

THE CENTRAL ISSUE

September 30, 2020
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CENTRAL UMC SHELBY IS A SAFE SANCTUARIES

Our MISSION: To make disciples of Christ who WORSHIP God, GROW in their faith, and SERVE in the church and world.

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Libby Alexander, Organist
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Dianne Whisnant, Financial Secretary
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Shelley Rempson, Kid's Place Preschool Director
Stacey Watkins Griffith, Pastoral Counselor

FINANCES

Fellow members, Central needs your help. During the first three months of the shutdown, our income remained solid. However we had a loss in July and another loss in August. Now in September, Central is between a rock and a hard place. We do not have enough money to pay our bills. If you are behind in the payment of your pledge or giving, please catch up ASAP. Also, please prayerfully consider whether you can increase your giving. May God bless you and CUMC.

Bob Yelton, Finance Committee Chairman

2020 Stewardship

2020 Monthly Budget Needs.....	\$63,576.49
Total Receipts in August.....	\$42,763.56
August Expenses.....	\$51,693.63
Over/—Under Budget for the month.....	-\$8,930.07
Over/—Under Budget for the year.....	-\$39,892.86

Backpack Food Drive

Our schools are back in the swing of things as is our Backpack Ministry! As the schools recognize children who are food insecure, CUMC provides meals for them to take home for the days they are not in school. For the month of October we're asking for **individual fruit cups** (apple sauce, mixed fruit, mandarin oranges, etc) You may drop them off at the office M-Th 9-4 and Fri 9-1. These will be added to weekly bags of food sent home from school with food insecure students for weekend meals.



Kids Place News

We are continuing to have a good September here at our weekday preschool! This month we have been learning about Creation during our Ecology room lessons. The students are singing songs, reciting bible verses and creating art projects to help them learn and remember what happened on each day of Creation.

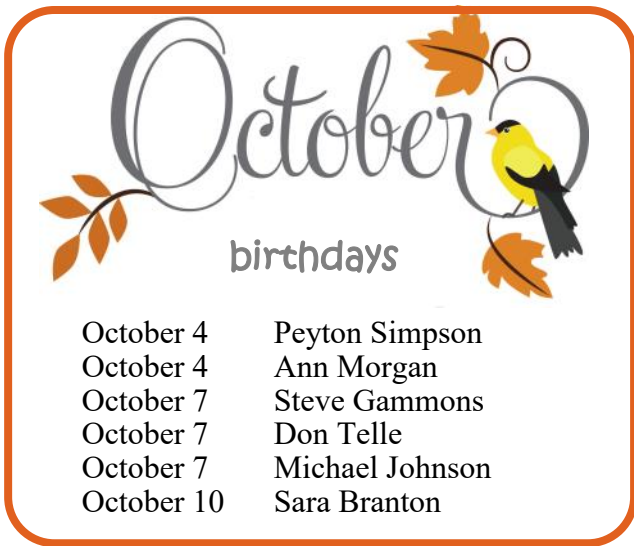
Each class is also learning about the letter A, apples and Johnny Appleseed. They have all created some beautiful art to decorate our classrooms and Church hallways! We wish you could visit and see what these precious little hands are doing. Just as Johnny Appleseed sowed seeds of the Gospel while planting apple orchards we are sowing the seeds of Gods' love while teaching about the world around us.



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY IS OCT. 4

This Sunday we will share the Holy Sacrament of Communion with each other as other Christians partake of the Body and Blood of Christ along with us. With the Covid-19, we will have to make some adjustments on how we do that.

Last month we experimented with a drive-by communion, which received widespread comments of affirmation. We will offer this again on Sunday for World Communion Sunday. You are invited to drive by the pick-up station located behind the Education Building near the back entrance. Please enter from the E. Marion Street entrance.



October 4	Peyton Simpson
October 4	Ann Morgan
October 7	Steve Gammons
October 7	Don Telle
October 7	Michael Johnson
October 10	Sara Branton

Fall Children and Youth News

Monthly Discipleship Resource Kits Sunday October 4th

The first week of each month, we will be providing Children's Ministry and Youth Ministry families with discipleship resources for the month including Sunday School lessons, music, crafts, and other supplies. This will be supplemented with videos and social media posts done by Savanna and Danny. If you don't get your kit via email on the 4th, contact Savanna at savanna@cumcshelby.org.

Youth—Mark Your Calendars!

On Sunday, October 11, CUMC youth will be participating in Supper and Service at Camp Tekoa Foothills. This event is from 3-6 PM and will be our youth time for the day. We will do service projects around camp and will enjoy a FREE dinner together at camp. This will be a great time for us to serve together and enjoy being in a wonderful place. Please register at the link below by Wednesday, October 7. <https://forms.gle/ZaWqZ49xrzW51a319>

COVID-19 Updates

As per NC Mandate and for the health and safety of our staff and community, effective immediately, we ask that everyone wear a mask while inside the church buildings. We are also asking everyone that enters our facility to sign in with their contact information in order to aid with contact tracing should it be necessary. Know that you are all in our thoughts and prayers and we hope you stay healthy and well. Thank you for your cooperation.

Memorials and Honorariums

Operating:

In Memory of Tom Camp by Susan Gidney Ellington and family

Prescription/Over-The-Counter Bottles

Thanks to all for bringing in your prescription bottles! You have been awesome! So keep up the great work and continue bring in your empty prescription, vitamin, over-the-counter medicine bottles to the church office during office hours for use in 3rd world countries. (Please remove any labels with your name.)

Backpack Ministry

Our schools are back in the swing of things as is our Backpack Ministry! As the schools recognize children who are food insecure, CUMC provides meals for them to take home for the days they are not in school. This year we are wanting to connect to our students a little deeper by having prayer partners for each child. That means we need YOU! If you are interested in praying for a child during the school year, please contact Pastor Fawn and you will be given a name. What a great opportunity to connect and support a child in our community!



OPEN TABLE NEWS!

Yes, the church is alive and well. We are blessed with wonderful donations of fresh produce and food every Wednesday and Friday afternoon from the Episcopal church, as well as Friday mornings from Wal-Mart and Food Lion. **BUT we really need help** picking up and unloading all those goodies. Friday afternoons are usually the largest donations, so please consider helping from 4:30-5:30 pm... students can receive volunteer hours as well as the knowledge of making a significant difference in our community. ALSO -- Extra muscles, hands and hearts are always needed on Saturdays. Please arrive to help by 10 am. **AND ONE MORE THING** --we are in need of **plastic grocery bags!**

Bible Studies

September has arrived and we are excited to jump into opportunities to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ through new Bible studies! We hope you will join us:

WORD AND WINE – Mondays, 6:30 pm We are still “together” and growing as disciples as we meet via ZOOM to study the Scriptures! Do you ever wonder how on earth you can be a REAL disciple of Jesus? During October, we will discuss each week an attribute of Christ and how difficult it may be for us to emulate it in our own lives. Grab your Bible and a glass as we learn, sharing our thoughts and insights.

Monday, October 5th -- Forgiving

Monday, October 12th – Kindness

Monday, October 19th – Accepting

Monday 26th -- Loving

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83391585122>

REVELATION – Tuesdays, 7 pm This is an incredible, in-depth study of one of the most intriguing books of Scriptures. This week we will be reading Chapter 2. Join leader, Savanna Craig, at Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86843458934>

SAVING JESUS – Wednesdays, beginning September 23rd, 3:30-5 pm

Who knew Jesus needed to be saved? And saved from what? This is a very progressive study, for those who may have ever felt like Jesus has been kidnapped by the Christian Right and discarded by the Secular Left? Through video presentations by theological scholars of today, participants will engage in meaningful conversations around the relevance of Jesus for today. Email Pastor Fawn at fawn@cumcshelby.org to receive the study guide and Zoom link.

Taking Care Of Each Other

Jesus used food and sharing meals to build community. We continue delivering meals every Saturday to our community and church family, friends and neighbors. If you would like a meal, know someone who would like a meal or would be interested in delivering meals between 11am and 12 noon, please contact Pastor Fawn via email [fawn@cumcshelby.org] or cell phone [954-547-2593].

Just Because We Love You



We are still in need of 5-10 adults to contact 10 families every 2 weeks just to check in, see if they have any needs, and let them know they are important to this church “just because we love you.” Team members will make phone calls, text, email, even write notes and send cards to parishioners. If you feel God calling you to be a part of the team, please contact Pastor Fawn at fawn@cumcshelby.org Or you may call her at 954-547-2593 or 828-675-3094.



Take a Breathers



As we are being bombarded with news and anxiety may be building, Central UMC invites you to **Take a Breather** with us Monday-Saturday at noon on Facebook Live. One of our ministry staff will lead us in a short devotional and prayer, uniting us as we keep our eyes and hearts on God’s promises. You do not have to have a FB account to see the videos. You will also find a week’s worth of videos on our website at <http://cumcshelby.org/grow/> . Below you will find the transcripts for the previous weeks’ videos. We hope you join us as we remember: Together, we ARE the Body of Christ!

September 29th

Welcome back, friends, to our Tuesday September 29th edition of “Take a Breather”. I’m Danny Buckner and it’s my privilege to serve as music director for Central Methodist Church in Shelby, NC. Let’s sit back, take a deep breath, and relax a bit... ahhhh.

Have you ever fallen down? Yeah? Well, I certainly have to. As a kid I spent a ton of time outside...mostly on my bike or in a tree and those two endeavors often started and/or ended in a fall of some sort and said fall was always prefaced with words like...”Watch me! I’ll do it!”

Even as an adult I’ve had my share of falls and sometimes they came purely by accident, but more often than not they happened attempting that same “Watch me! I’ll do it! Philosophy...(just ask our horse...yes, that’s

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another story and no I'm not gonna tell that one here! J)

And it's not really the falling that's hard, is it? For me, that often came quite easily! It's the ground that's hard and it's the getting up that's hard. But we get up anyway because that's what we do. Falling can be a harsh, but good teacher if we let it.

This brings me to our devotional for today. It comes from a book titled *Daily Guideposts 2020* and is written by Marilyn Turk. I've titled this one...

Falling Down and Getting Up

But you, Lord, do not be far from me.

You are my strength; come quickly to help me.

Psalm 22:19 (NIV)

My husband, Chuck, and I stood on the sidelines watching our grandson Logan play soccer. At eight years old, soccer was the only sport he'd tried that he liked well enough to continue.

But Logan likes attention, even if it's not for the right things. In the running scramble that characterizes youth soccer, kids often fall down. And Logan was usually the one who fell down the most. While the game continued, he lay there, waiting for someone to notice.

We're not unsympathetic, but we knew he wanted special attention even if it meant interfering with the game. When we and the coaches called to him to get up, he did, often limping to the bench for sympathy. After the game, he'd show us where he got hurt, invisible to the naked eye.

This was the same child who ran with abandon when playing chase with his friends, bouncing back up if he fell down lest he miss the fun. How could we get him to do the same in soccer?

Trying to emphasize the importance of getting back up again, we offered motivational advice.

"Everyone falls down, but you have to get back up to play the game." "You're tough. You can take it." Your team needs you to play."

Eventually, Logan caught on and started getting up quickly when he fell down. As a result, he contributed to the success of his team.

Sometimes, I get knocked down too. Not physically, like Logan, but by emotional blows and frustrations. It's tempting to lie there and feel sorry for myself. But like Logan, I have to get up again, and the quicker I do, the more productive I am. I may not feel strong enough at times, but thank God, He has enough strength for us both.

Prayer: Thank you, God, for the strength to get back up when I'm down.

And I (Danny) say... "Amen, Sister!"

Let's close our time together with the Prayer of Saint Francis...

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace

Where there is hatred, let me sow love

Where there is injury, pardon

Where there is doubt, faith

Where there is despair, hope

Where there is darkness, light

And where there is sadness, joy

O Divine Master, grant that I may

Not so much seek to be consoled as to console

To be understood, as to understand

To be loved, as to love

For it is in giving that we receive

And it's in pardoning that we are pardoned

And it's in dying that we are born to Eternal Life

Amen

We love you and hope you have a great rest-of-the day!

September 30th:

Have you ever watched a time travel movie where the main character keeps going back in time to try to fix things, but when he comes back to the present, he's made things worse? That's what 2020 has felt like!

It seems like we just find our footing with one crisis when another erupts. This turbulent world, turned upside down by calamities, catastrophes and sickness, is crying out for a generation of people, filled with the Holy Spirit, who get their strength from God to live in a way that matters.

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We've all been deeply touched and changed by the adversity of this season. Your adversity may have included a broken relationship. It could have been a time of battling anxiety, illness, loss of someone you loved, financial hardships or even a pattern of thoughts that tore you down. Every person's battle is unique.

What I know to be true is that our hearts have been fashioned to face and fight even the hardest of situations. We aren't alone; we have God on our side. And we can't ever lose sight of that truth because it holds the secret to our real identity.

To do all God has for us in this life, we must know who we are. And our uncertainty about our identity is precisely how we are tripped up. The truth is, we are a direct representative of the King of the universe. That is our true identity, and no lie of the enemy has the power to steal that from us.

And because of that truth, our calling is clear. Our calling is to know Him, and our mission is to show Him. We're not called to be people-pleasers but God-pleasers. We aren't called to give up when times get hard but to give in to God's will and draw strength from Him.

If you are a believer, the Holy Spirit lives in you. We can't keep walking around feeling powerless, like life is happening to us and we are victims. The Spirit of God lives inside us, empowering us every single day no matter what the world throws at us.

And no matter what lies the world throws at you, the truth is that you are worthy because Christ in you is worthy. You are worthy of love because Jesus loves you. You are worthy of more in this world because He empowers you.

Being a follower of God isn't about what you can do on your own. It's about standing strong in who you are in Christ and what He does in and through you.

We can partner with God and press into the future He has for us, no matter what that looks like, no matter what adversity comes our way, no matter what obstacles we face, no matter what.

Lord, thank You for the comfort that comes from knowing You created us to find our identity and strength in You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Savanna Craig

Sermon for September 27, 2020

Stay in Love with God

Colossians 2:6-7

“My counsel for you is simple and straightforward: Just go ahead with what you've been given. You received Christ Jesus, the Master; now *live* him. You're deeply rooted in him. You're well constructed upon him. You know your way around the faith. Now do what you've been taught. School's out; quit studying the subject and start *living* it! And let your living spill over into thanksgiving.”

The word of God for the people of God... thanks be to God.

Did you see the story of Lucille and Marvin Stone this past week. This sweet couple from Nebraska celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. I must say, I was pretty impressed. Not that they were married 60 years – no! The amazing thing to me was that they had pictures taken in their original wedding clothes. So how many of you could get married in your original wedding clothes. Yea, that's what I thought...

Married Aug. 21, 1960, Lucille, now 81, said she had to alter her dress a bit at the waist — the 40 buttons down the back were unforgiving. But 88-year-old Marvin had no problems. As Lucille put it, “He can still get in his army uniform from 1953. No matter what I cook, and I think I feed him pretty well, he never gains any weight.” Isn't that irritating???

So what's the secret to staying married 50, 60, 70 or more years? I started asking around because I hope Glenn and I have that blessing. Now, I'm not stupid enough to think we are going to get into our size 5 gown or 28 inch waist tuxedo pants... but maybe we can learn how to keep fanning the flames of love by those who are still in love. Here are some things I learned are important to stay in love...

Be Best Friends – Spend time together, Respect; be willing to do things the other person enjoys

Remember your vows – Respect the promises you made

Patience

Embrace your individuality and encourage your partner's

Never stop showing affection

Have a standing date – without the kids

Pick your battles

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200 East Marion St
Shelby, NC 28150

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Remember what is really important in life

Marriage is not 50/50 or meeting half way– marriage is giving 100% and traveling the distance

Communicate – includes listening and placing yourself in the other person’s position; don’t go to bed angry

Sense of humor

Oh and 1 more thing – when it gets really hard (and it probably will at some point if you are normal) don’t hesitate to get help

I have never met a married couple that didn’t want to be married forever. But I have met quite a few that lost their way, somehow, taking that beginning love for granted and losing the “happily ever after” life they had envisioned.

What is even more interesting to me is how similar marriage is to our relationship with God. As a matter of fact bride, bridegroom, and marriage are often used in Scripture to describe God’s relationship with God’s people.

The past several weeks we have been talking about Wesley’s 3 Simple Rules... guidelines for those with a deep desire for receiving and living out their salvation and keeping God as each person’s most important priority and 1st love.

Let’s see if we remember the 1st two rules: 1) Do no harm and 2) Do good.

So this week is the third rule: Stay in love with God. Wesley actually stated: Attend upon the ordinances of God. I am so glad we have modernized the language to Stay in love with God. It feels for me much more relational and less lawful. Wesley and the United Societies created this rule with the intention of reminding us of the spiritual disciplines that allow us to deepen our relationship with God. They included disciplines like community worship, holy communion, prayer, reading and studying the Scriptures and fasting. We might want to add meditation, journaling, serving and more. I love a quote from *Illuminated Life* by Joan Chittister that speaks of the importance of disciplines: “All we have in life is life. Things – the cars, the houses, the educations, the jobs, the money – come and go, turn to dust between our fingers, change and disappear... the secret of life... is that it must be developed from the inside out.” When we live in the presence of God, when we follow Jesus Christ, when we allow the Holy Spirit to guide and direct us we live life from the inside out. Those disciplines keep us in love with God, allowing us to hear, live out and respond to God’s love for us, God’s presence in our daily lives, and the ability to follow God’s direction.

Bishop Rueben P. Job wrote this tiny book, *Three Simple Rules: A Wesleyan Way of Living*. I encourage you to order one from Cokesbury. It is filled with such great insight. In writing of this 3rd rule, Staying in Love with God, I was so moved by Bishop Job’s reminder of Jesus’ reinstatement of Peter following his resurrection. Remember, 3 times Jesus asks Peter the question, “Do you love me?” Each time Peter responds, “yes.” As Bishop Job puts it, “Staying in love with God was the primary issue of a faithful life then, and it is today. For from such a life of love for God will flow the goodness and love of God to the world. It can be no other way.” In other words, if we truly love God, everyone will know it. Our loyalty to God will be witnessed by our words and actions as we live a life of faithfulness, devotion and integrity.

Just like a long-married couple we are called to commit to staying in love with God. Not the childish, lustful love of youth, but the mature, pledged and devoted love of disciples. And just like a married couple, it requires a lot of effort by spending time with God, reading God’s word, studying its meaning. We communicate with God through prayer – and that means listening to God at least as much as speaking. We remember and claim the promises God has made to us and we remember and renew our promises to God. We give it our best and our all, not our leftovers. And when we mess up (oh and we will) we know that God will give us God’s best, pouring over us grace and forgiveness that we may have the humility and courage to return to God. And one last thing, when it gets difficult, we will have the church, the people of God to help us grow.

I adore my husband. And I really hope that we can spend many more years together. I hope you have experienced that kind of love from another human being. But my greatest desire is for you to fall, passionately in love with our God. That you may know how crazy God is about you, loving you with such a depth that absolutely nothing can ever separate you from God’s love for you. I pray you will commit, really commit to your relationship with God, working to make it the BEST relationship you will ever have with anyone or anything. And as you grow more in love with God each day, may you be a living witness to the world.

May it be so... In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.