

Central United Methodist Church
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Non-Profit Organization
US Postage Paid
Radford, VA
Permit Number #17

Return Service Requested



January 26, 2016

Mark your Calendar

January 29

6:00p Knitted Together

January 31

4:00p Sunday Funday

7:00p Admin Board Meeting

February 1

6:00p Holy Yoga

February 3

*Wonderful Wednesdays Resume

*Youth Choir, Children's Choir &
Handbell Rehearsals Resume

February 4

1:30p Grief Group

February 5

Newsletter Articles Due

6:00p Knitted Together

February 6

6:00p Valentine's Day Dinner

February 7

12:15p El Salvador Super Bowl

Party Fundraiser

February 8

7:00p Building Committee Meeting

February 10

Ash Wednesday

Central News

Central United Methodist Church

From My Perspective

(Some of you may have seen this on my blog recently, but it's been re-purposed. A good story is always worth hearing twice!)

It was just a few years ago. I can still remember the excitement in my Mother's voice as she told me about her new Buick. She told me about the heated seats and the heated steering wheel, about the power seats and automatic lights and wipers. "It just has everything," she said. I have rarely seen Mom get excited about too much, but she was sure excited about her new car.

A couple of years later, Mom had to give up driving because of seizures and Parkinson's disease. So, Dad took over as the driver of Mom's dream car. Then Dad had to quit driving, too, because his vision faded quickly. They had this nice car, the best one they had ever owned, and neither of them could drive it.

Last month, they caught wind of the fact that my vehicle had just died. So, they called me to tell me that they were giving me the Buick. As my Dad said, "There's no use in it sitting here. Take it and drive it."

Now, every time I turn the key in the ignition switch, I stop and think about the generosity of my parents, and how they both modeled it and practiced it over the years, even in their younger years when things were tight, especially while trying to keep two growing boys in food and clothing.

So now, I'm the beneficiary of someone else's dream. As a part of the Central family, we're all beneficiaries of someone else's dreams. People saved and sacrificed to leave us the place where we worship and do ministry. They left us good, functional space, along with the sacred space where we meet God in worship. I wish I could remember to stop and thank God for the people who left us this building every time I unlock the doors. It would do us all good to be grateful for all the resources we have for ministry.

Now it's our turn. We have dreamed a dream about adding space where we can do vital ministry in the name of Jesus. It's time for our generation to do what we can, knowing that years after we're gone, others will benefit from our generosity. Check out Joe Hester's letter on the next page. At this crucial juncture in the life of our Church, we are called to be generous.

See you Sunday. I'll be the guy driving the Buick.



Join us at CUMC on January 31st for **Sunday Funday**
an afternoon of activities for all ages!

♥ Warm your heart with fun and fellowship, warm other's hearts with
God's love through service opportunities. ♥

4:00p - Fun for all ages!

Crafts, games, treats and other snow-themed fun for everyone

5:15p - Potluck Dinner

Bring a dish to share!

6:00p - Family Worship

With music by the Praise Band and a special message from Pastor Don

♥ Dessert Provided immediately after worship ♥

Let's Bear Fruit for the Lord

I grew up in the small Grayson Co. town of Fries, Va. It was a classic cotton mill town created from some riverside farm land in 1902 by a textile magnate from NC named Colonel Fries. Nearly everybody worked for the "mill," lived in company houses and shopped in the company store. Actually it was a wonderful place to grow up.

My church was Fries UMC, of which I have many happy memories, and to which I owe the foundation of my faith. I can still smell the fried chicken at the pot luck dinners, still see my father who was my youth SS teacher sitting there with his bible, and still taste the Kool Aid and Mrs. Sumner's cookies at VBS. Most of all I remember the night I went to the altar the last night of the youth revival. As I look back I am amazed that the church I grew up in during the 1950s and 60s was built by a small congregation that had only been together for just over a year. What a statement of faith that was! What they had the faith to step out and build, I enjoyed 50 years later. I thank God for those people and that church. Fries UMC is still there today 112 years later.

I have the same feeling of gratitude at CUMC when I sit in our beautiful sanctuary and remember that the people who built it, gathered every Sunday in the early 1950s for worship downstairs in what is now two children's Sunday school rooms (Mrs. Jackie's old room and Ms. Kay's). Again, my walk with the Lord has been blessed by those who have gone before me and have had the faith to build for the future of God's kingdom.

I cringe every time I read a statistic about how fewer and fewer Americans attend church. A couple of years ago the percentage of Americans who "attend church regularly" dropped below 50% for the first time. The trend line is not good. We have an opportunity to change that. We have an opportunity to build and grow the kingdom right here in Radford. That's what it will take in communities all across this land to turn the tide. We as Christians are called to bear fruit and grow. This is the time we can provide for those who follow us, now and in the future. This is the time we can help build the CUMC of the 2040s, 50s and beyond. This will be our legacy. This will be our fruit.

Our congregation has worked hard over the years to build what we have, and God has blessed us each step along the way. I strongly encourage you now to help us complete our proposed plan for the addition of a Family Life Center. It is the sacrifices of the past which provide for the future. Central always comes through! Let us bear fruit together!

In service to Christ,
Joe Hester
 Chair of the Administrative Board

Earlier this month we sent out a letter detailing the proposed plan for the addition of a Family Life Center and outlining the financial needs for the project. A commitment card was included in that letter to help us gauge the congregation's financial support for this undertaking. Please return the card to the Church by January 31st. If you did not receive a letter, or would like a new copy, please contact the Church Office.

Children & Youth

Valentine's Day Dinner

Make plans today to attend the Valentine's Day Dinner on Feb. 6th at 6:00p. Bring a date or a friend and help support the Children's Ministry! Tickets are \$20 per couple. Call the Church Office to reserve your spot now! Contact Wendy with questions.

Wonderful Wednesday Resumes

Our Wonderful Wednesday program will resume on February 3rd! This Spring we will focus on the Fruits of the Spirit. If you know any children K-4th grade who are not yet participating in Wonderful Wednesdays and would like to, or if you would like to know how you can help us with this important outreach, please contact Wendy.

OPERATING BUDGET

	1/17/16	1/24/16
Needed YTD	\$29,168	\$38,891
Received YTD	\$32,515	\$34,681
Building Fund	\$130	\$0
Designated Gifts	\$226	\$70
Received Sunday	\$5,226	\$2,166

ATTENDANCE

	1/17/16	1/24/16
Morning Worship	98	--
Sunday School	123	--
Traditional Worship	103	55
Total Worship	201	55

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

Nursery, Sunday January 31
 Darrell & Janie Fisher
 Margarett Dobbins, Amy & Todd Shrewsbury
Nursery, Sunday February 7
 Jamie & Karen Radford
 Rob & Kendall Colley, Trudy Eastridge
Meet and Greet, Sunday January 31
 Missions
Meet and Greet, Sunday February 7
 Aldersgate/New Hope/ New Class
Van Driver - February

PRAYER REQUESTS

April Salvant
 Pat Yanhko
 Becky Ritter
 Margaret Hammond
 Kathleen Ratcliffe
 Graham & Jennie Simmerman
 Bill Goode

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Ryan Haynes - California
 Kerry Keys - South Korea
 Jeffrey Kincaid - Hawaii
 Elizabeth Venegas - North Carolina

Upcoming Events

Superbowl Tailgate Party

On Super Bowl Sunday, February 7th, wear your favorite jersey to show support for your team and join us for a Tailgate Lunch immediately after the 11:00a service! Pulled pork and other favorite tailgate food will be served. Takeout boxes will be available. Donations will be accepted to help send the El Salvador team on this summer's mission trip. Contact Amber Hollins with questions.

Jubilation

Jubilation 2016, a retreat for older adults sponsored by the Holston Conference, will be held April 17-19 in Pigeon Forge, TN. Last year this retreat filled up quickly, so register soon! If you plan to attend Jubilation and would like church provided transportation, please contact the Church Office. If you have questions, contact Doris Morgan. Brochures can be found on the table outside the Sanctuary.

Lenten Bible Study

Come together to experience a season of spiritual growth and renewal in Adam Hamilton's DVD and study series *John: The Gospel of Light and Life*. This 6-week study, starting Feb. 11, will meet on Thursdays from 6:15-7:45PM at the Church. Cost of the book will be \$10. If interested contact Becky Jo Masters or the Church Office.

Notable Notes

Do you "Like" CUMC on Facebook?

Stay connected with Central throughout the week by liking our page on Facebook! See reminders about meetings, get information on upcoming events, and see special prayer requests from throughout our community. You can find us at Facebook.com/CUMCRadford

Service DVDs

FYI, DVDs of Central's worship services are available each week. You can ask to receive copies by signing the clipboard hanging by the steps at the sound stage, or call the Church Office.