

## PRAYER MINISTRY

*We will keep a prayer request name on our list for 30 days. It's time to resubmit your requests if it was made on Feb. 7. The Prayer Request forms (yellow colored) are located in the narthex and in the cross roads. Please inform the church office of births, deaths, weddings, etc.*

Please remember with your prayers this week of March 9: **Britt Hadley, Mary Barbee (Presbyterian, Matthews), Bette Sue Davis, Ann Richardson, Carolyn Hunt, Linda Lewis, Sylvia Jenkins (home), Ken Hill (Autumn Care), Elaine Hall (Autumn Care), Jane Helms, Kitten Moser, Phil Hargett, Sally Kohler, Bob Johnston, Carol Williams, Herb Shough, Brenda Heilig (prayer request submitted by Irene Ward), W.R. King (Melissa Snuggs' father), -Joy Yates, Shirley McGaraugty (friends and family of Derek & Carol Eason), Matthew Forbis (friend of Gary Sides), John Patton (son of Tim & Debi Patton), Linda Moore (Frances Hunley's niece), Bill Brewer (family of Phil & Beth Hargett), Daniel Baucom (son of Donna Jacobsma), Cynthia Smith (upon the death of her cousin Kevin's wife, Kay), Bill Chadwick (friend of Gary Sides), sympathy to Ann Richardson (upon the death of her aunt, Lorraine Johnson of Winston Salem), Marie Safreed (Shannon Neal's sister), Kim Love (Shannon Neal's daughter).**

**Avante of Concord Rehab. Center:** Beth Hill

**Bonnie Price,** 1019A Lakeside Dr., Surfside Beach, SC

**Catholic Retirement Center:** Helen Rabon, Southport, NC

**Cuthbertson Village - Aldersgate:** Beth Love

**Jesse Helms Center:** Vann Secrest, Janie Mae Starnes, Elizabeth Hinton, Frances Small

**Monroe Square:** Patty Norwood, Ivah Davis, Ken & Sue Norris

**Plantation Estates:** Jim & Marianne Belk, Ann Isley, Edna Winchester

**Union Park:** Faire Funderburk, Betty Medlin, Frankie Gaddy, Agnes Engel

### **Military Prayer List:**

Our Military Troops, Hannah Sides Goude-lock, Sarah Sides, Dean Bushey, Brian Kindley, Van McCoy, Chip Medlin, Rob Miller, K. D. Neal, Josh Secrest, Allen Wullschleger, Robert Lathan, Steven Cook, Matthew Farmer, Johnny Piggot, Jeremiah O'Leary, Larry Ayscue, Austin Hancock, David Keller, James Lindler, Adam Nifong, Dorothy Arturs, Tyler Harrill, Matt Colee, Timothy Killough, Zachary Graves, Alex Alvord, Kevin Robinson, Joseph Pryor, Nicholas Barnett, Cory Lofton, Sasha Rutizer, Caarlo Hietala, Patrick Bacher, Jacob Mazur, John Land, Mark Frazier, Mark Parks, Shaun Jaquess, Andrea Cheyne, John Patton, Eddie Frailey, Melvin Melton, Phil Pressley, Tony Pellegrini, Justin Selvaggio, Steven Cheyne, Matt Gustafson III, Brian Ingram, Andrew Forsyth, Brian Ingram, Travis Cook, Michael Lyja, Ernest A. Youhouse III, Helicia Fish, James Mackay, Randy Nesbit, Alexi Medina

# CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

801 South Hayne Street,  
Monroe, North Carolina 28112

Phone: 704.289.3186

Web Site: [www.CentralUMCMonroe.org](http://www.CentralUMCMonroe.org)

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March 14, 2010

### SPECIAL NOTE TO VISITORS!

Welcome! We're glad you're with us today! For all those interested in exploring church membership call Britt Hadley at 704-289-3186 or e-mail him at [bhadley@carolina.rr.com](mailto:bhadley@carolina.rr.com). If you are online you may visit us at: [www.CentralUMCMonroe.org](http://www.CentralUMCMonroe.org).

**Sermon: "The Greatest Story Ever Told"**

**Scripture: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32**

**Preaching: Dr. J. Matthew Burton, Jr.**

### CENTRAL'S MISSION STATEMENT

*Central United Methodist Church seeks to be a family of Christians embracing God's love and grace by reaching out to share our faith with all people.*

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*Central United Methodist Church, our vision is to see all people connected with God and each other, empowered as ministers and involved in service.*

## CENTRAL'S NEWS

(Visit our web site: [www.centralumcmmonroe.org](http://www.centralumcmmonroe.org) for more news.)

### STEPHEN MINISTER

Week of March 14 - March 20 Shannnon Neal

### FIRST TIME BREAD DELIVERY MINISTRY

March 14 Margaret Batchelor (Bread Deliverer)

### HOSPITALITY VOLUNTEERS - Sunday, March 14

Tour Guide: Charlie Sanders Visitor's Booth: Judy Sanders

### OUR FAITHFULNESS # TITHES & OFFERINGS

#### **Giving: March 7**

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|------------------|------------|
| Quarterly Needs  | \$ 191,423 |
| Weekly Needs     | \$ 14,724  |
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| Y.T.D. Received  | \$ 133,750 |
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| Next Chapter     | \$ 775     |

### UPDATE FROM STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

As of Sunday, March 7, totals are as follows:

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Received from Pledge Cards                    | \$435,703        |
| Other income (estimate)                       | \$128,400        |
| Balance needed from pledges &<br>other income | <u>\$201,592</u> |
| BUDGET 2010 APPROVED                          | \$765,695        |

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### A MINUTE FOR MISSIONS - "Prayers of My Heart"

The "Prayers of My Heart", Service of Hope and Healing, will be held on Wednesday, March 17, at 6:45 in the Chapel. Please join us for this special service sponsored by the Stephen Ministers.

### SCRIPTURE: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

{1} Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. {2} And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." {3} So he told them this parable: {11b} "There was a man who had two sons. {12} The younger

of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. {13} A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. {14} When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. {15} So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. {16} He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. {17} But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! {18} I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; {19} I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" {20} So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. {21} Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' {22} But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe--the best one--and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. {23} And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; {24} for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. {25} "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. {26} He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. {27} He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' {28} Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. {29} But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. {30} But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' {31} Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. {32} But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

## ANGEL FOOD

March order forms are available at the crossroads or on the church website. Complete the order form and place it in the lock box with your payment. Cash, check, or EBT payments are accepted. Make checks payable to CUMC. Contact Don Hinkle with any questions at 704-904-7467, 704-821-6833 or email [CUMCAngelFood@carolina.rr.com](mailto:CUMCAngelFood@carolina.rr.com). Orders are due no later than Monday, March 15 @ 5:00 p.m. Order pick up: Saturday, March 20, 9:00-10:00 am in FLC.

## BOOK SIGNING

You are cordially invited to a book signing by Joy Brown today, Sunday, March 14, at the Monroe Public Library. She will give a presentation on her just-published autobiographical novel, *Joy Lost... and Found*, at 2:00 p.m. A reception and book signing will follow until 5:00 p.m., so do drop in!

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday, Mar. 14** Scout Sunday, 8:30-12:30 -UMW Casserole/Bake Sale, 8:50 -Chapel & Contemporary Services, 10:00 -Sunday School, 10:00 - Confirmation Class, 10:55 -Worship Service, **Monday, Mar. 15** 6:00 - Soccer practice at Macedonia, 6:30 -Companions in Christ Class, 7:00 Centro Cristiana Hosanna, 7:30 -New Beginning Circle, 8:00 -Men's Basketball, **Tuesday, Mar. 16** 10:00 -Centro, 5:30 -Stephen Ministry, 6:00 - Soccer practice at Macedonia, 8:00 -High School & Adult Volleyball, **Wednesday, Mar. 17** 4:30 -Kidz Club, 6:30 -Children's Music Classes, 6:30 -Youth Drama, 6:30 -Overeaters Anonymous, 6:45 - Prayers of the Heart Service, 7:30 -Chancel Choir rehearsal, **Thursday, Mar. 18** 7:30 am - Men's Group at Hilltop Restaurant, 9:30 -Book of Revelation Study, 10:00 - Centro, 6:15 -Handbell rehearsal, 7:00 -Living Beyond Yourself Bible Study, 7:30 -Trinity rehearsal, 8:00 -High School & Adult Volleyball, **Friday, Mar. 19** 10:00 -Soul Food Group, 10:00 -WCM Prom, 2:00 -Pictorial Directory Appointments, **Saturday, Mar. 20** 9:30 Pictorial Directory Appointments, 10:00 -Overeaters Anon., District UMW Prayer Breakfast, 6:00 -Parent's Night Out

## Prayers of the Heart

### A SERVICE OF HEALING AND HOPE

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

In this season of Lent, the Stephen Ministers of the Church are offering a Service of Healing and Hope. It is a Service not unlike services of healing offered in many other churches and will include scripture, hymns, a very special time of prayer, and, for those who request it, anointing with oil. The liturgy for the Service comes from our United Methodist Book of Worship.

This Service of Healing and Hope is offered with the realization that there are many gifts of healing. There is physical healing, spiritual healing, emotional healing and the healing of relationships with one another and with God. There is also the healing gift of inner strength that enables one to live life with balance, harmony and wholeness and to recognize God's sustaining presence in pain, sickness, injury and estrangement.

This Service of Healing and Hope is offered with the recognition that all healing is of God. Whether healing is through medicine, psychotherapy, or prayer, underlying all healing is the great mystery of God's love. Although God does not promise that we will be cured of all illnesses, (we must all face the inevitability of death,) a Service of Healing provides an atmosphere in which healing can happen and hope be restored and life strengthened.

Whether your participation in a Service of Healing and Hope is to pray for your own needs or the situation and needs of another, all who wish to be part of this service are welcome. Our Service will follow the Fellowship Supper on Wednesday, March 17. The Service is planned for the Chapel and will begin at 6:45 p.m. Even if not present for the meal, all are invited.

## 2010 COMMUNITY LENTEN PREACHING SCHEDULE, NOON

| Date     | Hosting Congregation              | Preaching   |
|----------|-----------------------------------|---|
| March 17 | First Presbyterian                | Pastor Kenneth Fink   |
| March 24 | Our Lady of Lourdes               | Father Thomas Kessler   |
| April 2  | Good Friday Stations of the Cross | Begins at First Presbyterian; concludes at St. Paul's Episcopal |

## KIDZ BIZ. . .

- C **Upward Soccer** is just around the corner, with the beginning of Spring. Register your children now, and please, help us out by giving registration forms to all of the elementary children you know! (The first week of practices will be March 15<sup>th</sup>. All practices and games will be at Macedonia Baptist Church.) Adult volunteers are needed as coaches and referees.
  
- C Our **Children's Spring Consignment sale** is scheduled for Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. You do not want to miss this great opportunity to sell or purchase items for the children in your life! If you wish to be a seller, please contact Donna Young today!
  
- C Our next **Parent's Night Out** will be Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-8:30 pm. Please register your children with Mary Ann Burns by Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. The cost is only \$5 per child.
  
- C Our children's **Easter Egg Hunt** will be Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, during Sunday School. All members and visitors, ages birth through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, are invited to bring a basket and come join the fun! Anyone who would like to help with the event should see Mary Ann Burns. We will stuff treat bags on Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, at 6:45 pm. Then we will hide eggs at 10:00 am on Palm Sunday. And we will also need helpers to take the children outside. Parents are welcome! (You might want to bring your camera.)
  
- C Planning ahead? This year's Vacation Bible School event will be June 27<sup>th</sup> through July 1<sup>st</sup>. Our theme will be **High Seas Expedition: Exploring the Mighty Love of God**. Put this on your calendar now so you can come be a part of the fun!
  
- C Let's go to day camp at **Pleasant Grove Campground**. The dates are June 21-24, and the theme is "From Infinity and Beyond". We need adult volunteers from our church to come help at camp. (Childcare is available for younger siblings!) Please see Mary Ann if you are interested. Registration forms are available on the children's bulletin boards. It is for children ages K-6<sup>th</sup> grades.

Questions about children's ministries??? See Mary Ann Burns, 704-289-3186, [maburns@carolina.rr.com](mailto:maburns@carolina.rr.com).

## Central's IMPACT Invitational Golf Tournament

**April 10, 2010 - Eagle Chase Golf Club**

We're currently collecting sponsorships and donations for the tournament. All proceeds will go directly to youth summer missions. **We'd like to recognize the following companies for their sponsorships: Monroe Mini Warehouses, and Ruocco Dental.** If you go by them, please thank them for their partnership in sponsoring our tournament. Also, below you will see the list of merchandise donors. Those companies are donating items to be used or raffled at the tournament. Sign up to play or get your company to sponsor a hole so we can recognize your efforts to help youth summer missions as well!

### Tournament Sponsorships

Monroe Mini Warehouses, Ruocco Dental

### Merchandise Donors

Kate Clyde's Catered Creations, Dicks Sporting Goods, Road Master Tires, Quincy's, Golf Tec - Monroe

**Not going to the tournament?** You can still help out! We will have T-shirts for sale in the coming weeks, along with raffle tickets. Raffle tickets are \$2.00 a piece or 10 raffle tickets for \$15.00! There are GREAT prizes to be won, \$50.00 gift certificates, restaurant gift certificates, Golf items, Road master tires certificates etc... Don't miss out on great winnings, get your raffle tickets today!!! Check out more at: [www.CentralUMCYouth.org](http://www.CentralUMCYouth.org) (Golf Tournament)

### Sponsorship Levels:

\$ 150 *Silver* Sponsorship

\$ 350 *Gold* Sponsorship + 2 Golfers

\$ 500 *Platinum* Tournament Sponsor + Foursome

### ON NO! It's Crashing...Can You Help?

The youth laptop ("Larry the laptop") has taken a turn for the worse. We've hooked it up to some new cables but it is going fast. The video card will give any day, and when it does, we will be grieving a great loss. We rely heavily on being able to project video clips and run power point presentations every week at IMPACT, but over the past few weeks our computer has gotten sick. We had the I.T. doctor check it out, but he said it would require some surgery. Unfortunately the surgery would cost more than buying a new inexpensive laptop. Since the video card replacement surgery will not be taking place, we are look for a new or semi-new laptop. Do you have an extra one sitting around at home, or does your work/office have one they can donate? If you do, please contact LeeAnn. We'd like to have an happy ending to letting Larry the laptop go to rest.

## UMW NEWS & MEETINGS

- C **UMW Casserole and Bake Sale** will be held in the crossroads area on Sunday, March 14 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Plan to donate food items and purchase some, too. Thank you for helping our UMW Mission program.
- C **UMW District Prayer Breakfast** - Saturday March 20, 2010, 9:00 a.m., District Prayer Breakfast with Central as the host church. Amy Coles, District Superintendent, is the speaker. Sewing Kits are the Hands-on-project for the prayer breakfast.
- C **ABC Sale (Attic, Basement and Closet)** will be on Saturday, May 8, 2010 in the Family Life Center. Begin collecting items, but at this time there is no storage space at the church. A BIG thank you to Donna Young and Joy Goforth for chairing our fundraiser and who will provide more information later.
- C **Ruth Circle** meets Tuesday, March 23 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Julia Tarrant, 808 S. Hayne Street.
- C **New Beginning Circle** will meet Monday, March 15 at 7:00 p.m.
- C **Friendship Circle** meets Wednesday, March 17, 6:30 p.m. at the church.
- C **Congratulations to the following ladies who received the UMW service pin at the Heart to Heart Luncheon or in church:** *Joy Goforth* of Friendship; *Kathy Howell* of Faith, Hope & Charity and *Patsy Madden* of New Beginning. Heart to Heart finally held on February 27, 2010. Jim O'Dell provided a program of piano music and Kris Peurifoy of the Salisbury District gave a meditation on the UMW purpose.

The Friendship Circle needs your help in preparing **EASTER BASKETS**. These baskets are for many Union County teenagers who live in Foster Homes or in Broken Desolate Homes. Now we have an awesome opportunity to make Easter a little brighter for many with your help! Baskets for you to fill will be available outside of the Choir room. All baskets must be returned to the table in front of the Choir room by Sunday, March 28, 2010. Thank you for your support!

### UMCOR HAITI RELIEF

Have a night out and raise money for UMCOR HAITI RELIEF! Central UMC will host a Haiti Relief night at McAlister's in Monroe, Monday, March 22 from 5—9 p.m. Please come out for a time of fellowship and fun to raise money for Haiti relief.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

Dear Friends,

We are excited to announce that we are going to create a new pictorial directory of our church family. The directory will help us connect names with faces. It will be an ideal outreach tool and will capture the history of our church congregation.

Please participate! All we ask is that you have your picture taken by the professional Photographer and meet with a Portrait Consultant at the church. To make an appointment call Olan Mills at 1-800-866-2263. Be sure to tell them you are from Central United Methodist Church, Monroe. Or you can sign up online at [www.signup.olanmills.com](http://www.signup.olanmills.com).

- C Every participating family/household that selects a pose for the directory will receive a free directory and a complimentary 8 x 10 Custom Natural Portrait.
- C You will come to the church only once for photography and for portrait viewing.
- C The program is available at no cost to the church budget.
- C You will have the opportunity to order additional portraits during your scheduled appointment time.
- C If you wish to purchase extras, the portraits come with a 100% Satisfaction Guarantee.
- C Whether you decide to dress formally or casually, you will want to make the most of this opportunity.

The Scheduled Dates for Photography and Portrait View Are:

**March 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> and March 30<sup>th</sup> - April 3<sup>rd</sup> and April 5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>  
Weekday Hours 2:00 pm - 9:30 pm Saturday Hours 9:30 am - 5:10 pm**

If you have questions, please contact Esther Caviness at 704-283-8011 or Edie Anderson at 704-283-4174.

We look forward to seeing everyone in the directory. Our new pictorial directory just won't be complete without you! Sincerely, Britt Hadley

## LIVING BEYOND YOURSELF - LADIES BIBLE STUDY

The ladies of Central are some of the hardest working ladies; always giving, serving and doing! This opportunity has been designed with you in mind! Please join us for a Ladies Bible Study on Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:30 p.m. We will be studying Beth Moore's Living Beyond Yourself. The study is video driven and there is a member book to purchase. But don't let the idea of homework keep you from coming. Just come and enjoy the video, there will always be something to take away.

The study begins Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. We will meet in the Hospitality Room at 7:00 p.m.. The cost of the member book is \$10. Please sign up at the crossroads to we can order the right number of books. You can just pay the first night and receive your member book there!

If you have any questions, you can contact Kim Thomasson @ 704-635-8047 or email Kim at [kim.thomson@gmail.com](mailto:kim.thomson@gmail.com).

### Holy Week: March 28 through April 4

The last week of Jesus' life was a significant time in his ministry of redemption and wholeness, and this period, from Palm Sunday (March 28) to Easter Sunday (April 4) has become known as Holy Week -- and deserves some special services. Following are the major events and activities of this week for our parish:

#### SUNDAY: MARCH 28 (PALM SUNDAY)

- C During the Sunday School hour, 10:00 a.m., the children are invited to participate in an Easter Egg Hunt. All parents are invited to come along for the fun. Please go to your usual class and receive instructions there. Don't forget to bring your Easter baskets!
- C Confirmands will be received in the 10:55 a.m. Service.

#### MAUNDY THURSDAY: APRIL 1

- C There will be a meal this evening at 5:30 p.m. Please make sure you make your dinner reservation by Monday, March 29 at noon, even if you are on the Wednesday Supper permanent list. Call the church office at 704-289-3186.
- C You will not want to miss the Maundy Thursday Service on April 1 at 6:45 p.m. in the Chapel. Special music will be presented by the Chancel Choir. A nursery will be provided for small children.

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 2 (PROCESSION OF THE CROSS)

- C Central UMC invites you to participate with local Monroe churches in a procession that moves the cross from station to station on Good Friday, April 2. The procession will begin at 10:45 a.m. at the **First Station** - First Presbyterian Church. The next seven stations are: **Second Station** - Luther's Garden; **Third Station** - Old Court House; **Fourth Station** - First Baptist Church; **Fifth Station** - Black's Memorial; **Sixth Station** - City of Monroe Cemetery; **Seventh Station** - Central UMC; **Eighth Station** - St. Paul's Episcopal Church. At each station there will be responses, prayer, and liturgy. Please join us for this procession of the cross.

#### EASTER SUNDAY: APRIL 4

- C We will begin our Easter Sunday celebration with a service in the garden outside the Chapel at 8:50 a.m. Dr. J. Matthew Burton, Jr. will be leading us in this service of resurrection--as we hear the Loving Word proclaimed and as we release our butterflies. In case of inclement weather - meet in the Sanctuary.
- C Immediately after this service, at 10:00 a.m., we will gather in our Family Life Center for many festive activities including Clara's real garden, refreshments, and additional items to help us focus on Easter. (No nursery and no School during this time).
- C At 10:55 a.m., we will gather with friends and family in the Sanctuary to celebrate our risen Lord with Central's Brass, Handbell, and Festival Choirs. The Hallelujah Chorus will be sung at the end of the service. You are encouraged to bring flowers to place on the empty cross as a vivid symbol of Christ's resurrection.

### EASTER LILY ORDER FORM

Deadline: Monday, March 29, 2010



If you would like to place an Easter lily or Easter lilies in the church on Easter Sunday, April 4, in memory of honor of loved ones, please complete this order form and place it in the offering plate. The cost is \$6.50 per plant - please pay when ordering.

Make your check payable to Central United Methodist Church.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF: \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to order \_\_\_\_\_ lily / lilies.

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Week of March 14 - March 20 Shannnon Neal

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March 14 Margaret Batchelor (Bread Deliverer)

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Tour Guide: Charlie Sanders Visitor's Booth: Judy Sanders

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As of Sunday, March 7, totals are as follows:

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Received from Pledge Cards                    | \$435,703        |
| Other income (estimate)                       | \$128,400        |
| Balance needed from pledges &<br>other income | <u>\$201,592</u> |
| BUDGET 2010 APPROVED                          | \$765,695        |

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### A MINUTE FOR MISSIONS - "Prayers of My Heart"

The "Prayers of My Heart", Service of Hope and Healing, will be held on Wednesday, March 17, at 6:45 in the Chapel. Please join us for this special service sponsored by the Stephen Ministers.

### SCRIPTURE: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

{1} Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. {2} And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." {3} So he told them this parable: {11b} "There was a man who had two sons. {12} The younger

of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. {13} A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. {14} When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. {15} So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. {16} He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. {17} But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! {18} I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; {19} I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" {20} So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. {21} Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' {22} But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe--the best one--and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. {23} And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; {24} for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. {25} "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. {26} He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. {27} He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' {28} Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. {29} But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. {30} But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' {31} Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. {32} But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

## ANGEL FOOD

March order forms are available at the crossroads or on the church website. Complete the order form and place it in the lock box with your payment. Cash, check, or EBT payments are accepted. Make checks payable to CUMC. Contact Don Hinkle with any questions at 704-904-7467, 704-821-6833 or email [CUMCAngelFood@carolina.rr.com](mailto:CUMCAngelFood@carolina.rr.com). Orders are due no later than Monday, March 15 @ 5:00 p.m. Order pick up: Saturday, March 20, 9:00-10:00 am in FLC.

## BOOK SIGNING

You are cordially invited to a book signing by Joy Brown today, Sunday, March 14, at the Monroe Public Library. She will give a presentation on her just-published autobiographical novel, *Joy Lost... and Found*, at 2:00 p.m. A reception and book signing will follow until 5:00 p.m., so do drop in!

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday, Mar. 14** Scout Sunday, 8:30-12:30 -UMW Casserole/Bake Sale, 8:50 -Chapel & Contemporary Services, 10:00 -Sunday School, 10:00 - Confirmation Class, 10:55 -Worship Service, **Monday, Mar. 15** 6:00 - Soccer practice at Macedonia, 6:30 -Companions in Christ Class, 7:00 Centro Cristiana Hosanna, 7:30 -New Beginning Circle, 8:00 -Men's Basketball, **Tuesday, Mar. 16** 10:00 -Centro, 5:30 -Stephen Ministry, 6:00 - Soccer practice at Macedonia, 8:00 -High School & Adult Volleyball, **Wednesday, Mar. 17** 4:30 -Kidz Club, 6:30 -Children's Music Classes, 6:30 -Youth Drama, 6:30 -Overeaters Anonymous, 6:45 - Prayers of the Heart Service, 7:30 -Chancel Choir rehearsal, **Thursday, Mar. 18** 7:30 am - Men's Group at Hilltop Restaurant, 9:30 -Book of Revelation Study, 10:00 - Centro, 6:15 -Handbell rehearsal, 7:00 -Living Beyond Yourself Bible Study, 7:30 -Trinity rehearsal, 8:00 -High School & Adult Volleyball, **Friday, Mar. 19** 10:00 -Soul Food Group, 10:00 -WCM Prom, 2:00 -Pictorial Directory Appointments, **Saturday, Mar. 20** 9:30 Pictorial Directory Appointments, 10:00 -Overeaters Anon., District UMW Prayer Breakfast, 6:00 -Parent's Night Out

## Prayers of the Heart

### A SERVICE OF HEALING AND HOPE

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

In this season of Lent, the Stephen Ministers of the Church are offering a Service of Healing and Hope. It is a Service not unlike services of healing offered in many other churches and will include scripture, hymns, a very special time of prayer, and, for those who request it, anointing with oil. The liturgy for the Service comes from our United Methodist Book of Worship.

This Service of Healing and Hope is offered with the realization that there are many gifts of healing. There is physical healing, spiritual healing, emotional healing and the healing of relationships with one another and with God. There is also the healing gift of inner strength that enables one to live life with balance, harmony and wholeness and to recognize God's sustaining presence in pain, sickness, injury and estrangement.

This Service of Healing and Hope is offered with the recognition that all healing is of God. Whether healing is through medicine, psychotherapy, or prayer, underlying all healing is the great mystery of God's love. Although God does not promise that we will be cured of all illnesses, (we must all face the inevitability of death,) a Service of Healing provides an atmosphere in which healing can happen and hope be restored and life strengthened.

Whether your participation in a Service of Healing and Hope is to pray for your own needs or the situation and needs of another, all who wish to be part of this service are welcome. Our Service will follow the Fellowship Supper on Wednesday, March 17. The Service is planned for the Chapel and will begin at 6:45 p.m. Even if not present for the meal, all are invited.

## 2010 COMMUNITY LENTEN PREACHING SCHEDULE, NOON

| Date     | Hosting Congregation              | Preaching   |
|----------|-----------------------------------|---|
| March 17 | First Presbyterian                | Pastor Kenneth Fink   |
| March 24 | Our Lady of Lourdes               | Father Thomas Kessler   |
| April 2  | Good Friday Stations of the Cross | Begins at First Presbyterian; concludes at St. Paul's Episcopal |

## KIDZ BIZ. . .

- C **Upward Soccer** is just around the corner, with the beginning of Spring. Register your children now, and please, help us out by giving registration forms to all of the elementary children you know! (The first week of practices will be March 15<sup>th</sup>. All practices and games will be at Macedonia Baptist Church.) Adult volunteers are needed as coaches and referees.
  
- C Our **Children's Spring Consignment sale** is scheduled for Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. You do not want to miss this great opportunity to sell or purchase items for the children in your life! If you wish to be a seller, please contact Donna Young today!
  
- C Our next **Parent's Night Out** will be Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-8:30 pm. Please register your children with Mary Ann Burns by Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. The cost is only \$5 per child.
  
- C Our children's **Easter Egg Hunt** will be Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, during Sunday School. All members and visitors, ages birth through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, are invited to bring a basket and come join the fun! Anyone who would like to help with the event should see Mary Ann Burns. We will stuff treat bags on Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, at 6:45 pm. Then we will hide eggs at 10:00 am on Palm Sunday. And we will also need helpers to take the children outside. Parents are welcome! (You might want to bring your camera.)
  
- C Planning ahead? This year's Vacation Bible School event will be June 27<sup>th</sup> through July 1<sup>st</sup>. Our theme will be **High Seas Expedition: Exploring the Mighty Love of God**. Put this on your calendar now so you can come be a part of the fun!
  
- C Let's go to day camp at **Pleasant Grove Campground**. The dates are June 21-24, and the theme is "From Infinity and Beyond". We need adult volunteers from our church to come help at camp. (Childcare is available for younger siblings!) Please see Mary Ann if you are interested. Registration forms are available on the children's bulletin boards. It is for children ages K-6<sup>th</sup> grades.

Questions about children's ministries??? See Mary Ann Burns, 704-289-3186, [maburns@carolina.rr.com](mailto:maburns@carolina.rr.com).

## Central's IMPACT Invitational Golf Tournament

**April 10, 2010 - Eagle Chase Golf Club**

We're currently collecting sponsorships and donations for the tournament. All proceeds will go directly to youth summer missions. **We'd like to recognize the following companies for their sponsorships: Monroe Mini Warehouses, and Ruocco Dental.** If you go by them, please thank them for their partnership in sponsoring our tournament. Also, below you will see the list of merchandise donors. Those companies are donating items to be used or raffled at the tournament. Sign up to play or get your company to sponsor a hole so we can recognize your efforts to help youth summer missions as well!

### Tournament Sponsorships

Monroe Mini Warehouses, Ruocco Dental

### Merchandise Donors

Kate Clyde's Catered Creations, Dicks Sporting Goods, Road Master Tires, Quincy's, Golf Tec - Monroe

**Not going to the tournament?** You can still help out! We will have T-shirts for sale in the coming weeks, along with raffle tickets. Raffle tickets are \$2.00 a piece or 10 raffle tickets for \$15.00! There are GREAT prizes to be won, \$50.00 gift certificates, restaurant gift certificates, Golf items, Road master tires certificates etc... Don't miss out on great winnings, get your raffle tickets today!!! Check out more at: [www.CentralUMCYouth.org](http://www.CentralUMCYouth.org) (Golf Tournament)

### Sponsorship Levels:

\$ 150 *Silver* Sponsorship

\$ 350 *Gold* Sponsorship + 2 Golfers

\$ 500 *Platinum* Tournament Sponsor + Foursome

### ON NO! It's Crashing...Can You Help?

The youth laptop ("Larry the laptop") has taken a turn for the worse. We've hooked it up to some new cables but it is going fast. The video card will give any day, and when it does, we will be grieving a great loss. We rely heavily on being able to project video clips and run power point presentations every week at IMPACT, but over the past few weeks our computer has gotten sick. We had the I.T. doctor check it out, but he said it would require some surgery. Unfortunately the surgery would cost more than buying a new inexpensive laptop. Since the video card replacement surgery will not be taking place, we are look for a new or semi-new laptop. Do you have an extra one sitting around at home, or does your work/office have one they can donate? If you do, please contact LeeAnn. We'd like to have an happy ending to letting Larry the laptop go to rest.

## UMW NEWS & MEETINGS

- C **UMW Casserole and Bake Sale** will be held in the crossroads area on Sunday, March 14 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Plan to donate food items and purchase some, too. Thank you for helping our UMW Mission program.
- C **UMW District Prayer Breakfast** - Saturday March 20, 2010, 9:00 a.m., District Prayer Breakfast with Central as the host church. Amy Coles, District Superintendent, is the speaker. Sewing Kits are the Hands-on-project for the prayer breakfast.
- C **ABC Sale (Attic, Basement and Closet)** will be on Saturday, May 8, 2010 in the Family Life Center. Begin collecting items, but at this time there is no storage space at the church. A BIG thank you to Donna Young and Joy Goforth for chairing our fundraiser and who will provide more information later.
- C **Ruth Circle** meets Tuesday, March 23 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Julia Tarrant, 808 S. Hayne Street.
- C **New Beginning Circle** will meet Monday, March 15 at 7:00 p.m.
- C **Friendship Circle** meets Wednesday, March 17, 6:30 p.m. at the church.
- C **Congratulations to the following ladies who received the UMW service pin at the Heart to Heart Luncheon or in church:** *Joy Goforth* of Friendship; *Kathy Howell* of Faith, Hope & Charity and *Patsy Madden* of New Beginning. Heart to Heart finally held on February 27, 2010. Jim O'Dell provided a program of piano music and Kris Peurifoy of the Salisbury District gave a meditation on the UMW purpose.

The Friendship Circle needs your help in preparing **EASTER BASKETS**. These baskets are for many Union County teenagers who live in Foster Homes or in Broken Desolate Homes. Now we have an awesome opportunity to make Easter a little brighter for many with your help! Baskets for you to fill will be available outside of the Choir room. All baskets must be returned to the table in front of the Choir room by Sunday, March 28, 2010. Thank you for your support!

### UMCOR HAITI RELIEF

Have a night out and raise money for UMCOR HAITI RELIEF! Central UMC will host a Haiti Relief night at McAlister's in Monroe, Monday, March 22 from 5—9 p.m. Please come out for a time of fellowship and fun to raise money for Haiti relief.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

Dear Friends,

We are excited to announce that we are going to create a new pictorial directory of our church family. The directory will help us connect names with faces. It will be an ideal outreach tool and will capture the history of our church congregation.

Please participate! All we ask is that you have your picture taken by the professional Photographer and meet with a Portrait Consultant at the church. To make an appointment call Olan Mills at 1-800-866-2263. Be sure to tell them you are from Central United Methodist Church, Monroe. Or you can sign up online at [www.signup.olanmills.com](http://www.signup.olanmills.com).

- C Every participating family/household that selects a pose for the directory will receive a free directory and a complimentary 8 x 10 Custom Natural Portrait.
- C You will come to the church only once for photography and for portrait viewing.
- C The program is available at no cost to the church budget.
- C You will have the opportunity to order additional portraits during your scheduled appointment time.
- C If you wish to purchase extras, the portraits come with a 100% Satisfaction Guarantee.
- C Whether you decide to dress formally or casually, you will want to make the most of this opportunity.

The Scheduled Dates for Photography and Portrait View Are:

**March 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> and March 30<sup>th</sup> - April 3<sup>rd</sup> and April 5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>  
Weekday Hours 2:00 pm - 9:30 pm Saturday Hours 9:30 am - 5:10 pm**

If you have questions, please contact Esther Caviness at 704-283-8011 or Edie Anderson at 704-283-4174.

We look forward to seeing everyone in the directory. Our new pictorial directory just won't be complete without you! Sincerely, Britt Hadley

## LIVING BEYOND YOURSELF - LADIES BIBLE STUDY

The ladies of Central are some of the hardest working ladies; always giving, serving and doing! This opportunity has been designed with you in mind! Please join us for a Ladies Bible Study on Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:30 p.m. We will be studying Beth Moore's Living Beyond Yourself. The study is video driven and there is a member book to purchase. But don't let the idea of homework keep you from coming. Just come and enjoy the video, there will always be something to take away.

The study begins Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. We will meet in the Hospitality Room at 7:00 p.m.. The cost of the member book is \$10. Please sign up at the crossroads to we can order the right number of books. You can just pay the first night and receive your member book there!

If you have any questions, you can contact Kim Thomasson @ 704-635-8047 or email Kim at [kim.thomson@gmail.com](mailto:kim.thomson@gmail.com).

### Holy Week: March 28 through April 4

The last week of Jesus' life was a significant time in his ministry of redemption and wholeness, and this period, from Palm Sunday (March 28) to Easter Sunday (April 4) has become known as Holy Week -- and deserves some special services. Following are the major events and activities of this week for our parish:

#### SUNDAY: MARCH 28 (PALM SUNDAY)

- C During the Sunday School hour, 10:00 a.m., the children are invited to participate in an Easter Egg Hunt. All parents are invited to come along for the fun. Please go to your usual class and receive instructions there. Don't forget to bring your Easter baskets!
- C Confirmands will be received in the 10:55 a.m. Service.

#### MAUNDY THURSDAY: APRIL 1

- C There will be a meal this evening at 5:30 p.m. Please make sure you make your dinner reservation by Monday, March 29 at noon, even if you are on the Wednesday Supper permanent list. Call the church office at 704-289-3186.
- C You will not want to miss the Maundy Thursday Service on April 1 at 6:45 p.m. in the Chapel. Special music will be presented by the Chancel Choir. A nursery will be provided for small children.

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 2 (PROCESSION OF THE CROSS)

- C Central UMC invites you to participate with local Monroe churches in a procession that moves the cross from station to station on Good Friday, April 2. The procession will begin at 10:45 a.m. at the **First Station** - First Presbyterian Church. The next seven stations are: **Second Station** - Luther's Garden; **Third Station** - Old Court House; **Fourth Station** - First Baptist Church; **Fifth Station** - Black's Memorial; **Sixth Station** - City of Monroe Cemetery; **Seventh Station** - Central UMC; **Eighth Station** - St. Paul's Episcopal Church. At each station there will be responses, prayer, and liturgy. Please join us for this procession of the cross.

#### EASTER SUNDAY: APRIL 4

- C We will begin our Easter Sunday celebration with a service in the garden outside the Chapel at 8:50 a.m. Dr. J. Matthew Burton, Jr. will be leading us in this service of resurrection--as we hear the Loving Word proclaimed and as we release our butterflies. In case of inclement weather - meet in the Sanctuary.
- C Immediately after this service, at 10:00 a.m., we will gather in our Family Life Center for many festive activities including Clara's real garden, refreshments, and additional items to help us focus on Easter. (No nursery and no School during this time).
- C At 10:55 a.m., we will gather with friends and family in the Sanctuary to celebrate our risen Lord with Central's Brass, Handbell, and Festival Choirs. The Hallelujah Chorus will be sung at the end of the service. You are encouraged to bring flowers to place on the empty cross as a vivid symbol of Christ's resurrection.

### EASTER LILY ORDER FORM

Deadline: Monday, March 29, 2010



If you would like to place an Easter lily or Easter lilies in the church on Easter Sunday, April 4, in memory of honor of loved ones, please complete this order form and place it in the offering plate. The cost is \$6.50 per plant - please pay when ordering.

Make your check payable to Central United Methodist Church.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF: \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to order \_\_\_\_\_ lily / lilies.