



**Central United Methodist Church**  
**State of the Church Report**  
**James W. Peterson, Jr., Church Council Chair, 2018**  
**October 18, 2018**

It has been my distinct pleasure to serve as Chair of the Church Council this year. This position has allowed me to see up close the faithfulness and dedication of our pastors, staff, lay leadership, and congregation as Central United Methodist Church has continued to "Follow Jesus, Love God and Love Neighbor."

Our pastoral and church staff continues to be strong and to be a true blessing to our church family. We had some changes and additions to our staff during the year, but we have been very fortunate to continue to have a very strong team. We sadly said goodbye to Rebecca Taylor when left after providing us with ten years of great leadership as our Director of Nurseries. We were fortunate, however, to add Brandie Love to fill that role. Additionally, we were very fortunate to be able to add Dr. Jaime Martinez as our Children's Choir Director when Sandra Howard needed to resign the position after a year of great service. Additionally, Sandy Conner, Director of Membership, and Leigh Ann Shelley, Director of Communications, have lead our church family into its use of new communications software called Realm which has greatly enhanced our abilities to communicate effectively.

Central's long range planning efforts continue with the official appointment of a committee to study and recommend future activities. In the meantime, our Trustees led us as we accomplished the purchase of important property adjacent to our facilities in order to both facilitate future expansion and secure parking in the present. Additionally, the roof repairs for the dome of the sanctuary have been accomplished, and the Trustees are now moving forward with plans for the interior repairs in the sanctuary. All of these efforts, of course, are made possible through the continuing stewardship of our church.

Central remains a remarkable and exciting place of worship and fellowship with constant activities on Sunday and throughout the week. Our pastors provide inspirational messages at our three Sunday morning worship services, and we continue to have strong attendance at all three services. The music ministry of Central is nothing short of amazing, as our choirs continue to be a true gift to our ministry. Throughout the week our halls are full of children and teenagers happily involved in the many activities offered. Their smiles, laughter and energy evidence the continued vitality of Central as a place of worship. Many bible studies are offered for adults, go on throughout the week, and continue to be a great learning and spiritual growth experience for all involved. Our UMYF remains strong with youth participating in great fellowship events and ministries to our community. This past December our Santahatchee Youth Mission event took an historic step as our youth built and provided a new home to a grateful member of the Florence Community.

Central continues to show our love of neighbor through many outreach missions that are too numerous to cover in this report. The committee reports will highlight those good works and our

continued community outreach. On October 14, 2018, Central joined with Cumberland United Methodist Church in sponsoring a tremendously successful Fall Festival and C-Unity event at Timrod Park. It was great to see our two congregations come together at Timrod Park on a beautiful fall afternoon. The smiling faces of the many children, youth and adults as they participated in the fun activities lifted the hearts of all involved.

In summary, it has been an absolute pleasure and a true blessing to be a member of Central United Methodist Church and to have the opportunity to serve under Will's pastoral leadership. 2018 has been an exciting and successful year for Central, and we all look forward to the future with great anticipation.

Faithfully submitted,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James W. Peterson, Jr." followed by "Church Council Chair".

James W. Peterson, Jr.  
Church Council Chair