

The Vital Connection

CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

276 W. First Street, Denton, NC

January/February 2019

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Happy NEW YEAR

*You crown the year with Your goodness,
And Your paths drip with abundance.*

PSALM 65:11

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Christmas 2018
Highlights

Greetings for the New Year:

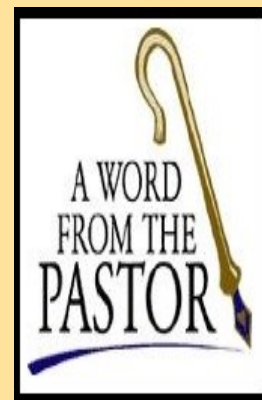
At my annual meeting with the district superintendent, Laura Auten, she hit me with these words from Eugene Peterson from his book, *The Contemplative Pastor*.

“God is more interested in who you are than in what you are doing.”

That’s hard. That’s really hard because the church needs “do-ers” to get things done. However, Eugene Peterson’s question is really asking, “Why are we doing what we are doing? Who are we serving by doing it? How does doing whatever we’re doing help us to grow in our relationship with God?” When the D.S. put this to me my toes were immediately stepped on. My job as your pastor is not to get more people “doing” things. It’s to help people become disciples of Jesus Christ. Yes. Disciples can get a lot done. Yes. Sometimes disciples need to get a lot done. But getting things done does not make a person a disciple of Jesus Christ. To be a church; to be a Christian; to be disciples of Jesus Christ requires us to begin by resting in the grace and love of Jesus Christ. We have to begin with our relationship with God “so that” we know where God is asking us to do something and how.

There is a story about Martin Luther after he published his 95 theses and nailed them to the door of his church. Luther’s superiors did not like what Martin Luther had done so they assigned him four times more work than he could accomplish. Martin Luther responded by spending four hours in prayer each day. Martin Luther made it a point to focus on his relationship with God first, and you know what happened. All of the work was completed. I think the same is true of the church. Yes, there is a lot of work for the church to do. Yes, we do need leaders and followers who are eager to work together for God’s glory. However, if we want to be Christ’s hands and feet then we have to start with our relationship with God. Then we learn how to allow God to work in and through us for God’s glory. My sisters and brothers, for whose glory will we be working for in 2019?

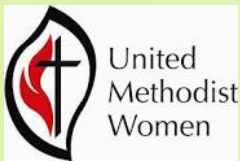
By God’s Good Grace, *Pastor Richard*



OUTREACH MINISTRIES

SPREADING CHRISTMAS CHEER—Margaret Harris Sunday School Class

The Margaret Harris Sunday School Class visited Mt. Vista patients and shut-ins just prior to Christmas to sing joyful hymns and traditional tunes. A few of those visited joined in the spreading of Christmas cheer, playing the piano and even whistling. A great inspiration for everyone!



OPEN INVITATION TO ALL WOMEN

The UMW of Central United meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the UMW Room downstairs. ALL Women are invited to come fellowship as women with a purpose in our church and community. Each month UMW provides desserts to the Open Hands Ministry, fills food bags for the Central Food Pantry, and in December collected 37 toys for Toys for Town. Great fellowship was had by all who attended the UMW Christmas party in December. Join us today, you're sure to feel spiritually uplifted. (Meetings may be held at a member's home if they choose to host, but not required.) Join us, bring a friend.

*Women with
a Purpose...*

January 8
7 pm
February 5
7 pm
UMW Room



UNITED METHODIST MEN

All Men are invited to attend UMM Meetings held the Second Sunday of each month at 8:00 a.m. in the hut.

**January 13th and February 10th
Great fellowship with one another!**

Special Thanks to all who donated blood at the December Blood Drive. Giving the gift of life is FREE but so meaningful in the life of another. Special thanks to LaRue Cook for coordinating this event on behalf of UMW every other month.

Next Blood Drive — February 4!



Together, we can save a life



A great lunch and learn was held in November with 46 people present. This is a great outreach mission that our church hosts quarterly and so many community people enjoy this informative event at Central UMC.



Let us remember to continue to provide non-perishable food items as much as possible to continue to keep our Food Pantry fully stocked. Please remember that many people that we serve do not

even have a can opener, so when possible, please try to purchase can foods with pull-away lids. Items may be left at the Pantry Door.



2018 Mission Gifts received totaled \$455.00 to be divided between the South Davidson Family Resource Center and UMCOR Disaster Relief.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS



Join us for **SCOUT SUNDAY**

**Sunday, February 3
11:00 a.m.
Morning Worship**



Know of a young girl interested in the fun of Girl Scouting. Girl Scouts meet every other Saturday at 3:00 p.m. in the downstairs Fellowship Hall. Contact Leader at 252-670-4341.



Next Lunch and Learn will be in February - Heart Month. TBA



Next Meeting
Sunday, February 3
12:15 p.m.
Youth Room

Special Thanks to **RANDALL KING** for serving as Church Council Chair for the past 3 years. We know your service will continue at Central UMC and in an even greater capacity in 2019!



**CALLING
ALL
Adults
Ages 20-40**

AN INVITATION FOR YOUNG ADULTS
Randall King invites all adults ages 20 to 40 to attend a Young Adult Sunday School class that he has been led by God to initiate at Central UMC. Randall hopes to allow this age group within our church the opportunity to connect with one another, deepen their faith in God, and to learn how to be strengthened by God's holy word and enriched by the Holy Spirit for a closer walk with Jesus! Classes start Sunday, January 6 at 10 am in the UMW Room downstairs until future plans are initiated. Hope to see you there!!!



A TRUE WOMAN OF GOD.....Congratulations Cathy Ward! **UMW Uwharrie District President 2019-2020**

In 2014, Cathy Ward was asked to serve on the Uwharrie District United Methodist Women Nominations Committee. Little did she know that she would be following God's call for further leadership roles. After serving on the Nominations Committee for almost 2 years, the Vice President position became available and Cathy stood out of the crowd by all of the other faithful United Methodist Women as being **A True Woman of God**. Each time, Cathy accepted a new role, she always readily agreed to serve. As Vice President of the District, her main role was planning the annual Uwharrie local conference meeting, which was a huge undertaking but one that she accomplished with true valor. Through Cathy's leadership, she has now accepted the District President's position for two years (2019 and 2020). Central UMW members are super proud of Cathy and support her in her new role by volunteering our help and attending the upcoming events to illustrate our support. We are proud to say that she represents Central—Denton UMW as **A True Woman of God**! Congratulations, Cathy, we love you!



www.centralumcdenton.com

**CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**

Rev. Richard Blount
276 West First Street * P.O. Box 126
Denton, NC 27239 * 336-859-3502

Congratulations to **Vicky Brown** for also being elected to serve as Uwharrie District UMW Parliamentarian for 2019-2020. Cathy says she is blessed to have Vicky joining her on various District projects and events. Thanks to you both for **Leading the UMW Way** in 2019!





Believers Learning And Sharing Together

B.L.A.S.T. Youth between the ages of 6th—12th are encouraged to attend Sunday School. **BLAST** meets every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in the Youth room. *Bring a friend and join us for a Blast as we learn about Christ!* Teachers are Debbie Sigmon and Buddy Sexton. The youth participated in the Denton Christmas Parade — demonstrating that Jesus is **"The Greatest Gift of All"!!!**



K- 5TH NEWS

Children ages Kindergarten to 5th Grade meet each Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m.

There's always snacks, crafts, and a bible lesson.

2018 Christmas Elves enjoying a typical Sunday School class! So much fun!



2018

Operation Christmas Child resulted in the collection of **58 shoeboxes!**
Thanks to everyone!



Central Preschool

enjoyed a joyful Christmas Program/Social on December 19. There were 105 guests in attendance!

Special thanks to Ms. Crouse and Ms. Talbert for all of their love during the Christmas Season.

In 2019—continue to bring in your crayons pieces for the Preschool Crayon Initiative to recycle broken crayons into new crayons to give to sick children in the hospital!



Sunday Worship Leaders — January and February, 2019

GREETERS & USHERS

JANUARY

Curt and Amy Richey

FEBRUARY

Tom and Jeannette

Beanblossom

CHILDREN'S TIME

Jan. 6: Rev. Blount

Jan. 13: Addie Nopanen

Jan. 20: Beth Ligon

Jan. 27: Rick Phillips

Feb. 3: Rev. Blount

Feb. 10: Ann Crouse

Feb. 17: Tina Lanier

Feb. 24: Debbie Sigmon

LAY READERS

Jan. 6: Margaret Harris

Jan. 13: Cathy Ward

Jan. 20: Richard Wilson

Jan. 27: Addie Nopanen

Feb. 3: Randall King

Feb. 10: Stewart Sexton

Feb. 17: Brenda James

Feb. 24: Andy Morris

ACOLYTES

Jan. 6: Zach Lester

Jan. 13: Emma Walton

Jan. 20: Olivia Parker

Jan. 27: Noah Smith

Feb. 3: Karsyn Layne

Feb. 10: Sam Parker

Feb. 17: Ellie Baldwin

Feb. 24: Joseph Smith

CROSS BEARER

Jan. 6: Logan Lester

Jan. 13: Gavin Walton

Jan. 20: Carter Burns

Jan. 27: Joseph Smith

Feb. 3: Richard Wilson

Feb. 10: Bill Sigmon

Feb. 17: Randall King

Feb. 24: Carter Burns

ALTAR FLOWERS

Jan. 6: Larry & LaRue Cook

Jan. 13: Cathy Ward

Jan. 20: Gilda & Larry Morris

Jan. 27: Family of Davis'

Feb. 3: Wilson Carter

Feb. 10: Helen Cassidy

Feb. 17: Open

Feb. 24: Open

To place flowers on the altar for a special occasion or remembrance, please call Brenda Wilson at 250-9234.

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

Nov 4 \$ 5,717.00

Nov. 11 \$ 4,712.00

Nov. 18 \$ 3,564.81

Nov. 25 \$ 2,339.12

Dec. 2 \$ 3,746.00

Dec. 9 \$ 3,800.00

Dec. 16 \$12,423.00

Dec. 23/24 \$ 5,516.00

Dec. 30 \$ 2,910.00

NON BUDGET RECEIPTS

BBQ \$1,315.00

Poinsettias \$ 248.00

Mission Wreath \$ 505.00

BLAST \$ 200.00

Harris Class Child \$ 59.00

Children's Ministry \$ 95.00

Local Missions \$ 200.00

Pfeiffer Project \$ 150.00

Food Pantry \$ 300.00

ATTENDANCE

Worship SS

Nov. 4 78 26

Nov. 11 67 26

Nov. 18 78 20

Nov. 25 84 26

Dec. 2 87 20

Dec. 9 Snow

Dec. 16 94 26

Dec. 23 193 21

Dec. 24 71 —

Dec. 30 67 18



CHURCH MEMBERS

Judy Covil, DeLisa Garner, Dick Getz, Lance Hilton, Betty Hinesley, Ginger Martin, Addie Phillips, Craig Sigmon, Ava Lee Surratt, Ed Roberson

MOUNTAIN VISTA

Bob Craven Rm #68

Margaret Hunt Rm #108

Diza Morris Rm #84

Johnnie Sigmon Rm #55

George Tillotson Rm #89

Piedmont Crossing, Thomasville

Ramona M. Cranford

Taylor Glen, Concord

Jerrie Lomax

Brian Center, Lexington

Peggy Wilkins

***Continued Prayers**
for Siloam UMC
congregation and
Pastor Scott Davis
and family in 2019.*



May the Glory of God Bless Each of You on the Celebration of Your Special Day!

Birthday & Anniversary Celebrations

January Birthdays

2-Dick Johnson, Jean Bulakowski,
Chad Montgomery
3-Hannah Parker, Jody Futrell
4-Barbara Hogan, Wendy Caudle,
Miranda Snider, Crissie Cabrera
5-Cathy Calhoun, Austin Pleasants,
Beverly Poist, Dylan Gallimore, Trey Hammond
6-Hayden Morris, Tyler Simpson
7-Carter Terrell
8-Wes Taylor
10-Shannan Rieger, Sam Nelson, Chuck Crouch
11-Kevin Ingold, Camden Stone,
12-Fletcher Gallimore, Keith Jackson, Daniel Sexton,
David Gaither
13-Gavin Walton, Cindy Lomax, She Woodard,
Johnathon Skeen, Deborah Behrens
14-Nan Parker
15-Joan Briggs, Angie Loftin
17-Danny Carroll, Joseph Smith
19-Betty Hinesley
20-Anna Somers, Amber Crouch, Makayla Crouch
21-Richard Good, Roy Morris, Celia Sexton
22-Save Harris
23-Trey Baldwin, McKay Luther
24-Vickie Mitchell, Ginger Somers
25-Amy Conner
26-Ashley McKinney, Harper Ligon, William Clark,
Norman Hubbard
27-Koby Markham, Madelyn Bircher
28-Georgianna Bircher
29-Branson O'Hara
30-Yuliya Skeen, Summer Bivens
31-Connie Sexton, Ava Mitchell, Cameron Ligon

January Anniversaries

3-Charles & Sherry Garner
9-Johnathon & Melissa Skeen
13-Austin & Ann Cook
19-Nathan & Amanda Crouch



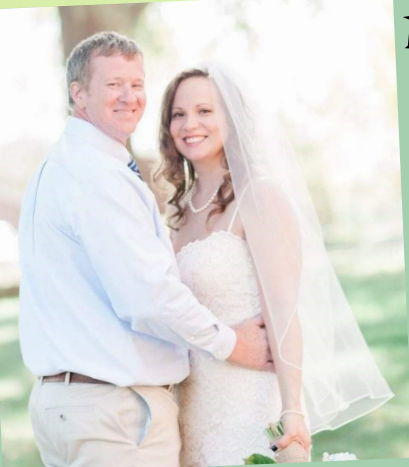
February Birthdays

1-Louise Dockham, Emma Bivens, Adam Crouch,
Christina Gentile
2-Blair Luther, Paul Mitchell, Kaitlin Morris
3-Ben Futrell, Elwood Calhoun
4-Sandi Johnson, Ashlyn Futrell
5-John Alexander, Josh Smith
6-Scotty Morris, Butch Poist, Amber Conner,
Landon Harris
7-Kimberly Sexton
8-Barbara Judy, Michelle Whitlock, Matt Baldwin
9-Emalyn Kiser, Savannah Spencer, Robyn Loftin
10-David Skeen, Debbie Morris, Katie Clark
11-Kathy Baum, Jacob Ellis
12-Monnie Frank, Lib Sexton, Will Mitchell
13-Joanna Stone, Tonya Sullins,
Debbie McKinney, Andrew Everhart
14-Lynn Morris, Sharon Beal, Carmen Everhart,
Lily Alexander, Isabella Ellis, Jessa & Joey
Caberera
15-Roger Calhoun, Krystan Terrell, Nicholas Sofia,
Cindy Baldwin. Allen Johnson
16-Curt Richey, Shirley Baucom, Stephanie
Lomax, Page Harrison, Caroline Clark
17-Bob Craven, Abbey Bowman, Molly Linker,
Roger Blake, Andrea Linthicum
19-Joan Hammond, Paige Terrell, Carol Beck
20-Amy Everhart, Jeremy Morris, Colton Terrell,
Kirsten Watkins
21-Lynnsay Sexton, David May, Haven Rocchi,
Theresa Munyon, Jerrie Lomax, Landon Lester
22-Carter Burns, Courtney Behrens, Sara Lanier
23-Gatlin Crouch, Carrie Crouse,
Elizabeth Russell, Tom Beanblossom
24-Teresa Brewer, Ginger Morris, Debbie Kennedy
25-Charles Rowell, Erin Joyce
26-Marsha Gaither, Gary Lanier, Addie Futrell
27-Isaiah Lawson, Emmitt Crouch
28-Chip Futrell, Jodie Briggs, Addie Grubb



PRAISES AND CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations to
Jessica Baum and Ken Smith
on their marriage. Many bless-
ings and well wishes to you
both!



February Anniversaries

6-David & Courtney Hedrick
13-Kim & Gay Markham
19-Mike & Jamie Ferrell
20-Nathan & Shawna Kinley

*If you have a Celebration or Praise you'd
like to share with your church family, wheth-
er it is an engagement, wedding, birth an-
nouncement or special event, let us hear
from you!*

*Simply email newsletter team at
cumc@triad.twcbc.com*

Christmas 2018 Highlights





Start your year
off on the
right
TRACK . . .
in church!

Stop in for a
visit at
Central UMC

CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST

Street Address: 276 West First Street

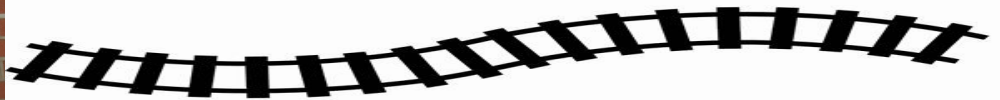
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Website: www.centralumcdenton.com



*While surfing the world wide web, be sure to visit Central's updated website at
www.centralumcdenton.com*

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