



Banner

Shining the Light of Christ in Midtown Memphis

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A Note from Bill

October, 2012



When we began our series of meetings about New Beginnings, I felt a real sense of angst, feelings of uncertainty, and, yes, even feelings of fear among some of you.

However, as those meetings unfolded, I was so impressed with the honesty with which everyone viewed problems and hurdles, and the enthusiasm with which the thoughts of change from old, comfortable ways were embraced. Although all of the changes were not identified, and timetables were not specified, the unanimity in agreeing that some major changes are necessary, and soon, was, to me, thrilling. How God deals and uses Central is God's business; it is His church.

It is OUR business to listen, to hear, and to act in accordance with the directions we receive.

If we continue to react as positively and enthusiastically, as we continue to listen to His voice, He has blessings untold for Central Christian Church. You are an amazing people and we have an awesome, amazing God. When God's amazing people serve their all-powerful, awesome God, truly unbelievable, miraculous things can happen. God has something great in store for Central. I believe that. Will you join hands with me in praying, listening, seeking, and working, always believing that the blessings will be there? Let's hold hands in assurance, not wring hands in anxiety, and see just where He takes us. It WILL be good.

With certainty,

Bill

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

The month of September was an interesting one at Central. Thanks to superb leadership from Debra Goodnight, we sailed through the New Beginnings programs and took a long, honest look at ourselves. The results of this self-inventory will show up over the coming months, and to quote a phrase from a TV ad, "It's all good". Although we had few visitors in September, our attendance was remarkably good for the summer, and with Fall upon us, I think that we will see yet another uptick in filling the pews. Our sympathy goes to Linda Johnson and John in the death of her daughter, Constance Peppers, and we mourn the passing of two old friends of Central, Barbara (Tootie) Sammons and Alfred Noah. Dot Olivi broke her femur and had to have surgery, but is now on the mend and recovering

nicely. Shula Shaw is slowly recovering, gaining strength, and itching to return to her normal routine. We continue to pray for both of them. We welcome John Bennett to his new position on staff, administrative assistant, and we also welcome Dorian Lyons as our custodian. An Evening in Central Gardens is drawing close very quickly. There is no way to express the importance of this event. Suffice it to say that all hands are needed on deck. Wednesday evenings, Oct. 3rd and 10th, are designated as work evenings in preparation for Autumn Evening. What can you do? Show up at 6:30. It is that simple. A final thought: If you're just sitting in the pew, you're sitting on the premises; if you are out working in His field, you are standing on the promises.

Micki Artman gave this wonderful offertory recently as our Worship Leader:

"A quote I ran across this week, to me sums it all up. I have been attending the New Beginnings programs on Wednesday nights, and this really hit home after listening, in particular, to the comments that George Goodnight and Pat Hammond made. "In helping others, we shall help ourselves, for whatever good we give out, the circle is completed and it comes back to us."

ANNUAL AUTUMN EVENING IN CENTRAL GARDENS



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2012

Everyone is making final preparations for our Autumn Evening—be sure to get your silent auction items to Carol Scarberry, your treasures to Daphne Brown, and your baked goods to Pat Hammond. We hope every church member will be at church on October 13 to greet all our guests and enjoy the evening. Please see Kathy Young for complimentary tickets and give them out to all your friends and relatives. We want to have a crowd of 250 people and we can do that with everyone's help. If you can help before the event, call Daphne or Carol to offer your services—they will be working at the church many nights in these last 2 weeks. Also, come to church on Wednesday, October 3 & 10 at 6:30 for 2 work nights; Saturday, October 6 at 9:00 am and Friday, October 12 at 9:00 am for work days. We want to thank the entire church now for everything you do to make this event a huge success. It takes everyone doing their part to be the wonderful event we know it will be.

Regional Assembly— October 19, 20 & 21

There is still time to register for the Regional Assembly—so that you can join with other Tennessee Disciples at New Directions Christian Church to hear inspirational speakers such as Dr. Sharon Watkins, General Minister and President of the Christian Church; Revered Holly McKissick, Minister of Peace United Church of Christ; Dr. Stacy Spencer, Senior Pastor of New Directions Christian Church and Reverend William Lee, Minister of Loudon Avenue Christian Church in Roanoke, Virginia. Please see Debra Goodnight or the church office for registration forms.

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

WELCOME VISITORS

Among the visitors this month we have welcomed, are the Rev. Richard Hackman, Denesie and Chris Price, Sandra States and family (pictured below) and many others.



Sandra States (center) with her children (from left) Jaylen, Mario and Jasmine.



BUILDING from the BOARD

Highlights from the September 20, 2012 Board are as follows:

	August, 2012	YTD
Income:	\$ 4,983	\$64,793
Expenses	\$10,278	\$64,774
Net Income/Exp	(\$ 5,295)	\$ 19

A church brochure defining Central's history mission is being developed by our Pastor, Bill Russell, and is expected to be completed for the Autumn Evening Event.

The New Beginnings Small Group Discussions, led and moderated by Debra Goodnight, were a great success. The recommendations resulting from those discussions will be compiled into a report and presented at the next Board Meeting.

Redecoration of the parlor is almost completed

The DWM approved \$185 expense to purchase reusable signage to announce the Autumn Evening Event.

Bids for Lighting in the Sanctuary and landscape design in Penny's Chapel Gardens have been submitted for completion upon availability of funds or receipt of designated donations

Two positive staffing changes have occurred, with John Bennett assuming Patty Quinn's position as Administrative Assistant and Dorian Lyons filling John Bennett's position as Custodian.

The Bake sale is scheduled for Autumn Evenings and everyone was encouraged to bring in their baked goods.

The first two Wednesday Night Family Dinners in October will be canceled and used for work nights for the Autumn Evening Event.

Title: Genesis 1:3 "Let there be 'better' light!"

When we worship on Sunday morning, have you noticed that the lighting is not quite bright enough to read the bulletin or the hymnal? Of course you have! Does the sanctuary seem somewhat dark when you enter? No doubt about it!

The Building and Grounds Committee, Pastor Bill Russell, and George Goodnight have met with several electricians to see what, if anything, could be done to improve the lighting. I am happy to say that with the help of Bill's contacts, a bid has been received to "re socket" the 12 chandeliers in the sanctuary. The current wiring was installed during the late 1940's when the sanctuary was built. It definitely needs replacement before modern lighting can be installed

The bid of \$2000 includes "re socketing", installing the correct light bulbs, and also replacing a spot light on the first arch nearest the front of the church. The total time to complete the project is one day. The work has been approved by the Board and is about \$1,800 less than what we expected. Now that's a bargain! In addition, the Disciple Women's Ministry is donating \$1,000 to help offset the cost. Hopefully by mid November we will have the additional donated funds to complete this project.

Mark Rutledge, Chair, Buildings and Grounds Committee.

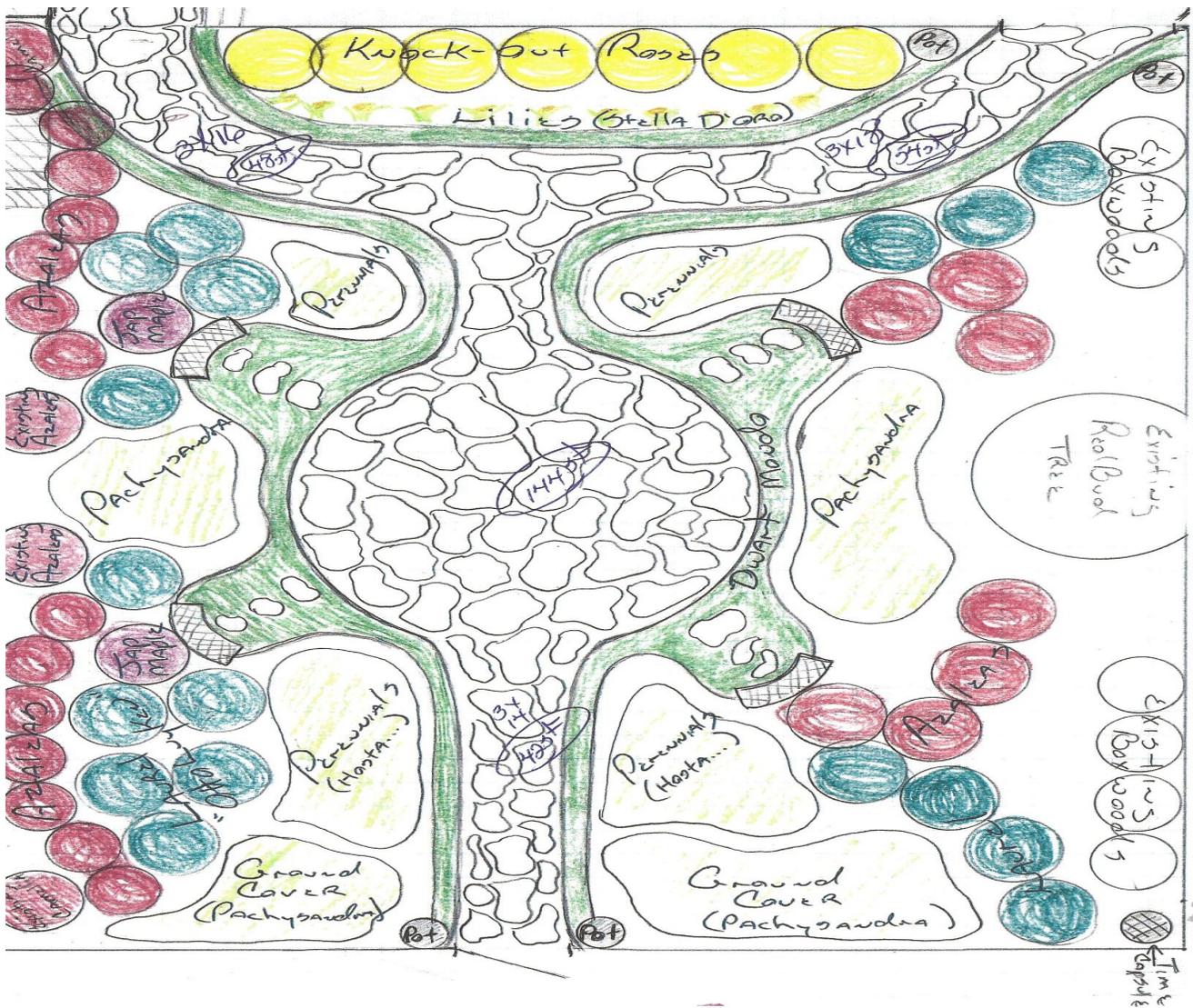
Several changes are in the works at our church, both inside and outside. On the outside you have already seen "Penny's Playground" changing into "Penny's Chapel Garden". Big changes are on the way!

The Buildings and Grounds Committee has met with the landscaper from Evergreen Earthcare design and develop this project. The goal is to transform the area to a place where anyone may come to sit, meditate, and enjoy peaceful, beautiful surroundings. Hopefully this area will be used also for outside events, such as small weddings or even worship services.

The cost for the new Chapel Garden will be \$7,500, which is not cheap. The cost is about half of what we might expect. Once the project is complete, it will be one of quality, and well worth the price. Evergreen Earthcare is also willing to work with us on a payment schedule and, if necessary, to complete the project in phases as resources are available.

Since the project has begun, \$250, \$500, and \$1,000 donations have been given to the "Chapel Garden". The donations include memorials and honorariums to friends and members of Central Christian. We're just about a third of the way there, but I believe that we can make this goal over the next two to three years.

Please see Mark Rutledge if you would like to help make "Penny's Chapel Garden" a reality.



Clothes Closet

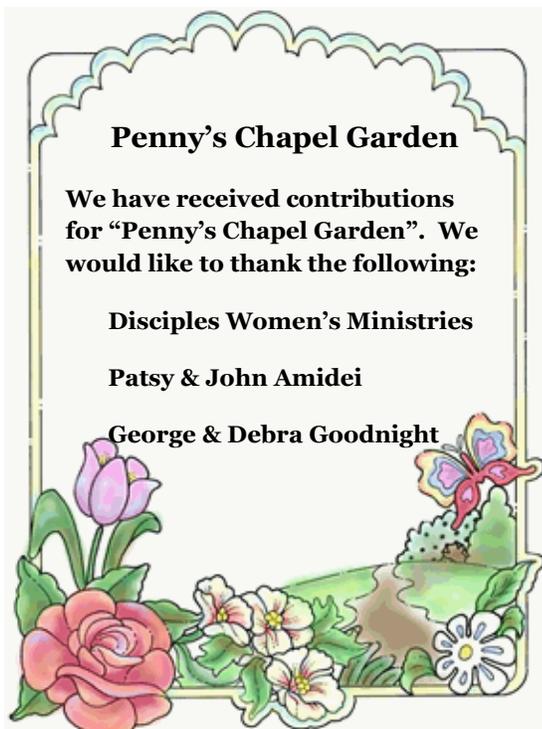
Our new venture, the Clothes Closet, is held on the last Saturday of each month. On September 29th we had about thirty people seeking help and the continuing success of this project will help us get better known while providing much needed help to people in our community. It was particularly moving that one of the attendees, Sandra States, stayed to help and brought her family to our service the following day.



Coffee with the Parson

During my New Beginning meetings, we identified hospitality as one of the great strengths of our congregation. Our **Coffee with the Parson** program on Sundays during October, is designed to bring visitors into our church and introduce them to our brand of hospitality. To that end, we will try our best to make them feel comfortable and welcome as they enter a strange territory, our Sanctuary. We will be serving coffee and sweet rolls (many thanks DWM) as everyone enters, and it is perfectly acceptable to take food and drink into the Sanctuary during the service.

Coffee will be in the Narthex, and I urge those who meet for fellowship and coffee before church to do so in the sanctuary. There will be none in the Fellowship Hall. We, hopefully, will have visitors coming in, and YOU need to be there to greet them. Choir, for October only, you get to sit in the congregation so that you can be part of the welcoming committee.



A Heartfelt Thank you

Connie and I would like to thank our church family for their prayers, cards, and phone calls during my two recent surgeries. We would especially like to thank Carol and Floyd Scarberry and Debra and George Goodnight for the wonderful food, visits, and George keeping our yard looking so good. I don't know how we would have managed during this difficult time without their support. You all make Central Christian Church a truly wonderful place to worship.

John and Connie Bennett

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This Month At Central

<p>Sunday, October 7 10.45 a.m. Coffee with the Parson</p> <p>Wednesday, October 10 6:30 p.m. Autumn Evening Work Time</p>	<p>Serving, October 7</p> <p>Worship Leader John Bennett Loaf Mark Rutledge Cup Richard Brown</p>	<div data-bbox="1144 735 1518 850">  <p>OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS</p> </div> <p>Betty Jones Oct. 9</p> <p>Randy Pennington Oct. 9</p> <p>Melissa Widmer Oct. 10</p> <p>Dot Olivi Oct. 11</p> <p>Sarah Jane Smith Oct. 15</p> <p>Gloria Jeffery Oct. 26</p>
<p>Sunday, October 14 10.45 a.m. Coffee with the Parson</p> <p>Wednesday, October 17 6:30 p.m. Autumn Evening Work Time</p>	<p>Serving, October 14</p> <p>Worship Leader Carol Scarberry Loaf Jack Artman Cup Daphne Brown</p>	
<p>Sunday, October 21 10.45 a.m. Coffee with the Parson</p> <p>Wednesday, October 24 6:30 pm Dinner 7:00 pm Book Study</p> <p>Thursday, October 25 6:30 pm Elders Meeting 7:00 pm Board Meeting</p>	<p>Serving, October 21</p> <p>Worship Leader Debra Goodnight Loaf Richard Brown Cup George Goodnight</p>	<div data-bbox="1144 1228 1518 1533"> <p><i>The Best Vitamin for a Christian is B1.</i></p>  </div>
<p>Sunday, October 28 Coffee with the Parson</p> <p>Wednesday, October 31 No dinner or Program</p> <p>HALLOWEEN </p>	<p>Serving, October 28</p> <p>Worship Leader Jack Artman Loaf Daphne Brown Cup Kathy Young</p>	