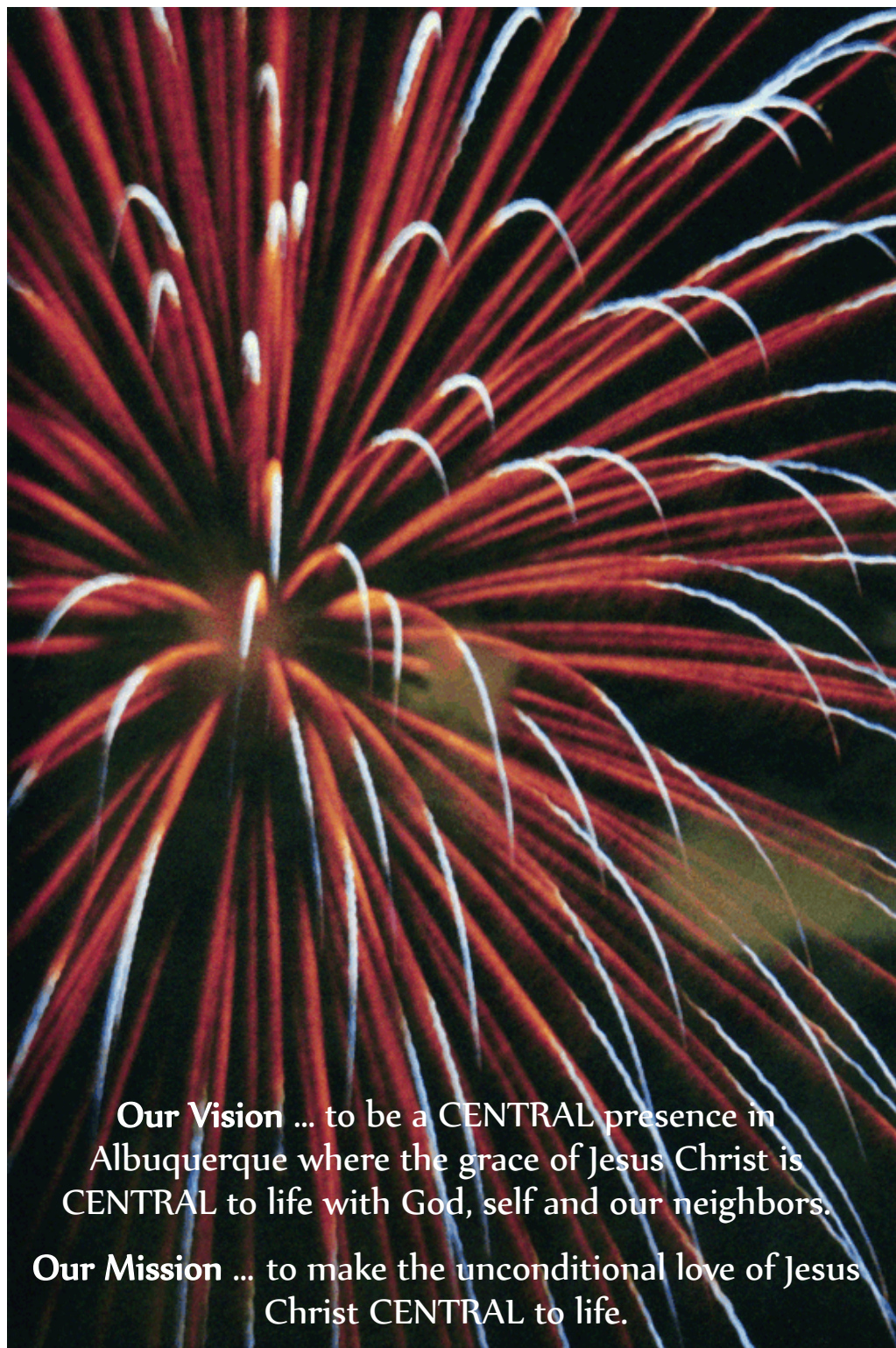


# The FOOLS

A Publication for The People of Central United Methodist Church

Vol. XIII, No. 1

January 2012



**Our Vision ...** to be a CENTRAL presence in Albuquerque where the grace of Jesus Christ is CENTRAL to life with God, self and our neighbors.

**Our Mission ...** to make the unconditional love of Jesus Christ CENTRAL to life.

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# New Staff Structure

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With the new year comes some changes in staff positions, responsibilities and reporting structure. With the approval of the Staff Parish Relations Committee and virtually no change in staff budget in 2012, here's a brief overview of the new structure and how the staff will be serving you at Central this year:

**Senior Pastor,** Rev. Scott Sharp

- **Associate Pastor:** Rev. Greg Henneman
- **Associate Pastor:** Dr. John Kees
- **Director, Ministries & Operations:** Mary Ridgeway
  - **Director, Ministries with Adults:** Traci Bailey
  - **Director, Ministries with Children:** Christy Albright
    - Early Childhood Ministries Staff
  - **Director, Ministries with Youth/Young Adults:** Scott Carver
  - **Building Superintendent:** Scott Zila
    - Custodial/Maintenance Staff: Charlie Ford, Joe Gurule, Isaac Gonzales, Rick Ramsay, David Ritz, Brennan Skipp
  - **Bookkeeper/Admin Asst:** Michele Humes
  - **Publications:** Melissa Madara
  - **Chef:** Jon Romero
- **Director, Choral Music:** Jerri Foster
  - Organist (Rick Wild), Hand Bells Director (Nancy Roberts-Small), Sound Tech (Ronselle Harrison)
- **Director, Connectional Ministries:** Debra Alba

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## The Sharp Point

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Please accept my deepest thanks for the overwhelming love and support that you have shown to me as December came to a close and I found myself in the hospital. After many tests I was given a cardiac upgrade of a pacemaker which should solve my fainting problem and sometime this month I will be doing a sleep study to see if I have sleep apnea.



Please know that it pained me to no end to miss Christmas Eve and Christmas day worship services at Central; there is no place on earth I would have rather been—trust me! I am very thankful for Jeff Lust and Jim Hawk for filling in for me as well as the entire host of Central staff and members who pitched in to help make Christmas Eve a truly wonderful night.

Going forward, all of the doctors, nurses and medical staff tell me that I am going to feel even better than I did before and that my quality of life will improve. To be honest, I find this a little hard to believe because I live a very blessed life with family, friends, a wonderful congregation to pastor and good health. I guess the next few months are going to be just great!

Again, thanks so much for your care, prayers, cards and support; what a gift it is to be part of a loving congregation. Tracy and I both want to say thank you so much! Here's to 2012!

Here are some of the themes that I will be preaching on in 2012:

**January and February:** "New Year: New Life with Jesus" with sermons on Jesus' fundamental teachings and actions.

**Lent:** "The Last Week of Jesus Life" with sermons on the final week of Jesus' life.

**After Easter:** "Acting as the Church" with sermons from the book of Acts.

**This Summer:** "People of Faith" with sermons that tell the stories of the giants of the faith.

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## Word from the Street

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Since its inception, Central United Methodist Church has been a place that has sought to reach out to others and live out Jesus invitation to "Come unto me." In January 2012, we will take another step toward living out who God has called us to be as a church through the beginning of a new program called "Community of Hope". The aim of this program is to build relationships with people who are homeless and have homes, with people who are churched and unchurched.



One aspect of this program will begin on Wednesday evening, **January 4th**. During "Wednesdays at Central" Pastor Greg Henneman will lead a group out from the church and on to the streets of Albuquerque. You can participate in this program in two ways: you can join Pastor Greg at 6pm and go and meet our neighbors or you can bring items with you to our Wednesday night meal that will be handed out to people on the streets. Items could include food, bottled water, socks, gloves, or knit caps.

The second aspect of this program will take place on Sunday afternoon, **January 29th**. On this date, Central UMC will launch an outdoor worship service on the south lawn. This service will center around the sharing of a meal, prayer, worship, Holy Communion, and community.

Please hold this new ministry in your prayers and if you would like to participate in these programs in any way please contact Pastor Greg Henneman at [greggh@centraltolife.org](mailto:greggh@centraltolife.org).



## ALFIES Sunday School Class

**January 8--** ALFIES commemorates the 77<sup>th</sup> birthday of Elvis with music, a discussion of Elvis and spirituality, and, of course, some special snacks. (Peanut butter and banana sandwiches, anyone?) All are welcome (including impersonators !). Led by Rebecca Leppala.

**Jan 15 and 22--**On Monday morning, October 2, 2006, a gunman entered a one-room Amish school in Nickel Mines, Pennsylvania. This discussion is on how the community found the grace to forgive the attacker and move on with their lives. Led by Berin Kinsman.

**January 29--**Program Planning

## Friendly Lunch Bunch

**More Bad Girls of the Bible** is the Barbara Essex book Friendly Lunch Bunch has chosen for their study this year. Participants can order a book or read the assigned scripture that will go with the chapter for the meeting. This United Methodist Women Subgroup meets the **third Wednesday** of the month at 11:45 until 1:00 in the Youth Lounge on the third floor of the church. Bring your lunch and join this group of women on your lunch hour on Wednesday, **January 18<sup>th</sup>**. Call Dodie Hawkins at 255-2405 if you have questions.

## Book Club

The Book Club will meet Wednesday, **January 11<sup>th</sup>** at 2:00 until 3:30. The selection for January is **Why** by Adam Hamilton. Women of all ages are welcome to come and join in on the discussion in the Conference Room. In anticipation of the March discussion, the group plans on reading **The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks** by Rebecca Skloot. It is a true story. That discussion is planned for March 14, 2012. Call Betty Jo Nye at 344-7113 if you have questions.

## Thursday Noon Bible Study

Thursday noon Bible Study article: Do you crave a Bible study that really digs deeply into one particular book? We've got just the thing! Starting **January 12<sup>th</sup>**, the Thursday noon Bible study, led by Bob Hogan, will be looking intensely at the Old Testament book of Isaiah. The class starts at noon with a sack lunch fellowship time. The meat and potatoes of the study begins at 12:30pm. If you would like to join this study group, please call the church office today (243.7384)!

## NEW 11:00am Sunday School Class—Starting January 15<sup>th</sup>!

Join Traci Bailey for a NEW Sunday School class beginning January 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am. Meet us in the Youth Lounge as we begin **Max Lucado's Cast of Characters**: *"Do you believe that God can use you to accomplish extraordinary things? If you have any doubts, take a look at the heroes in the Bible. You'll find people like Mary, Peter, David, Joseph and Esther--ordinary people who allowed God to work through them in amazing ways. Come closer to God's heart for you, by spending time with this cast of characters."* Either bring an ebook copy on your favorite device or Traci will have physical copies of the book (cost \$9) on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

## CCYM Fall Event

Have you ever experienced “chaos” in your life? That was the theme at our Fall CCYM Event this year held at Sacramento Methodist Assembly during November 18-20th. Two of our own students, Eric Small and Noel Underwood, helped plan, organize, and run this year's camp as part of the CCYM leadership team. Our speaker was Wayne Kerr, a Christian recording artist who led us in some incredible times of worship and also shared some powerful messages. Many young people made first-time decisions to follow Jesus for the first time and numerous other youth made rededications in their life. Seven of us from Central had the privilege of attending this year and we look forward to seeing God continue to move in the lives of our youth!

## Parent Meeting: January 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM

What's happening with the youth in 2012? Find out what events are coming up, sign up to bring dinners, and hear some ways you can be involved. Parents are the most important part of our ministry and we need your involvement to make our youth ministry thrive!

## Youth Lock In: January 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>: 7 PM—8 AM

A night of awesomeness packed with games, movies, fun, food, and friends! This is a great way to break “the church is boring” stereotype! You won't want to miss this fun event. Cost is \$5...bring your friends!

## Feed the Need: January 22<sup>nd</sup>: 1-5 PM

On January 22<sup>nd</sup> our youth and UMC youth groups from all around Albuquerque will be hosting “Feed the Need”. FTN is a tremendous opportunity for churches to come together to serve the homeless population of our city with a grace meal and provide them with simple items to get them through the cold winter months. Youth are asked to bring \$5 and socks to contribute.

## CCYM Winter Event: February 10-12

Looking for an incredible weekend getaway and a place to encounter God? If you are in 9-12<sup>th</sup> grades we would love to have you join us for our winter camp in the mountains of Sacramento, NM! Cost is \$110 and registration is due by January 25<sup>th</sup>. Scholarships are available if needed.

## Weekly Places to Plug-In:

- Sunday Night Youth Group: 5-7 PM
- Sunday Morning Sunday School: Mid & Sr. High 9:45-10:45 AM
- Wednesday Night's “DIG DEEP”: 6-7 PM

*All groups meet upstairs in the Youth Lounge unless otherwise noted.*

## Young Adult Group

Are you 18-29 and looking for a place to connect here at Central? Scott and Christa Carver open up their home every Thursday night @ 7 PM for a time of fellowship, Bible Study, discussion, and snacks. We are studying the book of Hebrews right now. Please contact Scott @ [scottcarver@centraltolife.org](mailto:scottcarver@centraltolife.org) or 505.243.7834 for directions and more details. *“We would love to have you join us sometime! We desire to see students grow more and more in love with God and be a vibrant part of the church. Hope to meet you soon and if you have any questions please contact me!” - Scott*

## **DATES to SAVE**

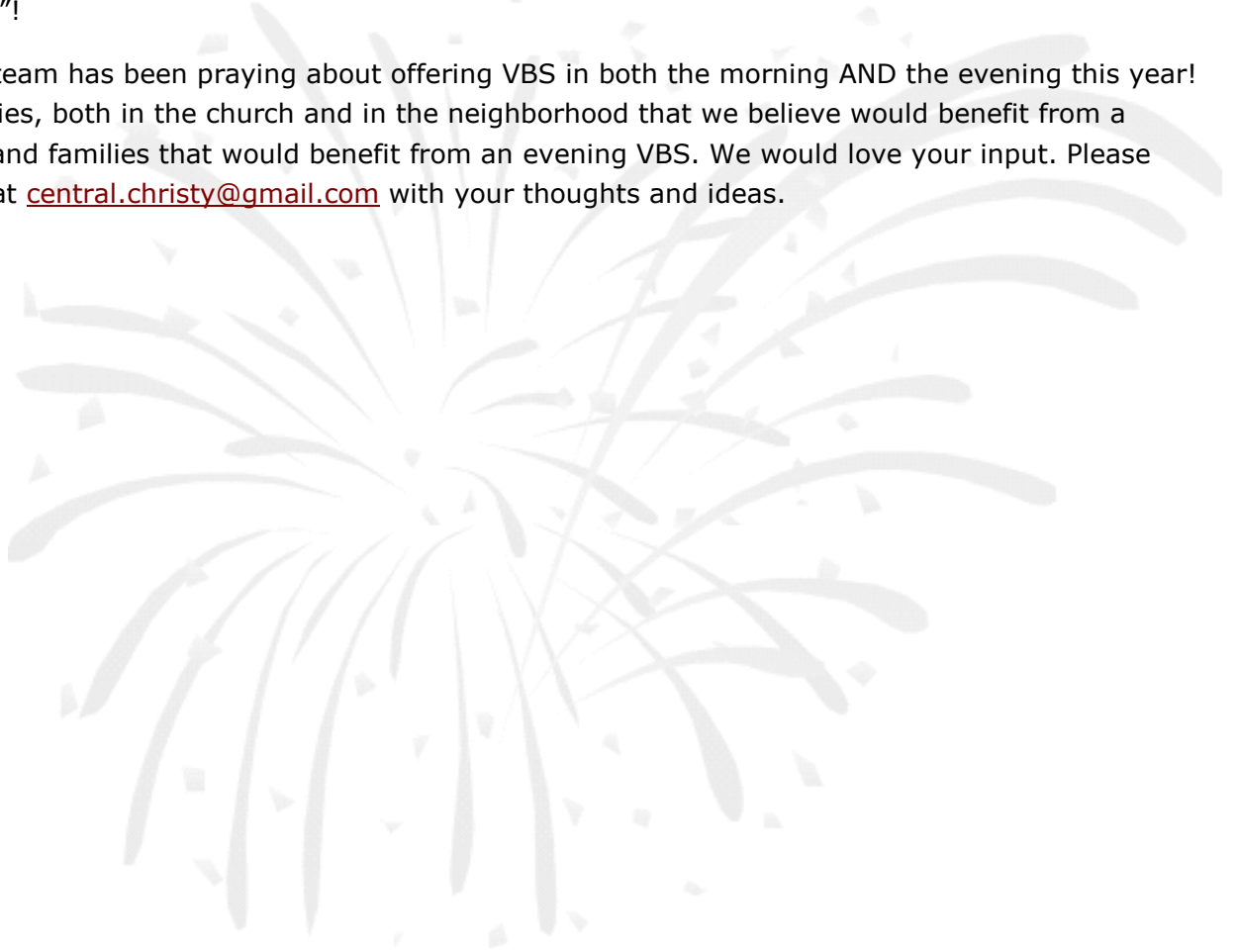
**Holy Week craft day:** April 6th

**Vacation Bible School:** July 23-27 & 29

## **Vacation Bible School 2012 Poll!**

A team of folks is already hard at work making plans for Central's 2012 Vacation Bible School! Our co-directors this year are: Lydia Alba, Kelsey Gates, Barrett Kerr & Rebecca Leischner! The rest of our design team includes: Debra Alba, Christy Albright, Nicole Gates, Tanya Kerr and Amy Leischner. Our VBS dates will be **July 23-27 & Sunday, July 29<sup>th</sup>**. Our theme will be "Operation Overboard: Dare to go deep with God"!

This amazing team has been praying about offering VBS in both the morning AND the evening this year! We have families, both in the church and in the neighborhood that we believe would benefit from a morning VBS and families that would benefit from an evening VBS. We would love your input. Please email Christy at [central.christy@gmail.com](mailto:central.christy@gmail.com) with your thoughts and ideas.



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# Connectional Ministries at Central UMC

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## Master Ministry List

Are you new to Central UMC OR have you been here forever and just wondered how in the world to connect with all the ministries occurring at Central UMC? We now have a **Master Ministry List** that highlights all of Central UMC's vibrant ministries with leader contact names and contact information.

ALSO, Church Directories are available to help you better connect with your Central UMC congregation.

Please stop by the front office and request your copies now!

## Attention ALL MINISTRY LEADERS!

How much does the congregation know about your ministry? Are you looking for new Servant helpers? Is there a special activity coming up that you would like to highlight?

**Monthly Mission Moments** are now being scheduled for 2012! If you'd like to be included please contact Central UMC's Director of Connectional Ministries.

Spaces are filling up quickly, so please don't wait!

## Worship Leaders

***There are NEW opportunities for worship leadership in 2012!***

If you would like to help lead worship at Central UMC the following opportunities are now available:

- Announcements - All
- Opening Words - New Day
- Call to Worship - Classic
- Scripture Reading - All
- Children's Moments - Classic

Worship Leaders are now being scheduled for 2012!

Please contact Debra Alba, Director of Connectional Ministries, at [Debra\\_alba@yahoo.com](mailto:Debra_alba@yahoo.com) or 243-7834 for more information about any of the above!

## Thanks & Congratulations!

Thanks and congratulations to Noel Underwood on the completion of his Eagle Project. Noel, a member of CUMC and Boy Scout Troop 134, project consisted of new landscaping for the inner courtyard of CUMC and installation of poles for new CUMC signs on University Boulevard. Noel's proud parents are Bruce Underwood and D. L. Horton.

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# Upcoming "Happenings" at Central

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## January 8: Central Connections

Learn more about Central United Methodist Church, its ministry, its vision and its mission by joining us for Central Connections on January 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:45am in room 306. Central Connections is hosted by our Lay Leader, Debra Alba and Senior Pastor, Rev. Scott Sharp.

## January 15: Heritage Sunday

Join us for worship on January 15<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Central United Methodist Church. For more information, please see article on page 11.

## January 22: Welcoming 101

On January 22nd we will again present Welcoming 101 from noon to 1:30 pm in the Social Hall. Everyone that comes to lunch is welcome to the training. Those that don't want to attend can eat and run and that is okay with us. Everyone else is welcome to join in the class. It is for the whole congregation to become aware of the reasons for being welcoming to the visitor just here for one visit from out of town, or the guest who could come back regularly, or the newcomer that has come several times already. Teaching team will be Donna Berry and Diana Batista.

## January 29: Town Hall Meeting

Join us for the first Town Hall meeting of 2012 when we gather in the Social Hall at 12:30pm on Sunday January 29<sup>th</sup>. As always, Chef Jon will have a great lunch prepared for us to enjoy.

## February 4: Souper Bowl of Caring Picnic and CENTRAL BOWL

Each year we collect canned foods as part of the Souper Bowl of Caring that supports Roadrunner Food Bank. This year we are going to do something a bit different as Central hosts the first annual CENTRAL BOWL touch football game that will support our Souper Bowl of Caring ministry. That's right. We are going to gather on Saturday afternoon, February 4<sup>th</sup> to play a little football, collect some canned foods and have a picnic together. People of all ages and abilities can play and we will have a fun time together. More details will be coming soon but mark your calendar today!



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## Endowment News

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In early January 2012 the Central United Methodist Church Foundation made its fifth annual distribution to Central United Methodist Church from the Permanent Endowment for Church Operations in the amount of \$4,967.10. Over these five years such distributions have totaled nearly \$20,000, and have been used by the Church to fund a portion of its annual operating costs.

The Endowment is managed in such a way that between 2% and 6% of the principal balance as of the end of each September is distributed to the Church in January the following year to support the Church's general operating expenses. The amount distributed is dependent upon investment earnings in the Endowment. Because of unfavorable market conditions that prevailed over the last several years, the amounts distributed have represented the minimums permitted by the policy under which the Endowment is operated.

But remember: there is a minimum amount distributed from the Endowment each year regardless of investment performance, so that one who makes a donation to the Endowment, through either a direct gift or through a planned giving arrangement, may be assured that such a donation is truly a "gift that keeps on giving."

For more information about the Foundation or the Endowment, please contact the Church office or one of the Foundation's officers: Marion Jordan, president; Roger Roberts, vice president; Beverly Lackey, secretary; or Kyle Nye, treasurer.

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## Welcoming Training - Wednesday Nights

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As a part of the Wednesdays Nights at Central, the Welcoming Ministry Team will be teaching 6 sessions on Wednesdays for three cycles this spring. Start dates are January 11, February 29, and April 11.

Anyone interested in Welcoming, which is all about being Jesus's hands, feet, and smile, should attend. Anyone who is interested in working with the Welcoming team, as well as all ushers, greeters, fellowship time hosts, hostesses (this is lunch time, gathering area time on Sundays or after special services and church breakfasts) and special events (specialized ushers/greeters) needs this training. In addition, interested observers mean that our congregation will know how to be welcoming to those sitting near.

Topics will include how this work makes a difference, when it is a struggle to welcome, practicing being welcoming, and creating a welcoming environment.

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## Jane Julian Hanna's Generous Gift! By Ann Edenfield Sweet

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It was over 18 years ago when I joined Central United Methodist Church. I had just left my job as Youth Director in another church after I had announced to the staff that my husband was coming home from prison and the new Senior Pastor said in front of everyone, "Then I can no longer be your pastor." I'm still amazed today by his response, but if he hadn't said that, I'd probably still be a Youth Director today and Wings Ministry never would have been formed. So God truly does use all things for His glory.

I started Wings two years later in 1995. Over the years CUMC's church leadership and members have always welcomed my family and me and supported Wings through donations, prayers, hosting parties and Wings banquets, providing speaking opportunities to the congregation through mission moments and talks to Sunday School classes, having the **No Boundaries Praise Band** play at numerous Wings community parties and prison parties, and CUMC has allowed me to drive the church van to every Wings Prison Party in New Mexico since 2002! CUMC has been my church family and I've been so blessed.

About a month ago I received a call about the very generous bequest by Jane Julian Hanna. I was asked what needs Wings has. I was thrilled! A congregational meeting was held two days before Thanksgiving and the congregation unanimously voted to provide some funding to Wings!

I am ecstatic – humbled – and mostly in awe how God works in our lives in the most amazing ways! The donation doesn't include any money for me or current staff members on the Wings payroll. However, it DOES allow Wings to add two new members to our staff to create a solid foundation for the future growth of Wings and to publish materials that will allow replication in other parts of the country.

If Wings is to grow bigger than me and to be sustained long after I am gone, the how's and why's of Wings need to be in place. That way our ministry methods can be taught, shared, and new leaders can emerge in places all over the world.

I hope by building this stronger foundation that more grants will be able to be written, more congregations will put us in their mission budgets, and that Wings Affiliates will be able to start in other states. God keeps opening doors and He has shown time and again that He is in charge and He wants the ministry to families of prisoners to continue and to grow.

I can never thank the Hanna Family enough for their generosity and belief in the membership of CUMC to find appropriate and life-changing ministries to give their donation to. I am forever grateful to the members of CUMC for their faith in me, belief in Wings Ministry, and desire to reach outside the church building to minister to "the least of these".

My promise to Central, the Hanna Family, and to all our Wings families, volunteers, staff and future families, is to do my very best to fulfill my call and Wings mission: **Christ's unconditional love shared with all families of prisoners**; and it remains as strong today as it was 17 years ago! Now we will have more resources, personnel, and web presence to reach even more.

This is the time of year for Thanksgiving, Joy, and Anticipation of the birth of Christ and His presence with us. I am SO very thankful! I am SO filled with joy! And I am in GREAT anticipation of now being able to share Christ's love with even more of His children.

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# Central United Methodist Church: 130 Years Young

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## Still Growing to Provide for the Spiritual Needs of Our Community

On **January 15, 1882** our Church was organized [as a part of the "Methodist Episcopal Church –South"] by **6** charter members, this occurred in a rented room located on Gold Avenue that was known as "The Mission Chapel". Members of this group had been meeting informally at this location since June 1879.

In **December 1883** the Church moved into a small frame Church at 318 Arno SE, the Church was known as "Highland Methodist Episcopal Church".

In **1912** construction was completed on the new sanctuary located on the NW corner of Central Avenue and Arno. This Sanctuary was, at that time, considered one of the most magnificent buildings in the city. During that period the name was changed to Central Avenue Methodist Church, South.

The Church grew to **250** members by **1924**.

By **1949** membership had grown to **1,930** making it clear, room for expansion was needed, so on **August 14, 1950** ground was broken for the first phase of the construction at Central's present location. The first worship service was held in the Sanctuary **December 23, 1951**.

As the needs of the congregation and community grew, Central expanded this facility in **1958, 1979, and 1988**. There was a major remodeling done in **1995**.

The Church became known as Central United Methodist Church in **1968**.

**130 years** after Central was organized **we continue in the footsteps of those who came before, those who made Central what it is today**, a Church involved in over **111** activities:

**Today** we have **15** worship services at various times and locations.

**Today** there are over **40** classes and study groups meeting at Central

**Today** Central has **16** choir and music groups providing beautiful and inspirational music.

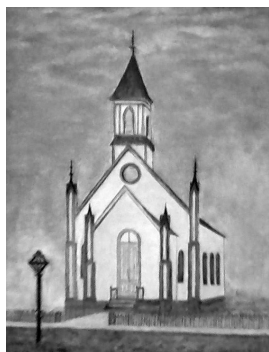
**Today** Central provides collections and donations for **13** organizations and missions.

**Today** we support and provide Hands On service to the work being done by **9** projects.

**Today** there are over **18** various activities at Central that support the work of our Church and/or provide service to the Community

Over these many years our Church has become a **Central** presence in Albuquerque where the grace of Jesus Christ is **CENTRAL** to life with God, self and our neighbors.

**With Prayer and God's blessing we will continue to grow and serve in His name!**



**1883-1912**



**1912-1951**



**1951-Today**

# Central United Methodist Church

201 University Blvd NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87106

## Televised Services

Sunday, 11:00 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.  
Channel 32 KAZQ (Cable Channel 22)

**On the Web at** <http://centraltolife.org>

**Email us at** [info@centraltolife.org](mailto:info@centraltolife.org)

## Office Hours

Monday—Friday, 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

## Telephone

Voice/TTY – 505-243-7834  
Fax – 505-242-6986

## After Hours Building Concerns

505-480-0328

## CUMC Staff

### Pastoral & Program

Scott Sharp, Senior Pastor

Greg Henneman, Associate Pastor

Dr. John Kees, Associate Pastor

Mary Ridgeway, Dir. Ministries & Operations

Traci Bailey, Dir. of Ministries with Adults

Christy Albright, Dir. of Ministries with Children

Jerri Foster, Dir. of Choral Music

Scott Carver, Dir. Of Ministries with Youth &  
Young Adults

### Support Staff

Scott Zila, Building Superintendent

Michele Humes, Bookkeeper/Admin Support

Jon Romero, Chef

### Part-time Staff

Melissa Madara, Bulletin & *Focus* Editor

Cara Balestrieri, ASL Interpreter

Jenelle Bartholomew, Childcare Staff

Carl Crawford, Childcare Staff

Gayle Denslow, Wedding Hostess

Misty Martinez, Childcare Coordinator

Charlie Ford, Custodian

Joe Gurule, Custodian

Isaac Gonzales, Custodian

Rick Ramsay, Custodian

David Ritz, Custodian

Brennan Skipp, Custodian & Driver

Nancy Roberts-Small Handbell Choir Director

Rick Wild, Organist

### Saranam

Tracy Sharp, Director

Jennifer Mullen, Case Manager

Sue Campbell, Community Outreach Coord.

## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Sunday Schedule

Classic Worship Service	8:30 am
Children's Choir	8:45 am
Coffee Time-Gathering Area	9:30 am
Kidz Prayz & Sunday Classes for K-5th grade	9:30 am
Sunday Classes 2 1/2—thru 5 yr olds	9:45 am
New Day Worship Service	9:45 am
Sunday Classes for Adults & Youth	9:45 am
Classic Worship Service	11:00 am
Sunday Lunch	Noon
Thrift Shop Open	Noon—1:30 pm
New Life Youth Choir	12:30 pm
Youth Group	5:00 pm
Revive Youth Choir	3:30 pm

Childcare is available 8:15 a.m. until 12:15 p.m.

## Focus FAQs

Please email articles for *The Focus* to: [maryr@centraltolife.org](mailto:maryr@centraltolife.org) AND  
[melissam@centraltolife.org](mailto:melissam@centraltolife.org).

*The Focus* is published once a month (deadline - 15th of the month), so plan your article(s) accordingly. **Articles should be less than 300 words in length. As a rule shorter articles have greater impact. Articles exceeding this length may be edited.**

Note: An email receipt for your *Focus* article will always be sent. If you do not receive a receipt, please resend or call 243-7834 for verification.

You may subscribe to the e-Focus by sending an email, with "eFocus" in the subject line, to [maryr@centraltolife.org](mailto:maryr@centraltolife.org). You may also read *the Focus* online by visiting. <http://centraltolife.org> and clicking on *the Focus* link. You can also email your *Focus* articles by clicking the link on that page!

Thank you,

Mary Ridgeway

## Church Council Members

Paul Holt - Chair	Dodie Hawkins - Nurture Hub Chair
Berin Kinsman - Lay Member to Annual Conf.	Kathy Janke - Witness Hub Chair
Phil Stanton - Treasurer	Ruth Cook - UMWomen Rep.
Debra Alba - Lay Leader	Ed Vigil - UMMen Rep.
Cori Hodgson - SPRC Chair	Rachel Kennell - Young Adult Rep.
TBA - Trustees Chair	Eric Small - UM Youth Rep.
Amy Leischner - Finance Chair	Mary Ridgeway - Director of Ministries & Operations
Barbara Allender - Outreach Hub Chair	Jim Hawk - Samuel Project Chair