

# Central Christian Church **Banner**



**April 2016**

## A Note from our Pastor, Rev. Bill Russell

One of my favorite images is the church being the body of Christ. I have looked closely at the picture below. What a good looking group of people. I am indeed blessed to be a part of this body. Sometimes, though, it is a little overwhelming to realize that while we all are different body parts and we serve differently in His Kingdom, we all carry the responsibility of being the face of Christ out into the world. Do you remember Maundy Thursday: hospitality, honor, humility, hope? Those qualities fill the face of Jesus. Do they fill yours?

Let me also take this opportunity of giving a HUGE thank you to all of those who were so very generous with their time and talents in the renovation and redecorating of my office. It is absolutely perfect. And, to the DWM, you are entirely too good to me. A very sincere thanks to everyone. If you haven't seen my thoroughly up-to-date, brand new office, please poke your head in and let me show it off. I am so proud of it.

Pastor Bill



## Spotlight on Giving

Kathy Young shared the following extract from an Offertory thought presented to Northwest Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Arlington, Texas on October 16, 2011, by Lydia Pape, aged 13.

“My mom asked me to do the Call to Giving today. She said I should tell our church family why I give money to the church, and also say how I decide how much to give.”

“One reason I give to the church is that I’ve been doing it almost my whole life. When my parents first started giving me an allowance, they made me put some of it in the offering plate at church every week. For a while, they had to make me do this. I didn’t know that I should do this, and I would often forget to bring my money, so it was my parents’ job to help me learn. When I got older, about eight years old, I started doing it by myself. So it’s sort of become a habit over the years.”

“I also give because it doesn’t really hurt me much. For one thing, as I get older, my allowance increases, so the money I receive builds up faster. Also, I don’t spend it that often. I save up money for a long time so I can spend it on things that will be important in my life, like the new computer on which I typed these words. After saving up several hundred dollars, which took over two years, I was able to pay for over half of my new computer. My parents gave me the rest of the computer for my birthday. Because I don’t buy things very often, I’m never tempted to NOT give money to the church. There’s a little trick I do in my mind: I subtract what I’m going to give away and just think of what’s left over as my full allowance.

In case you’re wondering, I get thirteen quarters each week for my allowance, a quarter for each year I’ve lived. A tithe would be one tenth of that, but I’m not in the mood for math, so I just think: “One quarter is less than one tenth so I better give more than that. Two quarters is more than one tenth, but what are you gonna do?” So I give two quarters each week. It’s that simple.

I like the ministries of this church because I think we do the things God wants us to do with our money, which is really God’s money. That’s why I give consistently and generously, and I hope you will too.

## Pastor’s Office Makeover



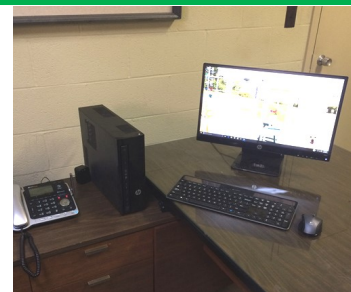
The Pastors office has recently had a makeover thanks to the DWM both for the funding and the design. Special thanks to Rob and Clay Artman and Wes Goodnight. It is hoped that not only will Bill get inspiration from the surroundings but that the décor will be soothing to those seeking advice and comfort.

## Editors Note

**If you want to receive the Banner by E-Mail please contact the Editor, John Bennett, by phone on (901) 276-2708 or by e-mail at: [centralchristian@cccmemphistn.org](mailto:centralchristian@cccmemphistn.org)**

**All contributions for the May Banner should be emailed or sent to the Editor at the Church Office by April 27th.**

**Past copies of the Banner together with sermons, special music videos etc. can be found using links to YouTube on our Website at [cccmemphistn.org](http://cccmemphistn.org).**



Your Editor’s new work station with upgraded computer and phone system.



## Flooding of the Fellowship Hall

It was ironic that in the week when we had the heaviest rainfall in living memory (with our congregation that's a long time) the Fellowship Hall flooded due to a stuck plumbing valve. If it wasn't for the hard work put in by Mark Rutledge, our Property and Grounds Chairman, and John Rainey, our Custodian, the situation would have been a lot worse. The worst damage is to the suspended ceiling in the Fellowship Hall.



## Memphis Camerata

The Memphis Camerata will, once again, be presenting a program of choral music at our Church on May 8.

Watch for more details on the performance in May's Banner.



## Called Regional Assembly

In the last Banner reference was made to a Called Regional Assembly to be held on Saturday, April 16, 2016 from 11:00 to 1:00 at Woodmont Christian Church in Nashville. The purpose of the Assembly is for the Churches in the Tennessee Region to affirm or deny the Call to Rev. Dr. Christal Williams as the Regional Minister and President of the Christian Church in Tennessee.

Central will have 6 attendees for the Called Regional Assembly and will have 4 voting delegates.

The Voting Delegates are Debra Goodnight, John Johnson, Linda Johnson and Rev. Bill Russell, Minister.

## Outreach



The staff at the Grace St. Luke's Food Pantry was truly amazed and overjoyed for the abundant donation of cereal given to them by Central Christian Church and Central's extended church family. John Rainey and Mark Rutledge delivered a truck load of the cereal Tuesday afternoon March 29<sup>th</sup> – the same day that the staff was filling grocery bags for needed families with children. On behalf of the Outreach Committee a heartfelt thanks goes out to Christ City Church, St. Francis Old Catholic Church, the African Violets Society, and all the members of Central Christian Church who made this project a huge success.

Our Church Door Ministry for the homeless continues to be a success with over 60 people being helped in March.

Our Easter Offering amounted to \$325, thanks to everyone who contributed.



# Church Notice Board

Every month is busy in this Church and it seems April will be no different. In addition to the usual organizations who use our facilities we will have the pleasure, once again, of hosting the Young Artists Competition on the 2nd and 3rd of April. Go to their website at <http://beethovenclubmemphis.org> for more information.

The Beethoven Club was founded in 1888 and its mission is to develop, sustain and promote classical musicians. Each year they make use of our Church and other rooms to enable young musicians to show off their talents to selected judges. The upside for us is that we get our pianos tuned each year as part of the deal!



## BEETHOVEN CLUB



We also are playing host to The African Violets Association Annual Plant Show and Sale on the 15th and 16th of April in our Fellowship Hall. The members of this association meet at our Church each month but they also are great supporters of our various Outreach Programs, not the least of which is the considerable help they give to our food bank collections.



# DWM Western Area Service Project



**The Compassion Neighborhood Clinic** is the 2016-2017 Western Area Service Project for the Disciple Women's Ministries and is supported by most of the local Disciples' churches. As you know, the Clinic is in the heart of Birmingham and is operated by our dear friends, Dr. John Lang and his wife and Nurse, Judy. The Clinic provides free medical care to those in need, on Tuesday nights, and is funded solely by donations. A box will remain in the Fellowship Hall to continue collecting over-the-counter medications and supplies through 2017. Please help us support this Ministry by prayerfully considering bringing in at least one over-the-counter medicine per month. The medicines at the Dollar Tree are comparable to the generic medications sold at other retail stores, but only cost \$1. If each of us could pledge \$1 a month toward the purchase of medication, within a year, we would have collected about 480 items. Collectively, that is a statement! Two items per month would supply about 960 medications. Think about it. If you want to donate money, \$1-2 or more per month instead of the medicines, we will be happy to do the shopping and you get to receive the blessings!

*Linda Johnson, President  
Disciple Women's Ministries*

## Western Area Spiritual Journey



Linda Johnson is in the background with the Breakfast Food table she prepared for the Western Area Spiritual Journey at Lindenwood



Central Ladies (Carol Scarberry, Tami Taylor & Daphne Brown) served as registrars for the Western Area Spiritual Journey at Lindenwood

The Tennessee Disciples Women's Ministries Spiritual Journey was held on March 19, at Lindenwood Christian Church. Pastor Karren Todd, Senior Associate Pastor at New Direction Christian Church was the resource leader and presented a program entitled "Finding Your Voice".

As you can see from the pictures above members of our own DWM took an active part in the organization of this event and for everyone there it was a very meaningful experience and an opportunity for fellowship with sister Disciples in the West Tennessee area.

## Holy Week Services and Events

On Palm Sunday we started the service by processing down the center of the Church waving palms. Following Communion our choir director, Amy Lindeman, gave a beautiful rendition of "The Holy City" a religious Victorian ballad dating from 1892. The sermon was entitled "The Joy of being a Jackass" and if you want to see how that is connected to Palm Sunday and to our beliefs, follow the link in our website, [cccmemphistn.org](http://cccmemphistn.org).

Many of our congregation attended the Maundy Thursday service at our daughter Church, Kingsway. Your editor went to the Good Friday evening service held by Christ City at our own Church. This was a very moving contemporary service and was very well attended.

On Easter morning the congregation was treated to a delicious breakfast, prepared by the deacons. We were able to help ourselves to a buffet which included, among other foods, eggs, sausage, French toast, hash browns and biscuits.

Our Easter service started with our Pastor, Rev. Bill Russell, walking down the aisle leading us in singing Alleluia followed by "The Easter Affirmations" where we are encouraged to clear out the old "Yeast" of malice and evil and to bring in the new "Bread" of sincerity and truth.

The sermon was based on the theme "Recognizing Jesus" and service ended with the congregation singing "Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna". The picture on the front cover was taken immediately after the Easter service.

## DWM Luncheon

*DWM Luncheon*

*And Guest Speaker*

*The DWM will host a*

*Spring luncheon on Sunday,*

*April 10, 2016 at 12:00 Noon*

*at a cost of \$3 per person.*

*Sandra Ferrell from St. Theresa Lisieux*

*Will speak to us on "Human Trafficking."*

*Please support us by attending.*

*A brief business meeting will follow.*

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## This Month at Central

Sunday 3rd  
9:45 am Bible Class  
10:45 am Worship Service

Service Leader: John Bennett  
Loaf: Debra Goodnight  
Cup: Mark Rutledge  
Refreshments: Katrinka Hall

Wednesday 6th  
6:30pm Dinner and Bible Study

Meal prepared by: Linda Johnson and Katrinka Hall

Sunday 10th  
19:45 am Bible Class  
10:45 am Worship Service

Service Leader: Daphne Brown  
Loaf: Richard Brown  
Cup: Kathy Young  
Refreshments: DWM Hosted lunch

Wednesday 13th  
6:30pm Dinner and Bible Study

Meal prepared by: John Rainey

Sunday 17th  
9:45 am Bible Class  
10:45 am Worship Service

Service Leader: Kathy Young  
Loaf: George Goodnight  
Cup: John Bennett  
Refreshments: St. Francis OCC

Wednesday 20th  
6:30pm Dinner and Bible Study

Meal prepared by: Daphne Brown

Sunday 24th  
9:45 am Bible Class  
10:45 am Worship Service

Service Leader: Mark Rutledge  
Loaf : John Bennett  
Cup : Debra Goodnight  
Refreshments: TBA

Wednesday 27th  
6:30pm Dinner and Bible Study

Meal prepared by: TBA

### Church Calendar for April

2nd & 3rd  
Beethoven Club Young  
Musician of the Year  
Competition

5th  
Compassion Clinic  
Annual Silent Auction  
at Bangkok Alley

15th & 16th  
African Violets  
Plant Sale

16th  
Called Regional  
Assembly to  
approve new Regional  
Minister

### Birthdays

21st  
Rob Artman

6th  
Richard Brown

11th  
Floyd Scarberry