

Central United Methodist 2017 Annual Report

Central is a vital congregation with strong ministries, missions and programs. The commitment to do God's work and to be the hands and feet of Christ is evident. Central is fortunate to have such dedicated Christians in so many areas of ministry. As you read this document, you will see first-hand what the Central family does in performing God's will. If you would like to become more involved in the ministries or outreach of central, please contact, Pastor Michelle, the Church Office, or me.
Knud Hansen – Chairperson, Church Council

Pastor's Report

Three 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, but through other experiences as well. Through this, I hope that parishioners are learning to develop spiritual disciplines and to articulate their own discipleship and desire for spiritual growth. Many from our previous *Companions in Christ* groups are continuing in self-led study, and some have gone on to develop ministry ideas within the congregation. I have begun work toward developing an off-campus 20s-30s worship/spirituality experience by convening a team and conversations around this work.
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. Convened a core team for beginning a vision process.
4. 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!
5. Taught several adult Sunday School classes throughout the year and led a retreat for one of the classes this Fall.
6. Continued to work with a candidate for ministry who grew up in this congregation.

Outside the congregation:

1. I continued my work in the Binghamton District as I serve on the District Committee on Ministry and the District Leadership Team.
2. 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.

3. I attend a weekly lectionary study group with colleagues.

4. Continued mentoring candidates for Ordination.

5. I earned 1.5 CEUs at the Leadership Institute hosted by the Church of the Resurrection in Kansas. I took our Director of Christian Education and Programming and Church Council Chair along. It was very exciting and energizing for all of us!

6. I am still exploring continuing education possibilities for 2018.

I believe God is calling Central to an incredible future, but it will 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 of Program and Education

As I write this report I am approaching the one year mark as the new Director of Christian Education and Programming. It has been a joy to serve Central in this role and I am excited about all the programs I am involved with. Some of these programs have a long and steady history while others are new or different than what we have done in the past.

Our Children's Ministry continues to use the Big Blue curriculum and the teachers and children seem to enjoy this. It fits together well with our Joyful Noise Choir. We did make a few changes to classroom ages and Nate Trost was asked to fill the role of the Children's Superintendent to create more communication and support for the teachers in these grades. For the 2017-18 school year we have a classroom for K-2nd grade and a classroom for 3rd to 5th grade students. The first 5-10 minutes all the children in both classrooms are in the Chapel for a video lesson before heading to their classrooms for small group lessons. The final 15-20 minutes is spent back in the Chapel for Joyful Noise rehearsal.

We moved the 6th graders into our Confirmation/middle school classroom so they are better aligned with the students they attend school with. We also purchased new curriculum for this class. The middle school teachers and I have met quarterly to plan lessons, activities, and trips for these students.

The Senior High class has seen dramatic changes in attendance this year. We are only seeing 1-3 students in this Class and the programs and activities do not seem to keep them interested. We have included the Sr. high students in some of the middle school activities.

The following programs and events took place this year: Valentine cookie sale for mission funds, Shrove Tuesday Pancake dinner, Easter Egg hunt, Blessing of the Backpacks, Summer Carnival, Trunk or Treat, and the Christmas Party.

The backpack program provided 207 backpacks this year. The Carnival, trunk or treat and Christmas Party attendance has declined from previous years and we have discussed other dates for these events so we are not competing with other organizations doing the same.

The youth took part in mission and outreach this year by helping with harvest home Sunday. We also had three trips to Fayetteville, NC to assist the NC Conference Disaster recovery teams with hurricane Matthew rebuilding. The first trip in April was in partnership with Sarah Jane UMC staff and youth and took place over spring break. A 2nd trip in May over Memorial Day weekend included 5 college age students dubbed our YAMS (Young Adult Ministries), and the 3rd trip in October included YAMS and adults. We have another trip planned for Spring Break 2018. (April 2nd - April 8th)

The YAM's also assisted with the assembly of the backpacks, our Thanksgiving Day meal, a mobile clothing site at Fairview UMC, and packaging gift bags with winter items for the local shelters.

Adult Sunday school was planned in advance again this year. The fall schedule was completed in August, and the spring sessions announced at the end of December. There is a diverse range of topics being explored and discussed and I am fortunate to have a great pool of leaders willing to lead these classes.

It has truly been a blessing and an honor to serve in this role and I look forward to new and exciting ways to grow our education programs here at Central.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kelly Crane

Staff Parish Relations

In 2017 SPRC hired Kelly Crane as the Director of Christian Education and Programming. We also revised our policy manual with a new staff evaluation form.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Heckathorn

Worship

Contemplate for a moment, the mission statement of Central UMC:

“Central UMC is a fully inclusive church that seeks, embraces, educates, worships, and serves, all in God’s love.”

The Worship Council exists in our church structure to assure that this mission statement is fulfilled in the worship services Central provides. Most importantly, it is GOD’S LOVE that is to be emphasized. Are our worship services doing that well? Of course, there is always room for improvement (and please express your opinions to any Worship Council member) but here are some ways that the Worship Council feels we are doing well in the dramatically changing neighborhood we call home:

- Central UMC is a “reconciling” church. We as a congregation have gone on record within our denomination that we disagree with the United Methodist Discipline wording that restricts homosexuals from GOD’S LOVE.
- Central UMC continues to provide a less formal 8:30am and more formal 11am worship service on Sunday mornings in the non-Summer months.

- Central holds a “New Beginnings Contemporary Service” on an almost monthly basis. This service is on 1 Sunday evening during the month and is in a “come as you are” format providing an alternative to our Sunday morning worship services.
- Central UMC continues to annually hold a celebration of the life and mission of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who dedicated his life that all men and women are equal in the eyes of GOD.
- Central UMC has started a tradition of holding a prayer service on Good Friday.
- Central UMC also annually holds a “Blue Christmas” service during Advent to emphasize GOD’S LOVE to those suffering from bouts of depression in their lives.
- Central worship services involve many individuals—ushers, musicians, liturgists, van drivers, lay readers. All showing GOD’S LOVE to others.
- Central regularly announces and means that ALL are welcome to attend/participate in any event.

In 2018 and beyond, there are many challenges to be addressed at Central...changing neighborhood, aging congregation, church infrastructure, reduction in budget assets. Worship Council believes that by maintaining a focus on GOD’S LOVE, all challenges will be overcome.

Living Water Praise Band

It was a privilege for the Living Water praise band to open 2017 by participating in Central's meaningful MLK tribute service. We led our first Good Friday evening service, using readings and songs to reflect on Jesus' final hours. We kicked off our 11th season of providing evening contemporary services in the fall, and we closed our year with a festive service of lessons and carols in December. Through the Word, music, and fellowship - and fun! - we hope we have inspired people to take the next steps in their personal faith journeys, and look forward to continuing to do so in 2018. 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

Music Ministries

Music is an important and meaningful part of the worship experience at Central, with musicians of all ages bringing their talents and dedication in service to God and in ministry to our congregation. The various aspects of our music program provide a myriad of opportunities for spiritual connection and growth, as well as social interaction with each other and with the congregation.

As Music Coordinator, I have met periodically with Pastor Michelle, both formally and informally, to plan music and logistics that will best fulfill her vision of the worship experience, in general and for specific services. Improvements have been made in communication and coordination among the music staff, Pastor Michelle, and Christian Education Director, Kelly Crane, to better accommodate children’s and adults’ participation in multiple church functions, including music.

In January 2017, we welcomed Carolyn Stanford to the position of Chancel Choir Director. She and I, the other directors, and organist/pianist, Sean Stafford, have worked well together in planning the music contributions for each given Sunday, as well as planning and performing large music ensembles for special Sundays. These include Advent, Christmas, Palm Sunday,

and Easter, involving all the choirs as well as guest musicians. In October 2017, we also celebrated a special Music Appreciation Sunday, recognizing the beauty and power of God's gift of music and the people who offer their musical talents throughout the years. During the summer months, while the choirs are on hiatus, we were blessed with many beautiful solo and duet performances from church members and guest musicians.

We are grateful for our very capable and accommodating tech team, who oversee the live amplification, video recording, and rebroadcasting of all aspects of music in worship, week by week.

For some years, concerns have been expressed regarding the need for repairs to the organ. An Organ Sub-Committee has been formed to address these and will begin meeting in January 2018. The committee is made up of representatives from Worship Council, Music Staff, Finance Committee, and Trustees. The goal will be to consider all aspects of the following: 1. How important is the organ to Central's near and long-term mission? 2. How should Central fund repairs to (which *may* include phasing out) the organ? All viewpoints will be welcome and considered, as we prepare for important decisions ahead.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Lamando, Music Coordinator

Altar Guild

The altar guild continues to prepare the altar weekly for worship. We are thankful for the donation of flowers each week. The Easter altar was beautiful again with tulips, daffodils and lilies. Poinsettias decorated the altar throughout the Christmas season. Special altars were done for Harvest Home and All Saints Sunday.

Looking ahead for 2018 we are looking into offering an ornament tree at Christmas. Ornaments would be placed on a special tree in honor of or in memory of a loved one. This would be in place of the poinsettia plants, although plants would still be purchased by the altar guild to adorn the altar at Christmas. Details are still being worked out. Look for information in the newsletter and weekly bulletins.

Thankful again for all the hard work and input by the members of the altar guild, Doug Breneman, Libby Shelp and Andy Tewksbury and of course Pastor Michelle.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carla Wood

Education Council

The past year has been an interesting one for the Education Council at Central. We are in the midst of a church and Sunday School that doesn't look or act the same way it used to. Church isn't the only show in town, the way it was in the past. Families look different, our community is a transient one, and church commitment is not always a priority. So how do we make church a place where everyone feels welcome and needed? How do we help others to know the risen Christ? This year we have strived to answer those questions and at the same time adapt our programs to reach out and share the love of Christ in new and very different ways.

Our new Director of education and programming, Kelly Crane, is instrumental in making us think outside the box and beyond the church walls. She keeps on telling us how we need to

rethink church and that is what we are trying to do. This isn't always easy because we are comfortable in doing what we know.

This past year we kept some of the old, tried some new ideas, and in some cases expanded on established programs. We offered a variety of Adult Classes with a myriad of topics for discussion. We are very lucky to have many wonderful leaders who offer to lead these for us. Rev. Michelle also continued her Monday night book study, attracting up to 20 people on many nights. She also led another Companions in Christ study.

Our Youth continue to meet each week for Confirmation Studies and Senior High class. Both of these groups have an emphasis on learning, fellowship and service. This year service has been a priority.

Children's Church School and Joyful Noise meet together each Sunday morning for lessons, singing and Bible studies. The groups are not large but the children who do come are enthusiastic about learning and excited about participation.

In 2017 we had our Easter Egg Hunt and Pancake Breakfast but added an element of interest and surprise as we became travelers on a Holy Week journey with Jesus. We feel strongly that this is an opportunity to set us apart from any other secular event the community may be attending. It is a chance to share the Good News. We had over 50 children attend, mostly from the neighborhood. Other outreach programs included our Summer Carnival, Backpack Sunday, Trunk or Treat, and the Clothing Center Christmas Party. These will all happen again, but they might look a bit different next year.

Education Council is a small group of very dedicated volunteers. I thank them for their continued support and service as we seek new ways to educate, empower, and embrace others. As always, we look to God for direction and guidance in the year to come.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pat Hansen

Missions Council

In 2017, Missions has continued to focus on the programs of Shepherd's Supper, Clothing Center, and Blood Drive. As well as, adding our support for the neighborhood carnival and Trunk or Treating. The United Methodist Special Sunday collections were also emphasized. In 2018, we will continue to support our regular programs and choosing to find other outreach opportunities as well. We would like to invite neighborhood churches to join us.

Shepherd Supper:

Financial data:	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
Bal. Jan 1 (\$)	2489.29	4428 88	2914.80	1782.76
Income (\$)	9183.84		5959.83	6480.85
Expense (\$)	7244.25		7091.87	6802.08
Bal. Dec. 3	4428.88	2914.80	1782.76	1461.53

Of the \$6480.85 in 2017 donations \$1163.15 came from 2 cents per meal donations. No donations were collected in Aug. Nov. or Dec. Shepherd Supper served over 4000 meals in 2017. Shepherd Supper spent approx. \$566 per month to feed approx. 333 meals per month

for approx. \$1.70 per meal. Food from Broome Bounty was a major factor in this low cost. 2872 volunteer hours were given to support Shepherd Supper.

Clothing Center:

- The cash box started the year with \$38.41 and ended with \$108.50
- In 2017 an average of 361 clients visited the Clothing Center each month. Over 1834 hours of volunteer work were donated during the year. The Clothing Center was opened Tues. 10 to 12, Weds. 11 to 1, and Thurs. 5 to 6:30.
- The Clothing Center went on the road with their clothes to New Milford UMC in June & Fairview UMC in August.
- 14 care gift kits (hats, gloves, personal hygiene items) were delivered to the SOS shelter and 12 kits were delivered to the YWCA.
- Amy Klock took over the responsibility for the Clothing Center from Kelly Crane in April.

Other:

- 207 children were provided backpacks containing the full list of needed school supplies in Sept.
- Undie Sunday was held in Dec. The Congregation brought underwear for the neighborhood children in need. The undies were distributed thru the Clothing Center.
- 38 children (vs. 68 in 2016) attended the annual Christmas party in Dec. and each received an age appropriate gift.
- A Martin Luther King service was conducted in January. Dorolla Nixon was the guest speaker.

Blood Drive:

Six blood Drives were conducted during the year, with an average of 25 donors per drive. Free breakfasts were provided for everyone who donated, With the UMW and Men's Group taking turns supporting the Drives.

Respectfully Submitted
Sharon Carmine

Fellowship Council

In 2017, 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 did a game night and ice cream social, there was request to do it again. We sent almost

30 college/military care packages this year. We will be continuing our Dinner with Friends program in 2018, 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. At the end of the year, we welcomed new member, Shelley Lobevero. Welcome aboard Shelley! Glad to have you!

Respectively submitted,

Amber Gaylord

Finance

Through the faithful giving of the Central Congregation as well as underspending the budget, we were able to finish 2017 with a positive financial balance. However we did have to borrow some money from the Endowment fund to meet obligations in the middle of the year. We have maintained our excellent record of meeting our commitment to the Conference by paying our Ministry Shares in full. Congregational giving was up a bit from 2016, which is always a good thing. The Stewardship campaign for 2018 finished positively, with pledge commitments up from 2017 as well. Central has done an excellent job of controlling expenses as the 2018 Budget increased by less than 1% over 2017.

Amid these positives we still have a gap between the Budget and our income. It's as a result of underspending the budget that we have maintained our positive balance the last few years. The focus going forward will be on Spiritual giving, to increase the percent of our giving to do God's work and to encourage more of us to move towards tithing. Throughout the year there will be an emphasis on Christian Stewardship- to return the gifts we have received from God, to serve his purpose here at Central and through outreach and missions, into the community and world.

Thank you all for your continued financial commitment to Central.

Respectfully submitted,

Knud Hansen, Finance Chairperson

Board of Trustees

In keeping with our mission, namely the supervision, oversight, and care of all real property and equipment, owned and acquired, 2017 was another productive year for the Board of Trustees. Our major accomplishments and focus items, made possible by a giving congregation, included but were not limited to:

- ✓ First loads of wash using new laundry center underwritten by a bequest from the Ruth Kocher estate
- ✓ Distribution of \$7,800 of Shalom Funding to Lukens-Jackson Camperships, First United Methodist Boiler Project, and Gandhi Peace Project
- ✓ Awarded 4 Scholarships for a total of \$8,000 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
- ✓ 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
- ✓ Masonry repairs to education wing entrance steps & Union Street foundation
- ✓ New flooring in Union Street entrance
- ✓ Anti-fatigue and safety mats for the kitchen and dish room sinks
- ✓ New entrance mats & cord cover mats for sanctuary

In 2018 our major focus items will consider:

- 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 (UMW)

Our United Methodist Women unit consists of four circles that meet monthly for devotions, programs, study and fellowship. Two of them meet during the day, the other two in the evening. Throughout the year, the groups work together on fundraisers, mission projects and other activities. We have a Bereavement committee that provides funeral luncheons for families in need. Eucharist ministers take communion to the home bound. All women are welcome and invited to attend a circle or any of our events.

United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men alternate responsibility of the Blood Drives. Each group does it three times a year. We welcome volunteers to help with this project.

The Bereavement Committee came up with a new policy and guidelines regarding the way food is purchased for funeral luncheons. The new procedure has worked out very well.

UMW Sunday was held in March. This is a day for celebrating United Methodist Women and the work they do for women, children and youth. Pastor Michelle installed the officers. Kelly Crane was given a past president's pin and thanked for her leadership.

In May, our women hosted the Church Women United Friendship Day Luncheon.

Rev. Joyce Allen led our annual retreat May 17 at Sky Lake. The theme for the day was Rising Hope. It was attended by forty five women, six of who attended for the first time. We look forward to our next retreat May 16. Thank you to Donna Spearman, Spiritual Growth Coordinator for coordinating this meaningful and special day.

Once again in May, several women went to M&Z Flowers to purchase plants and flowers. The owners, Donna and John Waite are very helpful and will even plant our containers for us.

The Garden Tour in June featured six gardens. At one of the homes, there was a Garden Boutique. The sale consisted of plants, bird houses, water basins and other garden related items. It was a successful day. The Garden Tour in 2018 will be in July instead of June.

In August our unit donated cakes for the Children's Home Ice Cream Social.

Our annual meeting, dedication of our World Thank Offerings and election of 2018 officers was in November. The topic of the program was Sex Trafficking. It was presented by Diane Donahue from Our Lady of Good Counsel Church and Christine Batista from Safe Harbour and Crime Victims Agency. They told us about their work with vulnerable women in our community. A Safe Harbour Center will be opened, in January, in the old St. Ambrose School in Endicott. Our women are interested in finding ways to help with this program.

The district UMW invited us to attend a recognition for Cleo LeBaron's years of service to United Methodist Women. Twenty eight people from Central attended. It was held at Hilltop Retirement Center.

We were pleased to be asked to help with Chuck Louden's 100th Birthday Celebration.

Sean Stafford and Roger Richards provided an afternoon of beautiful music for the Christmas Tea. Following the program, over 120 women enjoyed a variety of desserts and fellowship. The free will offering totaling \$548.00 was given to the YWCA for their work with women and children.

Proceeds from the mini bazaar and other fund raisers throughout the year went toward various mission projects we support. Your prayers, gifts, time and service are greatly appreciated

In the coming year we will continue to be involved in the Safe Harbour program and their work with vulnerable women in our community.

We will focus on addictions, another big, social justice issue, which impacts the lives of women, children and youth.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirlenn O'Brien

Men's Group

2017 was the Men's Group second full year of meeting. Attendance averages between 12 and 15, although we'd like to have many more attend. The meeting always takes place on the 3rd Friday of the month and includes Devotions, a meal with dessert and a Program. We've had some very interesting programs this past year most of them offered by own men. Programs ranged from volunteer work at the Montezuma Refuge, to train trips across the country, the Toastmasters club, Red Bird Mission, archaeological digs in Egypt and a presentation on the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints by Mormon volunteers at Shepherd's Supper. The Men's group also supported the Blood Drives.

We look forward to continued interesting programs this year, as well as looking for additional opportunities to serve. Some of us hope to attend the youth mission trip in April. We will continue to help with the Blood Drives and will host the Church Basement Sale in May. All men are encouraged to attend the meetings – for fun and fellowship.

Respectfully submitted,
Knud Hansen

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
- National, International, or Conference Projects

Highlights and Achievements for 2017

We supported 16 requests in 2017 to organizations such as: Fattal Community Clinic, Samaritan Counseling, Lend a Hand, the Four County Library System, Red Bird Mission, Southern Tier MobilePack, the Jail Ministry, the local Identity LGBTQ+ Youth Center, our Van Ministry, and scholarships through Lukens-Jackson for children to participate in the Sky Lake summer camp.

2016 - Carryover	\$ 5,077
2017 - Allocation	<u>\$ 16,000</u>
Total Available	\$ 21,007

Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 14,359</u>
1/31/17 Balance	\$ 6,718

The 2017 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.

Respectfully submitted,
Maggie Wolford

Reconciliation Task Force

The Reconciling Task Force continued to provide educational opportunities to the congregation with a two part series on “Transgender and Gender Non-conforming Identities.” We were fortunate to have staff from the Identity Youth Center in Binghamton share their insights on LGBTQ+ terms and definitions, help with gender pronouns, and show a couple of videos. The information they presented is available on the church website. It was an excellent learning opportunity.

Six members of the task force attended a “Reconciling Summit” hosted by FUMC Schenectady. This was an opportunity to meet with others from Upper NY Conference and discuss ways for us to be involved with the Commission on the Way Forward. We focused on how to have an impact on the process and ensure that our voices are heard. It was a good day spent with the Holy Spirit and fellow progressives.

The first Sunday in May we celebrated our first anniversary as a reconciling congregation. We will continue to work for full inclusion and the removal of the hurtful language from the Book of Discipline.

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 Spectrum 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.
- 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 web page going back to Christmas of 2011.

Accomplishments for 2017 - This past year we:

- Retired our older analog video cameras and installed new high-definition (HD) cameras, controllers and switches.
- 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.
- Installed and implemented a 32 track audio recording system for training purposes and improved post-processing of music.
- Upgraded our connection to Spectrum Cable (formerly Time Warner). We no longer use lower resolution DVDs, but send our HD videos electronically to the cable

company.

- ✓ Continued to webcast our entire services, including the musical performances, thanks to Central's licensing arrangement with CCS. These webcast services are supported by a menu system that makes the content more accessible.
- ✓ Added closed captioning to support hearing impaired viewers of our webcast services.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Have trained new members of the TV Ministry.

Some Interesting Facts:

- Central has been a pioneer in using technology to share the Good News of our Lord. As early as 1963 we broadcast parts of our service on the radio. We began our TV Ministry in 1991. For many years our TV Ministry was available only through cable television.
- Our first Internet based video was posted in December of 2011. Since that time TV Ministry has posted over 440 services. Our YouTube channel has reached out to many people through over 32,000 separate views.
- In 2017 we posted 59 different services. Our webcast services were visited 2,806 times.
- Our YouTube channel currently has 77 subscribers.
- In 2014 sixty-three (63%) of our Internet views came from computers. In 2017 only thirty-seven percent (37%) of our Internet services were seen on computers. The rest were viewed on other devices including: mobile phones, tablets, and smart TVs.

Goals for 2017:

- We continue to move forward on our long-term plan. We are considering upgrading our microphones to better support Living Water and the other musical groups that Central is blessed with.
- We intend to expand our training opportunities for members of the TV Ministry team.
- We have implemented a financial model, similar to the Van Committee's, that will allow us do better long term planning.
- We hope to recruit more members for the TV Ministry.

Central's 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 thanks to the Shalom Fund, Trustees and Church Council for their continued support of our ministry. Special thanks goes to the gift to the Church by Bill Garrett's Legacy, which was instrumental in our conversion to HD video.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carl Muldner

Van

Central UMC continued its Van Ministry in 2017. 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, 2017 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 4 years as the older 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 campers so they may spend a week at Sky Lake. In 2017, we gave scholarships to 44 campers. 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 Camping 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.

Funding to support the camper scholarships comes from fund raising efforts through mailings and envelopes in the pews. The Groups within the Church that supported the scholarships are the Shalom Fund, the Wesley Class, Allocations 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 Camping Sunday 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. This year we are holding a Pizza Party in order to have registrations taken care of earlier than usual.

Respectfully submitted

Phyllis Beech, Chairperson