

Central UMC

Has a



for missions

The Jot & Tittle

The newsletter of Central United Methodist Church

For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.
(Matthew 5:18)

December 18, 2011

Worship Services at Central
Dr. Rob Blackburn, Senior Minister

Sunday Worship Services
at 8:45 and 10:55 am

December 18: 4th Sunday in Advent
New Member Sunday

December 25 Christmas Day
10:55 am service only

Saturdays at Six Worship

6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall
No service December 24 or 31

A nursery is provided
during all worship services.
Sunday School classes for
all ages at 9:45 am.

Sunday worship is broadcast
on 1310 WISE-AM at 9:00 am.

The Sunday worship service is live on
www.centralumc.org (you must have
high-speed internet and Real Player).

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Everyone is invited to the annual Christmas Brunch on Sunday, December 18

All the adults are invited to a Christmas Brunch in the Fellowship Hall. from 7:45 to 10:45 am for a time of fellowship and good food. The children will attend their regular Sunday School classes so this is a time for the adults to enjoy. A delicious breakfast casserole, juice, and coffee will be provided by Central. But that's not all!

Everyone is encouraged to bring a loaf of your favorite bread to share. So when you are doing your Christmas baking (or shopping) make an extra loaf to bring to the Brunch.

You can bring your baked goods to the kitchen any time before the brunch—just be sure to put a note with it or tell the custodians it is for the Brunch.



Christmas offering to go to international missions

Our Special Christmas offering will once again go to our international mission efforts. Over the last 10 years Central United Methodist Church has supported Kory Wawanaca Children's Home in Bolivia (the orphanage founded by Carrie Blackburn); partnered with Dominican Crossroads in the Dominican Republic since 2009 where Haitian refugees are helped (with food, clothing, education, medical care, and housing); and many other Volunteers in Mission opportunities provided through the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING



Many of our members have represented our church in third world locations acting as Jesus' (and our) hands and feet providing care to strangers and living out their faith in places of desperate need.

This Christmas offering will allow us to continue to support these programs and assist with the cost of sending short term missionaries from our church to these places for the work that needs to be done.

If you have an interest in any of these programs or if you would like to go on a mission trip, speak with Jessica Tripp. She can connect you with members who have gone and whose lives have been changed by their experiences.

Please generously support this special Christmas offering!

If weather could be a problem, please check the homepage on Central's website www.centralumc.org to see if a service has been canceled.

Central Happenings



Congratulations to



To **Matt and Justin Davis** on the birth of their son, Charlie Ray Davis, on November 26.

To **Leonard and Irene Slaughter** who will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on December 31.

Stephen Brown, Central's Director of Youth Ministry, is getting married

Merry Christmas to you all! I wanted to thank you all before we left on Christmas break for a wonderful year. As always I have been blessed to serve the youth of this church this year, and I have certainly enjoyed working with the parents as well. Thank you all for your support this year: cooking meals, driving vehicles, filling out one more permission form—it has been wonderful and I am so thankful for you all.



On December 25 I will be leaving town to get married to my beautiful soon-to-be bride Alisa Tripolino. We are getting married in St. Petersburg, Florida, on December 30. I know that everyone can't be with us on our special day but we are so grateful for all of your thoughts, prayers and blessings.

—Stephen Brown

Note: There will be a celebration shower at Central for Stephen and Alisa, probably in February. Watch for more details.

Attention: Women in your 40s and 50s

A new Journey Group is forming for you!

Are you interested in meeting new friends! A January *introductory meeting* will be offered for women in this age group! If you would like to attend, please call Carol Bailey at 252-7436 for more information. The meeting is in January at Central, but you can call now to sign up. Join us for friendship and spiritual growth. Come give us a try!

Come help take down the decorations on January 3

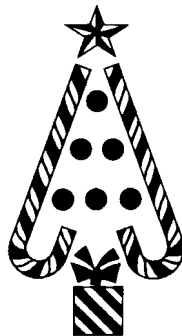
The church is now beautifully decorated for Christmas, but after Christmas all the decorations have to come down. Volunteers are needed to help un-decorate the church on Tuesday, January 3. Meet in the Sanctuary at 9:30 am. If you have any questions, please contact Alexandra Holland (alexandra@wncnature.com or 280-1470) or Gail Moody (298-5394).

Jot & Tittle deadlines

December 14 is the deadline for the January 1 issue

January 4 is the deadline for the January 15 issue

Please mail articles and information to Anne Frick at the church, leave notices in her mail box at the Reception Desk, or email info to her at: africk@centralumc.org. All material is subject to editing.



Foods for ABCCM:

**Spam, cooking oil, powdered milk,
canned fruit
self-rising flour and self-rising cornmeal**

[ABCCM can break down larger packages if you prefer to buy items in bulk]

Bring food items to large box in the Fellowship Hall to help feed the hungry in our area

2011 budget update

As of November 27, our Central congregation has given \$1,480,662 to support our ministries and the operating budget. Thank you!

(This is up \$105,464 from the same time last year.)

Christmas Eve Services at Central

Christmas Eve Service for Children and Families at 3:00 pm

**“The Messengers—A Christmas story from the Heavenly Hosts”
to be presented December 24**

Join us this Christmas Eve at 3:00 as the children present *“The Messengers—A Christmas story from the Heavenly Hosts”*. Come experience the story of Jesus’ birth as told by the angels. Join us in songs of the season and see beautiful works of art as a life size painted crèche is presented.

Children are invited to bring gifts to the manger during the service. Please bring baby care items (*diapers, baby wipes, baby formula, jars of food, cereal and other baby care items*). All gifts will benefit Project Angels Watch, a ministry of Caring for Children.



**Adults and children, please remember to bring a baby care item,
such a diapers, wipes, baby food, formula, etc.
During the final hymn, we will bring these gifts to the manger as a Christmas offering.**

Birthday Party for Jesus follows in the Fellowship Hall

At the conclusion of the 3:00 pm worship service, you are invited to the Fellowship Hall for cake and punch at our Birthday Party for Jesus. Come celebrate the season and experience the joy of Christ’s birth! Merry Christmas!

Central Brass Concert at 5:00 pm

Come and enjoy a concert of Christmas music presented by the Central Brass Ensemble under the direction of Suzanne Brown. The concert begins at 5:00 pm in the Sanctuary, but come early because the seats fill up quickly!

Traditional Christmas Service of Lessons and Carols at 5:30 pm



This traditional Lessons and Carols service will feature readings from the Scriptures on the Nativity—followed by anthems from the Chancel Choir and congregational carols. The Youth will present a tableau of the Christmas story.

Dr. Blackburn will give a meditation and the service will conclude with the lighting of candles and the singing of “Silent Night.”

Candlelight Communion Service at 11:00 pm

The Candlelight Communion Service takes place in the darkened Sanctuary with candles providing the light. It is a quiet, reflective time of worship. The service ends as Christmas Day begins.

No Saturdays at Six worship service on December 24 or 31

Only one worship service on December 25 — the 10:55 am service

On Sunday, December 25, there will only be one worship service—the 10:55 service. You are welcome to wear Christmas or casual attire for this service if you wish.

There will be no Children’s Sunday School. There will not be a Youth program that morning. There will be Children’s Church at 10:55 worship. The doors will open at 9:30 am and the adult Sunday School classes have the option of meeting or not.



Wonderful Wednesdays

Everyone is invited to attend the Wonderful Wednesdays dinner and activities. Dinner begins at 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Adults are \$7 each and children are \$4. Please call 253-3316 to make dinner reservations.

Welcome the New Year on Wednesday, January 11

A worship service to celebrate the New Year will take place on Wednesday, January 11, from 6:00 to 6:45 pm, in the Sanctuary. Our preacher will be The Rev. Heidi Campbell-Robinson, President of WaterRock Institute. Her message will focus on the Scripture, "Behold, I make all things new" (Rev. 21:5).

The Rev. Brian Combs, Pastor of Haywood Street Congregation, will serve as liturgist, and singer-songwriter, Karl Ruch, will play songs to accompany worship. Karl Ruch is a regional talent with a wonderful voice and inventive guitar style who has two CDs to his credit.

What are Your "New Possibilities" in 2012?

Join us on Wednesday evenings January 18 and 25 from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm, for a two-part program that focuses on how we can live into New Possibilities. The Rev. Heidi Campbell-Robinson and Dave Carr, a consultant who is affiliated with WaterRock Institute, will lead the workshops. They will talk about how we often live between two narratives but how we can integrate them: how God's Story can become *our* story. They will also lead us in some practical ways in which we can adopt new patterns and infuse our lives with creativity in the New Year. Register now at the table located outside the Fellowship Hall!

Prison Ministry

Prison Ministry is active at Central Buncombe Correctional Center (BCC)

The volunteers of the Community Resource Council (BCC-CRC) have contributed and solicited individuals and churches for contents for a gift bag to be given to all the 182 inmates at Buncombe Correctional Center. The personally decorated bag will contain shaving cream, toothpaste, a toothbrush, bar of soap, a pen and pencil, a note pad, candy, chocolate kisses, and other goodies.

A very important item will be a devotional booklet. Please pray that this devotional will be a seed that "*fell on good ground; and it yielded fruit that sprang up and increased and brought forth: some thirty, and some sixty, and some a hundredfold.*" (Mark 4:8).

Thank you Central for furnishing the devotionals and thanks to Central's children for providing Hershey kisses to the incarcerated. "*Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.*" (Matthew 26:40)



Marion Correctional Institute (MCI)

In addition to our monthly Kairos reunions which are held every second Thursday of the month, the MCI staff has approved that Kairos members may visit the fourth week of the month to lead the inmates in small prayer and share groups. The prayer and share groups will start in January, going through March, on a trial basis. We need your prayer for enough volunteer and inmate participation. God is already there and when we listen to His call the "trial basis" will become another monthly hour glorifying God behind the razor wire.

Preparations are on the way for Kairos MCI#8 weekend which will be held May 17 through 20, 2012. For a team application form, please contact John Klees 56john44@charter.net. Central UMC, please be again well-represented in the interdenominational Kairos MCI#8 team. "*Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'"* (Isaiah 6:8)

—John Klees



Outreach

Carrie Blackburn Brown signs her book at Grateful Steps December 17

Grateful Steps Publishing House & Bookshop here in Asheville will be having a book signing and children's event for the true story *The Best Cupcake Ever* by Carrie Blackburn Brown on Saturday, December 17, from 2:00 – 3:00 pm.

Carrie Blackburn Brown, founder and current director of Kory Wawanaca Children's Home in Tacachia, Bolivia, will talk about managing the children's home and living in Bolivia. She will read and explain the story of Severo and his cupcake. *The Best Cupcake Ever* is a bilingual story about a mother's unconditional love with illustrations by Cindy Fulbright Kinser (a member of Central), who will also be present at the event. Cupcake ice cream will be served by The Hop.

Grateful Steps is located at 159 South Lexington Avenue. All proceeds from the book support the Kory Wawanaca Children's Home



Room in the Inn coming January 8 - 14

Room in the Inn is a faith-based program, offering three meals daily and nighttime shelter for up to twelve homeless women. All of the guests at RITI complete a screening process before participating in the program. The women come into a new host church each week, beginning Sunday evening and moving to another on Sunday a week later.

Central and Trinity Episcopal partner with each other to provide meals, overnight volunteers, and a safe, comfortable place to sleep. Trinity will be the host church for the January 8-14 week and Central will help with meals and volunteers. **Each night volunteers are needed to spend the night at the host church. In addition, the volunteers provide breakfast, a bag lunch, and dinner each day of the week; movies or other casual activities are always a special treat for the ladies.**

Please look for the sign-up sheets that will be posted on the standing bulletin board outside of the Sanctuary and see where you—or your circle, Journey Group, or Sunday School class— can help. For anyone wanting to help for the first time or needing more information, please call Scott Abernethy at 684-8180 and she will be glad to answer any questions.



Needs at the Vanderbilt

Over the years, the members of Central have helped our friends and neighbors living at the Vanderbilt Apartments in downtown Asheville. The following items are currently needed:

- paper towels and toilet paper
- Kleenex
- small bottles of dishwashing soap
- small cans of juice and fruit
- low-sodium soup

If you can help, place your items in the WE CARE boxes at the Second Floor entrance (near the Fellowship Hall) and near the Reception Desk. The Vanderbilt residents are most appreciative of the gift. Thank you for your continued support. [Note: **Magazines are not needed** at the present time.]

“Something Extra Sunday” on January 22 Sponsors for Children Living in Poverty in Asheville

Come join us on Sunday, January 22, at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall to learn how YOU can make a difference in the lives of children from low-income families at Isaac Dickson Elementary School and Asheville High School. It is easy to become a part of this life-affirming effort of widening the circle as a faith community in the center of the city of Asheville. The needs of children continue to grow with the economic situation our country is currently experiencing. More families have fallen into poverty this past year.

These are the two schools in Asheville that Central has been a sponsor for the past two years. Members will share their stories about their experience in being a vital part of this outreach effort this past year. Sunday school classes, Journey Groups, Circles, and individuals partnering together can be a sponsor. Twenty-five students at Isaac Dickson were sponsored last year as were 17 high school students for their college dorm room supplies at Asheville High.

Contact Karen Ballard if you have additional questions, 665-7501.

Children's Ministry

Children's Christmas Eve play rehearsal schedule

All children participating in the Children's Christmas Eve play will rehearse on the following dates: Sunday, December 18, from 12:30 - 2:00 pm; Wednesday, December 21, from 5:30 -6:30 pm; Dress Rehearsal, Friday, December 23, at 10:00 am

Youth Ministry

UMYF—United Methodist Youth Fellowship for grades 7-12

Contact Stephen Brown, Youth Director, at 253-3316, 421-0340 or email Stephen@centralumc.org

Stephen will be on vacation/honeymooning from December 25 until January 8.
For Winter Retreat help or questions please contact **Meredith Abernethy** at 828-458-0374.
All other inquiries can be answered at the church office 253-3316.

December 18: Live Nativity practice at 4:00 pm

We are costume fitting and practicing on December 18 at 4 o'clock. **All participants must be there for practice.** We will meet at the church at 4:30 on Christmas Eve to get ready for the service at 5:30.

December 18: Christmas Party

Come join us for an evening of fun and festivities as we celebrate Christmas the way it was meant to be celebrated, with fun and Christmas themed Games. The party will start at 5:00 and end a little later than normal at 7:30. **Bring a Gag Gift, UNDER \$5!!** (The dollar store is your friend.)



December 24: Live Nativity participants meet at 4:30 to get ready for the service at 5:30 pm

Sunday, December 25, and Sunday, January 1: No Youth Happy Holidays to everyone!!!

January 8: Movie and Pizza

Welcome back from the holidays, we are going to have a relaxing evening in the youth room. We will be screening a movie on the BIG SCREEN and stuffing our selves with pizza. Come join us and share some of YOUR holiday stories!!

January 14-16: Winter Retreat Our Annual Get away Weekend!!

- Where: Camp Cedar Cliff in Black Mountain January 14-16
- What: Basically Camp Cedar Cliff has everything a person would ever want to do.... Archery, Floor Polo, Camp Field Games (such as Adventure Ball and Capture the Flag), Nature Trail, Soccer, BB-gun Range, Frisbee Golf, Basketball Courts, Challenge Course, Softball, Zip Line, Climbing Wall, Beach Volleyball, Ping Pong, and A Talent Show.



Youth Winter Retreat

Not only will we have a weekend full of fun, but we will continue to experience God with each other. Worship will be led by an All-Star Waynesville praise Band and we have a plethora of wonderful speakers. I really hope that all of you would like to be a part of this it will be a great weekend. Deadline for registration is January 8. If you have any questions, please contact If you have any questions (before December 24) please give me a call at the church or on my cell phone 828-421-0340. **After December 24, contact Meredith Abernethy at 828-458-0374.**

Parish Nurse / Older Adult Ministry

How are your blood pressure readings? Come January 8 and see

There will be a blood pressure screening on Sunday, January 8, from 9:30-10:45 am in the Senior Resource Center which is located behind the Reception Desk.

Elevated blood pressure raises your heart disease risk plus can affect your eyes, and kidneys.

Blood Drive at Central on Sunday, January 15



The Red Cross will hold a blood drive from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please take this opportunity to give the gift of life.

There will be no Lipid Screening in December.

How to stay well during the cold and flu season

Here are some tips for staying healthy when the cold and flu season arrives:

- Get enough sleep. Some studies show that sleeping 7 hours a night can decrease your chances of getting sick up to 50%.
- Take a multivitamin every day. This has shown to be helpful to everyone.
- Eat brightly colored fresh fruits to reduce your risk of catching a cold or flu.
- Exercise. Even something as simple as taking a walk can help improve the fighting power of your white blood cells.



United Methodist Women

Church Women United meets January 21

The Church Women United Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, January 21, beginning at 9:30 am at Brooks Howell Home. There will be a business meeting and guest Speaker. The topic of the program is "Christian Zionists: Their Effect on Palestine and Israel." All women are invited.

UMW Executive meeting scheduled for January 15

The United Methodist Women Executive Meeting will be Sunday, January 15, at 2:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

The **Eve Circle** will meet on Tuesday, January 3, at 7:00 pm in the home of Sharon LeDuc. Cindy Lund will co-host.

The **Deborah Circle** will meet on Sunday, January 8, at 2:00 pm in the home of Mary Hamilton.

The **Ruth Circle** will meet on Monday, January 9, at 10:0 am in the home of Nancy David, 134 Strawbridge Court, at Givens Estates.

The **Sarah Circle** will meet on Tuesday, January 17, at 10:00 am in the home of Nancy Stancil. Jessica Tripp will share her mission trip experiences to the Dominican Republic.

The **Lydia Circle** includes young, professional Christian women who are sharing their faith journey through community service, devotion, mission outreach, prayer, and fellowship. We meet once a month for dinner and our meeting, which will have varying content. There are no set meeting dates—we pick the next date at our meeting, so contact Diane Robinson for meeting info if you are interested in becoming acquainted with the Lydia women. You can reach her via email at dianetrobinson@gmail.com or by phone 989-8097.

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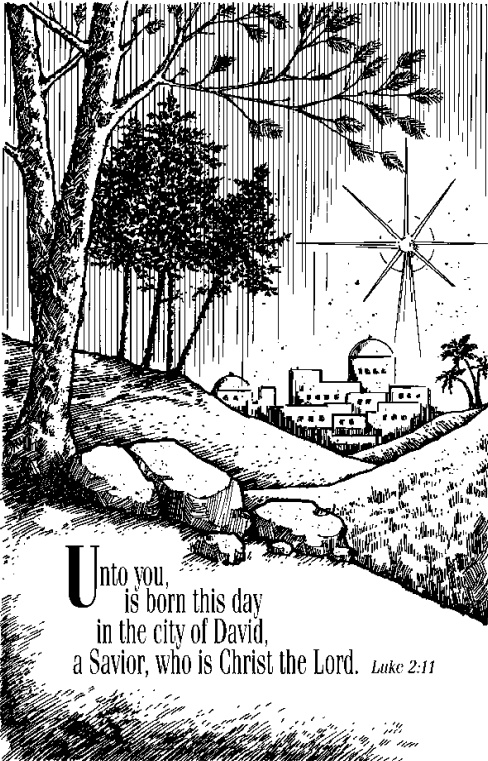
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Sympathy

Our sympathy and prayers are with Alan McGuinn and his family on the recent death of his father.

Our sympathy and prayers are with Bobbie Payne and her family on the death of her brother, Charles Cranford, on November 28.

Our sympathy and prayers are with Joe Connolly and his family on the death of his wife, Kirby Connolly, on December 2.



Unto you,
is born this day
in the city of David,
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. *Luke 2:11*

PERIODICAL
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
Postmaster: Send address changes to
JOT & TITTLE, 27 Church Street,
Asheville, NC 28801-3303.

*Are you receiving this Jot & Tittle in error? Please let us know.
Contact africk@centralumc.org*

How to contact our Central Staff (phone 828-253-3316)

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[ext.311, send email to: kelliott@centralumc.org]
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[ext. 308, email: tbell@centralumc.org]
Rev. Julie Wilburn Peeler, Minister of Pastoral Care
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Haywood Street Congregation

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