



Central
Christian
Church

Banner



CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF MINISTRY IN MID-TOWN MEMPHIS

www.cccmemphistn.org



A Note from Pastor Bill Russell January 2013

A HUGE THANK YOU to all who did so much to make the Advent season so beautiful, so meaningful, and so worshipful. Several years ago, another denomination had the slogan, "Catch the Spirit". Well, I think that we all caught it, and it was contagious, and we spread it around, and please don't anyone take an antibiotic to cure it. We want to carry that contagious enthusiasm into the New Year, and into the world, and spread the spirit that is so alive and well at Central, for that living Spirit is the Spirit of God. On a personal note, a very deep "Thanks" for all of the nice things which you did for Anne and me over the holidays. We are very blest to be part of you.

Now, it is time to set our sights on 2013, as we celebrate 90 years of ministry in Mid-Town. Aside from being a great time for remembering the past, I am looking forward to our celebration being an effective tool for evangelism and looking ahead into the future. My New Year's wish for all of you is that you will stay well, stay safe, and stay in His will. I am eagerly looking forward to see what God has in His plan for Central, for me, and for each of you. Will you join hands with me and let's look forward, let's listen, and let's work, together? Happy New Year.

News from the Pews

Advent was such a glorious season as we 'prepared the way'. Mark Rutledge did yeoman work getting the Advent liturgy for each Sunday, as well as arranging for two wonderful soloists. Floyd Scarberry created and built the beautiful Advent wreath with candles which added so much to our outdoor decorations and elicited numerous compliments from our neighbors. Too many folks to name helped make the sanctuary, the Narthex, and the Fellowship Hall so gorgeous and so conducive to worship. The Wednesday evening meals were particularly wonderful, and, again, to all of the folks who prepared and served those meals, thank you. And the crowning highlight was having so many visitors on the 23rd. Four infants in the service was a huge delight, and we rejoiced with all of those who had family join them for Advent and Christmas worship. The smiles that having your family with you in church are special smiles indeed. To all who helped make the season so bright, many, many thanks.

Spotlight on Giving

Kathy Young presented this meaningful offertory recently: In the 1980's, there was a member of Graceland Christian Church who had a daughter who was a resident of the Baddour Center, with which many of you are familiar. Sometimes the daughter would come home for the weekend, and whenever she did, her mother would bring her to church. She loved church and was so excited and happy to be there, that every few minutes during the worship service, she would shout the word "Church!"

And it had the strangest effect: the prayers would be deeper and stronger, the communion would become more meaningful, the songs would be sung louder and more cheerfully. It was as though her shouts made it all right for everyone else to enjoy church just a little bit more. Instead of being a disruption, it was an inspiration.

Some people think the part of the worship we call the service of the offering is a disruption. I have been in churches where it was treated as a disruption, done in silence with a light aura of distaste. But the offering is just as much a part of the worship service as anything else. It is worship. Just as the wise men brought gifts to the newborn Savior, we bring gifts to the resurrected Lord.

IF YOU WANT TO RECEIVE THE BANNER BY E-MAIL CONTACT GEORGE GOOD-NIGHT AT 901-497-4385 or by e-mail at: wesalsdadd@hotmail.com.

All contributions for The Banner must be with the Church Secretary by the last Wednesday of the Month

Our visitors in December

Earlier in the month Ann Forbis and Lana Gregg attended our Sunday service and on the last Sunday before Christmas we also welcomed Lawrence and Delores Mora, Ray Salazar and Bradford, Lyndi and Braelyn Lott. As always, we are so grateful for, and blessed by our visitors, and hope they will come and see us often.

Membership

Quay Butts and Pat Hammond, Membership Chairmen, are making plans for the Fellowship Time after Church Service for the 1st quarter of 2013.

Please volunteer to host a Sunday and sign up on the calendar placed in the Fellowship Hall. Share cake, cookies, donuts, or whatever you would like to bring.

January 6th The Feast Day of Epiphany

Epiphany, on January 6th, is celebrated on the day following the twelve days of Christmas. While, in the U.S., the tree and other decoration are usually put up just after Thanksgiving and taken down on December 26th, in most countries of Europe the decorations stay up for the full twelve days.

The Feast Day of Epiphany recognizes the coming of the Wise Men from the East who followed the Bethlehem Star to bring the baby Jesus, gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. Little is known of these Wise Men. Were there three of them? The Gospels don't say how many. In legend, they have been named as the Magi of Bethlehem, Balthazar of Arabia, Melchior of Persia and Gaspar of India. In addition they have been upgraded to Kings!

They are last heard of in the Gospels returning to the East by a different route so as to avoid being questioned by Herod as to the whereabouts of Jesus.



BUILDING FROM THE BOARD

Message from our incoming Chairman

Highlights from the December 19, 2012 Meeting are as follows:

	November	Year-to-Date
Total Income:	\$4,591	\$86,154
Total Expense:	\$9,281	\$90,644
Net Income/Expense:	(\$4,690)	(\$ 4,490)

The following slate of church officers was approved by the Board and will be presented to the Congregation for vote on December 30. The Junior Deacon Office will require an Amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws to change the age requirement from 15 to 14, and will be presented to the Congregation for vote on January 6.

Trustees:	No change
Elders:	No change
Deacons:	Shula Shaw, Denise Price and John Rainey
Junior Deacon:	Clay Artman (pending approval of amendment to Constitution)

The Board approved use of the Sanctuary by the American Old Catholics for Christmas Eve Service as a place to worship and give thanks to our Lord.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Johnson, Board Secretary

2013 is a Banner year for Central as we celebrate our 90th Year in Ministry in Midtown. We will be planning exciting events and ministries this year and invite every member to be part of Central's renewed sense of mission. We are seeking your participation as we share the Good News of Jesus from the corner of Peabody and McLean to the world. Please offer your talents to our Ministry Team leaders in the areas of Membership, Buildings & Grounds, Outreach, Evangelism and Christian Education.

I have asked the following to serve in these capacities:

Church Board:

Chairman of the Board: Debra Goodnight
Financial Secretary: Richard Brown
Treasurer: Mark Rutledge
Secretary: Linda Johnson

Ministry Team Leaders:

Buildings & Grounds: Mark Rutledge
Christian Education: Kathy Young (Adults) & Terry Harris (Youth)
Evangelism: John & Connie Bennett / Katrinka & Dennis Hall
Membership:
Calling and Activities coordinators: Carol & Floyd Scarberry
Fellowship Time coordinators: Pat Hammond & Quay Butts
Wednesday Night Dinner coordinators: Linda Johnson & Daphne Brown
Outreach: Micki & Rob Artman / Mary Artman
Chairman of the Elders: John Johnson
Chairman of the Deaconate: Wesley Goodnight
Wedding Coordinators: John & Connie Bennett
Banner Editor: John Bennett / George Goodnight
90th Anniversary Celebration Coordinator: Mark Rutledge
Chairman of Thanksgiving Baskets: Linda Johnson

Debra Goodnight
Chairman

Other News!

You may be aware that Nanda Nordemeer spent Christmas in her homeland The Netherlands and will be there for some weeks. Before she left she requested the following be inserted in the Banner.

“ I am famous for not sending out cards, but I would like you to know you are all close to my heart. E-mail is a great tool for me. To each of you, Merry Christmas and a Prosperous, Healthy 2013.” Nanda.

On Christmas Eve our church was host to the American Old Catholics Carol Service and Mass. Connie and John Bennett were asked to join the service as Deacons while Mark Rutledge assisted with the sound system. The singing was accompanied by musicians on guitar and flute. It was a very joyous and moving service.

Decorating the Church for Christmas



On December 1st members of the Church got together to decorate the Fellowship Hall. Mark Rutledge, with help from John Rainey, decorated the Church while the "Advent Candles" outside were made by Floyd Scarberry. I'm sure everyone should be proud of the end result.

Message from Linda Johnson and Carol Scarberry, Service Directors Disciples Women's Mission.

On Behalf of the D.W.M. we want to thank everyone for helping us on each service project this past year. Everyone's generous heart really helps our community.

Our January and February project is going to be cold and health Care needs for Compassion clinic. Items needed are Band-Aids, Tylenol and other cold and flu medicines for Children, Cough Syrup, cough drops Kleenex, and Chap Sticks. Any other cold and flu items for Children would also be appreciated.



Debra Goodnight presenting a D.W.M. program

Buildings and Grounds



The cold, wintery December weather has not stopped needed work around the church. In the last month the Sanctuary lights have been re-socketed, the “purple” room on the second floor of Walker Hall has been scrapped down and a fresh coat of paint applied (thanks to John Rainey), and the Deacons of the church (Wesley Goodnight, Marcus Mitchell, and John Bennett) have removed the rust from the Chapel Garden railing and have applied the first coat of paint.

Recent rains have shown us that the roof above the library is in need of repair. Hopefully the cost of repairs will be within our budget.

Mark Rutledge
Chairman



A picture of the emblem, outside the Church, covered with snow showing a dramatic black and white effect. It is a color photo!

New Year's Reflection by Dr. Sharon Watkins, General Minister & President Disciples of Christ

The following are extracts from a New Years letter written by Dr. Sharon Watkins.

There is a growing conviction that now is the time to move forward to embrace a renewed sense of mission outside church walls.

In this new season of mission and new life, a realistic look at who we are helps us organize to fulfill a mission appropriate to our size and resources. It's also a call to each congregation to actively seek God's transforming power to be and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ right where we are.

Now is the time to reset ourselves for mission- grateful for who we are and who we have been - so that this movement for wholeness can move. As we go, our memories go with us. They can serve as fuel - evidence of a time when we were protected against the storm - or they can slow us down - points of reference that cause us to look backward when we need to orient ourselves to the future where God is calling us now.

As we enter this new season, made strong by where we have been, grateful that God still calls us forward, may we lean on God's presence for inspiration and strength. Lord, teach us to pray as you call us forward into mission again.

Christmas 2012 in Pictures



Shirley Gray with a Christmas Potted Plant



Robin Wilcox who sang at an Advent Service



Amanda McGee, another amazing singer

Congratulations to Rachel Greer



The Commercial Appeal Newspaper have published a list of the twelve people who, in their view, have made the biggest contribution in the past year, of their time and energy, to make the City of Memphis a better place. We are so pleased to see our own Rachel Greer is among those honored, for her work with Rachel's Kids, an organization so close to our hearts. The citation is as follows:

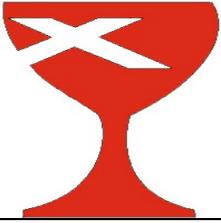
Accomplishment: Rachel Coats, co-owner of Rachel's Flowers and Gifts, and her longtime boyfriend, Harry Greer, combined forces in the late 1990s to help children in the Binghamton neighborhood. They started a non-profit group, Rachel's Kids, which organized camping trips, church camps, trips to Grizzlies and Memphis Tigers basketball games and the circus. They helped organize tutoring, bought school uniforms, food and Christmas presents. Rachel and Harry married before his death on the day after Christmas last year. Together they had begun a reindeer project last year, helping children learn to make reindeer of logs, twigs and sticks with bows and ornaments which the children sold through the flower shop with 100 percent of proceeds going to the children. The idea took hold this year with major orders and total sales of more than 500 large and small reindeer.

Background: Rachel already had won a Jefferson Award for tireless work on behalf of children in the Binghamton area. Her enthusiasm has attracted dozens of volunteers, churches and contributors to Rachel's Kids.

Quote: "The kids had joy in creating each one of these reindeer, and the adults who bought them each experienced the joy of Christmas in their own way. The project has produced so much joy and goodwill. The spirit of Harry Greer is definitely living on."

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This Month At Central

<p>Sunday, January 6th Regular Sunday Schedule</p> <p>Wednesday, January 9th 6:30 p.m. Dinner 7:00 p.m. Book Study</p>	<p>Serving, January 6th</p> <p>Worship Leader John Johnson</p> <p>Loaf Kathy Young Cup George goodnight</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Diary Reminders</u> <u>January Birthdays</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Marcus Mitchell 3th Brad Lott 4th Terry Harris 19th</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;"> <p><i>Happy Birthday!</i></p> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Epiphany January 6th</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Martin Luther King Jr. Day January 17th</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Clothes Closet January 26th 8:30am to noon</p> <p style="text-align: center;">On February 3rd the men of the church will be hosting a Souper Bowl Sunday</p>
<p>Sunday, January 13th Regular Sunday Schedule</p> <p>Wednesday, January 16th 6:30 p.m. Dinner 7:00 p.m. Book Study</p> <p>Thursday, January 17th 6:30 Elders and Deacons Meeting 7:00 Board Meeting</p>	<p>Serving, January 13th</p> <p>Worship Leader John Bennett</p> <p>Loaf Richard Brown Cup Mark Rutledge</p>	
<p>Sunday, January 20th Regular Sunday Schedule</p> <p>Wednesday, January 16th 6:30 p.m. Dinner 7:00 p.m. Book Study</p>	<p>Serving, January 20th</p> <p>Worship Leader Katrinka Hall</p> <p>Loaf Carol Scarberry Cup Richard Brown</p>	
<p>Sunday, January 27th Regular Sunday Schedule</p> <p>Wednesday, January 30th 6:30 p.m. Dinner 7:00 p.m. Book Study</p>	<p>Serving, January 27th</p> <p>Worship Leader Richard Brown</p> <p>Loaf Debra goodnight Cup Mark Rutledge</p>	