

Banner

Shining the Light of Christ in Midtown Memphis

www.cccmemphistn.org



A Note from Pastor Bill Russell

December, 2012

Joy, Peace and Love Angels



Hope. Love. Joy. Peace. Those are the four Sundays upcoming as we begin our Advent journey. This is a journey where we will be looking backward, at Jesus' first coming some 2000 years ago, and a journey where we will look forward to His return to this earth. So much happens around us at this time of year that we find it difficult to focus on what the commotion is all about. I find it helpful, when my stress level goes crazy, just to repeat those four words: Hope, Love, Joy, Peace. Those four things are part of what Christ brought to earth, and the Good News is that He left them for us when he returned to His father. Today, in the world we live in, they are not yet fully realized. What the excitement of Advent should be about is the promise that He gave us, that He would return, and that when He does, Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace will be a great part of the glory around Him and that His children will live in the light of that glory forever.

I would encourage each of you, as you look for the best bargains, as you hear the beautiful carols, as you enjoy your families, as you cook and eat and fellowship together, and as you slowly run out of energy, to once a day slowly repeat, aloud, or silently, a mantra for Advent: "Hope, Love, Joy, Peace. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." Expectantly, Bill

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

The DWM hardly had time to enjoy the glow of the results of An Autumn Evening in Central Gardens when they once again set records with the bake sale on election day. Pat and her crew ran out of food by 2:00, but not before they made right at \$1400.00. Of that, \$1000.00 went directly to Dr. John and Judy Lang for the work that they do side-by-side with Rachel's Kids. Other news, young Clay Artman proudly showed off the picture of the very first deer that he bagged, and, his father Rob, was grinning healthily, too. The Artman ladies, Mary, Mickey, and Debra (Goodnight), are enjoying a cruise as this is printed, celebrating Debra's birthday. The Butts enjoyed a long visit from their son who lives in California, and it was good to have them back in worship this past Sunday. And, John and Linda Johnson's faces were breaking with pride and happiness with their new granddaughter in church. We all rejoice with Shula Cangelosi in her good news about various health tests which she passed with flying colors. Coffee continues to be served in the Narthex on Sunday mornings starting at 10:00, and there might be doughnuts there, too. It is perfectly all right to bring them into worship, and have a little "Coffee with the parson." And, the parson wants to remind everyone of the Christmas open house that he and Anne are hosting for their CCC family. The open house will be Sunday, December 9, from 5:00 until 7:00, and everyone is invited. If night driving is not your thing, we will get you there and home. We will make it work. Advent is here. Be sure to notice the magnificent new addition to our church's decorations, courtesy of Floyd Scarberry. Hope, Love, Joy, Peace. Four Sundays to gloriously celebrate His coming. Be in your pew; don't miss the blessing He has for you.

Recent Offertory Message

John Bennett, in a recent Offertory message, told the story of MaryBeth Melendez from Staten Island, an area badly hit by hurricane Sandy. MaryBeth, a mature student and divorced mother of three children, responded to the disaster by calling her student friends, who still had power, and between them they prepared dozens of meals and emptied their closets to provide clothing. They set up tables in one of the worst hit areas and started to distribute the food and clothing. Before long The National Guard made them the focus of a distribution point for bottled water and other emergency supplies.

What makes this story more amazing is that MaryBeth is blind and only received the help of a seeing dog within the past year.

She commented that she felt blessed by God that she is blind as, while she “can’t see the broken homes she can see into broken hearts”

John’s prayer was very simple, “God please help us to have the generosity of spirit of MaryBeth Melendez.

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 November

We are truly blessed to have an increasing number of visitors to worship with us each Sunday.

Our visitors last month included John and Linda Johnson’s daughter Lyndi her husband Brad and their baby girl Braelyn

We also had a visit from Kelly Salazar granddaughter of Betty Jones together with Kelly’s daughter Minor.

Dr. John and Judy Lang from The Compassion Clinic also worshipped with us.

We had many other visitors who did not leave us their details but to all our visitors, thank you and please worship with us again.

Nativity Scene



Jim Bishop, in his book *The Day Christ Died*, wrote that as our Savior died for us on that cross, most people carried on with their everyday lives.

This 20ft x 12 ft Nativity scene, is from an Italian Church. It is not a painting but figurines behind glass.

Note in the bottom right hand corner the depiction of people having a meal close to the spot where our Savior was born. In other words going about their usual business oblivious to the presence of their Lord.

BUILDING FROM THE BOARD

Highlights from the November 15 Board Meeting are as follows:

Total Income: \$8,040

Total Expenses: \$8,333

Net Income/Expense: \$ (292)

Note: \$3351 included in Total Income is from credit card sales and belongs to the DWM.

The 2013 Balanced Budget has been approved by the Board and will be presented to the Congregation.

We will continue to serve coffee prior to Services in the Narthex and fellowship will resume in Fellowship Hall after services.

Connie Bennett and Linda Johnson will host a light breakfast for the Christmas decorating crew and the deacons that assist in scraping the fence surrounding Penny's Chapel Garden on December 1st.

The Sanctuary Lighting Project will proceed in order to have it completed by Christmas

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Johnson, Board Secretary

Thought for the Month

Anonymous Poem: Cranky Old Man

What do you see nurses?What do you see?

What are you thinking.....when you're looking at me?

A crabby old man,not very wise,
Uncertain of habitwith faraway eyes?

Who dribbles his food.....and makes no reply.

When you say in a loud voice....."I do wish you'd try!"

Who seems not to noticethe things that you do.

And forever is losing a sock or shoe?

Who, resisting or not.....lets you do as you will,

With bathing and feeding the long day to fill?

Is that what you're thinking? Is that what you see?

Then open your eyes, nurse.....you're not looking at me.

Congratulations

Congratulations to John and Linda Johnson on becoming Grandparents again on the birth of a daughter Braelyn to their son Brad and daughter-in-law Lyndi.

Congratulations also to Rachel Woodall who has taken up her appointment as Senior Minister at Battery Park Christian Church in Richmond Virginia. We all know she will be a great success and wish her a happy and blessed ministry.



What is Boxing Day?

While not a term commonly used in the USA, Boxing Day is celebrated in other parts of the world on the December 26th or Saint Stephens Day.

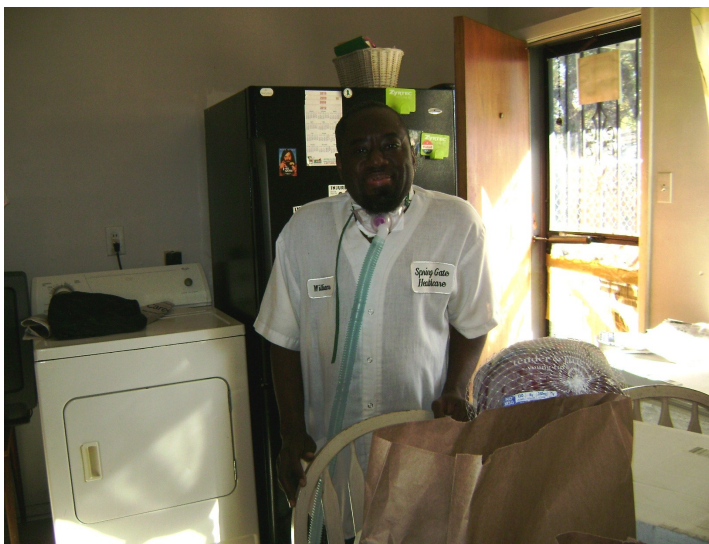
It was the day when the collection boxes inside churches were emptied and the contents distributed to the poor of the parish. It was, and still is, in some places the day when employees, garbage men and other service suppliers were given their Christmas boxes.

It is also a day for many sporting events and the Boxing Day Fox Hunt always draws large crowds.



Thanksgiving Baskets

It is said that a picture is worth a thousand words. What can we say to add to the smiles on the faces of some of the families who received our thanksgiving Baskets. Sufficient food was donated to provide thirteen families with their Thanksgiving dinner and more! Monetary donations enabled over 20 more Baskets to be distributed. A huge thank you to all who contributed and a special thank you to the African Violets Group, who use our facilities, for their very kind donation.



Who was the Original Father Christmas

Father Christmas appears in many forms nowadays. Usually portrayed as a jovial stout man dressed in red, with white fur trimmings and black belt, with a white beard. This image owes more to a 19th century cartoon with the colors being later added by Coca Cola marketing. In Charles Dickens "A Christmas Carol" he is described as a large jolly man dressed in a long green coat with a garland of greenery around his head and this is how he is still perceived by many in Europe.

However the best candidate for the title "Father Christmas" is a 4th century Christian Bishop, Saint Nicholas of Myra, a town in, what is now, Turkey. He was famous for his generous gifts to the poor and helping impoverished girls with dowries. He is now the patron Saint of children as well as many other diverse groups such as archers, sailors, and pawnbrokers.

His remains are in a church in Bari in Italy, a present day pilgrimage site.



The Compassion Clinic

Located in Binghamton, The Compassion Clinic, is a free primary care clinic for the people in the area and helps to educate them on managing their own basic health needs. Dr. Lang and his wife Judy, a registered nurse, began the non profit Compassion Neighborhood Clinic in 2009 after Judy read an article in the Commercial Appeal about another non-profit group in the Binghamton area, Rachel's Kids, started by Rachel and Harry Greer. Judy suggested to John that they send a check as a donation, John's idea was not only to send a check but to volunteer to help with the tutoring program that Rachel's Kids provides for the area's kids.

As the name implies, patients are treated compassionately. The Compassion Clinic is open one evening a week at Caritas Village in Binghamton. All staff members, including Dr. Lang and Judy, are volunteers. They have volunteer nurses, a volunteer diabetic educator, volunteer medical interpreters and occasionally another volunteer doctor. The volunteers listen to the patients and spend quality time with each one.

The clinic is funded entirely through the pockets of Dr. John and Judy Lang and donations from friends, family, and local church groups. All donations are used for everything from medical supplies to malpractice insurance. No one on the staff is compensated for their volunteer service.

The Disciple Women's Fellowship group at Central Christian Church, 531 S. Mclean, recently donated \$1,000 to the clinic. Rachel Greer, of Rachel's Kids, had asked that Central's annual cold and flu medicine drive be redirected from Rachel's Kids to the Compassion Clinic. Central took that request one step further, and decide to donate the profit from Central's Annual Election Bake sale was earmarked to go to the Compassion Clinic and the Lang's accepted the check during worship at Central on November 11th.



Central Christian Church in the News

Did you see the article by Michael Lollar in the Commercial Appeal on Thanksgiving Day? The headline was "Santa's helpers: Reindeer deliver holiday magic to Rachel's Kids". The article tells of the creation of model reindeer from logs and sticks and twigs by children from the Binghamton area and the sale of these models at Rachel's Flower shop. All the proceeds go to the child who made the Reindeer. The article goes on to describe the great work done by Rachel and her late husband Harry, for the families in the Binghamton area and the contribution made by our church towards this. Our church custodian Dorian Lyons is involved in this project.

There are great quotes from both Rachel and from Bill Russell together with a picture of Rachel, with two of the children, cutting up branches to use as legs on the wooden Reindeer. Copies of the article are available in the church office.



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This Month At Central

<p>Sunday, December 2 Regular Sunday Schedule</p> <p>Wednesday, December 5 6:30 p.m. Dinner and Book Study</p>	<p>Serving, December 2</p> <p>Worship Leader George Goodnight</p> <p>Loaf John Johnson Cup Carol Scarberry</p>	<p>Diary Reminders <u>December Birth-</u> <u>days</u> 10th Rachel Woodall 32* 26th Amy Lindeman 32* 29th Wynanda (Nanda) Noordmeer 32*</p> <p>• Note: all ages are approximate</p> <p>December 25th Christmas Day</p> 
<p>Sunday, December 9 Regular Sunday Schedule</p> <p>Wednesday, December 12 6:30 p.m. Dinner 7:00 p.m. Book study</p> <p>Thursday, December 13 6:30 Elders and Deacons Meeting 7:00 Board Meeting</p>	<p>Serving, December 9</p> <p>Worship Leader Daphne Brown</p> <p>Loaf Debra Goodnight Cup Jack Artman</p>	
<p>Sunday, December 16 Regular Sunday Schedule</p> <p>Wednesday, December 19 6:30 p.m. Christmas Dinner 7:00 p.m. Book study</p>	<p>Serving, December 16</p> <p>Worship Leader Mark Rutledge</p> <p>Loaf Kathy Young Cup Daphne Brown</p>	
<p>Sunday, December 23 Regular Sunday Schedule</p> <p>There will be no program on Wednesday December 26</p> <p>Sunday, December 30 Regular Sunday Schedule</p> <p>Wednesday, January 2 6:30 p.m. Christmas Dinner 7:00 p.m. Book study</p>	<p>Serving, December 23</p> <p>Worship Leader Carol Scarberry</p> <p>Loaf Mark Rutledge Cup Debra goodnight</p> <p>Serving, December 30</p> <p>Worship Leader Richard Brown</p> <p>Cup Pat Hammond Loaf Kathy Young</p>	