

Central Christian Church **Banner**



CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF MINISTRY IN MID-TOWN MEMPHIS

www.ccememphistn.org

March 2014

A Note from Pastor Bill Russell

As we flip the calendar over, we move from the final Sunday of The Epiphany to Ash Wednesday, and then the first Sunday of Lent. It's happened this way for centuries; it will continue until Christ returns. So how can we make it special? How can we make it more meaningful? The first step is to decide that we want it to be a growing experience for us spiritually. The second step, for me, is NOT giving up something. That is negative. No, the second step is to DO something, anything, out of the ordinary. That is positive. Push yourself out of your comfort zone. Find a new way to serve God. Read your Bible a little more diligently. Pray for things, and people, that you don't routinely pray for...and have the faith to believe that those prayers are answered. Write a note, make a call, let someone know that YOU care about them. Memorize the first 10 verses of Psalm 51 and let that become your mantra for Lent. And then, let God create in you what He wants you to be. You hold my hand, and I'll hold yours, as we make this journey together to the cross, to the tomb, and to the glory and joy of Easter morning. Bill

Backpack Program



We started this year with a proposal for a backpack program for the homeless and already we have collected money and items to bring this project to a reality. This is thanks to our outreach committee who avidly took on the project, and particularly due to the enthusiasm of Micki Artman and Debra Goodnight. On the left is a picture of Micki with a display of some of the items to go into the packs.

The items needed include toiletries, clothing such as gloves socks and scarfs, together with snack food items, blanket and band aids

The packs will be kept at the Church and will be available for any Church member to take to a homeless person. Please bring your donations or items and place them in the backpack at the Church.. A list of items needed is included on page 3. As this list is updated it will be on the display in the Fellowship Hall and also available in the Church Office.

Spotlight on Giving

On Sunday February 23rd Shula Shaw-Cangelosi shared, in both speech and sign language, this, very moving, Offertory thought:

“When I moved to Memphis I lived in an apartment next door to an older lady named Leah. She lived alone and had been deaf since the age of 3. She was only able to communicate through sign language, but she had retired as a bookkeeper for a major retail company here. What the world saw as problems, she saw with wonder and awe. She always said, "God has been so good to me!

She lived on a limited income, and sometimes had trouble making ends meet, but she always figured her tithes first. Once when I was helping her with her budget for the month, I said, "I don't know how you will get your medicine if you tithe this month." She was appalled. She said, "No, I have to give to my church! I will just get one medicine." Of course, I was very opposed to the idea of her not taking her meds and told her that I would pay the tithe. She said, "No, I have to do it. God is watching me!" So I paid for the medicine, and she was okay with that. She didn't care what the pharmacy thought, but she cared what God thought!

Everyone always told me what a blessing I was to Leah, but she was the blessing to me. I didn't teach her anything; she taught me everything!”

Editor's Note

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

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wesalsdadd@hotmail.com.

All contributions for The Banner must be with the Editor and Church Secretary, John Bennett, by the last Wednesday of the Month.

DWM Easter Project

As a continuing ministry the DWM will once again partner with Church Women United to provide Easter clothing for children. We will be collecting new socks and underclothing for children and “gently” used girls dresses and boys church clothes. Collection for these items will be throughout the month of March. If you would prefer to make a monetary donation we will happily shop for you.

Carol and Micki Artman

DWM Service Committee

2014 Regional Assembly

Disciples Connect is the theme of the 2014 Regional Assembly. And during the Assembly Tennessee Disciples will be connecting. We will worship together, we will learn together, we will connect with one another, we will hear uplifting preaching. Plan to attend the Regional Assembly now.

October 3rd & 4th 2014

First Christian Church, Chattanooga



Building from the Board

Our Board Meeting was held on February 20th and after opening the meeting with prayer the John Bennett, Board Chairman, read a letter announcing the resignation of Glen Stewart, Regional Minister, at the end of 2014. It was noted that we, as a Church, were grateful for all he has done for us and the board expressed regret that he was leaving office. (the full text of the letter is reproduced on the next page)

Bill Russell reported that while he was away on holiday during March/April he had arranged pulpit and bible study coverage during his absence. (see service schedule on back page). He also announced that the Ash Wednesday Services will be a combined service between Central Christian Church, Kingsway Christian Church and the St. Francis Old Catholics The Service will begin at 7:15 and that they will be Central's guests for dinner.

Richard Brown presented the following information for the Month of January:

Income	\$10,113
Expenses	\$ 9,207
Net Income/Expense	\$ 1,908

Various committee reports were given and on behalf of the DWM Linda Johnson informed the board that they had approved the expenses to provide a meal for about 25 homeless individuals, at Caritas Village, as part of the Reverend Mark Matheney's program. The DWM also agreed to pay up to \$500 toward the Church kitchen make over.

The Outreach Committee introduced the "Backpack Ministry 2014," to supply 10 backpacks filled with miscellaneous food items, toiletry and clothing items. Backpacks will be maintained in the Administrative Office and to be handed out on an as needed basis to members of the community needing support. This is a pilot program and will be evaluated by the Outreach Committee in a few months to determine the continuation.

There was discussion about facility usage and it was stressed that all facility booking must go through the Events Coordinator.

The Board presented Pastor Bill Russell a gift as a token of love and appreciation for his services.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM and John Bennett closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda L. Johnson, Board Secretary

Compassion Neighborhood Clinic Fund Raiser

The Compassion Neighborhood Clinic will host a fund raiser on Tuesday, April 1, 2013, at Bangkok Alley Restaurant on Brookhaven Circle in East Memphis and Central is invited to attend. The CNC led by John & Judy Lang helps make life better for individuals in need in our community. Come and meet people who are having a positive impact in our community, sample some wonderful food and find some great bargains while helping support the Compassion Neighborhood Clinic.

Resignation of Glen Stewart, Regional Minister and President

I am sure we are all sad to hear of the resignation, as at December 31st 2014, of a great friend of our Church, Glen Stewart. Glen was guest minister, and speaker, at our 90th Celebration in April. We will all miss him greatly. Here is the text of his letter:

February 18, 2014

Dear Moderator Pat Bishop and Regional Executive Committee;

After much prayer and thought, I hereby resign my position as Regional Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Tennessee effective on December 31, 2014. I am offering this resignation, with ample time before the effective date, so the Moderator Bishop can have time to call together a committee and a search can start for an interim regional minister.

I am grateful for this time of service to the Disciples of Tennessee. I am grateful to God and to the Board of the Region for the past twenty years of service. Together, with God, we have achieved many great things.

I have made many friends here in Tennessee, all of whom are precious to me. While they will remain my friends, after December 31, 2014 the Region will have a new Regional Minister. I will be supportive of the new Regional Minister in any way I can.

While I resign now, I make two requests: First, I request to keep the computer at my desk. It is over five years old and is, or will soon be, obsolete. I imagine a new Regional Minister will want a new computer at the desk. Secondly, for all of my years here I have found great pleasure fishing at Bethany Hills. I request permission to fish at Bethany Hills at appropriate times as long as I live in the vicinity. Thank you for considering these two requests.

With fond memories of these past years I will always remain grateful for the time of service we have given to God.

Sincerely,

Glen J. Stewart

Regional Minister and President.



Glen Stewart

God Answers Prayers!

A few weeks ago we were wondering where our next Summer Sale items would come from. One of my clients moved and the family needed the apartment emptied. What we thought would be a simple one truck job turned into three hours, 2 trucks, a trailer and two S.U.V.s.

Randy Pennington, Richard and Daphne Brown, Mark Rutledge, John Rainey and Floyd and I could not believe all the wonderful items we received. Thanks to each person that gave of their time and worked so hard to get these items back to the Church.

Carol Scarberry.

A Broadside of Cannons

Kim Cannon, a former member of Central, resides at the Baddour Center, in Senatobia, MO. She has many friends there, a job and is very active. Her most recent big honor was to be selected as first alternate on the Homecoming Court. She is the 5th lady from the left, doesn't she look beautiful. Kim is the daughter of Karen and Bob Cannon

You may also have seen the newspaper article about Bob Cannon's self appointed ministry. Every Valentine's Day he delivers balloons, cards and candy to recently bereaved widows in the area. Karen says "The candy isn't the gift they love the most. It's Bob's visits. He has all the time in the world. He sits and talks to them about their lives and their late husbands. He wants them to feel like their husbands are there with them". The picture is of Bob making a delivery.



Backpack Program 2014

Approximately 10 backpacks will be created to keep on hand at Central to be distributed as the need arises to people in our community that may need a little help. Backpacks will be made for both men and women. We ask that if you'd like to make a donation, we need sweat shirts, scarves, hats, gloves and socks. As the seasons change the clothing needs will change. We also need large used backpacks.

Enclosed in each backpack will be:

Toiletries

Toothpaste/Toothbrush Deodorant Soap/Washcloth Shampoo/Conditioner Lotion
Wipes/ Comb/ Band aids
Toilet Paper/ Pant liners
Hand Sanitizer / Ziploc Bag Kleenex

Snacks

Applesauce, Chicken Salad, Peanut Butter, Tuna
Gum Cookies
Peanut Butter/Crackers Peanuts

Clothing etc.

Emergency Blanket , Sweatshirt, Tee Shirt, Hat,
Gloves, Scarf & Socks
Water / Can Opener / sewing kit
Copy of our Community Booklet listing clothing closets and food banks

Outreach Committee DWM Service Committee

Fellowship, Wednesday Night Dinners and Bible Study

We have enjoyed a marvelous month of great dinners followed by thought provoking bible study mainly based on Paul's letter to the Romans. Memorable meals include Debra and George Goodnight's cordon bleu chicken, Connie Bennett's chili and Linda Johnson's smothered hamburger steak. We finished off the month with a Mardi Gras themed dinner prepared by George and Debra Goodnight. In addition Noopy Dykes has contributed some delicious soups including tomato, bean and Asian noodle. While we are thinking about soups who can forget our Souper Sunday when we enjoyed sampling about ten different soups and chilies before going home to watch the Super Bowl. Bill Russell says that we don't do "Church" food. He is not wrong.



Our "Souper" Sunday Chefs

Church Notice Board

The following organizations have booked the Fellowship Hall:

March 3rd and 10th: Weight Watchers 12 noon

March 23rd: The Mystic Krewe of Pegasus Memphis Art Auction 6pm to 9:30pm

April 25th and 26th: African Violets Society are having their Annual Flower Show and Sale

May 6th: Election Commission for County Primary Elections

August 7th: Election Commission for State Primary and County General Elections

November 4th: Election Commission for General Election

A Night Under the Stars

The Grahamwood School Parent Teacher Organization is hosting their 2nd Annual Gala and Silent Auction on Saturday, March 29th, 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm, at the Memphis College of Art. Tickets go on sale March 3rd. For more information go to their website www.grahamwoodgala.com.

On the right is a picture of one of the green houses at the school with students looking at sweet basil and other herbs.



An Open Letter from Noopy Dykes

We received this very heartfelt letter from Noopy which, with her permission, I am reprinting in full. Sometimes when we go about our lives, in and outside our church, doing the best we are able, it is difficult to perceive of what effect we have on those who come into contact with us. Noopy has evidently seen in us something we are not always aware of and we would be the last to admit, that is our Christianity. Here is her letter:

An Epistle to the Church at McClain and Peabody.

I want my thank you letter to you to be great big, because the gratitude that I feel for you is bigger than I will be able to express.

I have been wandering in and out of your building since 1988. Your cross at the top of the church called to me and became an object of meditation in 1970. Forty-four years: that is a significant span of years to be drawn to a place and a community of believers.

During those years I have had no church, a Baptist Church in Frasier that brought me back to church, the Roman Catholic Church, no church, the Quaker Church, and the Old Catholic Churcha roaming Christian if there ever was one.

Last year, before we started meeting in the "upper room," I was with you for a Wednesday lesson and supper. That night Bill said something that shed a great light in a cloudy room in my brain: He said, paraphrasing, "Where ever there are baptized Christians, there is the "Church." Wherever baptized Christians gather, regardless of the denomination, there is the "Church.""

For me it was a giant permission slip that said I belong where ever the people who seek to follow Christ are gathered. You may think that I am not a Disciple of Christ, but I am free to stand with you because you are Jesus' "Ecclesia." In some quarters of the Ecclesia, I might not be welcomed or understood but in this place, the Church at McLean and Peabody, I have been embraced and taught, comforted and fed, physically and spiritually.

In all my wandering, I have loved the deep and mystical words "And I say to thee: That thou art Peter; and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." What changes Simon Bar-Jona into the rock is his belief and proclamation "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." What changes each one of us into the rock upon which Jesus' Ecclesia is built, is our own soul-cry "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

It is Jesus' Ecclesia that I have been looking for, but it always got confused with denomination. I could not find community in the church of "us not them", a unity built on scapegoating. In this place I have found welcome without judgment, the open hand of hospitality, the Ecclesia of the definition:

" a company of Christians, or of those who, hoping for eternal salvation through Jesus Christ, those who anywhere, in a city, village, constitute such a company and are united into one body, the whole body of Christians scattered throughout the earth. "

Thank you for all your prayers, your sincere offers of assistance, the magnificence of the flowers, each of you who came to a stranger's funeral to stand with my children. You were a lesson to them on what it is to be Christian. But thank you more for being the Ecclesia that I have searched for, the company of Christians where God can be All in All.

Noopy

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF MINISTRY

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This Month at Central

Sunday 2nd

9:45 am Bible Class
10:30 am Coffee in the Narthex
10:45 am Worship Service
12:00 noon Fellowship

Worship Leader: Daphne Brown
Reader: Noah Ploderer
Loaf: Mark Rutledge
Cup: Richard Brown

Wednesday 5th

6:30 pm Dinner
7:15 pm Ash Wednesday Service

Dinner Prepared by: Linda Johnson
Katrinka Hall

Sunday 9th

9:45 am Bible Class
10:30 am Coffee in the Narthex
10:45 am Worship Service
12:00 noon DWM Luncheon

Worship Leader: Mark Rutledge
Reader: Colleen Daut
Loaf: Kathy Young
Cup: George Goodnight

Wednesday 12th

6:30 pm Dinner
7:00 pm Bible Study

Dinner
Bible Study: Dennis Neenan

Sunday 16th

9:45 am Bible Class
10:30 am Coffee in the Narthex
10:45 am Worship Service
12:00 noon Fellowship

Minister: Andrea Hand
Reader: Michael Simmons
Worship Leader: Richard Brown
Loaf: Linda Johnson
Cup: Carol Scarberry

Wednesday 19th

6:30 pm Dinner
7:00 pm Bible Study

St Patrick's Day Dinner
Bible Study: Dennis Neenan

Sunday 23rd

9:45 am Bible Class
10:30 am Coffee in the Narthex
10:45 am Worship Service

Minister: Kathy Young
Reader: Robert Thompson
Worship Leader: Carol Scarberry
Loaf: Carol Scarberry
Cup: Richard Brown

Wednesday 26th

6:30 pm Dinner
7:00 pm Bible Study

Dinner Prepared by: Carol Scarberry
Bible Study: Dennis Neenan

Sunday 30th

9:45 am Bible Class
10:30 am Coffee in the Narthex
10:45 am Worship Service

Minister: John Medec
Reader: Matthew Pennington
Worship Leader: Debra Goodnight
Loaf: John Bennett
Cup: Daphne Brown

March Diary Reminders

March 5th

**Ash Wednesday Service to be
held jointly with Kingsway
Christian Church & St Francis
Old Catholic Church at
7:15 pm**

20th

**Meetings of Elders and General
Board**

Birthdays

9th

Kristi Mitchell

11th

Ken Mitchell

20th

Micki Artman

21st

Connie Bennett

28th

Henry Lindeman III

29th

Delores Harper

Future Dates for your Diary

May 6th

County Primaries Elections

And Bake Sale!