

The Review

Central UMC

Making Christ Central to Life

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Reach For More

By Jan Davis

This new year is an opportunity for followers of Jesus Christ to reach for more.

REACH FOR MORE OF GOD IN 2019. Stretch yourself to spend more time in God's presence. Extend your quiet times and seek the Lord in prayer. Reach more often for your Bible and indulge in the Word of God in scripture. Seek to grasp more of God's holiness, more of his goodness, more of his righteousness. Open your heart to receive more of God's Holy Spirit which will saturate and fill your life with good things. Come to worship ready to receive the beautiful renewing life of faith God offers you each day in Jesus Christ.

REACH FOR MORE FAITH. The new year is a perfect opportunity to begin a Bible Study or join a small group. This is the time for your family to find a new rhythm for church attendance and family devotions. Aim to be a "two-hour" family - every member of your household committing to spend one hour together in worship and one hour growing in discipleship each week in Sunday School, MidWeek or a weekday small group. Central provides a variety of worship and discipleship options for every age.

REACH OUT IN SERVICE. The new year is a great time to make a fresh commitment to serve. Serve in missions locally and internationally. Even with the missions and outreach we accomplished with God last year, God is calling us to do more. God has perfectly positioned us through our history of community service on the Dickson Street campus and through our thriving ministries at our Genesis and U of A Wesley campuses. We will extend our reach even further and reach more people for Jesus Christ, shining the love and light of Christ in places of darkness.

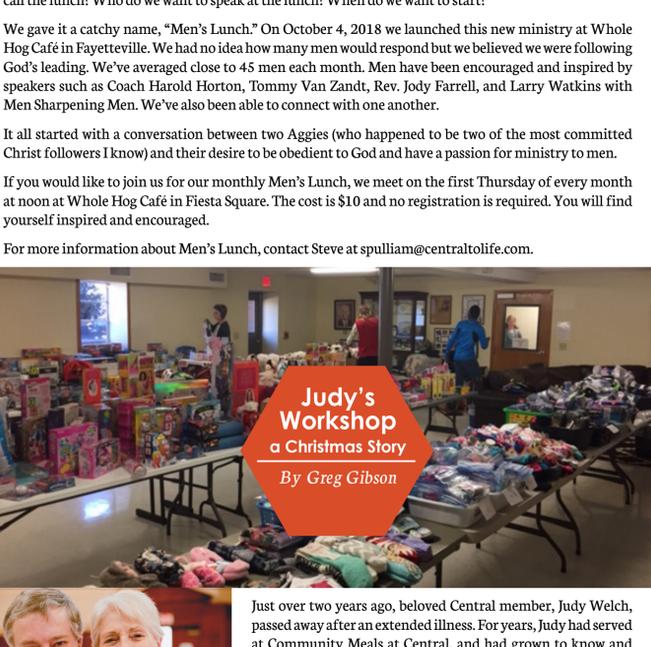
REACH OUT IN MISSION. We are extending the love of Christ across the globe. Begin to pray about going on a mission trip this year and see what God might do with that prayer. Mission trips are a special opportunity to enlarge our perspective of the world and experience God working through us for the good of others. Mission trips are a life transforming experience for every age. In 2019, our student ministry will send teams to Mexico in March, Memphis and Texarkana in June and Fayetteville in July. Adult mission teams will go to Cuba in January, Uganda in May and the Amazon in July.

REACH OUT IN LOVE. God is calling us to reach out to the lost and lonely in the community of Fayetteville. Would you reach out and visit one of our homebound members? Sign up to be a Lunch Buddy to a young student in a local school? Adopt a U of A student who is away from their family and invite them to a homecooked meal? Volunteer to serve community meals in our Activities Center or help with Morning Manna at the Genesis campus? Spend a Saturday morning in April serving our community Beyond Our Walls?

There are so many people we are reaching, and God has positioned us to extend our reach just a little further. We can do it. We are growing spiritually taller, lengthening the arms of our faith and stretching our spiritual limbs through the power of the Holy Spirit and we will reach places and people for God we have not reached before.

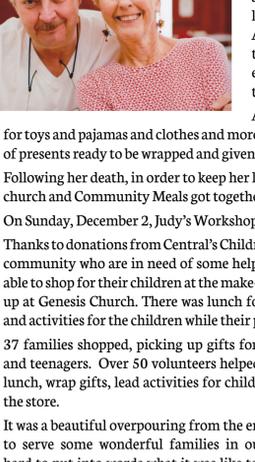


"THIS NEW YEAR IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST TO REACH FOR MORE."



Men's Lunch

By Steve Pulliam



It all started with a conversation last spring at a local restaurant between two Texas A&M alumni. These two men went to the restaurant to watch their beloved Aggies play in the NCAA tournament. As they talked with one another, they discovered they both attended Central United Methodist Church. They also discovered that they each had a passion for ministry to men. They shared with one another their experience of men's ministry at churches they attended before moving to Northwest Arkansas.

Fast forward a couple of months to the rain soaked first Friday in May. I sat with these two men at a BBQ restaurant to discuss the possibility of a monthly gathering of men over lunch for the purpose of connection and encouragement. I felt their burden and passion for ministering to men as we discussed the possibilities. A few months later, a group of about twelve men from our church gathered to discuss ideas and plans for the launch of this new ministry. What would we call the lunch? Who do we want to speak at the lunch? When do we want to start?

We gave it the name, "Men's Lunch." On October 2, 2018 we launched this new ministry at Whole Hog Café in Fayetteville. We had no idea how many men would respond but we believed we were following God's leading. We've averaged close to 45 men each month. Men have been encouraged and inspired by speakers such as Coach Harold Horton, Tommy Van Zandt, Rev. Jody Farrell, and Larry Watkins with Men Sharpening Men. We've also been able to connect with one another.

It all started with a conversation between two Aggies (who happened to be two of the most committed Christ followers I know) and their desire to be obedient to God and have a passion for ministry to men.

If you would like to join us for our monthly Men's Lunch, we meet on the first Thursday of every month at noon at Whole Hog Café in Fiesta Square. The cost is \$10 and no registration is required. You will find yourself inspired and encouraged.

For more information about Men's Lunch, contact Steve at spulliam@centrallife.com.



Judy's Workshop a Christmas Story

By Greg Gibson



Just over two years ago, beloved Central member, Judy Welch, passed away after an extended illness. For years, Judy had served at Community Meals at Central, and had grown to know and love the guests - many of them were homeless and came to Central's Activities Center each week for a hot meal. Somewhere along the way, she began to buy Christmas presents for these families, especially for their children and grandchildren, making sure that each was able to celebrate Christmas in a special way.

And Judy - did she ever buy gifts! All year long, she had a house full of presents ready to be wrapped and given away in December, which they were.

Following her death, in order to keep her legacy of love and generosity alive, some of Judy's friends from church and Community Meals got together, and Judy's Workshop was born.

On Sunday, December 2, Judy's Workshop took place for its second year.

Thanks to donations from Central's Children's Ministries families and others, families we know from our community who are in need of some help at Christmas were able to shop for their children at the make-shift workshop, set up at Genesis Church. There was lunch for the whole family and activities for the children while their parents shopped.

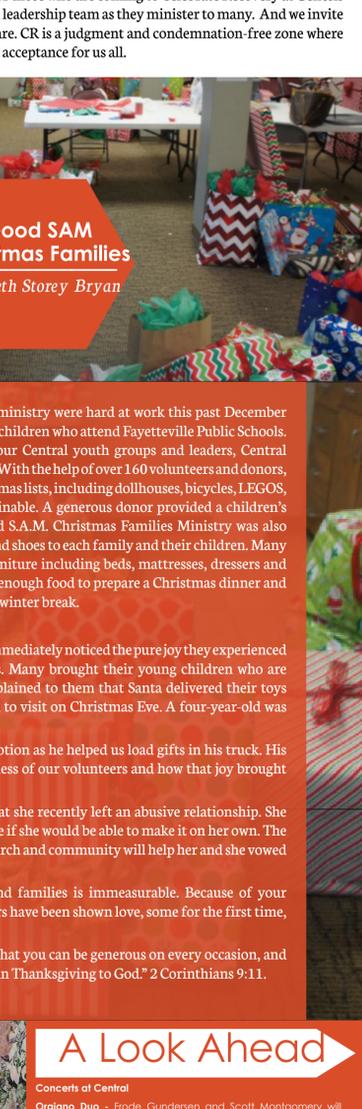
37 families showed up, picking up gifts for over 100 children and teenagers. Over 50 volunteers helped prepare and serve lunch, wrap gifts, lead activities for children, and "managed" the store.

It was a beautiful overpouring from the entire body of Christ to serve some wonderful families in our community. It's hard to put into words what it was like to see people around the tables eating together, being in community, and having fun. Several families who received help have begun attending Genesis. The impact of this day goes on and on as a testimony to the love of God in Christ.

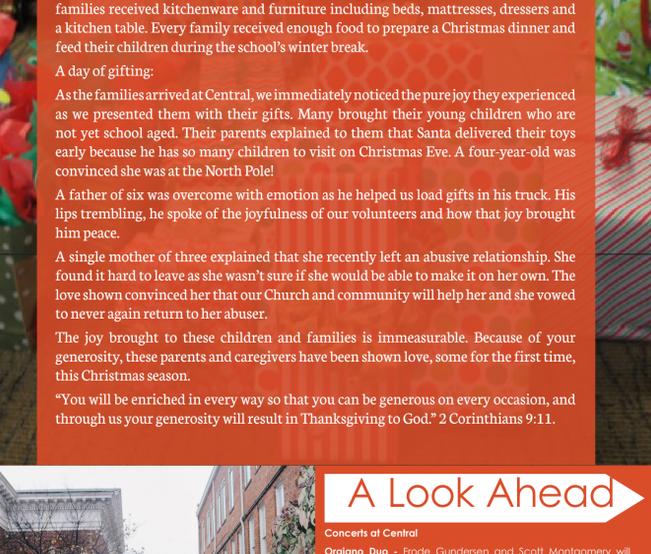
Judy's Workshop - what a beautiful way to honor God and remember a beautiful person - Mrs. Judy Welch.

CENTRAL'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BLOCK PARTY

In early December we hosted our annual Christmas Block party! Due to stormy weather, the entire event was held indoors. This didn't stop guests from enjoying the live nativity, worship, pony rides, face painting, cookie decorating, and games! We had a great turnout of over 400 people. Thank you to all the lay leaders who volunteered their time and resources to make this event happen.



"OVER 50 VOLUNTEERS HELPED PREPARE AND SERVE LUNCH, WRAP GIFTS, LEAD ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN, AND MANAGED THE STORE."



UMW AWARDED FOR "FAITH IN ACTION"

Imagine being a young girl unable to go to school a couple of weeks each month because you didn't have the necessary hygiene items available. That is what life is like for countless young ladies in Jinga, Uganda.

But thanks to UMW (United Methodist Women) and the Days for Girls project, young ladies in Uganda are receiving hygiene kits, health education from a nurse and training on how to use their kits so that they can continue their education without interruption.

Since 2016, UMW has come together to meticulously handmade hygiene kits. By 2018 they were able to double the number of kits made as all five of the UMW circles joined in the project.

In November 2018, The Arkansas Conference of United Methodist Women awarded the prestigious Susanna Wesley Award to the Central United Methodist Women for their "Faith in Action" at the Arkansas Women Methodist Women's Annual Meeting for their Days for Girls project. The Susanna Wesley Award has not been awarded in the last several years, making this a very special honor for our UMW.

Well done ladies!

Celebrate Recovery

By Carolyn Long



I've heard it said, "God loves a good mess because in crisis, He really shows His power!" Healing and restoration don't often come quickly or easily, but God works miracles with a surrendered heart, and we get to see the evidence every Wednesday night. Since last October, Celebrate Recovery has been meeting at our Genesis campus from 5:15 (when we share a meal) until 7:45 (when we share fellowship over coffee and dessert). You'll find a lot of hungry and thirsty folks at Celebrate Recovery; some literally needing food, but all are spiritually thirsty for the Living Water, Jesus Christ.

The Lord glorifies His name every week. Through praise and worship, scriptural teaching, astounding testimonies and strict adherence to confidentiality we see lives changing before our eyes. Last Wednesday we had fifty-two people in attendance, more than we've ever had before. We welcome anyone with hurts, habits and hang-ups and, in my experience, that's pretty much all of us! You'll find people from all walks of life, everybody struggling with something; our past, our pain, shame, regret; yet we are celebrating the freedom of recovery while holding God's hand. We trust in God's ability and willingness to heal us through the power of Jesus Christ.

Part of every Wednesday evening is our Chips Ceremony where we publicly acknowledge the changes God is making in our lives; 30/60/90 days/ years. But everyone's recovery begins with the most significant chip; the blue chip of surrender. At this point in the service there are many who flood into the aisle and come forward; eager to begin or begin again. It is quite a sight to see. Last week more than thirty people surrendered to the power of His Holy Spirit. The Lord is so faithful!

Now, a request and an invitation. Please pray for those who are coming to Celebrate Recovery at Genesis and for our precious volunteers and committed leadership team as they minister to many. And we invite you to join us Wednesday night. Come as you are. CR is a judgment and condemnation-free zone where confidentiality provides a safe place of love and acceptance for us all.

"WE ARE ALL SPIRITUALLY THIRSTY FOR THE LIVING WATER, JESUS CHRIST."

Good SAM Christmas Families

By Beth Storey Bryan

The Good S.A.M. Christmas Families ministry were hard at work this past December delivering more than 1,000 gifts to 94 children who attend Fayetteville Public Schools. Each gift was wrapped with love by our Central youth groups and leaders, Central members, and community volunteers. With the help of over 160 volunteers and donors, every item was checked off their Christmas lists, including dolls/houses, bicycles, LEGOS, art supplies and every other toy imaginable. A generous donor provided a children's Storybook Bible to each family. Good S.A.M. Christmas Families Ministry was also able to provide clothes, winter coats, and shoes to each family and their children. Many families received kitchenware and furniture including beds, mattresses, dressers and a kitchen table. Every family received enough food to prepare a Christmas dinner and feed their children during the school's winter break.

A day of gifting: As the families arrived at Central, we immediately noticed the pure joy they experienced as we presented them with their gifts. Many brought their young children who are not yet school aged. Their parents explained to them that Santa delivered their toys early because he has so many children to visit on Christmas Eve. A four-year-old was convinced she was at the North Pole!

A father of six was overcome with emotion as he helped us load gifts in his truck. His lips trembling, he spoke of the joyfulness of our volunteers and how that joy brought him peace.

A single mother of three explained that she recently left an abusive relationship. She found it hard to leave as she wasn't sure if she would be able to make it on her own. The love shown convinced her that our Church and community will help her and she vowed to never again return to her abuser.

The joy brought to these children and families is immeasurable. Because of your generosity, these parents and caregivers have been shown love, some for the first time, this Christmas season.

"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in Thanksgiving to God." 2 Corinthians 9:11.

INCOME & EXPENSES - 12/31/2018

	2018 Budget	2018 Actual
Total Operational Income	4,875,000	4,954,378
Total Ministry Areas	313,905	248,476
Total Operations	237,294	256,235
Total Debt Service	312,500	330,138
Total Cont./Dist. Shared Ministry	565,208	568,567
Genesis Church	374,620	375,717
Wesley Foundation Subsidy	31,500	31,500
Facilities	634,456	701,268
Personnel Expenses	2,405,517	2,437,051
Total Operational Expenses	4,875,000	4,948,852
Net Surplus (Deficit)		5,426

LONG-TERM LIABILITIES

Note Payable - Sanctuary Capital	1,100,000
Note Payable - SMB/Parking Deck	1,217,734
Note Payable - Post Office	2,706,865
Note Payable - UA Wesley House	198,000
Total Long-term Liabilities	5,222,599

*The sanctuary capital note is being paid down by pledges.

Concerts at Central

Organo Duo - Frode Gundersen and Scott Montgomery will present their debut concert: "Organo Duo" on January 31 at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The evening will include full-length concertos, hymn-based works, and music from opera and Broadway. Childcare is available.

CSM Winter Retreat - CSM's Winter Retreat is taking place February 1-3, Jr. & Sr. High School students will be staying at local Fayetteville host homes and serving the community through a food drive.

Men's Lunch - Men of Central, we encourage you to join us for lunch at 12 p.m. on Thursday, February 7 at the Whole Hog Cafe in Fiesta Square. Coach Ken Hatfield will be the guest speaker.

CCM Lenten Retreat - Middle Schoolers are invited to come experience the first two chapters of Genesis in this overnight retreat February 15-16 in the Student Ministries Building.

CSM BBQ Fundraiser - CSM will be hosting a BBQ lunch on Sunday, February 17, to raise money for their upcoming Spicing Break mission. A free will offering will get you a plate of Guy Pearson's famous barbecue pork, baked beans, and coleslaw. Carry out is available after the 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. services or eat in the CAC after the 10:45 a.m. services.

Wesley Donor Day - On Sunday, March 3 at 10 a.m. Join UA Wesley as they thank our donors, volunteers, and friends, and celebrate the highlights of this year in ministry. Bring friends you would like to introduce to the ministry! More info at uwesley.com/donorlist.

Ash Wednesdays - To kick off the Lenten season, we invite you to attend one of Central's special Ash Wednesday services, March 6 at 12:05 and 6 p.m. in Central's Sanctuary. This is a great way to center our hearts on Christ as we prepare for Easter!

UMW Days for Girls - United Methodist Women will be making hygiene kits for the Days for Girls program on March 13 and 27 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in CAC side rooms 3-5. Sewing experience is not required, and all women are invited to participate and support this meaningful cause!

Keep on Climbing - Keith Harris and Frode Gundersen will present their concert "Keep on Climbing" on March 28, 2019 at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Greece - In the Footsteps of Paul the Apostle - Join Dr. Steve Pulliam on an inspiring travel experience through the world-famous spiritual locations of the Greek Islands & Turkey. This trip of a lifetime begins March 25, 2020 and runs through April 4, 2020.

Information Meeting - Interested in the trip? Join us on March 31 at 6:30 p.m. and April 4 at 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Wesley Chapel for an information meeting.

Beyond Our Walls - Join us for a day of service beginning at 8 a.m. on Saturday, April 6 in the CAC.

Night of Worship - Join us on Good Friday, April 19 at 7 p.m. in the CAC for a spirit-filled time of praise and prayer as Central's Worship Band leads us in a night of worship!

centralife.com

A Look Ahead