



# Inspire

Newsletter of the Central United Methodist Church

January 5, 2017

## Forward through the Ages

### Central Lights

Central Lights will meet Tuesday, February 7 at 10:30 am. Lunch will follow the program (\$6). All senior and retired members and friends are invited to attend. Visitors are always welcome.

### Young Professionals

NEW CLASS: YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

This new class will be meeting weekly starting January 15th. The study is "Half Truths: God Helps Those who Help Themselves and Other Things the Bible Doesn't Say" by Adam Hamilton. For further information see Katie Comen or email Amanda Lay at agracelay@gmail.com.

### Beaumont Bags

We are looking for volunteers to go to Beaumont Elementary School on Thursday mornings at 10:00 am to stuff provided food in bags for children who deal with food insecurities over the weekend. Can you volunteer to help stuff bags once a month? Please see the sign up sheet in hallway or call the church office.

### Special Offerings

Thanks to everyone's generosity during the special offerings during the past few months. We were able to provide:

\$1600 to the Wildfire Victims

\$400 to the Zae Dobson Scholarship Fund at Fulton High School. This was 10% of our Christmas Eve Offering.

### January Sermon Series

January Sermon Series: What we sing says a lot about what we believe. Beginning January 8, Pastor Jimmy will start a new sermon series called The Faith We Sing. Based on a congregational survey, we'll take at least one hymn each week and break it down exploring its meaning and purpose - and what it does or doesn't say about God and humanity. Also, there were a lot of hymns mentioned in our survey, so we'll try to sing those throughout the month.

On my first Sunday at Central, I said, "I am proud to be your pastor." I mean it then, and I mean it now! I tell people everywhere I go that I serve a church that takes seriously their vision and extends hospitality, serves the community and embraces all. In 2.5 years, you have taught me a lot about being a pastor, but even more so about how to love God and neighbor more deeply. Plus, the Beta Class talked me into paying to kiss a pig!

When we are in the middle of the year and busy doing the work of God, we don't often have time to reflect. When we turn the calendar from one year to the next, we are given the opportunity to take a few moments to slow down and think about what has taken place.

At Central, that's a lot! One of the best ways to measure a church's vitality and health is to ask this question: "If Central UMC were no longer here, would we be missed?" I firmly believe we would be. We would be missed by the many people who need emergency food assistance. We would be missed by those who visit the Winter Farmer's Market. We would be missed by recovery groups who use our facility to meet. We would be missed by Fulton High School, Beaumont Magnet Academy, KARM and the Volunteer Ministry Center. We would be missed by the 4th and Gill neighborhood. We would be missed by the nearly 250 different people who worship at Central during any given month.

As we approach our 90th anniversary in March, it's important to recognize the many ways we are responding to Christ's call to follow him. It's important to recognize the ways in which we are living into our vision. God has been working through this congregation for 90 years, and there are no signs of stopping now. By the grace of God, we will continue to shine light into the darkness and to share hope with those who have abandoned all hope. I hope you enjoy reading about the ways we have responded to God's call this year and how God has worked through us.

Let us pray that God will continue to pour out the Holy Spirit on us as we move into 2017 and embrace what God has in store for us this year.

Yes, I am still very, very much proud to be your pastor.

Grace and Peace,

*Pastor Jimmy*

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## 2016 Ministry Spotlights

### Children and Youth

- Resurrection 2016
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Vacation Bible School – Cave Quest
- Local Mission Week by Central Youth working with Operation Backyard
- New meeting room and furniture for youth
- Promotion Sunday
- Children's Handbells
- Growth in children's church program
- New director hired – September 2016
- Hunger Hike
- Special Advent Event with Live Nativity

### Hospitality/Sharing

- 2nd year of hosting Winter Market – getting ready to enter into 3rd year!
- Signed new contract with Emmaus community
- Participated in Open Streets Knoxville
- Hosted 6+ weekly overnight Groups in building during the year
- Hosted W.O.W. college group from neighboring St. John's Lutheran Church – Summer 2016
- Continued hosting Election Day Cafe
- Open for 4th and Gill Home Tour
- Continue to be a meeting space for the monthly 4th & Gill neighborhood Potluck
- sponsor for Emory Block Party
- Hosted Concert & Lunch Series
- Serve as meeting place Knoxville Writers Guild – including 1st annual KWG Spelling Bee
- Hosted City of Knoxville Community Mtgs
- Groups that continue to use our facility such as: Sunshine Industries, KARM, Tennessee Retired Teachers, Helen Ross McNabb, Girl Scouts, etc..

### Small Groups/Learning

- 2 small group Covenant Bible Studies facilitated by Rev. John Slater
- Small group ladies study by Deanna Unger
- New young adult group formed by Katie Comen and Amanda Lay
- Monthly Central Lights meeting
- United Methodist Women
- Race Relations Study at 4th Pres.

### Serving

- Fulton High School Ministry (Teacher of the month awards, teacher appreciation, Fulton Frenzy, Thanksgiving Baskets, Scholarship Contribution, Baccalaureate, 9th Grade Tutoring Snacks, FHS band camp, etc)
- Supporting church for Family Promise Homeless Ministries (meals & overnight hosts)
- UT Band events
- Food Pantry every Thursday - FED 756 PEOPLE!
- Provide Spcae for Support Groups: NA / AA / SAA / DBSA(new support group this year for Depression/Bipolar)
- Beaumont Bags (stuff food bags once a week at Beaumont Magnet)
- Beaumont Magnet Teacher Appreciation
- Conference Backpack Collection for Ishe Anesu in Africa – 12 backpacks
- Justice in the City
- Serve monthly at Volunteer Ministry Center

### Caring

- Congregation care training (those willing to visit homebound members)
- Continued Central tradition of providing compassionate care to families grieving a death

### Embracing

- Open Doors Training - 30 people attended
- Easter Egg hunt for special needs children
- Respite Care held several times
- Beta Christmas Party
- Beta Class raised money for Heifer International



## 2016 Ministry Spotlights

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### Praising

- Combined Ash Wednesday & Maundy Thursday Service with 4th United Presbyterian
- Faith & Film Series
- All Saint's Service
- For the 3rd consecutive year, our Sunday worship attendance has grown. 2016 avg attendance was 141
- Average age is around 44.5 years old! We have become a truly inter-generational church.
- Beautiful and Worshipful Altar Arrangements by our Flower Guild
- Celebrated 2 Baptisms
- Welcomed 5 new members

### Building Maintenance & Improvements

- Bat Eradications & Gym Sanitation
- Stairs Re-Covered
- Ceiling Fans on Floors 1-3
- New Handicap Water Fountains on Floors 1-3
- 3rd Floor Ceiling Repairs in 2 rooms
- Repairs & Painting in Sanctuary
- Outdoor lighting restored at all Exits
- 3rd Floor Painting in 3 rooms
- 4th Floor Shower Room improvements (painting, new mats, ceiling fans)
- New Bike Racks Installed
- New Window A/C Units 3+
- Created New Handbell and Orchestra Space in Balcony of Sanctuary
- Added 2nd Rollup Window in Kitchen/Dishwasher Room
- Tiles Cleaned on 1st Floor
- 2nd Floor Bathroom Refurbishment
- Painted Church Office and Workroom

### Special Offerings

- Annual Conference Children in Poverty - \$872
- Beta Class Heifer International - \$1891.78
- Hunger Hike - \$521
- Sevier County Wildfire Relief – \$1640
- Holston Homes - \$2325
- Interfaith Clinic – \$275
- Wesley Woods – \$548.79
- Austin Byerly Mission Support - \$1787

### Other

- Developed new strategic plan based on outcomes of Renaissance II; includes playground
- Met with Jennifer Tyler to begin plans for 2nd capital campaign
- UMW Flea Market – with proceeds going to support missions & fund local church projects



Photo by Rita Thomas, Photographer

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**Our Vision at Central United Methodist Church:**

**Making Christ known by extending hospitality, serving the community, and embracing all.**

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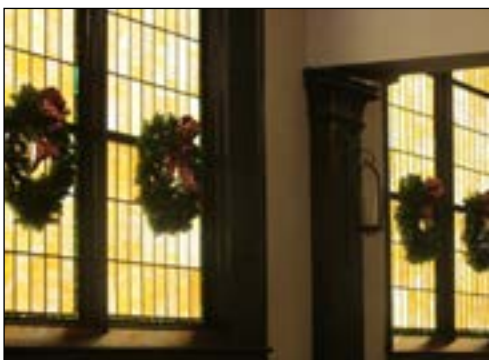


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## Central Scrapbook

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## Our Staff

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