

Central United Methodist Church
2010 Annual Report of Programs and Ministries

Central Church Family,

This report is intended to provide you with information on the ministry, outreach and activities that the numerous teams, councils and committees did throughout 2010. Thanks to the many leaders and volunteers of these organizations for all the activities they do, both visible and behind the scenes. These efforts demonstrate their commitment to serving Christ and what makes Central such a unique place to worship and serve. Please read through this report, and keep these many ministries and volunteers in your prayers.

In collating the submission for this report, I'm humbled by the dedication and the commitment of my fellow Central family members. I'm reminded of the Hymn, 'I am the Church, you are the Church, We are the Church Together' indeed we are the Church together. There is always a need to improve our ministry and outreach at Central, if you have ideas or would like to be part of one of these organizations, please feel free to contact Pastor Mark, the Church Office, me or one of the Leaders listed.

Knud Hansen
Chair, Church Council

Pastor's Report

Our first six months together at Central have gone by quickly. We have spent much time in traditional programs and ministries: worship, Christian Education, weddings, funerals, youth activities, UMW programs, meetings to plan mission and ministry, meetings to care for the church's oversight and operations, times of fellowship, Christmas caroling, and the list goes on.

We have spent much time in ways unique to Central: Clothing Center, blood drives, Shepherd's Supper, Eucharistic Minister visits, Parish Visitor calls, Central Faire, Christmas Party for the neighborhood, and more. This list, as well, could go on. Through it all, Suzette and I have appreciated the ready and warm reception given to us when we arrived in July, and we have been grateful for the on-going support and welcome since.

I have known about Central church for many years during my ministry and had been in the building often for a variety of conference and district functions. It is a special opportunity to now get to see and know the people who are the church, those who make Central the graceful and grace-filled place it is.

As pastor, I have been especially grateful for the many congregation members who care for their on-going responsibilities with care, with love, and with intentionality. The church does its "work," and its ministries and programs function smoothly without me having to see to each specific detail. These leaders and volunteers going about their tasks with joy and enthusiasm allow me to devote time and energies to enhancing our worship experience, responding to short-term urgent needs (illnesses, hospitalizations and so forth), and facilitating discernment of the church's long-term

visions, dreams, and goals through processes like the Envisioning/Renewing Week-end.

The Envisioning/Renewing Week-end of self-study and visioning is especially noteworthy. The 11-member Task Force has been hard at work examining the recommendations that came out of the November week-end event. It discerned how best to proceed with developing and implementing responses that would build on the initial enthusiasm. Five Study/Action Groups (SAGs) are formed and have begun their work in the areas of Administration/Communication, Nurture, Outreach, Worship, and Youth. I look forward to their on-going study and the suggestions that will come from them.

Central's many faithful leaders and workers are ably supported by Central's dedicated staff: Administrative Assistant Pat Breneman, Christian Education & Program Coordinator Erica Heier, Parish Visitors Carole James & Nancy Jones, Organist/Director of Music Tat Baine and the music staff, and our custodial team. Each of these persons in her/his own way helps Central provide mission and ministry opportunities that nourish the congregation and allow the church to invite and welcome new people into its sphere. We are sorry to lose Chancel Choir Director Connie Lamando as she leaves to devote more time to her family and her job as a school music teacher. We wish her well in the confidence that God will raise up the person needed to follow her at this time and place in Central's journey.

As I write these words the conference year, which runs from July 1 to June 30, is half over. Another year, the calendar year, is just beginning. I can tell already that both are, and will be, filled with many ways in which we can be of service to Christ through Central's gifts and graces. I am grateful to be this congregation's pastor as we engage the future God has for us, seeking out what God would have us do as we- to use words from the Upper New York Mission and Vision Statement: "... live the gospel of Jesus Christ and to be God's love with our neighbors in all places."

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Mark Marino, Pastor

Church Council

The Church council is responsible for all administrative and budgetary aspects of the church. It is responsible for approving the budget and Allocations requests, as well as approving personnel decisions which are recommended to it by the staff Parish Relations Committee. From a policy perspective, the Council addresses issues such as approving the Safe Sanctuaries process, and approving the Allergy Awareness policy, as well as any other important policy issues that are raised.

The Church Council receives its authority from the United Methodist Book of Discipline. It meets monthly on the fourth Tues or every month at 7 PM after all the other organizations have had their monthly meetings. This enables each of the organizations to report on their current activities and future plans. All of the Program Teams and Administrative Teams Chairs are members of the council as well as a Rep from Trustees, the Lay Representative, the President of United Methodist Women, and At-Large members who are selected each year. Since all committees and teams have representation the Church Council, it is well positioned to discuss and make important decisions for

Central. The meetings are open to all members and all are welcome to attend. I would be glad to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully submitted
Knud Hansen

Youth and Education

Education saw some really great happenings this past year. We transitioned back to a more traditional model of Sunday School, that has led to an increase in children attending Sunday morning classes- we even had to add a table to the 3rd and 4th grade room!

This past summer, we held our first “Central Family Faire”. Approximately 250 people attended the faire and we are planning to make it an annual event- with thoughts of expansion and bringing other churches in.

We hosted “Trunk or Treating” again and got an even greater community response. Last year’s “Trunk or Treating” saw over 40 children- this year we had over 75 attend! We offered more activities and advertised more in our surrounding neighborhood.

There were some complaints from the K-6 Sunday School teachers about rehearsals for the children’s Christmas play, so we will address those and make some corrections for next year. Both the Education and Youth councils were instrumental in the Clothing Center Christmas Party held in December. 102 kids were signed in and 112 gifts were given away- we didn’t count the parents/ grandparents that attended. Everyone present was welcomed warmly and given pizza, cookies, ice cream, and punch. The children participated in crafts, were given presents, and (thanks to Tom Spencer!) got to see Santa! This is something that we will definitely do again next year!

The youth participated in a variety of activities over this past year. One of our highlights was helping to build a wheelchair ramp with the Broome County Council of Churches’ “Ramp It Up!” program. We had such a great time and will be participating in the event again this summer. Plans are also being formed to stain the ramp we built, once the weather gets warmer.

Central youth went wild at the Wilderness Adventure Program in Greene! We climbed up ladders, walked across logs high in the trees, and swung in a giant swing! All in the name of team building!

The re-establishment of a Youth Council has meant that the youth are invested in the decision making of the group. We have done a few fundraisers and have several yet to come in order to support the trips the youth would like to take. The teen girls will be attending Women of Faith’s “Revolve Tour” in April, and the entire group will be heading to Indiana in July to stay at Purdue University for The United Methodist Church’s national youth gathering, “Youth 2011”.

For the coming year, I would like to see the youth participate in Bible study beyond their Sunday school classes. I think the events offered have been a good mix of service and fun, but the Bible study aspect is lacking. Having had time to build relationships and really get to know the youth, I think this is not an unreasonable expectation and I look forward to helping them gain a deeper understanding of their faith.

Respectfully submitted,
Erica Heier

Staff/Parish Relations

In January 2010, some members of our Staff/Parish Committee attended a District meeting for all Methodist Church SPR committees in our area. This was held in the Apalachin Methodist Church and it covered issues dealing with hiring of employees, contracts, unemployment insurance and compensation insurance, personnel evaluations and terminations. Other areas were covered such as conflict resolution and the process used by the Conference when a pastor is appointed to a church.

In the Fall of 2009, Reverend Doug Clark requested that he be appointed to a different church and our committee complied with his request. Consequently, in February and March the committee worked on compiling a Church Profile for use by the Wyoming Conference as they worked to provide Central with a new pastor. April found us planning on ways to recognize Doug and Jan Clark as they prepared to leave Central Church and go to new charges. Due to family obligations, Jennifer Erickson resigned as Parish Visitor and we made plans to advertise the vacant position.

At our May meeting we were introduced to Rev. Mark Marino and given an opportunity to talk with him. The committee voted unanimously to recommend that Mark be appointed as pastor of Central United Methodist Church. Final plans were made for presentation of a money gift to the Clark family at the picnic in the park in June. Carole James was approved as the new Parish Visitor. Representative of the SPR committee met with the Parsonage Committee and the Trustees to determine how to best utilize the parsonage which the new pastor would not be occupying.

On July 11th, a welcoming reception was held for Rev. Mark Marino and his wife, Suzette. A few weeks later, some members of our committee met with other committees to learn about an Envisioning/Renewing Program that Rev. Marino felt would benefit our church. Those present approved of the program and a task force was suggested.

This Fall found our committee formulating a budget for the Central staff and the honorarium positions; working on a new Church Profile for the Upper New York Conference; establishing a new Pastor/SPR Covenant; and updating the forms used in the Church Nursery. Again, with regret, we accepted the resignation of our Choir Director, Connie Lamando and are at present searching for a replacement.

Respectfully submitted,
Shirley Arthur, chairperson

United Methodist Women

“...to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.”
These powerful words are part of the underlying foundation of Central’s United Methodist Women.

These dedicated women vote annually to provide a \$5000 pledge to mission to help feed the hungry, clothe those in need and offer refuge to the oppressed.

There are six 'circles, or branches, of women who meet in homes or at the church. Bible studies, mission projects and fellowship support are focal point of these assemblies.

Each January the pastor is asked to provide an installation service in order that these women may be recognized by the congregation.

In February each circle conducted a "Call to Prayer and Self-Denial" service. This time is used for spiritual growth and renewal.

The annual garage sale was held in April. This year's sales totaled \$922.60 toward the mission pledge.

A "Kick-off" dinner was held in September and bazaar preparations were well underway. The October bazaar and luncheon raised approximately \$2900 to be used for mission and outreach.

At the World Thank Offering and election of officers, luncheon meeting in November, Rebecca Mebert from the Children's Home informed us about the function of the facility and the needs of the children in their care. A donation of \$50 was made by UMW.

The culminating activity for the year was the Christmas Tea. A free will offering is taken, and this year the \$600 raised was equally divided between the Clothing Center's children's Christmas party and Shepherd's Supper.

Our journey continues. This is my fourth and final year to serve in this capacity. I am truly humbled and honored. My gratitude for your prayers and support is beyond measure.

In Service to Him,
Debbie Fisher, President – United Methodist Women

Finance Committee

Central ended 2010 year in very good financial shape with a positive balance. As opposed to recent years, only a minimal amount was taken from the Endowment Fund, and that was to repair the parsonage roof. Additionally some additional monies from the Endowment Fund were set aside as a 'rainy day' fund for when the boiler in the Education building will need to be replaced

Lower natural gas costs because of the more efficient boiler, reduced Ministry Share amounts from the Upper New York Conference, and salary savings helped to bring expenses and income into balance. In addition, Central members' faithful commitment and giving to support the church's ministries and missions for the cause of Christ were a welcome and important part of this turn-around. It speaks well of Central's tradition of faithful giving and bodes well for the future ahead of us.

Following the fall Stewardship Campaign, 155 pledges had been received totaling \$243,048 towards the 2011 budget which is \$339,888. While this is somewhat less than 2010, other pledges

are still coming in. If you haven't submitted your pledge card yet, please return it to the church office, to help us plan. The hope is to build on the good news of 2010 and see even continued positive movement in 2011.

All of Central's program, missions, and ministries work hard to use the funds allotted to them wisely and well so they serve as effectively as they can. That said, the key to Central's present and future is the continued regular and faithful support of its members and friends. We are blessed in that regard, and we look forward to continuing such blessings in the year ahead.

During 2010 moving into 2011 we've had a leadership 'changing of the guard'. After many years of terrific leadership, Dave Weston, resigned as Committee lead. He is replaced by Doug Beach. Many thanks for Dave for his effective leadership

Submitted for the Finance Committee by Knud Hansen

Worship Council

THE Worship Council of Central United Methodist Church is responsible for all aspects of the Sunday worship celebrations. While it seems that our worship services may be on "auto-pilot", the truth is that a lot of planning and individuals are involved in creating the final "product" we all share in during the worship service. While the Pastor is certainly key, musicians, organist/accompanist, liturgists, communion stewards, ushers, lay readers, acolytes, greeters, Altar Guild, and the bulletin generation are also involved. Worship Council assures that these groups are aware of and are prepared for each worship service.

During 2010 as in years past, Worship Council was also responsible for several special activities. During Holy Week, there is the Maundy Thursday service, Good Friday Prayer Vigil, and participation in the Community Witness Walk on Good Friday. Worship Council also hosts the "Music Appreciation" breakfast that is held between the services on Easter Morning. One of the mid-week Lenten and Advent dinners are also prepared by members of the Worship Council.

Worship Council addresses perceived needs and concerns of the Central worship attendees. The "New Beginnings" service (held most months in the evening of the 3rd Sunday of the month) was put in place to address a desire for Contemporary worship as well as an opportunity for worship other than Sunday morning. From the first Sunday in July through the Sunday of Labor Day weekend, a single worship service is held on Sunday mornings primarily to allow "regular" attendees to get to know each other again. The "single summer service" also provides worship participants a cooler time of the day to worship and an opportunity to have more of the "day of rest" to do just that, rest. The response to both of these opportunities has been overwhelmingly favorable, however, Worship Council does continue to monitor these events for improvements based on the comments it hears.

The year 2010 saw a change in Pastor. We said so long to Rev. Douglas Clark who had been our pastor for the previous 4 years and we welcomed Rev. Mark Marino as our Pastor. Rev. Marino has been told to lead this church as he sees appropriate, however, changes to certain traditions need to be discussed and justified to members of the Worship Council. Rev. Marino understands and

respects this. Worship Council is excited for the future of Central under Rev. Marino and we all should expect changes that enhance worship and the understanding of our living God as it is intended to embolden!

The Worship Council meets each month (except June and July) with the other program councils on the first Tuesday of the month. Any and all of you are welcome to attend a meeting or to address comments (which will be held in confidence) to any current member of the council, which are:

Tat Baine	Jeff Heald
Katie Bell	Erica Heier
Bruce Bishop (chair)	Len Kent
Pat Breneman	Connie Lamando
Tom Hall	Rev. Mark Marino
LaVon Hausamann	Shirlenn O'Brien
Cherie Heald	Carla Wood

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Bishop

New Beginnings Contemporary Worship

It's hard to believe that our contemporary service began its fourth season this fall! Led by our Living Water praise band, we meet monthly on the third Sunday evening of the month (fourth week in January) at 7pm in Fellowship Hall. Each service revolves around a chosen theme, integrating visuals, readings, scriptures, and song to explore our faith and bring praise to God in this uniquely intimate setting. We end with a time of fellowship and refreshments. We owe a special thanks to the many hands who make this service possible, including Maggie Hungerford (and all who have contributed with her to provide refreshments), Jim Scott (our Powerpoint "driver"), Dick Sprague (our outside sign has attracted neighborhood worshipers!), and to all who have lent their gifts as readers, guest musicians, or whatever capacity. What a blessing it is to lead others in the praise of God!

In addition to leading the monthly contemporary services, Living Water joins the Sunday 11 am worship services on a monthly basis. In July, several members joined worship at Sky Lake's annual music camp, and in October we provided music at Sky Lake's open house. We have been blessed with several new members (Kathye Arrington, Suzette Marino, Bill Neill, Shannon and Dan McDermott), and invite others to join us in this very special ministry. We gather most Monday nights for rehearsal and fellowship.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Heald

Beautification Committee

The scope of the Beautification committee is to identify, plan, manage, and implement improvements, within and outside the CUMC property, that enhance the physical appearance of the Church property and/or improve the comfort and utility for its membership.

Activity during 2010 was much less than in past years. However, in conjunction with the Trustees, many items of maintenance and safety were addressed:

- Planting flowers in the flower boxes and urns. Thanks again to Pat Breneman and Vito for helping with this project.
- The usual maintenance of the landscaping to keep the weeds in check, shape the shrubs, renew the mulch, keep the parking lots tidy, and edge where needed.
- Replacing overhead light bulbs in hallways, exit signs, classrooms, fellowship hall, and in the Sanctuary.
- Decorating the sanctuary with the Seekers for the Advent season. Other decorating was provided in Fellowship Hall for Lent and other seasonal celebrations. Thanks to Sharon Kresge and Shirlenn O'Brien for leading this effort.

In 2011, we look forward to revisiting our mission in conjunction with the Trustees and results from the Envisioning/Renewing Task force recommendations. And as always, your participation on our committee, or with any of our projects, is welcome and encouraged. A few dollars and many hands can have a big impact towards keeping the blessing we call Central comfortable and beautiful!

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Hall

Missions/Social Concerns Council

The Missions/Social Concerns Council continued its responsibility of overseeing and supporting Central's major social concern programs: the Clothing Center, Shepherd's Supper, and Blood Drives.

- The Clothing Center supports roughly 10,000 persons each year with free clothing and some household goods. A staff of volunteers opens the center for clients four hours per week (10-Noon on Tuesdays and 1-3 PM on Thursdays). The center accepts clothing, shoes, dishes, bedding, and toys, almost anything the people can use. Clothing that cannot be used by the Center is picked up weekly by the Salvation Army and taken to their sorting station in Syracuse, NY. The Clothing Center does not charge for anything, but does accept donations from the clients and members and friends of Central. We also received a special donation from the Cornerstone Community Church of Endicott. George Harrington is the leader of the clothing center crew. During the year, George Harrington authored two newsletter articles about the operation of the Clothing Center and its impact on persons who come seeking assistance.

- Shepherd's Supper provides a free, well-balanced meal every Thursday from 5 to 6 PM. Five weekly teams involve about 55 workers plus substitutes; each team is organized as a Captain and crew with specific duties. The program is run economically using cash and food donations from parishioners and persons outside the church. The program received a special grant of \$1,500 from the St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Endicott. The program also benefited from an Allocation from Central. Ron Briggs is the coordinator of the Shepherd's Supper crews.
- Blood drives for the American Red Cross have become regular events at Central. A drive is typically on a Saturday morning from 8 AM to 1 PM. Typically about 50-60 units of blood are collected at each drive, spaced about 8 weeks apart through the year. Pat Devine is the leader of the volunteers who staff the reception area and the refreshment area of the drives. All donors are offered a freshly cooked breakfast and an opportunity to enroll in a drawing for a seasonal door prize.

We encouraged parishioners to donate to the following UMC Special Sunday Offerings:

- Human Relations Day (January)
- One Great Hour of Sharing (March)
- Peace with Justice (May)
- World Communion (October)
- UM Student Day (December)

During Lent we provided one of the Lenten Wednesday dinners (chicken casserole) for the persons gathered there for a meal and an education program. We also used that event to recognize Pastor Doug's 50th birthday.

During the period between Easter and Pentecost we advocated for donations to the Wyoming Conference's Great 50 Days Offering, which supported the Wyoming Conference's work in Haiti and Zimbabwe. The total donation to this cause was \$640.

We also sought congregational donations to UMCOR Advance Special programs that provided relief to victims of the devastating earthquake in Haiti and the severe flooding in Pakistan. Congregational donations to the Haiti Emergency Appeal were \$4,214. We obtained an allocation of \$500 to supplement the congregational donations for the flood relief work in Pakistan; the total donated to this cause was \$880. We also obtained an allocation of \$175 to support a college student on a work trip to the New Orleans area.

During Advent, each council took a turn at providing a meal for a Wednesday evening gathering at which an Advent activity occurred. Our council, led by Chef George Harrington, provided a chicken and biscuits dinner for about 60 persons on the first Wednesday in Advent, which was very well received.

In December, we joined with the Youth Council, Education Council, and Clothing Center Volunteers to respond to George Harrington's request to put on a Christmas Party for the children of the families of Clothing Center clients. We requested the congregation to purchase age-appropriate gifts for the children that George registered; gift tags placed on a Christmas tree outside the church office identified each child in terms of age and sex; a \$10 value limit was placed on each gift. The congregation responded very well, taking all of the tags and purchasing the gifts. At the

December 8th Advent dinner we coordinated the program to wrap the gifts received to that point. Council members also wrapped the gifts that came in after that date.

In addition to food donations from Central members, George obtained food donations from Kristofor's restaurant (many sheet pizzas) and The Cider Mill (cider and candy apples); John Obusek supervised the food buffet at the party on December 19th. Over 112 gifts were given out at the party, and, counting family members, about 300 persons were our guests for the hour and a half party in the Fellowship Hall and the Youth Center (where a fully costumed Santa Claus gave out the gifts). Informal photos of the party activities and pictures of the children with Santa were taken by Bill Gifford. Undistributed gifts were given to clothing center clients in the days between the party and Christmas Day. We will evaluate this project and consider ways in which it might be improved for 2011.

At the December 8th Advent dinner we also coordinated the writing of Christmas cards to persons on Central's shut-in list.

As the weather turned colder, we appealed to the congregation to provide blankets to community members served by the Clothing Center; the response was pretty good. We embarked on this blanket appeal as opposed to the Church World Service's "Blankets+" program in part because congregation members have encouraged us to be of greater service to the local community rather than people far away.

In addition to the above actions which were done by the Council, individual members of the council worked on the following projects:

- Celebration of the Life and Work of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in January. This annual project involves designing of the program, recruiting participants, advertising the event, and providing the reception following the program in the sanctuary.
- Monthly newsletter articles regarding current topics in Social Justice. Mary Belle Mitten writes many of these articles.

The following is a list of outside agencies that use Central's building for periodic meetings and providing services to the community. These activities are not under the control of the Missions/Social Concerns Council, but these activities are additional examples of the types of services that Central provides to the community. Many of these activities involve members and friends of Central:

- Alcoholics Anonymous
- Hearing Loss Association of America
- Ahwaga Canoe Club
- Sierra Club
- Women, Infants, & Children (WIC) program
- Broome County Board of Elections

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Scott, Chair

Shepherd's Supper

In 2010 Shepherds' Supper completed its 18th year of operations. This was a down year in both attendance and donations. It is not clear why the attendance was down, especially in this economy, but in checking with other organizations that have community meals, they are also experiencing a decline as well.

The SS teams not only provide a nourishing meal to people in the community needing a meal, but we provide a place for fellowship, security and a place where they feel they belong and can know God. Before every meal there is a brief poem or prayer and a blessing of the meal by our Pastor. Presently we are led by Christine Fellows who prepares a short poem or prayer with a religious meaning, oft times she sings as well.

In 2011 SS will continue to focus on maintaining the level of high quality and nutrition in the meals that are served and promote God's word. We would like to have youth involvement in the program, as there are many family guests whose children would like to converse with our youth. What is very important that has kept SS going strong for 18 years are the numerous Central volunteers who volunteer one week each month. These volunteers connect to the attendees, demonstrating their faith and reassuring them that Central cares about them and that God cares about them.

A very big thank you goes out to our 5 teams of over 50 volunteers. Each team is led by a captain and has between 12 – 15 team members. The team member's duties are: kitchen help, meal makers and servers, dishwashing crew and clean-up crew. We welcome anyone who would like to volunteer one Thursday a month for a few hours to help. I always think back to what my grandmother said "many hands make light work".

If you would like to join a team, or be on the substitute list or have other ideas for Shepherd's Supper please contact the Church office or me. If you'd like to talk to a team leader directly, they are – Ron Briggs (week 1), LaVon Hausaman (week 2), Robin Devine (week 3), Nancy Jones (week 4) and Maggie Hungerford (week 5).

We also encourage anyone to come any Thursday between 5-6 PM to enjoy a wonderful meal and to experience our ministries spreading God's word.
May God bless you, "In God we Trust".

Respectfully submitted,
Ron Briggs

Community Blood Drive

Central United Methodist Church has now sponsored Red Cross Blood Drives for over 3 years. Every 8 weeks (The minimum waiting period between donations) a dedicated group of volunteers feed approximately 50 donors and 10 to 12 Red Cross workers a hot, hardy breakfast. By serving breakfast and being appreciative of our donors our drive has doubled in size since we began. We have also attracted several people to our church, including some who now attend regularly. This outreach has exceeded the goal set by the Red Cross and just last month we had a meeting with the area director about how Central and the Red Cross can work together to help it grow even further. She (The Director) wanted us to convey to the congregation how much Central's contribution and

dedication to this cause is appreciated. We who coordinate the drives want to thank everyone involved for their support. So far we have collected approximately 720 units of blood which can help save or improve the lives of over 2150 people.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Driver

Fellowship

The Fellowship Council's goal is to offer opportunities for Christian fellowship for the Central family. Activities that the committee has sponsored in 2010 were covered dish dinners in the spring and fall with accompanying trivia. In December we sent "Care Packages" – boxes of brownies, tea and cocoa to our College students to help them through exams week

Throughout the year the Council sponsors 'We Care Sundays' which enables the congregation of Central to let the shut-ins of our Central family know that their church is thinking about them. Addresses of our shut-ins as well as greeting cards are handed out after each service. Then the person who picks up the address will send a greeting to the shut-in.

Fellowship Council also sponsors each New Member Class. These are held throughout the year usually after the 11 am Service. People who are interested in learning more about Central are provided an information session with members of Central to help them decide if they would like to become a member.

Additionally the Fellowship Council arranges for the Church Picnic each year. This year, we had a rainout and quickly were able to bring the service indoors in our Fellowship Hall. Thanks to all for the flexibility to adjust so quickly to the weather conditions

While we will continue to do the 'We Care Sundays' and the Church Picnic we are always looking for new ideas for opportunities for Christian Fellowship. In 2010 we also sponsored a Road Rally with covered dish dinner. This is something we plan on having again in the spring of 2011. We also had a "Dinner with Friends:" event that is a great way to meet other members of Central in a more personal way. We will be kicking off another "Dinner with Friends" in January 2011.

We're always looking for new ways to increase our outreach to visitors and improve hospitality and to expand fellowship opportunities within our Central Family. New ideas and new members to the committee are always welcome.

Submitted for Fellowship Committee by Knud Hansen

Café Central

Cafe central is a weekly breakfast event that offers a variety of breakfast pizzas and baked goods some solicited and some purchased, fresh fruit and a variety of coffees, teas and hot chocolate (lemonade in the summer.) It is attended by approximately 50 to 60 people including children on a Sunday. It is held between services, from 9:30 – 11:00. It is a great time of fellowship, to connect

with friends and meet new ones. Café Central is kept alive by many dedicated volunteers who work their designated Sunday, serving the food, buffet style, and keeping the coffee brewed. Primarily the costs for Café Central are supported by free will donations, with some assistance when required by the Allocations fund. Food is donated by many volunteers who support the weekly program. If you haven't been to Café Central, stop down to the Dining Room any Sunday and share in the Christian Fellowship with your Central Friends and Family.

Respectfully submitted,
Phyllis Beech, Coordinator

Allocations

Allocations met regularly during the 2010 year. Julia Miller assumed the Chair in June when Pastor Clark, the previous chair, was transferred. Other members of the committee are Bob Baine, Maria Beach, Bob Devine, Jordan Donahue, Keith Hughes, Pastor Marino, and Libby Shelp.

The 2010 spreadsheet reflects the budget and the actions of the committee through December 28, 2010. Bob Devine updates it each month and our budget year runs from February to the February.

The committee approved every request it received in 2010 in the amounts requested and to date it has spent 57% of its 2010 budget. In addition to support of many community and mission activities, in 2010, allocations monies were provided for Lukens Jackson camper scholarships as well as funding for the Dr Martin Luther King Jr. service. We're projecting that at least \$4,000 of the remaining 2010 balance be added to 2011 year funding to support an expected substantial request for participation in the UMC summer youth conference in Indiana and a possible request for assistance from the van committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Julia Miller, Chair

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees has the responsibility to manage, supervise, oversee and care for the property of the church. Additionally, the Board of Trustees must ensure the adequacy of property, liability, crime and personnel insurance and receive and administer all bequests and trusts given to the church.

2010 was an interesting and dynamic year for the Church Board of Trustees. A number of unusual property related challenges and successes were experienced. Highlights of key activities and events follow:

Caring for the property of the church:

- The higher efficiency steam boiler and hot water furnace that was installed in late 2008 produced significant reductions in natural gas consumption. Annual energy costs have been reduced by approximately \$5,000 per year. This allowed the church to draw down

a credit on our NYSEG budget plan. The Trustees also eliminated the monthly budget payment plan to avoid future excess cash balances on the plan.

- A new furnace being considered for the Education wing since the existing one is extremely old, oversized, very inefficient and very difficult to repair. The trustees are currently soliciting quotes for replacing the old furnace prior to the next heating season. We are looking into approaches to raise money including applying budget surpluses, fund raising and taking advantage of low interest loan from the Binghamton Church Union. We are working on a heating contingency plan should the furnace fail during this winter.
- The Handicapped Bathroom off of the fellowship hall was renovated – thanks go to Tom Hall and Knud Hansen for an excellent job.
- New Parsonage roof installed - The forty year old Parsonage roof suffered significant wind damage in October 2009, was patched to make it through the winter and replaced. A competitive selection process was used in selecting the contractor who did an excellent job at a very good price.
- Automated External Defibrillator (AED) –This year 37 persons attended certification classes, of whom 17 were new trainees. Thanks go to Judy Davis and Kelly Devine for organizing and delivering the training. We are very proud of returning trainee and church family member Sue Driver, who was instrumental in saving the life of a man who collapsed on the Vestal Rail/Trail. Sue issued orders for help and started resuscitative measures. An AED arrived and was used successfully to save this man's life. Through generous donations from the congregation the program has purchased new pads for the AED and will be able to purchase a new battery (several hundred dollars) when we need it.
- Outside and inside sprucing up. Ron Briggs, Tom Hall, Vito Longo, George Harrington and others put in many hours this summer painting, planting and sprucing up. If you are interested in leading or participating in service projects please contact any one of the Trustees.
- Keeping Plumbing in good repair – Over eight toilets were repaired, multiple sink faucets and the water fountain near the youth center were also repaired. Please continue to report non-working plumbing or leaks to the Trustees. Thanks go to Terry Cole who has worked very hard to keep our plumbing in working order.
- Roof leaks – Efforts in 2008 and 2009 paid off with very few roof leaks in the main building in 2010.
- Parsonage Occupancy – With Pastor Doug taking a new charge and Pastor Mark owning his own home, the Parsonage was not required to serve as Mark and Suzette's home. To address the occurring vacancy, two special meetings were held in July to brainstorm, plan and follow through on a solution. Through a remarkable stroke of good fortune we learned that Pastor Sue Davis (First UM Church, Endicott) was in need of a place to live. We are very pleased that our parsonage was available for Pastor Sue and that it currently serves as her home.
- Phone, phone system switched from AT&T to Time Warner, Digital Phone system and reprogrammed – the Trustees found a favorable cost savings benefit by switching service

to TWC digital phone/internet. Along with the change we have re-programming our digital phone system to open up outgoing call access to more (previously restricted) exchanges so that cell phone numbers that may have been blocked can now be directly dialed. A phone was also added to the clothing center.

- Building Security – During the summer months we encountered a persistent problem with unaccompanied local youth entering the unlocked church after office hours and after our custodian left for the day. Reports of disturbed and missing items began to surface. It was decided to lock the building at the end of office hours and to continue to think of ways to reach out to our local youth to build positive relationships with the church. The problem seems to have diminished since the measure was put in place and the school year has started. The reliability of parking lot lighting has also been improved.
- Document Retention Plan – The Trustees are defining a document retention plan and will share the guidance with other councils/ministries when it is complete.
- Additional Handicap Parking – Three more parking spaces were added along the parsonage patio. The signs are hinged so that they are activated during Sunday service and special events. The trustees are considering more spaces if necessary. Your ideas and feedback are welcome.
- Wireless Broadband Access (WiFi) Access – The church has installed secure wireless broadband access that should be accessible everywhere in the entire building. All church members, attendees, and guests are welcome to use it. The system allows guests to access the internet but not other church network computers or resources. If you or your group would like internet access, please ask Pat at the office for access instructions. Thanks go to Bob Devine who selected components, donated CAT5 wire and performed the installation work.
- Snow removal - the parking lots are currently being cared for under a contract with Kyle Wood. Sidewalk clearing on week-ends is being done by volunteers. (Thank you Tom Hall and youth). A New Snow Blower was purchased with very favorable deal from Agway.

Ensuring the adequacy of property, liability, crime and personnel insurance:

- In 2010 we enlisted Utica National Insurance based on coverage provided and cost savings. This year based on a mandate, have obtained our insurance through the Upper New York Conference leveraging their group pricing.

Administering bequests and trusts given to Central:

- In the beginning of the year, the Trustees opened an account with Fidelity Investment and set up a procedure that would allow people to donate stocks to the church at a lower cost than the previous method. The Trustees also organized an informational meeting in the middle of the year between congregants and financial advisors that dealt with what are called “giving strategies”. The strategies offer a variety of financial planning options that could be considered in order to donate gifts to the church. The Trustees would like to communicate opportunities methods and means to support the church financially. Offering gifts of this nature is an important component of the sustaining the endowment

fund, enabling mission and outreach. Questions on this form of gift giving can be asked through Pastor Mark, the church office or directly to one of the Trustees.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Devine

Parsonage Report

The Parsonage Committee has worked closely with the Trustees on a couple of important projects this year. We replaced the glass in the existing outside bedroom door and replaced the wooden screen door with a storm door which eliminated the draftiness of the room. The roofing project which had been in the plans for some time came to fruition in early summer. But the most important highlight of the year for the Parsonage Committee was working with the Trustees and the special task force in their efforts to find a solution for a use of our parsonage since our newly appointed pastor owned his own home. We were fortunate to work with First United Methodist Church and come to an agreement that is beneficial to both churches and allows their pastor to reside in our parsonage.

It is my pleasure to serve on this committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Cosimano

Lukens-Jackson Sky Lake Committee

One of our goals is to recruit low income children for Sky Lake Camp and to raise money to send the children to camp. Our other goal is to encourage children from Central Methodist Church to attend Sky Lake Camp.

Claire Labbe recruits low income children for the Elementary Camp and Carla Wood recruits low income children for the junior high and senior high camps. Phyllis Beech is treasurer and Shari Garris helps to publicize Sky Lake Camp.

After the Martin Luther King, Jr. Service, we had a table to inform people about Lukens-Jackson camperships for Sky Lake Camp. Through a contact we had at that event we recruited three children for camp. We had a program in Sunday School to encourage children and youth to attend camp. On Lukens-Jackson Sunday, we encourage children to attend Sky Lake Camp and we ask the congregation to donate money for Lukens-Jackson camperships for Sky Lake Camp. We also publicize Sky Lake Camp in the church newsletter.

This year we had thirty-two children attending camp on Camperships. Eighteen of these children attended the junior and senior high camps and fourteen attended the elementary camps.

Most of the money for camp came from individuals in the church and a large amount also came from the Shalom Fund at Central Church. Nine church children attended camp. Some of these received discounts, and others received a full or partial campership. We would like to have more

church children attend camp in 2011. We would like to have thirty-two low income children on camperships for Sky Lake Camp again in 2011.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Jones, Chair

Van Committee

The year 2010 was a “year as usual” for the Van Committee. Our church’s 2 vans (2000 and 2008 Chevy Express vans) did roughly 15,000 miles each and were, for the most part, in good working order during the year. The 2008 van unexpectedly had to have its engine replaced (at no cost to the church) after the original seized up on a return trip from the New York City area in late 2009. The 2000 van had the bulk of the repair costs but that is what is expected from a 10-year old van with well over 100,000 miles on it. Our “borrowers” continued to be serviced which they in turn provide donations that keep the van operating fund healthy enough (as it always has been) that the vans are NOT part of the annual Central budget. The vans are made available to non-Central affiliated groups when, and only when, there is no need for the van at Central.

The “Sunday route” grew to a steady 4 separate stops for most of the year and the Sunday routes were performed by 5 dedicated drivers. Toward the end of the year, it was decided that we needed to increase the Sunday driver crew to 8 in 2011 and that was accomplished. Norm Pickering, Butch Roberts, Chuck Whitney joined Bruce Bishop, Knud Hansen, Dave Henderson, Scott Russell and Lee Shelp as Sunday drivers.

Policies were put in place regarding the “approved” driver list. Drivers who have NOT driven in several years are being put in an “inactive” state so when and if they need to drive the vehicle again it can be determined if a re-training session is necessary.

The Van Replacement Fund will end the year with a balance of approximately \$6600. The funds so far have come from the Trustee’s Allocation Budget and un-needed funds in the operating fund. A request for \$2000 toward this fund from the Shalom Fund is expected to be honored by the Spring of 2011. It is the replacement fund that proves the Central van program will go on and on.

2011 will be the 21st year that Central UMC has had at least 1 van. We are recognized by many in the community as a church “with wheels” and also that we are willing to share this capability with others.

The following individuals are members of the Van Committee:

Bruce Bishop, Doug Breneman, Dave Henderson, Dick Place (Vestal UMC), Gregg Wood

WWW.CENTRALUMCENDICOTT.ORG

In February of 2007, Central debuted its new web site... and visits to our home page are now approaching 20,000! Our web site design is enabled through the E-Zekiel software package, which provides exclusive access to such features as the daily devotion from The Upper Room and United Methodist news headlines. The site design is changed seasonally, while maintaining a consistent navigation. The weekly bulletins and monthly newsletters are available there, and special photo features have been done on church and youth events. Prayer requests can be submitted online, as well as requests to reserve the church van. Suggestions for other content or enhancements to the web site are always welcome – please contact Jeff Heald, or use the "Contact Us" link on the web site.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Heald