

Central United Methodist Church- Annual Report 2016

Central United Methodist Church lives its Mission- "Central UMC is a fully inclusive church that seeks, embraces, educates, worships, and serves, all in God's love".

In the organization reports, you can read about the life of Central and its congregation; how the faith of the members is alive in the Sunday Worship and in the programs and outreach provided through its many ministries. In the Annual Report, each of the committees/councils tell their story for 2016 and plans for 2017. Please take the time to read this entire report to see how far reaching Central's Ministries are. Central clearly is like the children's song, "I am the Church! You are the Church! We are the Church together!

If you would like to be part of one of these organizations at Central, contact the Pastor, the Church Office or me.

In Christ's Service,

Knud Hansen, Chairperson, Church Council

Pastor's Report

Two years have passed here at Central. One of the stated expectations for me upon my appointment here was to lead the congregation in vision and planning for the next few years. I've continued to observe and listen and ask questions toward that end, and have been able to develop my own thoughts around this expectation. As a result of this discernment, these have been/are my work areas:

1. Develop meaningful spiritual formation experiences designed to connect or re-connect persons with God and their own life in God, primarily through worship, our continuing Monday night Book Study, and beginning a group this Fall in the 28 week *Companions in Christ* experience on Wednesday evenings. Participants are learning to develop spiritual disciplines and to articulate their own discipleship and desire for spiritual growth. Many from our previous *Companions* groups are continuing in self-led study, and some have gone on to develop ministry ideas within the congregation.
2. Look at our programs and ministries and staffing in light of our changing financial and community realities, and began helping leadership see and articulate the realities facing us. Our internal demographic is aging, within a community that is declining and not attracting younger people who might be interested in traditional forms of church, and who likely would never be able to financially support the church as its older members do. We need to ask what that means for Central as we look into both our near and distant future.
3. Continued an ongoing weekly book study; this has gathered anywhere from 8-20 persons each week, exploring both biblical study and spirituality books. It's been a wonderful experience!
4. Taught several adult Sunday School classes throughout the year and led a retreat for one of the classes this fall.
5. Accompanied the Jr and Sr High youth on their Spring Washington DC experience as they learned about racism.
6. Continued to work with a candidate for ministry who grew up in this congregation.

Outside the congregation:

1. I continued my work as the Registrar of the Board of Ordained Ministry for the UNY Conference through July.

2. I continued my work in the Binghamton District as I serve on the District Committee on Ministry and the District Leadership Team.
3. I have continued my training with the Intentional Growth Center in Transitional and Interim Ministry. I am now a trainer with them, and will be continuing that work on an ongoing basis.
4. I attended General Conference in May as 1st Reserve Delegate, and the NE Jurisdictional Conference in July as a delegate.
5. I attend a weekly lectionary study group with colleagues.

I believe God is calling Central to an incredible future, but it may look very different from its past. Central's laity is vital and empowered, and as they continue to deepen their discipleship and articulate their reality, I believe they can craft a powerful vision for that future.

Still In One Peace,
Pastor Michelle

Report from the Education and Program Director

This year was pretty steady where the Education program was concerned. In an effort to keep the younger children (Pre-K to Grade 6), we again started with a new curriculum entitled Big Blue that is in step with the children's choir as it had some music included. They have really enjoyed the program and are really getting into the choir with Mrs. Marino.

We continued with our kickoff in September entitled Homecoming Sunday and the "Blessing of the Backpacks", hosting "Trunk or Treating" and a Christmas Party for the Clothing Center families. All outreach events have been completely supported by the congregation and well attended by our surrounding neighborhood. This year, we made use of postcard mailings to bring in folks who attended the summer carnival.

Over the summer, I taught Animal Crackers Sunday School for ages 5 – 12 and had 5 – 10 children each week all summer long. This led to the regular Sunday school classes participating in the collection of money to purchase a variety of animals in the fall. For Thanksgiving, we kicked off with a "Hunger Party" during the Sunday school hour on Harvest Home Sunday at Central. Also, on Harvest Home Sunday, our collection of canned goods and other non-perishable items was a great success as we had Youth from 7th to 12th grade working to sort with our Binghamton DS, pack and move the food. The food was of great benefit to both CHOW and Shepherd's Supper.

The children and youth of Central have been working on raising funds and awareness for various missions. Heifer International was a running theme for fall and part of winter. Again, we had two groups build ramps with Ramp-it-Up through Broome County Council of Churches. In August, the first group was a group of adults with a large group of youth from a local youth program in Endicott. The second group was an Adult group and the ramp was built for a church member. We also took our clothing center on the road to Sarah Jane Johnson Memorial UMC. Our Jr/Sr High classes raised awareness of needs with collection of snacks for the Identity Center and for supplies for the BC Humane Society between Thanksgiving and Christmas then delivered the items personally.

Sunday school for adults was planned in advance this year and that seemed to work very well with a few minor changes but generally, knowing who is teaching and what we are offering seems to be a popular concept that we should continue in the 2016-2017 coming year. We also had groups explore Faith Formation through the Companions in Christ class

and a continuation of that group went on to continue with a second study. The Monday night book study continues also.

This year we look forward to many 'annual' events, Shrove Tuesday Dinner, Valentine's Day cookie bake, Lenten dinner and maybe even another Box City event to raise homelessness awareness. Again, we are blessed to have so many involved members and volunteers and I look forward to helping next year.

In Christ's Service,
Kelly Devine

Worship Council

Like many churches these days, Central is not immune from a changing attitude toward how worship is viewed and valued by society. Churches once could count on a reliable re-population by succeeding generations of the same family as well being THE social outlet for the community. Today, there is competition with youth sports, the ever growing work week and a lack of faith in the church correctly representing our Lord Jesus. In our own neighborhood, the changing economy has seen a stark change and even Central has had several break-ins finding it necessary to literally lock its doors many hours when it used to be open. This is our new reality...do we just give up?

CENTRAL IS A CARING CHURCH! Always has been and strives very hard to always will be. We provide clothes and meals for the needy. Our pastor has a discretionary fund to help those privately seeking minor financial assistance. We give thousands of dollars out to many worthy causes both within and outside of Central's control each year through the Allocation, Memorial and Shalom Funds. Truly, the credo of "to those whom much is given, much is expected" is lived by our church members and leaders.

The Worship Council (WC) exists to make sure that the foundation for being a caring church is solidly placed in how we honor and worship our Lord. We have done much with traditional worship services but recent trends in contemporary music, video and audio technology are becoming expected by worship attendees. Also, the spoken word needs to apply the teaching of 2000 years ago to current events--people need answers and guidance from the Bible to solve modern day problems. Worship Council has and will continue to make gradual changes in worship. This may not be welcome news to some used to the "old way", however, the WC asks that you look around during worship at those NOT in attendance and ask yourself why they are not there and be supportive of change by extending a personal invitation to those individuals to come back to Central.

Music-

Music is a vital and meaningful part of worship at Central, and members of our ensembles work with great dedication throughout the year to bring inspiration to our congregation and to each other.

In 2016, the Chancel Choir presented many new anthems, singing for two Sunday morning services per month. The choir members are fine musicians, committed to praising God and interpreting the Word through music. On occasion, soloists from within the group were featured, as well as guest singers and instrumentalists. Over the last several years, a number of our faithful long-time choir members have "retired", and efforts have been made to increase the choir membership. Effective September 1st, Heather Worden resigned as Director. We thank Heather for her very capable and dedicated service during the last six years. Connie Lamando served as Interim Director and Music Coordinator for the remainder of the year. During this time, three new members joined the choir and several former

members returned or participated for special events. 2017 begins with the installation of Carolyn Stanford, as Chancel Choir Director. We welcome Carolyn and look forward to her new leadership with the choir.

The bell choirs, under the direction of Denise Johnson, have moved and inspired us with variety and innovation, twice per month, including occasional performances with guest musicians. One particular highlight was the inclusion of a harpist for Christmas Eve services. Denise continues to successfully recruit new members for Cappella Ringers and the inter-generational bell choir, Festivo Ringers.

The children's choir, Joyful Noise, directed by Suzette Marino, continues to lead worship with beautiful singing, contagious joy, and boundless energy, featuring talented soloists from among the choir. Participation in worship occurs approximately once per month, depending on preparation time needed.

Sean Stafford performs piano and organ music in both the 8:30 and 11:00 Sunday morning services throughout the year. Sean has collaborated with Jeff Heald and Roger Richards on outstanding piano-organ duets and hymn accompaniments on a number of occasions, as well as very capably accompanying choirs, guest musicians and ensembles.

The report for Living Water, submitted by Director, Jeff Heald, is included below.

Looking ahead to 2017, Connie Lamando continues as Music Coordinator, a position traditionally held by one of the ensemble directors. The goal is to work with Pastor Michelle and the ensemble directors to connect, communicate, and guide the music program, to enhance the use of music in creative worship, and to oversee music scheduling and budget management. We are actively pursuing membership growth in our music ensembles, reaching out to all within and outside of our congregation. We will engage instrumental musicians in collaboration with our ensembles, throughout the church year, particularly looking forward to participation by a brass ensemble for this year's Easter services. We are very fortunate to have the talented and dedicated leadership of all of our directors and look forward to the varied musical styles, welcoming spirit, innovative collaboration, and inspiration that they will continue to bring to all ages through our worship at Central. With prayer and love, through music we will focus on the mission of understanding, celebrating, and embracing the spirit of God, and reaching out to all in our congregation and beyond.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Lamando, Music Coordinator

Living Water Praise Band

The Living Water praise band began its 10th season of leading monthly evening contemporary services in 2016, and we were blessed to welcome new members! We opened the year with a service of spirituals to celebrate Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy along with Black History month, and reflected on Christ's last days during Lent. In the fall, Mary Ann Sacharov delivered a special message reflecting on her mission trip to Haiti, and we closed the year with a festive service of lessons and carols in the sanctuary. We look forward to kicking off 2017 by participating in Central's meaningful MLK service, and plan a special service on Good Friday. Through the Word, music, and fellowship - and fun! - we hope we have inspired people to take the next steps in their personal faith journeys. We extend a special thank you to the many hands that support this ministry, from media presentation to providing refreshments to being our "roadies", as well as to those who have been such faithful supporters with their attendance.

In His service,

Jeff Heald

Organ Update

Central United Methodist Church is celebrating the 60th birthday of the installation of the Moller Pipe Organ this year!

Ryan Boyle from Kerner and Merchant Organ Builders has serviced the Pipe Organ at CUMC for the past 2 years and he is very impressed with the high quality of the original installation as well as the good overall condition of the instrument after all this time.

Each of the pipe chambers contains its' own independent heat zone complete with its' own radiator and thermostat. This keeps the wooden pipes and leather parts used in the wind chests at a steady temperature throughout the winter and helps to keep the instrument in tune.

Respectfully submitted, Sean Stafford

Altar Guild

Ongoing care and preparing the altar to heighten the worship experience is the purpose of the altar guild. At Easter we again offered tulips, daffodils and lilies for the altar remembrances. They were well received. The usual poinsettias were offered at Christmas. It was the decision of the altar guild and the parish visitors to discontinue passing the poinsettia plants on to the shut in members. Many didn't have the space for them or they preferred not to have them after the holiday season. Other special altars are prepared for Lent, Harvest Home, World Communion Sunday, Camping Sunday, and All Saints Sunday. With generous donations from the congregation it allowed us to purchase battery operated candles for the Christmas decorations that are used on the window sills. The sacristy has been reorganized by removing a large wooden cabinet and replacing it with three metal shelving units. Supplies are arranged in labeled plastic tubs for easy access and storage.

Looking ahead to 2017 we are always looking for new ideas and ways to enhance the altar area to allow for a more meaningful worship experience. Our members remain the same, Doug Breneman, Libby Shelp & Andy Tewksbury

Respectfully Submitted,
Carla Wood

Education Council

The Education Council at Central Church seeks to provide learning experiences for all ages so that we may all grow in our faith. This is accomplished through a variety of ways, our Sunday morning program, youth activities, outreach opportunities, and mid-week book studies and the Companions in Christ series. Through the cooperation of the Ed. Council members, our Pastor Michelle and our DCE, Kelly Devine, this is carried out. Kelly's leadership constantly challenged us to think outside the box when creating new program ideas. Her energy and creativity were instrumental in expanding our outlook and making us realize that the church goes way beyond our four walls.

Our church school program definitely grew this year. This is very evident when the children's choir sings in church. Joyful Noise, directed by Suzette Marino, is a testament to our ever changing church. The children are excited and their enthusiasm is contagious. It is so nice to see so many new children to have found a home here. This summer, our Animal Crackers, Heifer project program was very successful. The children learned about a new animal each week and even had some visitors of the four legged kind come for church school.

Our youth program is still providing Confirmation for our 7th and 8th graders, a Senior High Sunday School class, and youth fellowship activities. This year a group of youth and their leaders went to Washington, DC to take part in some outreach programs there. This fall they collected for the Identity Center and visited the center. During the year they take part in fund-raising activities such as the Valentine Cookie Sale and the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. The challenge this year, for the leaders, has been to try and coordinate church activities with school and outside commitments. There had to be lots of juggling and flexibility to make things work.

This past year we had a very active adult program. We provided a variety of class opportunities, Michelle continued to teach a Monday night book study, which was very well attended. Our original Companions group continued with two new studies plus a new Companions in Christ group started in the fall. These various learning activities offer us ways to learn and grow on our spiritual journey. We are thankful for so many fine leaders.

Education Council strives to reach all and share the love of Christ. This year we had our Egg Hunt and Pancake Breakfast, Carnival, Trunk or Treat, and the Christmas Party reaching out to our neighborhood friends. All were very successful and we grew in numbers significantly over last year. One thing that we have seen this year is that some of our neighborhood children have started to attend Sunday School. We hope this is a trend that continues in the coming year.

As always, Education Council is continually seeking ways to adapt to an ever changing world. Our group of dedicated volunteers are ready and willing to try new things that will share God's message of love and acceptance. With "joyful sadness" we say good-bye to Kelly Devine as our DCE. We are happy for her new job opportunity and wish her well as she continues to serve Christ in a different capacity. We look forward to the year ahead under the leadership of Pastor Michelle and our new DCE, Kelly Crane to do God's work in Central Church and beyond.

In Christ's service,
Pat Hansen

Mission Council

To be added

Fellowship Council

In 2016, the Fellowship committee has continued activities to grow our fellowship at church. We have continued our We Care Sunday program. Our Lenten and Advent dinners continue to be a success, having one program a piece. Mini golf continues to be a popular summer event, and we are looking forward to adding some new summer activities this year. This year we may do different summer activities instead of a movie night and the picnic and ball game. We sent almost 30 college/military care packages this year. We will be continuing our Dinner with Friends program in 2017, keeping the "invite friends" format. "Soup"er bowl Sunday was a success last year, so we will do that again this year, with our goal being 200 cans. We are trying a winter movie night this year, starting the evening off with appetizers and fellowship time.

Respectively submitted,
Amber Gaylord

Finance Committee

As we have in the past few years, Central finished 2016 with a positive balance. This is due to the generous giving of the congregation, but unfortunately we had to borrow \$12k from the Endowment Fund.

This year's Stewardship Campaign theme was "Central Is" which in presentation form and personal accounts depicted the many programs, ministries and outreach of Central. The Stewardship Campaign for 2017 resulted in a slight increase in giving over 2016. Even though the Budget has been faithfully managed with a slight increase over 2016, we enter the New Year with a gap between giving and spending. We trust and have faith that the generous Spiritual giving of the Central Congregation will enable us to meet all our Financial commitments in 2017 and beyond. Thank to you all for your faithful giving to the support Central ministries.

In Christ's Service,

Knud Hansen, Chairperson, Finance Committee

Board of Trustees

Needless to say, 2016 was a very productive year for the Board of Trustees. In keeping with our mission, namely the supervision, oversight, and care of all real property and equipment, owned and acquired, our major accomplishments and focus items included, but were not limited to:

- ✓ Installation of a new energy efficient and more secure HVAC system upgrade for the office area
- ✓ Termination of the cell phone antenna pursuit
- ✓ Three new garage doors and one new opener
- ✓ Parsonage yard fencing for the safety and privacy of parsonage family
- ✓ Support to AV Team in terms of funding and advocacy
- ✓ Significant Washer Dryer Project progress in a less than accommodating space
- ✓ A new bicycle rack for the back parking lot
- ✓ Soffit, fascia, and gutter repair and maintenance
- ✓ Distribution of \$6,000 of Shalom Funding to Lukens-Jackson Camperships and AV Team
- ✓ Awarded 12 Scholarships for a total of \$12,000 for well-deserving members of our CUMC family
- ✓ Continued support and advocacy for Custodian and Kitchen Manager and keeping the facilities in optimal operating condition
- ✓ Signed a new, more cost-effective office copier lease for more reliable copier
- ✓ Support for Bell Choir bells refurbishment
- ✓ Advocacy and funding for organ maintenance and repair
- ✓ Responsible operating budget performance and endowment fund oversight
- ✓ Reasoned support for numerous building use and church property request for the CUMC family and greater community
- ✓ New Youth Center Water Cooler
- ✓ Financial and project support to the much needed renovation of the Library

In 2017 our major focus items will be:

- New flooring in Union Street entrance, similar to the rear Education building entrance
- Completing the washer & dryer project
- Concrete and brick work for the Union Street Clothing Center entrance
- General clutter elimination and organizing
- Window kits for doors to remain Safe Sanctuaries compliant
- Awarding of scholarships to successful applicants
- Shalom Funding distribution, to the extent available
- Installation of welcoming parking lot signs
- Potential renovation of the Lounge
- Consideration of physical security measures (when and if warranted)
- Publishing a Building Use Plan

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Hall

United Methodist Women

Our UMW Unit consists of four circles, each meeting at a different place and time for devotions, programs, study and fellowship. We encourage any woman interested in joining one of the circles to come and visit the one that fits their schedule. During the year the circles work together on fundraisers, missions, and other activities. We also have a Bereavement committee that provides funeral luncheons for bereaved families and Eucharistic Ministers that offer communion to the homebound.

This year Deborah Circle welcomed two new members and meet monthly to discuss one of Pastor Michelle's sermons. Elizabeth Circle has changed their meeting night to Thursday so it does not conflict with Michelle's book study. Grace Circle donated \$65 for Mission Buckets, and will continue to collect items to fill them. Sarah Circle worked on Health Kits for UMCOR.

The Ladies retreat to Sky Lake in May was hosted but Lee Harding, Chaplain at United Methodist Homes. She led a discussion about the presence of God when bad things are happening. Over 50 women attended this 1 day event.

The Garden Tour was canceled this year because we didn't have enough new gardens to tour. However, Sharon Carmine generously donated gourds, and then taught us how to paint them to hang outside in our own gardens. In the spring, 9 women also went to M&Z Gardens, and learned how to plant a large pot, or barrel.

Twelve ladies met at BOCES in July for a spa day with the cosmetology school.

Central was asked to host the Upper NY UMW annual Conference meeting after Vestal lost the use of their elevator and an alternate site was needed on short notice. Ilah Sisson-Walser, Conference UMW President; and Tammy Nist, Binghamton District UMW President attending our August meeting to discuss their needs and expectations. After a tour of our church, and assuring them we had a group of people committed to their needs, we started planning the two day event held September 16th and 17th. Over 60 women from the Upper NY Conference were in attendance. Illah and several other officers were extremely pleased

with the event and were especially grateful for our AV capabilities. For the first time, the installation of officers was filmed and put on the website.

The annual Tea was held December 4th and about 120 ladies attended and enjoyed the delicious baked goodies. The UMM were also on hand to serve. Mary Baker was hired for the entertainment. She is a professional story-teller from Scranton and shared stories and music. She ended her repertoire with some favorite Christmas songs. The offering from that day was split between Meals on Wheels and the Central Organ Repair Fund.

The Christmas house Tour had 4 houses this year but we had a smaller than usual turn-out. This was attributed to the inclement weather that stifled many drivers. We also held a Bazaar and Bake Sale which raised about \$600.

UMW Sunday was held in September and Kelly Devine was asked to speak. Special recognition was given to Loretta King for her work with the Clothing Center and Shepherd's Supper. LaVon Hausamann was recognized for serving as a captain for Shepherd's Supper.

Central was recognized as a 5 star unit in the Binghamton District.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Crane

Allocations

The source of the Allocations budget is earnings from the Endowment fund and is managed by the Trustees. The Allocations Committee acts on requests for funds from the church, community, and other not-for-profit organizations. Funds are awarded in the following categories - Missions, Pastor's Supplementary, Local Church Program, Local Community, and National, International, or Conference Projects. We supported 23 requests in 2016 to organizations such as: Mom's House, Mercy House, McCurdy Ministries, Fattal Community Clinic, Samaritan Counseling, Red Bird Mission, our Van Ministry, our Audio Video/TV Ministry, the Boys & Girls Club of Western Broome, our Blood Drives, a ramp project for a parishioner, and our Clothing Center Ministry.

2015 - Carryover	\$ 7,560
2016 - Allocation	<u>\$ 16,000</u>
Total Available	\$ 23,560

Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 18,483</u>
1/31/17 Balance	\$ 5,077

The 2016 summary above reflects the budget and the actions of the committee through January 31, 2017. Allocations fiscal year runs from February through January each year.

The Allocations request form is on the CUMC website to remind our church-community of its support for worthy projects not normally covered in the church budget. Requests are submitted to the Allocations Committee for consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
Bev Cosimano

Reconciling Task Force

As we moved into 2016, the Reconciling Task Force continued to provide educational and conversational opportunities for the congregation centering on our Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ) brothers and sisters. May 1 was Decision Day at Central. We held a Church Conference and had round table conversations where we discussed and listened respectfully to each other's opinions and fears. The decision of those church members that attended the discussions was overwhelmingly to become a "Reconciling Congregation."

Our church is now a member of the Reconciling Ministries Network and we will continue to work to change the hurtful language in The United Methodist Book of Discipline.

At General Conference 2016 the Council of Bishops was asked to form a special commission to provide "A Way Forward" and avoid a schism in the church. In November we sponsored a letter writing campaign to send letters to the 32 commission members and the 3 moderators. Members of Central stopped in at Café Central and added their personal thoughts to a prepared form letter. Each of the 35 persons serving on the commission received 6 letters from Central. We sent a total of 210 letters expressing our concern for the future The United Methodist Church.

As a result of our decision back in May, the following is Central's Welcoming Statement:

Central UMC celebrates the diversity of all God's people, believing all are created in God's image and equally loved by God. We fully include all persons who enter our doors, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, creed, age, economic status, physical or mental abilities. We strive to make real the love of God through Jesus Christ and to empower all people to share this love with others.

May we live into these words and welcome all who come through our doors.
Bev Cosimano

TV/Video Ministry

Mission: To share the ministry of Central United Methodist Church with our congregation and the members of the community using the media of television and video.

Regular Activities:

- The TV Ministry has been active since 1991 bringing Central's message to our community. The TV ministry team records and arranges the broadcast of Central's 11:00 service on the public access channel of the Time Warner cable TV system (channel 4). The broadcasts generally occur Sunday morning at 8:00 and Monday afternoon at 5:30 pm.
- The team supports the use of video projectors during the 8:30 and 11:00 services.
- We post portions of our services and special messages on the church's YouTube channel. Links to these services are available on Central's website.
- The team helps to coordinate the sound system for our 11:00 services.
- We maintain a library of DVD recordings of our services. We can, upon request, duplicate these DVDs for the use of our congregation. We also maintain audio tapes of services going back to 1963. An online library of recorded services is available on Central's YouTube channel going back to Christmas of 2011.

Accomplishments for 2016:

- Implemented strategies to simplify the use of Central's sound system for non-technical users. We also provided training and documentation in the use of the sound system.
- Continued to webcast our entire services, including the musical performances, thanks to Central's new licensing arrangement with CCS. These webcast services are supported by a menu system that makes the content more accessible.
- Volunteers from the Video Ministry assist and record additional special events, by special request, such as the Martin Luther King service and the Blue Christmas service.
- Administered a user survey of the audio and visual needs of the sanctuary, which led to a plan to upgrade and replace our older VHS camcorders with new high-definition cameras.
- Installed a new media laptop to simplify the use of recorded video, YouTube recordings, and audio from a variety of sources to support our worship services.

Goals for 2017:

- We continue to move forward on our long-term plan. We have researched and developed a plan to replace our 25+ year old camcorders with new high-def PZT (pan, zoom and tilt) cameras. We will also replace the existing camera controllers, mixer and recording devices so that we can implement HD imaging on our cable and webcast videos.
- We have implemented a financial model, similar to the Van Committee's, that will allow us do better long term planning. It is important to note that none of the funding for this Ministry comes out of the CUMC budget. Monies have come from individual contributions, the Shalom fund, Allocations and bequests. Most recently a bequest from the estate of Bill Garret will be used to finance the new cameras and other equipment.
- The TV / Video Ministry is possible because of the efforts of many talented volunteers and the support of Central's members and friends. We welcome more people who would like to support this ministry.
- We want to give special thanks to the Shalom Fund, Trustees and Church Council for their continued support of our ministry.

Van Ministry

Central UMC continued a very robust Van Ministry in 2016. In addition to the weekly pick-up of several individuals for late Sunday morning worship, the vans continue to be borrowed by many local not-for-profit organizations. Each of the vans put on approximately 10,000 miles a year. Donations received from borrowing groups allow the van program's cost to NOT be part of the annual Central UMC budget.

Regarding maintenance, 2016 was a relatively normal year for significant repairs. Our "operating" budget is healthy as well as the "replacement" budget. We do not expect to be in the market for a new van for at least the next 5 years as the oldest of our 2 vans is a 2008 vintage with relatively low mileage for that age. By the time we do look for a replacement van and given a regular annual contribute from both the Allocations and Shalom Funds, we should have the necessary funds to do that outright when that time comes.

Central's van program is THE MODEL for other churches in the conference seeking to have a similar program. We are blessed to have dedicated drivers for Sunday pick-ups without which the van "experiment" started in 1990 probably would have failed long ago.

Lukens - Jackson

The mission of the Lukens Jackson Task Force is to annually recruit 30-35 scholarship campers so they may spend a week at Sky Lake. We raise funds to support the campers and publicize to help recruitment and support church events. The events are the Martin Luther King Service, the Central Summer Carnival and the Lukens-Jackson Sunday Service. At each of these events is a display with pictures of the campers and the different camps offered for them at Sky Lake. There are also sign-up sheets, registration forms, health forms, Sky Lake brochures and scholarship information. Displays are in the Dining Room, Education Building and Welcome Center.

Funding to support the camper scholarships comes from fund raising efforts through mailings and envelopes in the pews during Lukens-Jackson Sunday. The Groups within the Church that support the scholarships are the Shalom Fund, the Wesley Class and the UMW. Additional funding is received from outside the church is the Triple City Runners club. Additionally individuals contribute through unsolicited donations or bequests. The Lukens-Jackson service is a very special event. It is held for potential campers and their parents. Matt Williams, director of Sky Lake is a special guest informing the children of the different camps and activities at Sky Lake.

Respectfully submitted,
Phyllis Beach, Chairperson