

CENTRAL NEWS



Central United Methodist Church
1213 Porter St., Richmond, VA 23224
Web Site: www.umcentral.org

Shayne Estes, Pastor Cell: 804-357-1107 shayneestes@vaumc.org

804-232-0334 (answering machine)

Email: umcentral@verizon.net

Facebook: Central United Methodist Church – RVA

Important: Church Address Change!!

Please note that the mailing address for the church is now **1213 Porter Street**. It had been 1211, but that is the address of the annex. Although USPS has received change of address information, not all new and substitute mail carriers will deliver church mail next door to the church mail box. Mail has been returned to senders because of this address change, and we don't want that to happen if you mail something to the church.

“Love One Another” – Pastor’s Message

1 Corinthians 13:1-7, NRSVUE – “1 If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give away all my possessions and if I hand over my body so that I may boast [a] but do not have love, I gain nothing. 4 Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; 6 it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. 7 It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

The upcoming holiday of Valentine’s Day made me think of this scripture. It’s well known for use at weddings. As a matter of fact, it was used in our wedding. However, most people don’t realize Paul wasn’t talking about romantic love. In Greek there are at least eight words for love (dictionary.com). Bible Scholar Nicholas Lakin notes four of these words are commonly used in the New Testament: agape (unconditional, selfless, or even sacrificial love) Philia (brotherly affection), eros (physical/sensual love), and storge (familial love as a parent and child).¹ The particular word Paul uses in verse 1 is agape. This form of love is also used when Jesus instructs us to “love our neighbor as ourselves” (Matthew 22:39).² I’d like to share a personal story that will help us understand how to demonstrate agape or selfless love.

When I was 17 I shared my homeroom class with “Wayne,” whose wide rimmed glasses and round face made him look like Roy Orbison. Wayne sat next to me in my homeroom class, so we saw each other every weekday morning. I noticed that Wayne appeared sad most of the time and was a loner, so I made it a point to try to offer him the joy that comes from a relationship with Jesus. However, Wayne wasn’t very receptive to my efforts. Wayne was very quiet and dressed in the “Goth” style (all black clothing and military style boots). He also frequently looked at gun catalogues during homeroom. These days most people would be frightened of someone who looked and acted in this way. However, I was young, naïve, and wanted others to experience the joy I did from my faith. Looking back, I strongly suspect that Wayne had an unstable home life and was possibly abused by his family. His external persona probably served as an attempt to get attention or a way to keep others at a distance. I suspect that talking about my church youth group and my love for Jesus may have been off-putting for Wayne. He wasn’t ready to hear such a direct witness of my faith. My efforts to share my faith with Wayne didn’t seem fruitful. However, maybe I planted seeds that would germinate later...

When I became a counselor, I gained insight into how to live out the commandment to love your neighbor as yourself. In social work school I learned the importance of meeting others where they're at – to approach people

keeping their values and outlook on life in mind. So really, “loving others as ourselves” might be more appropriately described as loving others as they would like to be loved. In verse 5 of our scripture above, Paul notes that true love doesn't insist on its own way. I probably would have been more successful in witnessing to Wayne had I tried to find common ground and gained his trust and respect. That's usually how we best love others, is meeting them where they're at and supporting them in the way that fits their culture and personality. It's challenging to see things through others' eyes, but being a disciple of Christ involves a radical reordering of our minds and spirits. I encourage you to love others as God would have us love them, being sensitive to who they are and what they need. In *Christ's Love*, *Pastor Shayne*

1. Nicholas Lakin, [holyfoundations.com/dating/Greek-words-for-love/](https://www.holyfoundations.com/dating/Greek-words-for-love/), accessed 1/20/23
2. Matthew 22:39 in koine greek images - Bing images

“Basics of Christianity” Sermon Series

Pastor Shayne is leading a 5-week sermon series starting January 15th concerning Christ's early ministry, which is the basics of our Christian faith. Watch on Facebook if you are unable to attend church. Facebook information is in the box of church contacts within this newsletter.

Ash Wednesday – February 22

We're trying a different Ash Wednesday approach. From 4-6 pm on Wed., Feb. 22, Pastor Shayne and a helper will be outside, in front of the church, to administer ashes to any of our members who want to stop by. This is another way to reach our neighbors who are out walking.

Lenten Bible Study

Pastor Shayne will be leading a study for Lent using *24 Hours That Changed the World* by Adam Hamilton. A video accompanies the study. Preparation is encouraged using Hamilton's book; however, the video allows anyone to get the gist of the lesson and participate in the discussion. Come explore how Jesus' journey to the cross changed everything for you and me. This 7-week study starts on February 21st @ 6:30 pm at St. Francis' Home, 65 W. Clopton Street, Richmond, 23225

“In the Footsteps of Paul and John”

Pastor Shayne and Kelly shared their insight into Acts, Paul's letters, and Revelation at a pot-luck lunch following church on January 29th. Their photos and commentary about their recent trip to Greece and Turkey helped us all put these locations and actions into a context we can better understand.

New Virginia Resident Bishop

Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson was assigned to the Virginia Conference on Nov. 4, 2022, replacing Bishop Sharma Lewis. She comes from the North Georgia Conference. A Florida native, Bishop Hauptert-Johnson is a graduate of the University of Florida (B.S. in Business Administration), University of Florida College of Law (J.D.), and Candler School of Theology at Emory University (M.Div.). She was a federal law clerk and a litigator with the Tampa law firm before she answered her call to ministry. She served in a large church in Florida, as well as rural/urban churches. As bishop of the North Georgia Conference, Bishop Hauptert-Johnson led with passion and integrity in a challenging time for the denomination. Her emphasis was on unity in Christ and steadfastness to our mission. She serves on the Board of Directors for Global Ministries and on The General Council on Finance and Administration Apportionment Sustainability Task Force. She also serves on the Emory University Board of Trustees as well as eight other United Methodist-related colleges and universities in Georgia, and on numerous ministry and agency boards. Bishop Hauptert-Johnson is married to Rev. Allen Johnson. They have a daughter, Samantha.

In Memorium

Jean Grizzard, 88, faithful member of Central passed away January 11th. She worked at DMV for 39 years. She was predeceased by her husband Earl, and is survived by daughter Debra Foster and her family. Services were at Bliley's on January 18th. The family designated Central UMC for memorial gifts. She joins two other long-time members who passed away in 2022, Emma Coley and Mary Vaughn Francis. Our prayers are with these families.

Change in Some Church Duties

Our Administrative Asst. and Outreach Coordinator, Brittany James, has moved on to other endeavors. We do not plan to fill her paid position; however, several church members have agreed to perform her administrative duties. Leah Duncan will be doing the newsletter, printing the bulletin, monitoring the web site, updating the Google calendar, and designing flyers. Nancy Manner will be handling mail, ordering supplies, updating files, and interacting with vendors, as needed. Shayne will also be monitoring mail and phone messages. Janet Tyler will monitor memorial contributions. Thanks to Billy Motley and Sandy Harmon for continuing to keep our monies in order. Your Church Board Team continues to be led by our vision: "Making God's love real by planting seeds of compassion, cultivating partnerships, and Christ-centered discipleship."

Kid's Club

In December, Kid's Club had a Christmas dinner and thank you event for Trinity UMC and Central which generously supports the program. About 40 people attended. Gifts, provided by Trinity, were given to the parents for Christmas Day. The older boys and girls had separate mini retreats in late December, focusing on needs of growing teens. The younger children went to Lewis Ginter light show in early January. Thanks to all those who donated time, money, and items to make these events special for the Kid's Club children and parents. The program will continue with monthly Sunday afternoon meetings until the summer. Adult leadership is needed to keep this program going. If you are interested, or know someone who might be, contact Pastor Shayne Estes

HVAC Update

When you read this, there should finally be heat, and AC this summer, in the educational wing. The 100-year-old boiler system was not repairable, so an all-electric mini-split system was installed. This means we can control the temperature in each room, and adjust when not in use. This approximately \$330,000 project has been over half funded with your contributions to date. The GoFundMe.com website will be active for several years, so friends and family can always donate via that site. Search "Seeking HVAC Assistance for Historic Church." You'll see the church photo and Nancy Manner's name as organizer. If checks are sent to the church, make sure to use the 1213 Porter Street address.

Sale of 1211 Porter/Annex/Former Parsonage

After the District and Central members okayed the sale of 1211 Porter, a number of steps were involved, including finding the deed to the property (no easy feat!), and separating that lot from the church. Other work included removing furniture and "stuff," surveys, termite inspection, removing the brick shed at the back of the church (in poor condition/falling down) giving the house access to the alley and parking space, and replacing some fence where the shed had been. The property is being sold as-is to an investor who is adamant in maintaining the integrity of the house and the neighborhood. We had determined that at least 300K was needed to get the property up to any livable condition. Proceeds from the sale will help fund the HVAC and other needed repairs around the church.

Reaching Out in Our Community

On Nov. 29th, Central delivered 25 meals to residents of Manchester Grand Senior Housing in the 1400 block of Porter. They received a sturdy tote bag, soup, sandwich, and other tasty treats. On Dec. 17th, several Central members joined residents for carol singing. Thanks to Nancy for cookies; Sara for bring her keyboard; and Leah for hot cider. This is a nearby location where Central has been spreading God's Love.

St. Francis Home on Clopton St. was the location of our Advent Bible Study. Member, Frank Howarth, is a resident and several other residents joined us, and have attended our Sunday worship services.

New Address:

Rev. Wm (Bill) & Clementine Pollock
Anthology of Tuckahoe #304
567 N. Parham Rd.
Henrico, VA 23229

February Birthdays

Stacy Swagger 2/14
Pat Munoz 2/21
Have a Special Day!

Upcoming Events

11 February, Saturday, 6:30 pm – Valentine treats and game night at Manchester Grand
12 February, Sunday, 3 pm – NA District Staff Meeting
17 February, Friday, 9 am – Church Board Meeting
19 February, Sunday, 3-6 pm – Kid's Club
21 February, Tuesdays – 6:30 pm - Lenten Bible Study at St. Francis Home (7-week study)
22 February, Wednesday – 4-6pm – Walk By Administration of Ashes Outside Church
Narcotics Anonymous meets weekly: Sun. @ 7pm, Wed. @ 6pm; Fri. @ 6pm.

Newsletter Name

Is "Central News" a good name for this newsletter, or does someone have another suggestion? If so, let Leah know at leahd2012@gmail.com. Does the print size need to be bigger for some of our "mature" readers?