

Central United Methodist Church
Endicott, NY
Annual Report - 2020

CUMC Website - <http://www.centralumcendicott.org/index.html>

The Annual Report provides information to the congregation on the activities of the councils, committees and organizations in Central. In each report are the highlights for 2019.

As you read through these reports the accomplishments and results of the hard work of many volunteers supporting the numerous ministries and programs of Central is evident. Central is blessed to have such committed volunteers doing the work of Christ. If you are would like to get more involved in any of the programs or ministries at Central, contact any one of the committees, Pastor Michelle or the Church Office.

Church Council

Church Council is the over-arching committee of all the other organizations in the church. It is comprised of representatives from each organization as well as At-Large members. The Council ultimately approves all spending and program decisions.

In the approach to make the Church Building more usable by the community, rooms in the Education wing were redone. To ensure safety of the infants, the Nursery was moved upstairs, to a much larger room, and the former nursery room was made available for other use. A new AV system was approved for the Fellowship Hall and Dining Room, (this was installed in January 2020). A Speak Up/Shout Out process was established to allow additional input from the congregation.

Meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month, and are open to the congregation.

Respectfully submitted,
Knud Hansen, Chairperson

Pastor's Report

One of the stated expectations for me upon my appointment here five and a half years ago was to lead the congregation in vision and planning for the future, and this work has been incredibly intense as well as rewarding. Huge decisions and a bit of change continued in 2019, with RenovateCentral, creatively rethinking space and ministry, welcoming new staff and creating new staff positions, and beginning the work of developing a fresh expression of church for those outside these walls. I am so proud of the leadership teams here, who have worked and prayed so hard and faithfully to follow God's leading for a vital future. I am deeply grateful to them, as well as to the retired clergy in our midst, who offer support and mentoring of all kinds!

We continued to emphasize experiences that connect or re-connect persons with God and their own life in God, primarily through worship, but through other opportunities as well, including our ongoing Adult Sunday School and Book Study. 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. My hope is always

that parishioners are learning articulate their own discipleship and desire for spiritual growth.

We continued to examine our programs and ministries and staffing in light of the changing financial and community realities facing us. Our internal demographic is aging, we are located within a community that is declining, and we are simply not attracting large numbers of younger people who might be interested in traditional forms of church. Even if we did, they likely would never be able to support the church financially as its older members do. We have begun to address what that means for Central, and how to envision its support and vitality in the future. On a positive note, we did welcome 13 new members since our last Charge Conference, a larger number than those removed from membership, either through withdrawal or death.

Our Core vision teams have been hard at work developing ministry ideas: For Central 1.0, this includes living into our Mission DNA, as well as addressing our lack of a clearly articulated intentional discipleship pathway for persons along their faith journeys. For Central 2.0 (soon another name!), this centers around the creation of a fresh expression of Central for our target demographic of intergenerational, progressive, unchurched or dischurched, spiritually hungry persons—which we hope to “soft launch” in December of this year.

In my connectional ministry work, I continued to serve on the District Committee on Ministry and the District Leadership Team. I have continued my training with the Intentional Growth Center in Transitional and Interim Ministry; I am now a lead trainer with them, and will be continuing this in the future. I also continued mentoring candidates for Ordination. I was elected first Reserve Delegate to General Conference 2020, so I will be traveling to Minneapolis in May and to Jurisdictional Conference in Maryland in July. It is my hope that the UMC can come to some sort of sane resolution to our current schismatic polarities; in any case, our Reconciling Task Force will be leading the congregation through the preparation and aftermath of GC2020.

For my own development, I attend a weekly lectionary study group with colleagues, have spent a couple of retreats in worship planning, and I am still exploring continuing education possibilities for 2020. I am currently praying about planning for developing an application for a Clergy Renewal Grant from Lilly for 2021.

God has led the leadership at Central through an amazing discernment and visioning process. The future has so much possibility, even if it may seem different from Central's past. Our laity is vital and empowered, and I believe that together, we can craft a powerful vision for that future. I am blessed by our ministry together.

Still In One Peace,
Pastor Michelle

Mission and Community Engagement

Since May of 2019, I've had the great opportunity to connect with some of the most creative people here at Central. My work as a consultant is a little different position than that of a more traditional staff person: I am here to listen and guide the various areas of the church in discovering exciting and new ways of looking at their ministries, and supporting them with making these new ideas real. The two areas I've been assigned to work with in 2019 (and 2020) are Mission and developing the New Faith Community - both of which require engagement with the community in order to become successful.

The area of Mission has added some new energy in the form of new Mission Council members who have brought years of experience and talent with them. Central's first ever *Central Serves* Day happened in October with 40 people serving all over Endicott in various capacities. The Thanksgiving Day meal was taken on and implemented successfully as well. This year The Clothing Center Christmas party was renamed and it was decided that the team would seek folks from outside the council to take the lead on this much loved action item. It was very successful. Community engagement has been seen throughout both Mission and Education councils. In September, with the help and support of a number of people throughout Central, we enjoyed the Annual Community Block Party with over 300 people in attendance. In conjunction with that day, over 200 backpacks were compiled and handed out to kids from the surrounding area schools. Also in September was the Clothing Center on the Road at Fairview UMC. While in the past this has represented an important bridge to the community, it was underutilized this year and may not be an ongoing project in the future.

Overall these two areas are growing and have had even more ideas brought forth. There are plans for another *Central Serves* in the future, as well as other discussions for ways to continue to engage with the community around us.

The New Faith Community (or 2.0 as it is called now) has been working hard to create and grow, both in leadership and in capacity (people). A day-long retreat was held in October to determine next steps and set a course toward launching "something". That "something" happened on December 18th with our first worship experience. We are also beginning small groups in January, an essential step in the growth of any faith community. The team is looking forward to a bigger launch with structured and broad publicity and more preparation near Easter time.

Respectfully submitted,
Dee Lowman

Worship

In 2019 the Worship Council continued to coordinate and support those who carry out the church's worship ministries. Baptisms for new adult members and for children was steady. On several Sundays throughout the year Pastor Michelle baptized children and adults, received them into the life of the church, and led the congregation in welcoming persons who came to Central by transfer from other United Methodist churches and other denominations. Increasingly, new people are seen participating in worship, ministries and church programs.

Chancel Choir Director and Music Coordinator Carolyn Stanford and Connie Lamando attended a choral directors' conference in Hanover, PA. The conference gave them a chance to network with counterparts from other churches as well as meet church music writers, composers, and musicians, and receive copies of new music to consider purchasing for the church's choirs.

In addition to Central's vocal choirs, bell choirs, and Living Water Praise band we were blessed throughout the year to have a variety of musicians and vocalists offer music during worship. Cello, violin, bassoon, flute were among them.

Bell Choir Director Denise Johnson arranged for all of the handbells to be refurbished during the summer. Broken parts were repaired or replaced. The bells were

cleaned, polished, and returned to new condition. Pastor Michelle led a dedication in the fall when they were returned to service. The Worship Council appreciates the anonymous donor who paid for the reconditioning.

The organ rebuilding project continued through 2019, beset by a number of unexpected delays caused by back-logs from vendors and work outsourced to specialists. Roughly half of the instrument was playable during the Christmas season. Even here, the improved quality was noticeable. The work will continue in 2020.

While not part of the Worship Council's work, it is good to note here that throughout the year the Binghamton Baroque Orchestra (BBO) presented three public concerts in Central's sanctuary. The Orchestra appreciates the beauty of the venue and the openness and helpfulness of church members and friends in welcoming the musicians to the church. The BBO was also grateful for support from the TV Ministry Team in recording the concerts, editing them, and posting them on the church YouTube Channel.

With the encouragement of Central 2.0 and after research by the TV Ministry Team, Live Streaming of the 11a.m. services began in the spring. Live Streaming allows persons who cannot be present at the services to participate on-line in real time via the Internet. Live Streaming was soon expanded to special services (e.g. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday) and some occasional programs throughout the year. It has been well-received and a helpful addition to the church's witness and outreach. Following conversation, the Worship Council recommended the YouTube-provided count of viewers watching the Live Stream be added to the worship attendance figures used in the church's annual reports.

In keeping with the church's outreach to new people in new ways and providing as many worship opportunities as possible, an 11:30p.m. Christmas Eve service was added. This service was low-key and contemplative; designed to conclude just past midnight—on Christmas Day itself. 27 persons attended, several of whom had not been to a Christmas Eve service in some time. We are grateful to Pastor Michelle and Organist Sean Stafford for suggesting the service and their willingness to provide this important offering.

Tyler Wolford agreed to coordinate scheduling the laity who read Scripture during worship, a responsibility left vacant when Bruce Bishop relocated to Michigan. We appreciate his work and the contributions of the readers throughout the year.

After several years of organizing communion servers and coordinating the presentation of this sacrament, Sandra Felton asked to step down as Communion Steward. Karen Avedisian accepted the role. She and Sandra worked together through several communion services to ensure a smooth transition.

2019 saw the Worship Council and Central's worship life adapt to changing realities and needs. The Worship Council looks forward to leading the congregation through the opportunities 2020 will present to us.

Respectively submitted,
Mark Marino

Education

This past year has been a year of change, transition and looking to the future. We experienced the hiring of two Education Directors, each of whom stayed for a short while but ended up leaving due to health issues. This has had an impact on our program and we are exploring different ways to move forward. Our Education program is in a place where

we have to do some serious thinking about how we best can serve our children's needs and give them the foundation needed to be disciples of Jesus Christ. This will be the main priority in the year ahead. Now that we have a new Director of Education, Laurel O' Connor, we are hoping to think outside the box a bit and try some new strategies for growing our church school again.

Our new Nursery is up and running after many months of revamping, painting and cleaning. The new space is much larger and brighter and the children are loving it. We have had quite a few little ones and are hoping that this will be an avenue of growth in the future.

The church schoolers and Education Council took on the leadership of our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper this past year. The children did a wonderful job of greeting people, serving and cleaning up. Many adults joined in to help and it was a great experience for all.

In the spring, we held a Lenten walk with Jesus during the Palm Sunday church school hour. The children walked with Jesus through the events of Holy Week, and learned of the many things that happened, from the praise of Palm Sunday, to the sorrow on the cross, to the joy of Easter morning.

Joyful Noise, our children's choir, provided us with beautiful music throughout the year. The children enjoyed a trip to the Greek Peak Water Park in the summer to celebrate together.

The past year was also filled with opportunities to reach out to our neighbors and connect with many families. The Block Party and Backpack Programs were very successful. Central came together in an outpouring of love and support as we collected many needed supplies for the backpacks and served over 150 children. The Block Party was a huge success. Over 300 people came out to enjoy the beautiful weather and the many activities provided. We are hoping to continue both of these programs in 2020.

The Halloween Spooktacular was fun for all, and well attended. Many people stepped up to help with our craft activities and by decorating tables and providing candy. The youth center was our pumpkin decorating venue. Creativity was out in full force as we watched the pumpkins transformed into Halloween surprises.

In December, many council members helped with the Birthday Party for Jesus, for clothing center clients. We had some new leadership, which was wonderful, and it was well organized with some new ideas.

Our Adult Church School program continues to do well, with varied learning topics and ways to explore and grow in our faith. We are thankful for the leadership provided by former pastors and lay members who challenge us on our spiritual journeys.

As we look to the year ahead we are reminded that change is essential to growth. Ed. Council will continue to be the supportive, creative agents for this change. We welcome the challenge!

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Hansen

Missions

Missions council has reached many people over the course of 2019. Ministries included sending monetary donations to Church World Service for purchasing of blankets and tools,

backpack collection/block party, and Birthday party for Jesus. New in 2019 was Central serves

which reached out to the local community by taking on projects in various sites in Endicott.

Clothing Center continued reaching out to folks in need.

The Shepherd's Supper has also been a place to come have for a hot meal. In 2019 – 4,131 meals were served, at a cost per meal of \$1.28. Shepherd Supper raised \$1,765 from 2 cents per meal, and \$763 from Harvest Home, thanks to the generosity of the Central Congregation. We are helped each week by food donations from Broome Bounty. Additionally 75 + volunteers worked for a total of 1,963 volunteer hours.

Looking ahead to 2020, plans are in place to connect with the middle school and local skilled nursing facility, Martin Luther King celebration and Monday day of service at our church, Clothing Center and Shepherd's Supper will continue and adding some more outreach programs using the space available at Central.

Respectively submitted,
Maggie Hungerford

Fellowship

In 2019, 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. This year we did a game night and ice cream social, and we are adding another game night in the winter. We sent almost 30 college/military care packages this year. We will be continuing our Dinner with Friends program in 2020, 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 300 cans. We are continuing movie night this year, starting the evening off with appetizers and fellowship time.

We look forward to new fellowship ideas in 2020.

Respectively submitted,
Amber Gaylord

Board of Trustees

The mission of the Board of Trustees is the care, oversight, and supervision of CUMC's property and equipment. This includes, but is not limited to, the church, parsonage, vans, parking lots, equipment, and endowment funds.

In 2019, we continued our annual focus on the care and maintenance of our facilities and equipment, and when appropriate, replacement or remodeling. Items of note that required significant church or trustee resources included:

- Kitchen equipment maintenance: ovens, plumbing, and refrigeration
- Dishwasher: Purchased new dishwasher to replace 30+ year-old dishwasher
- Ramp Renovation: Reduced slope and non-slip tiles
- Lighting Enhancements: Naticoke Entrance and LED lighting where practical, and
- Second floor Education building hallway carpeting
- Administration of the Endowment Fund included the awarding
- \$2,000 scholarships to 5 well-deserving young women and men,
- Shalom funding for 40 Lukens Jackson Camperships, \$6,200

- Shalom Funding for Audio Visual Team upgrades to Fellowship Hall, \$5,000
- Shalom Funding for Van Committee Operating Fund, \$2,500
- Shalom Funding for Bridges Out of Poverty Program, \$3,500, and
- Shalom Funding for new nursery, \$2,500

Entering 2020, we will look to advance several projects adopted in 2019, including replacement of the parsonage patio roof, parsonage front porch painting, renovation of first floor Education building restrooms to make them more ADA compliant, and church security.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Hall

Finance

It was an interesting year for Central's finances. During the year we actually ran negative balances and had to use funds from the Endowment to get through those months. However we finished strong with two very strong giving months in November and December. So we head into 2020 with a positive balance. The hope is that through the consistent generosity of spiritual giving by the Central Congregation we will make it through the year without having to draw from the Endowment.

One concern is, as in years past, we enter 2020 with a gap between our budget and committed giving. This hasn't been a problem in the past due to the faithful giving of all of us we typically finish each year with strong giving months. This spiritual giving allows Central to continue to provide the wonderful programs, ministries and outreach that it's known for.

A reminder that electronic giving options are available- (1) direct deposit from your bank account, to set this up contact the Church office or (2) a credit card option is available through the Central website. <http://www.centralumcendicott.org/index.html> – 'Connect' 'Worship', 'Give'.

Respectively submitted,
Knud Hansen

United Methodist Women

In 2019 our local unit of United Methodist Women joined with approximately 800,000 thousand women around the world to celebrate 150 years of the organization. The vision of United Methodist Women is turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth.

Our local unit has three circles that meet monthly for devotions, various programs, Bible study and fellowship. Throughout the year, the groups work together on fundraisers, mission projects and other activities.

Our Bereavement Committee assisted six families with luncheons following funeral or memorial services.

In February, an Opioid Awareness program, which was open to the community, was held. Penny Stringfield presented the enlightening and well received program.

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. Officers were installed. Greg Wood and Sue & John Obusek were give Mission Recognition pins and a certificate for their service to the church.

“Amazing Women of the Church” and how they fit into today’s life was the topic

of our annual May retreat which was held at Sky Lake. Dr. Barbara Green was the retreat leader. Over forty women attended, nine of them attending for the first time. This year's retreat will be May 20. All women are invited and encouraged to attend.

A project during Lent was collecting items for UMCOR Health Kits. Throughout the year circles collected items for UMCOR Flood Buckets. A \$1000.00 donation was given to UMCOR.

We donated cakes to the Children's Home Ice Cream Social.

Our Bazaar and Luncheon, which is one of our fundraisers, was held in October. Once again, this was a successful event. A big thank you to all that donated yummy baked goods, crafts, quilts, jewelry and food items for the delicious luncheon. We are grateful to several businesses for their donations.

Mike Hatch, Director of Crisis Services for the Mental Health Association of the Southern Tier, was the speaker for our Annual Meeting in November. He informed the group of various services that are available and so needed in our area. Dedication of World Thank Offerings and Election of 2020 Officers took place at this time.

Since there is no longer a Church Women United organization in Endicott, some of our women are attending and enjoying the Binghamton Group. Church Women United is a national ecumenical Christian women's movement celebrating unity in diversity and working for a world of peace and justice group specifically for women and children. They meet four times a year.

Festive tables in Fellowship Hall were set for the Christmas Tea. Our women and guests were entertained by beautiful music presented by Sean Stafford. Those attending enjoyed the delicious variety of desserts. Thanks to the men who poured coffee and tea. The free will offering was \$645.00. We added \$355.00 making a total \$1000.00 which was given to Sky Lake Camperships for Central campers.

We are looking forward to Programs and Activities that are in the planning stages for 2020. Our focus continues to be on issues which impact the lives of women, children and youth.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shirlenn O'Brien

United Methodist Men

The Men's Group meets on the Third Friday of every month. Each meeting follows a similar pattern- a meal and dessert, a devotion by one of the members of the group and a program. This year we've had quite a variety of programs – we've had speakers from Samaritan House, Achieve, and the Islamic Center of the Southern Tier. We've also had presentations by some of the members on their life experiences. In 2020, we hope to perform some service projects and do more outreach minded activities. All men are welcome to the meetings.

Respectfully submitted,
Knud Hansen

Staff-Parish Relations

The SPRC had a busy year this year. After serving Central faithfully for many years both Pat Breneman the Church secretary for 10 years, and Gregg Wood the Custodian for 8+ years, tended their resignations, They both gave us enough time to find suitable replacements. Maureen O'Neill has been the new Church Secretary and Paul

Incitti has been the new Custodian since April.

Additionally, due to the resignation of Amber Brown as Director of Community Outreach/Missions and Education. We had to fill those two positions. Dee Lowman was hired as a consultant to develop Community Outreach/Missions as well as help with launch of Central 2.0. Barb Parcells was hired as Director of Education.

Reconciling

Our year began with the devastating news that the Special General Conference 2019 rather than provide the United Methodist Church with a Way Forward ended up with the Traditional Plan that continued to cause harm with harsher, stricter language and punishments for both our LGBTQIA+ community and ordained clergy that would resist the new discipline and minister to them. Centrists and progressives came together to work to right this wrong. UNYFI (Upper New York 4 Full Inclusion) was formed within the UNYAC. Members of our Reconciling Task Force attended their meetings and shared stories about becoming a reconciling congregation and encouraged those who expressed an interest in becoming reconciling.

On May 5th we joined with the Fellowship Council in celebrating Cinco de Mayo and our 3rd anniversary of being a reconciling congregation. Fellowship organized a cover dish dinner and games while Pastor Michelle gave the group a brief overview of what was happening in the wake of Special General Conference 2019.

June is Pride month and this year marked the 50th anniversary of the uprising at the Stonewall Inn in NYC, the place where PRIDE began. Central once again took on a mission project to support the Identity Center in Binghamton. We collected socks, art supplies, and hygiene items. The response of our church family was overwhelming.

We closed our year in November with our first of three forums on “A Way Forward.” This is our way of keeping the congregation informed about the preparation that is taking place within the UCM for General Conference 2020.

Respectfully submitted,
Bev Cosimano

TV/Video

Mission

The mission of Central’s TV Ministry is to use television and video to share the ministry of the Central United Methodist Church with our congregation and the community.

Goal

In keeping with that mission, Central’s TV Ministry continued to serve our congregation in reaching out to the local community. We broadcast Central’s message via Spectrum Cable and the church’s YouTube Channel. We have served the community by televising concerts and special programs such as the Martin Luther King service, the Binghamton Baroque Orchestra and others.

Broadcast Presence

Viewers can watch Central’s services on:

- Spectrum Cable TV channel 1301— Sundays at 8:00a.m. and Mondays at 5:30p.m.
- Live Streaming on YouTube

- On Demand anytime on Central's YouTube Channel.

During 2019 Central added 30 new YouTube subscribers. Not counting Spectrum Cable, we had 5145 views on YouTube. We are pleased to note that a number of Central's new members have reported that they first became aware of our ministry by watching the Sunday worship services on television or the Internet.

Audio-Video Update Plan

Members of TV Ministry, through the Audio Video Update Team (AVU), have developed improvements to the audio-video resources within Central's building. Specifically, TV Ministry has researched and developed plans to:

- Implement streaming video of worship services
- Establish a signage system to share information via video at the Welcome Center, Church Office hallway, Union St. vestibule, and the Fellowship Hall
- Provide an audio and video link from the sanctuary to the new nursery
- Replace the aged audio/video projection system in the Fellowship Hall.

These plans are in concert with the Central 2.0 initiatives established by the Church Council, aimed at improving our community outreach.

Progress on the Audio-Video Update Plan

- Streaming Server: a streaming video system in the sanctuary has been installed and is in use every week.
- Welcome Center Signage: a large screen video display has been installed in the newly renovated Welcome Center. The software for the signage is cloud based and can be controlled from any web browser. It supports different schedules for the multiple screen displays that will eventually be placed in the building. The Church Office staff has been trained in the use of the software.
- Streaming Video in new Nursery: The new nursery on the second floor is now connected to the sanctuary so the staff there can monitor the progress of the services.
- Fellowship Hall: A plan for replacing the aging and outdated projectors and sound system in the Fellowship Hall has been developed. The plan is funded with support from the Church Council, the Board of Trustees, the Shalom Committee, and the Allocations Committee. The equipment is currently being installed and should be operational in January 2020.

Concerns and Plans for the Future:

- The Video Ministry infrastructure has become more complicated. The TV Ministry team needs additional, trained team members to operate it. We are actively recruiting and training new persons to work with video recording, streaming, sound, and PowerPoint presentations.
- There are on-going costs to be supported.
- One clear example is the new signage applications. The software and hosting of the signage is a subscription service. As more signage displays are added, the cost of the service will increase.
- The maintenance of the sound, video and computer equipment also requires on-going financial support. Much like the van committee, there needs to be a process to fund these expenses routinely over time.

- We believe that video ministry can occur well beyond the broadcasting of our weekly services. We are glad that Central has employed a media consultant who is proficient in social media. We would like to see more use of short videos on focused topics and would be happy to contribute to that effort.

Submitted by:

Carl Muldner

Mark Marino

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild continues to care for the altar area of the sanctuary. The congregation has been generous with their support in supplying flowers each week for the altar. At Easter we offered tulips, daffodils and lilies for the altar remembrances. The usual poinsettias were offered at Christmas. In 2020 we plan to make available a choice of white or red poinsettia plants. Colored paraments are presented during each season of the liturgical calendar and supplemented with other materials to create meaningful altars for worship services.

Membership continues to remain the same, new members and ideas are always welcome.

Respectfully Submitted

Carla Wood

Lay Leader

Much of my time is spent attending Council, Committee and Team meeting to support and learn. I attend Council Mtgs regularly and try to attend committees and teams a couple times a year.

Getting guides at the ramp door to greet and guide newcomers to find their way in the church. Guides are always needed . If you would enjoy meeting people as they enter our sometimes confusing building please let me know. 20-25 minutes before church service. Thanks to all who so willing and lovingly serve.

I was tasked last year to create a team to develop a plan to better track and contact visitors. With great team members there has been a plan put in place working fairly well. A few glitches and so we continue that work. The team is to be commended for their diligence and work.

There is also a team at work to do a better job to minister to existing membership when we have been missing their attendance for some time. Please advise us if you miss someone and perhaps make contact with them.

Finally I work to support our pastor moving are church forward.

Our hands are God's hands. Many hands working together will say God loves and sustains you to those who are searching.

Respectfully submitted,

Libby Shelp

Van

Central UMC continued its Van Ministry in 2019. In addition to the weekly pick-up of individuals for the 11 AM Sunday morning service, the vans continued to be borrowed by several not-for-profit organizations. The vans went approximately 10,000

miles total last year.

Donations were over \$4000 which included a \$2500 donation from the Shalom Fund. Donations allow the van program's cost to not be part of the annual Central UMC budget. Regarding maintenance, 2019 expenses were higher than prior years. Over \$3000 was spent mostly for tires and brake service. Fortunately our donations exceeded our expenses, and \$1500 went into the Van Replacement Fund. We ended the year with almost \$3000 in the Van Operating Fund.

We do not expect to be in the market for a new van for at least the several years. The older of our two vans is a 2008 with relatively low mileage for that age (~115,000). By the time we do look for a replacement van, we should have the necessary funds to do that without financing. We are blessed to have dedicated drivers for Sunday pick-ups.

For 2020, we plan on adding at least one new member to the Van Committee to replace our long time chairperson, Bruce Bishop, who moved. We hope to continue to have more income than expenses, but we do know that there are a few pending repairs required on our vans.

Respectfully submitted,
Van Committee

Lukens Jackson -

The mission of the Lukens-Jackson task force is to annually recruit 40 scholarship campers so they may spend a week at Sky Lake. Recruitment and support is generated through events such as Central Summer Carnival and Luken-Jackson Camping Sunday Service. At each of these events a display of pictures of former campers and activities and descriptions of the camps offered at Sky Lake along with scholarship and registration forms. Matt Williams, director of Sky Lake presents a program for our Sunday School and during our worship service brings a message of God's love through camping.

Funding to support the camperships is generated from mailings, offering envelopes on Camping Sunday and online giving through Centrals website. Furthermore generous gifts of special offerings from UMW and Triple Cities Runners Club and individual contributions through unsolicited donations or bequests.

Registration kick off begins with a pizza party in March here at Central.

Respectfully submitted
Lukens-Jackson Committee

Allocations

2019-2020 Budget Summary:

2018-19 Budget Carryover	\$ 2,958
2019-20 Allocation Budget	\$ 16,000
<i>Total Budget Available</i>	<i>\$ 18,958</i>
Total Expenditures	\$14,504
1/31/20 Balance	\$4,454

The 2019 summary above reflects the budget and the actions of the committee through January 31, 2020. Allocations fiscal year runs from February to end of January each year. 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 20 requests in 2019 to organizations such as: Broome County Council of Churches CHOW campaign, Lukens-Jackson Camper-ships, AV Committee's Fellowship Hall Updates, and Wycliffe Bible Translators.

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,
Maggie Wolford

Organ Status

The final phase of our organ renovation project began in May 2019. After refurbishing the two pipe chambers and replacing the organ blower in the first two phases, the objective of this last phase was to digitize the console and add new ranks of pipes to give us even more sound variety. The console was completely dismantled so that every part of it could be updated. There have been challenges along the way -- more parts required replacing vs. being refurbished, adjustments were needed to get everything to fit properly, and there were delays getting our new pipes from the factory. We were excited to unveil a preview of the organ during our Christmas Eve services, and you may be surprised to learn that glorious sound represented only about 20% of the organ's capabilities. The hard work is done now, and we are planning to dedicate the new organ this spring! Many thanks to the congregation for all the ways you have supported this project.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeff Heald