

Central Christian Church **Banner**



CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF MINISTRY IN MID-TOWN MEMPHIS

www.cccmemphistn.org

July 2013

A Note from Pastor Bill Russell

As we gear up to celebrate the Fourth of July, I am reminded of a book someone gave me, "You're Born an Original (don't die a copy)", by John Mason.

July 4th celebrates our independence from England. We are no longer under the rule of anyone. John Mason speaks of the freedom that Christ has given to each of us who calls him Lord. We do not have to copy anyone; we do not have to conform to any worldly standards. God gave us our own DNA, our very own, and He intends for us to use it to be what He needs us to be. Because of the love of God, through His Son, we are free to be vessels, conduits, carriers, choose your own word, all in service to God.

I join with each of you in celebrating the independence of America; I ask that you join with me in availing ourselves to the freedoms that we are given, along with the talents, to be God's people. He has a job for each of us. Let Freedom Ring...in many, many ways!

Food Drive

During June we were asked, by our Outreach Committee, to donate food in the form of non-perishable goods, particularly cereals, for our friends at Grace Saint Luke.

Your response has been amazing but a particular expression of thanks must go to the groups who use our Church facilities on a regular basis. They have made a superb effort to collect food on our behalf.

Our own Outreach Committee, and Grace Saint Luke's, thanks you all.



Just some of the food and other household goods donated.

Spotlight on Giving

John Rainey presented this prayer during his recent offertory message after he spoke of the recent Summer Sale and thanked God for our success.

“Help us to open our minds to the possibilities, open our hearts to true compassion and open our doors so that we might share love with those who have felt far off from it or forgotten.”

Church Notice Board

INVITATION

You are cordially invited to join Central for Worship and a Reception in the Fellowship Hall afterwards as we honor Pastor Bill Russell on Sunday, July 14, upon his first year anniversary as our Minister.

ANNOUNCEMENT

A Semi-Annual Congregational meeting will be held after Worship on Sunday, July 21 as required by the Constitution and By-Laws. This meeting is for the purpose of providing an update to the Membership on church programs and business items.

Grilling & Chilling Event—July 24

Make plans to join the church for a Hot Dogs / Hamburger / Ice Cream dinner at 6:30 on Wednesday, July 24. Our famous ‘Grill Guys’, Richard Brown and George Goodnight, will host the church for a great dinner and a musical program will follow. You will not want to miss this special dinner and program!

**IF YOU WANT TO RECEIVE
THE BANNER BY E-MAIL
CONTACT**

GEORGE GOODNIGHT AT

901-497-4385

or by e-mail at:

wesalsdadd@hotmail.com.

All contributions for The Banner must be with the Editor and Church Secretary, John

Our Visitors

We are always blessed, as a congregation, when we have visitors and in June we welcomed, among others Rick Edmonson, Thomas Hayes Terry and Patricia Watson. Many thanks to all our visitors and we sincerely hope that you will come and worship with us again.

A Note from our Music Director

You know how they say you can't teach an old dog new tricks, well, I don't believe that for a minute! To prove "them" wrong, we are going to learn a new hymn during the month of July. Our task is hymn #393-- "One Bread, One Body". Take a look at it and be listening during the service. You might just be humming a new tune before you know it.

Another innovation will be a “Hymns Only” service, on July 21st,. This service will include all the usual elements of the service except that wherever possible music will be used as prayer, praise and to convey the message.

Harmoniously yours,
Amy Lindeman

Summer Sale

The Annual Rummage Sale was a great success and went off without a hitch thanks to a lot of hard work from so many folks. The first day made about \$3,000 and with the profit from the ½ price a total of over \$4000 will be raised. The remainder of the clothes will be saved for our Monthly Free Clothes Closet and the other items will be given to HER FAITH MINISTRIES, a non-profit organization that the Disciple Women support. The profit from the Sale is shared with Central in the form of a Tithe and the rest allows the Disciple Women to support many worthy organizations throughout the year. Thank you to every person who donated items and helped us prepare for the sale. It was a wonderful day for Central and the many shoppers!



Linda Johnson ran the food "Concession"



You can almost hear Mark Rutledge, as Old Joe, saying "and not a halfpenny more"!



BUILDING FROM THE BOARD

Highlights from the June 20, 2013 General Board Meeting include the following:

	<u>April</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Total Income:	\$ 7,498	\$42,686
Total Expenses:	\$ 8,454	\$53,896
Net Income/Expenses:	(\$ 956)	(\$11,211))

Richard Brown reported that pledged offerings are down, and we were asked to bring our pledges up to date, if possible.

The Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting will be held immediately following Sunday Services on July 28, 2013. Pastor Bill Russell will celebrate his First Year Anniversary July 14, 2013, and the DWM will host a special reception in his honor.

At the request of Pastor Bill Russell, a “Hymn of the Month” program will be held for the congregation to learn a new song during the months of July, August and September, and on Sunday, July 21, 2013, Pastor Bill Russell will lead us in a “Hymn Sing” Service and we will worship in song.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Johnson, Board Secretary

Disciples Mission House Project

We are honored to have been invited to take part in a new initiative, from the National Office of the Disciples Church, entitled Disciples Mission House Project. Memphis was chosen as one of the cities in which it was felt would be suitable to start this project, and our Church was invited due to the involvement of Patti Case as one of the organizers. You may recall she wrote the initial report on our Church for the New Beginnings Program last year and was therefor acquainted with our facilities.

An initial meeting was hosted by us on May 28th and was attended by the scheme organizers and representatives from Lindenwood and Mississippi Boulevard, together with five members of our Church.

The scheme, still in the planning stages, is a proposal to launch up to five congregationally based sites in the Fall of 2014, designed, in their words, “To help Disciples Young Adults (21—30) explore mission/vocation in the context of intentional community, volunteer service and spiritual discernment.”

Essentially a group of local Disciples Church will join to provide accommodation, spiritual guidance, mentoring support and other facilities for up to 4 young people for about a year, while they work in a charity or other similar non-profit organization. Some financial sponsorship will also be needed.

This is a very exciting initiative and we have expressed our willingness to continue to be a part of the project probably contributing at least meeting space, invitations to our Family Dinners, mentoring and spiritual guidance.

The Board will keep you informed as to further developments.

Spotlight on John Bennett

Each month I am trying to include an article about one of our congregation. In the absence of any other contribution, and in the hope of encouraging others , I am turning the spotlight on myself!

I was raised in Lewes a small market town in the County of East Sussex in England. Lewes was home to Thomas Paine, author of Common Sense (1776), the all-time best-selling American book that advocated colonial America's independence from the Kingdom of Great Britain. I was brought up in a Catholic family, the seventh of eight children, two boys and six girls. This accounts for my inferiority complex! My mother, Elizabeth, known to all as Nancy, was an author of religious and historical novels and died only a few years ago at 96. My father was also gifted being an accountant who came first in the country in his taxation exams.

I recall the austerity of 1950's England , the ration books and clothing coupons despite my parents being well off. In addition to the accounting practice my father also owned a newspaper and an interest in a glass making business. We had the first TV in town and I remember family and friends gathering around the flickering cathode ray tube to watch the Coronation in 1953. I went to Catholic boarding schools until the fifth grade when the family had a financial crash and we had to move out of our 36 room house in Lewes into a three bedroom house in Brighton and I completed my education in the state system.

I was not a good student, always being placed at the bottom of the class but must have pulled myself together as I received the equivalent of a high school diploma, issued by Oxford University, which refers to passes being achieved in English, English literature, history, mathematics and, believe it or not, religious knowledge. At that point I decided against going to University but took the entrance exams toward taking articles in my father's accounting practice. This led me to a career in Corporate Recovery initially with the British Government's Insolvency Service and later in private practice. By the 2001 I was the senior partner of one of the largest London firms dealing with distressed businesses. I was also divorced but had two lovely children. (continued inside back page)



The town of Lewes in England with the Castle in the foreground. I lived just to the right of the picture

Spotlight on John Bennett continued

In September 2001 I met Connie. She was stranded in London following the attack on the World Trade Center and she, with three other American tourists, was staying in a small London hotel. My new apartment was being redecorated so I was in the same hotel. At that time my hobby was producing London fringe theater (off Broadway to you), so I invited this group of refugees to come along to that night's production "Burn This". Connie I went out together the following evening and the rest, as they say, is history. We were married in Mountain View Arkansas in July 2002, this month being our 11th anniversary, and Connie and I made plans for her to move to England. Life was going quite nicely thank you. Give God a laugh and tell him your plans for the future.

In August 2002 my financial world collapsed and, at about the same time, Connie's mother's health deteriorated so that she was unable to look after herself. I therefore came to live in the U.S.A. and started a new life. I got work with PotteryBarn, later with the sister company Williams Sonoma, and have been there ever since mainly in sales though, more recently as a knife specialist, teaching use and safety of kitchen knives.

In 2007, I think it was, Connie and I came to this Church, on the Central Gardens Tour, where we were welcomed by Mark Rutledge and Debra Goodnight. Despite that we came back! We both feel that we have found our spiritual home and I am so grateful for the support of our Church family to this stranger on a foreign shore.



My father, on the left, in the formal dress of Mayor of Lewes reviewing the troops of the Sussex Regiment in 1953



Our wedding, 11 years ago this month, in Mountain View Arkansas. From left to right, my son James, now an engineer, my daughter Tamsin, just got her Masters in electrical engineering, yours truly, Connie and Connie's son Michael, now MPD.

Next month the Spotlight will focus on Bill Pennington

Independence Day Celebration at Snow Lake

Many of our Church family together with friends and family of Floyd and Carol Scarberry, had a party at the Scarberrys' lake house by the beautiful Snow Lake in Mississippi. We were treated to a BBQ feast together with many "adult" beverages but the high point of the evening was the show put on by the Lake Residents Association. There was a band playing on the lakeside, a parade of decorated boats and last of all a grand fire-works display that some of us were lucky enough to see from the deck of Floyd's boat. A truly memorable evening and we are blessed by having friends like the Scarberry's who are so willing to share. Thank you from all of us.



Family Dinners

Instead of beginning the Wednesday Night Family Dinner Summer recess in June, we held "work parties" to prepare for the Summer Sale. Delightful meals were hosted and served to the workers by the Goodnights, Scarberrys, Johnsons and the Artmans. The Wednesday Night Work Crew contributed over 150 hours of the 300 plus hours necessary to host a record-breaking sale in record breaking time. As Debra Goodnight, Board Chair and Summer Sale Organizer, says, "It takes a village. . ." We are so thankful to be of the village."

Grilling Chilling Event –Wednesday, July 24, 2013
Make plans to join the church for a grilled dinner and /Ice Cream dessert at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, July 24, 2013. Our famous "Grill Guys," Richard Brown and George Goodnight will host a great dinner and there will also be a musical program arranged by Bill Russell and Amy Lindeman. You will not want to miss this special event!

Attention!!! Recipes Needed

The DWM will publish a Cook Book this fall to commemorate Central's "90 Years of Ministry in Midtown." Please submit typed copies of your favorite recipes to Linda Johnson, by email to jwindawoo@aol.com or mail to Linda Johnson, c/o Central Christian Church, 531 S. McLean Blvd., Memphis, TN 38104. Be sure to include your name when submitting recipes. For more information, please contact Linda Johnson at 901-754-2494 or John Bennett, Administrator, at the Church on (901) 276-2708.

Central Christian Church Celebrating 90 Years of Ministry in Midtown Memphis

531 S. McLean at Peabody,
Memphis, TN 38104-5102
Address Service Requested



Office: 901-276-2708
www.cccmemphistn.org
centralchristian@cccmemphistn.org

This Month at Central

Wednesday 3rd, no dinner or program

Sunday 7th
10:15am Bible Class
10:30am Coffee in the Narthex
10:45am Worship Service
12:00 noon Fellowship

Worship leader: John Johnson
Cup: Mark Rutledge
Loaf: Carol Scarberry

Wednesday 10th, no dinner or program

Sunday 14th
10:15am Bible Class
10:30am Coffee in the Narthex
10:45am Worship Service
12:00 noon Fellowship and Reception in honor of
Bill Russell's first year as our Minister

Worship leader: Mark Rutledge
Cup: Debra Goodnight
Loaf: George Goodnight

Wednesday 17th, no dinner or program

Thursday 18th
6:30 Elders and Deacons Meeting
7:00 Board Meeting

Worship leader: Katrinka Hall
Cup: John Johnson
Loaf: Kathy Young

Sunday 21st
10:15am Bible Class
10:30am Coffee in the Narthex
10:45am "Hymns Only" Worship Service
12:00 noon Fellowship

Wednesday 24th, Grilling Chilling Event

Richard Brown and George Goodnight

Sunday 28th
10:15am Bible Class
10:30am Coffee in the Narthex
10:45am Worship Service
12:00 noon Fellowship

Worship leader: Richard Brown
Cup: Daphne Brown
Loaf: Mark Rutledge

Wednesday 31st, no dinner or program

July Diary Reminders

4th
Independence Day
15th
National Ice Cream Day
28th
Parents' Day

Birthdays this Month

4th
Mark Rutledge
Georges Smith

8th
Betty Conner

16th
Helen Marshall

20th
Shula Shaw-Cangelosi

23rd
Shirley Grey

24th
Rachel Greer