

A Word from Pastor Shayne...

Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

(Luke 12:13-21, NRSVUE)

Generosity Feeds the Soul

Jesus minces no words in this parable. He makes it abundantly clear that spiritual wealth is far more important than material wealth. Also, the wealth of this world is fleeting and short-lived. Lutheran scholar David J. Lose points out that Luke has a dim view of the wealthy. In fact, Luke only has praise for one rich person, Zacchaeus, a reformed tax collector. Lose concludes that Luke has this view because he wanted to dissuade the rich from seeing wealth as an idol that could save them. Zacchaeus was held up as an example because he discovers the true treasure of the gospel message and rejects the idol of money. He even gives half of his possessions to the poor! I’m not sure I could do that. However, I have discovered the joy of being a generous giver. When we see money as a tool to help others, it becomes a joy to share it in ways we feel it will most benefit God’s kingdom.

We are currently in the middle of a campaign to raise money for our new HVAC system in the education wing. That might not sound like it’s kingdom work. However, in order to use our education building as a mission hub for the community, it is necessary to have reliable heating and cooling. The church leadership anticipates that we will come to host other nonprofit organizations in our space once the HVAC system is installed. That will not only provide these groups with an affordable space, but it will help the community have needed services nearby. These other groups will help us remain fruitful in sharing the gospel for years to come.

I know that many of you have already made pledges for our HVAC campaign. I urge you to honor those pledges to the best of your ability. However, I also wanted to make sure you knew that an anonymous donor has given us a challenge. This person is giving us \$50,000 now, and if we can match that amount again by the end of the year, the donor will contribute a second \$50,000. We've made significant progress toward this goal. Besides the anonymous donor, the rest of us have already given over \$37,000. Please prayerfully consider a pledge if you haven't already. Also, this is an opportunity for our friends and family to share in our ministry. Spread the word! God is at work among us.

Blessings, *Pastor Shayne*

Meet Francis "Frank" Howarth

Born: June 24, 1947

Origins: I am originally from Providence Rhode Island. Went into the Air Force met my wife while stationed in Abilene, Texas.

Married 52 years.

Education: I graduated from UofR in Speech/Theatre/English '73 and from VCU MFA in Theatre '78



Work: Worked in summer stock theatre in Orleans, MA on Cape Cod two summers while in high school. Taught school, Directed the old Children's Theatre of Richmond. Acted and directed around town: Barksdale, Stage, Center, American Revels Company. Began in the automobile business and stayed for almost 30 yrs.

Faith Background: I am a former member of Welborne [choir](17 yrs), Grove on Pouncey Tract [choir](15 yrs), and Gum Spring [choir] (17.5 yrs.) - Note: Former Catholic

Discovered Central UMC: by seeing it on the Internet - and it was VERY close to me at St. Francis (5 min.) Wonderful church and folks. Currently I am involved at Central in whatever I can manage. Wish I could do more physically. I have to pace myself. I play a LITTLE guitar and a LITTLE harmonica. And I have completed both the Basic and Advanced UMC preaching classes (... so, we'll have to see about that)

Memory of Central so far: I do remember thinking what an old but beautifully styled church Central is. . . and THEN I saw the Sanctuary. Wow! Not large, but very nearly perfect. (We can fix some stuff, but all in good, God's time.)

GoFundMe

Also, we have a **GoFundMe** where **family, friends, neighbors and anyone else you share with can go online to read about our HVAC project and donate!** Please direct anyone to our website, **www.umcentral.org** where there is a **button on the homepage** that will take them to the GoFundMe information.

Upcoming Events!



Saturday, Oct. 8 @ 9AM - 12PM: Blessing of the Animals. Bring a pet or invite your neighbors to bring theirs for a special blessing.



Tuesday, Oct. 25 @ 7PM - 8:30PM: Incorporating Music in Your Devotional Life. We're excited to have Daniel Banke from Reveille UMC join us to lead this workshop.

October & November Birthdays



Cindy Bondurant
10/4

Brenda Bray
10/15

Leah Duncan
10/20

Cary Taylor
11/5

*We're sending
birthday hugs
your way!*

Food Pantry

Every 1st Sunday we collect non-perishable food items to support the local food pantry ministry of our neighbor Sacred Heart Catholic Church on Perry St. If you wish to send a monetary donation, you may send it to the church office.

Newsletter Contributions!

We want to hear from you! If you are interested in submitting an article or other writing to the newsletter, please contact Brittany at (804) 305-3673, or leave a message on the church office phone (804) 232-0332.