By Luz deTablan

Two years ago, when I was asked to be the president of the United Methodist Women of our church, I asked our Church Secretary for a record of Central's UMW. I was so happy when I got the document. It added backing to my plan of a UMW Sunday in September to celebrate UMW contributions to mission; to know the history of Central's UMW and "foremothers," (without whose dedication and commitment there would be no UMW Unit at Central). It's so important to know them, because of their legacy to us, the legacy of being in mission. These women answered the call to service in Staunton and around the world as well. The five-page document is a detailed record naming many leaders, in whose footprints we're now following. These were the records I found:

Following unification in 1939 of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the Methodist Protestant Church to form the Methodist Church, the Woman's Missionary Society was succeeded by the Woman's Society of Christian Service (WSCS).

The records indicate that in 1940 Bishop W.W. Peele of Richmond addressed the gathering of 250 pastors and their wives and the church women of the Staunton District at Central Church-Staunton, in preparation for the organization of the WSCS. Also, the Wesleyan Service Guild was formed by gainfully employed women. The Bishop gave a devotion after which he met with the ministers present, and Mrs. Peele conducted a parsonage club meeting with the parsonage wives. An informational and inspirational meeting was led by Mrs. W. H. Ballengee, Mrs. W. O. (Catherine Hamrick) Bickle and Mrs. J. F. (Sarah Brown) Moomaw.

One hundred forty three women of Central Church signed the charter on September 17, 1940 and the Woman's Society of Christian Service was officially organized. The Treasurer, Mrs. F. E. Markley, reported that the Woman's Missionary Society had closed out their year by sending a check of \$288.94 to the Conference.



The Officers of the Woman's Society in 1941 were: President—Mrs. Charter Chew; Secretary—Mrs. S. E. Matthews; Treasurer—Mrs. W. J. Hewlett; Secretary of Christian Social Relations—Mrs. F.E. Markley; Secretary of Children's Work—Mrs. George Pittman; and President of the Wesleyan Guild—Miss Nellie Werner. Many more dedicated women were elected to lead the Woman's Society of Christian Service and the Wesleyan Service Guild. In the year 1968 following the General Conference, the Wesleyan Service Guild and the Woman's Society of Christian Service joined to become the Women's Society of Christian Service.

In 1972 the Women's Society of Christian Service underwent another name change and became the inclusive United Methodist Women. Subsequent presidents have included Miss Virginia Brooks and Miss Marchant, former Wesleyan Service Guild officers; Mrs. C. S. Peeler, Mrs. A. C. Hankla, Jr., and Mrs. C. M. Fountain. During these administrations members of the Unit were apprised of mission programs through participation in District and Conference meetings. Mrs. J. F. Moomaw of Central Church was elected District Missionary Secretary; and by 1952 the president of the Staunton District Women's Society of Christian Service was Mrs. John R. Snead of Central. From 1976-1980, Mrs. Harry E. Baylor, Jr., also of Central Church, was elected Staunton District UMW President.

Central's UMW is grateful for its heritage. We are not bound to the past but use it as a step toward a future of greater commitment to know God, to be involved in creating supportive fellowships, and to increase knowledge of and to participate in the global ministries of United Methodism.

Historically, the United Methodist Women, (Central UMW unit a part of it), is the successor of the Ladies Aid and missionary societies which were formed over 139 years ago. Central-Staunton UMW continues to respond to the call of mission, supporting projects for children, youth, and women locally and globally by prayers, resources and donations of time. This ministry helps deepen and strengthen the faith of every member as we continue our personal and communal journey with Christ.



Central United Methodist Church

Lewis Street at Beverley
Post Office Box 953
Staunton, Virginia 24402-0953
www.centralumcstaunton.org

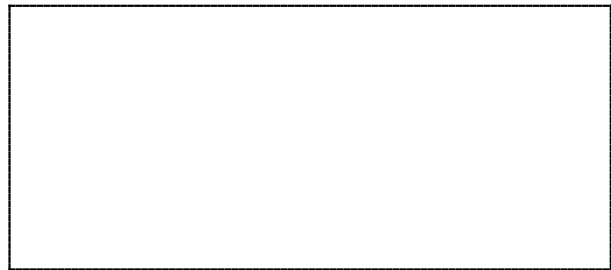
Don't Miss Inside:
■ **Volunteer List**
■ **E-Mail Address Directory**

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OCTOBER 2010



Return Service Requested



Plant Swap

Saturday, October 16

9:00 a.m.

Upper Parking Lot

- ★ Bring potted perennial(s)
- ★ Receive 1 ticket for each plant
- ★ Exchange each ticket for another plant of your choice
- ★ Cider and cookies!
- ★ More info: Please contact Emily Stumb 885-6192



Annual Church Meeting

LOOKING AHEAD

(Please mark your calendar!)

**Central's Annual
Charge Conference
Thursday, November 4
7:30 p.m.**

Please plan to join us as we celebrate the ministries of 2009 and look forward to 2010.