

CENTRAL NEWS

JUNE 2025



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Pastor's Message

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. (Acts 2:1-4, NRSVUE)

Pentecost is coming up very soon (June 8th). Most people only think of Pentecost in terms of the early church being given the gift of “speaking in tongues.” However, the “mighty wind” of the Holy Spirit empowered the early church for ministry at this extraordinary event. Peter’s sermon after the receiving of the Holy Spirit attests to this (see Acts 2:14-18).

St. Paul instructs us about the empowerment of the Holy Spirit in his first letter to the Corinthians. In chapter 12 he makes it clear that all spiritual gifts come from the Holy Spirit. It’s also clear that the “showiest” of the gifts aren’t the ones that are most important. All Christians have access to empowerment for ministry by the Holy Spirit. We all have gifts to share as well. Both Peter and Paul encouraged the early church to use their gifts to spread the “good news of Jesus Christ.” Pentecost reminds us that we’re empowered by the Holy Spirit for ministry. It’s not something we do alone. The Holy Spirit is beyond our imagination, moving in the church in unexpected ways!

A powerful wind is still blowing in the church. We may not recognize its strength. Rest assured, God is still working in the church through the Holy Spirit. I encourage you to explore your own spiritual gifts and what role you may be called to in the life of the church.

1 Corinthians 12 is a good place to start this exploration.

God Bless You, *Pastor Shayne*

Outreach to Sacred Heart Center

Central contributes nonperishables to the food bank at Sacred Heart Center at 14th & Perry. Our monthly contributions have been over 100 pounds of foods, diapers, etc. In May it was 131 pounds. The first Sunday of the month is designated as the donation day. Our donations are even more important as benefits for the needy have been decreased.

Taters Concert and More – July 17th

We’re planning an outdoor event Thursday, July 17th, 6:30 – 8:30. Some of you are familiar with the Richmond group, the Taters. Their web site says they play “eclectic Roots-Pop” music. We’ll have Flavaz Shave Ice food truck, and maybe more. This will be a fun summer event for the whole community. Make sure you read next month’s newsletter for details. We’ll need volunteer help that evening, so check your schedule.

Neighborhood Yard Sale – Sat., May 17th

At 5:30 am, we were awakened with thunder and lightning, which only lasted a short time. The event started a bit after 8:00 to let the parking lot dry out. Twelve vendors were present, including Central, Northstar Community, an author, an Etsy seller, and others with traditional yard sale items. Most attending, and most sellers, lived within several blocks of the church, so we were reaching our neighbors. Many commented that they would like to repeat the event, maybe next May or June, and that they had an enjoyable morning. Central made \$233.35 with sales and donations. We feel like this was a positive way to interact with the community.

Game Nights

Next game night is scheduled for Sat. June 28th at 6pm. We are inviting people who attended the yard sale, for a number seemed interested. We'll also have a jigsaw puzzle swap.

In Memory of Pat Munoz

Pat Munoz joined Central UMC in 2010, transferring her membership from a Methodist church in Alexandria, VA. She liked the beauty and friendliness of Central. The past few years, she had been living at The Hermitage in Richmond. She has been in declining health, passing away on May 16th. Her memorial service will be at Central on Sunday afternoon, June 29th. The service will also eulogize two family members who didn't have a service during Covid restrictions. A catered reception will follow. Pat spent much of her childhood near Williamsburg in the town of Toano. It was there that she developed her love of gardening. She and Pastor Shayne often spoke about flowers and gardening. She was instrumental in getting The Hermitage staff to plant flowers on the patio of her unit last year. She also had a hobby of bottle collecting and loved cats. We believe Pat had a career as a teacher and librarian. She was married for part of her life, but had no children. She had two nieces that were like daughters to her: Barbara and Martha. Pat was very artistic, and would sometimes participate in the art classes at The Hermitage. In her final years, she enjoyed coloring in adult coloring books. Finally, Pat's faith was very important to her. Her health and mobility issues prevented her from attending services. However, she would often read deep theological books, which she and Shayne discussed. Pat was a sweet lady who appreciated Shayne's visits and cards and notes from the church. Keep her family in your prayers.

Focus on Central's History - Our Organ

- 1904 – The organ at Central UMC was installed, at a cost of \$2,700. It was a Henry Pilcher's Sons' Opus 479, the only Pilcher organ in Richmond. The bulk of what remains of the original organ is 120 years old. The pipes (91 of them) are the original. There are two manual (keyboards) with various stops to make different sounds like flute, trumpet, etc.
- 1940 – The tubular pneumatic action and console were replaced with electro pneumatic actions. The console position was closed up with new panels and a Wurlitzer console was placed where the present console now stands. This work lasted until about 1960, when the organ began to deteriorate, and a new organ was recommended in 1961.
- 1973 – The Wurlitzer console was replaced with the present Cann console.
- 1993 – Dead notes started appearing in the pedal 16' diapason.
- 1995 – An organ fund was established and refurbishing began in 1996. Work was done in phases as money became available.
- 2002 – Major renovation work was completed. A set of 25 note chimes were dedicated that June.
- 2017 – Repairs were made by Lewis & Hitchcock, Inc. for \$9,100. Central continues to use that company for organ repairs. (cont. next page)

2019 – Several repairs were made; semiannual checks, and cleaning for a total of \$6,114.

2020 - 2024 – A few stops and pedals have been temperamental. Continued semiannual tuning and checks are done at current cost of about \$1300/year. At the recommendation of Lewis & Hitchcock, a humidifier was installed in 2024 behind the organ to help keep the organ from drying out and in tune.

2025 – New Fix Proposed, at around \$1500. This requires access to mechanical components that had been sealed up during work years ago. This should solve some of the vibration problems.

June Birthdays

Dan Sierra 6/2

Kelly Desclos-Estes 6/12

Rose Samoya 6/22

Frank Howarth 6/24

Anniversaries

Bill & Leah Duncan, 60th, 6/5

Upcoming Events

Wednesdays @ 6:30 pm weekly Bible study @ St. Francis Home, 65 W. Clopton

June 8, Sun. – Pentacost Sunday. Wear red!

June 15, Sun. – Father's Day

June 28, Sat., 6:00 pm – Game Night

June 29, Sun. – Board Meeting after church

July 4, Fri. – 4th of July

July 17, Thurs. – Taters Concert and More!

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Central UMC Traditional Sunday Worship Service: Sun. @ 11am, All are Welcome!

Narcotics Anonymous meets weekly: Sun. @ 7pm, Wed. @ Noon & at 6pm; Fri. @ 6pm

Northstar Community: Sundays, 8:30am – Men's & Women's Groups in classrooms; 9:30am – Healing Service in Wesley Hall; Tuesdays 6:00pm – Recovery Yoga