



Banner



CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF MINISTRY IN MID-TOWN MEMPHIS

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A Note from Pastor Bill Russell February 2013

As I prepared for my messages the past two weeks, both of which were drawn from 1st Corinthians 12, I became increasingly aware of how gifted Central really is. As Paul listed gifts in his letter to the people in Corinth, I thought about the gifts that our congregation has been given. As we begin to celebrate our 90th birthday, it is not by luck and good fortune that we remain alive and well as a community of faith. Rather, we are here because God has blessed this church from that Easter Sunday in 1923 until the present, and, just as the members of Central did before us, we continue to use those God-given gifts and abilities to minister to those around us. Certainly, today, we face challenges, but so did those who preceded us, and, with the grace of God and a lot of work, they met the challenges. As I look at our church, I am amazed by the talents and gifts

that God has given to us. And, I am deeply awed by your willingness to use those talents for His church as we seek to overcome the challenges. As we prepare for our big birthday celebration, let us not dwell too long on the many past blessings and experiences we have enjoyed. Instead, as we enjoy the memories of the past, let us use the years that have gone before us as a lens through which to view the future as we look for new, innovative ways to serve and minister. We have been left a truly wonderful legacy; now we begin leaving one for those who follow us.

News from the Pews

As we all recovered from the stress and strain of the holiday season, getting back to a normal schedule in January was a welcome delight. Dennis and Katrinka Hall spent a good bit of the month (Dennis is still there) in Florida at their condo, and we are all anxious to hear about Nanda Noordermeer's fantastic month in her home country of Holland.

Many of our folks who have been ill are recovering nicely. Donnie Benton spent some time in the hospital, and is now back at home. Shula Shaw continues to gain her strength back, and Dot Olivi is healing and getting stronger every day. Bill Nelson is recovering from eye surgery, and our prayer is that all of these will continue to recover and will be back in worship soon.

If you haven't seen the new carpet in the parlor, stick your head in. That room is almost complete and when finished will be something everyone will be proud of. While you are nosing around, take a peek into the library and see the destruction that John Rainey has wrought. By the time of the birthday celebration, the library, too, will be a thing of beauty. As we hit full stride in working toward May 5th and the birthday celebration, there is much to do. Debra and Mark could use an octopus they need so many hands. If you want to help, just talk to one of them; they will put you to work.

Spotlight on Giving

On January 13th Katrinka Hall amused us all with the story of the three little boys discussing their dad's work. The first boy says "My dad writes some words on a piece of paper, calls it a poem and they give him \$50" The second boy says "My dad writes some words on paper and calls it a song and they give him \$100. the third boy says" I've got you both beat, my dad scribbles some words on a piece of paper and calls it a sermon and it takes eight men to collect all the money".

She also reminded us, with that what we give is tax deductible, cannot be taken with you and is considered, in the Bible, that the love of this is the root of all evil!

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

Commitment Sunday

We ask that our members and friend prayerfully consider their 2013 giving to Central and bring your Pledge Card with you to church to present at our offering service on Pledge Sunday, February 10.

Additional Pledge Cards are available in the Church Office.

Thoughts for the Day

**People are funny; they want the front of the bus,
Middle of the road,
And back of the church.**

If God is your Co-pilot, swap seats!

Valentine's Day

The Feast of Saint Valentine, is observed on February 14 each year. He was a priest in Rome who was martyred about AD 269. The most common legend associated with Saint Valentine was that he was imprisoned for performing weddings for soldiers who were forbidden to marry and for ministering to Christians, who were persecuted under the Roman Empire. During his imprisonment, he is said to have healed the daughter of his jailer Asterius. Legend states that before his execution he wrote "from your Valentine" as a farewell to her. Valentine's Day, as a day of romance, as we know it, can be dated back an English writer, Geoffrey Chaucer who, in 1382 wrote a poem including the lines "For this was on seynt Volantynys day Whan euery bryd comyth there to chese his make"



A Shrine to St. Valentine in Dublin, Ireland.

Buildings and Grounds

There's much to do, and to plan, for Central's 90th anniversary. When you invite friends, relatives, and other guests to your celebration, you want your "house" – that is, our "church" – to look its best. Beginning in mid-February, there will be do some "clean up" and "fix up" to do. If you are handy with a paint brush, if you can do some light yard work, or just if you just want to help, please feel free to jump in. There's plenty to do!

Here's the plan of attack:

Saturday, February 16th – clean the sanctuary and chapel from top to bottom. Time permitting, possible begin painting the north side of the sanctuary, and/or maybe the balcony area.

Some time in February – the Kate Mitchell library that is currently under "re" construction will need painting; possibly you can help with the new flooring.

Saturday, March 2nd and March 16th – weather permitting, attack the outside of the church. This includes pressure washing areas; painting the railing outside the chapel (if not already done); any plantings that needs done. Clean the Fellowship Hall area as needed.

There will be some additional projects to prepare for our 90th Anniversary, but for now, this is a good start. One or two people cannot do all the work. Therefore, when we celebrate Easter (March 31st) and our 90th Anniversary (May 5th), remember this: WYSIWYG (pronounced "Whizzy-Wig). It means "What You See Is What You Get"!

Mark Rutledge, Chairman

Building from the Board

The following are highlights from the January 17, 2013 Board Meeting:

	<u>December</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income:	\$13,453	\$ 99,607
Expenses	<u>\$10,762</u>	<u>\$101,406</u>
Net Income/Exp	\$ 2,961	(\$1,798)

The donation-funded plan for Penny's Chapel Garden has been approved by the Board, and targeted completion date is prior to Easter.

The 90th Year celebration date has been set for Sunday, May 5th, at 5:00 PM. A committee has been formed for planning purposes and committee participation is open to anyone who wishes to be a part of this very exciting team. All talents are welcomed.

February 10 has been set aside as Commitment Sunday to pledge our 2013 offerings.

An Easter egg hunt is planned for the neighborhood on March 30.

The first three Sundays in March have been set aside as "The Pastor's Class for Inquiring Minds," and will be held during the Sunday School Hour from 9:45 AM until 10:30 AM.

The following mission statement has been selected and approved for Central Christian Church:

OUR MISSION IS TO BE FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS OF JESUS, FOCUSING ON REACHING OUT INTO OUR COMMUNITY BY MINISTERING TO AND SERVING OTHERS, OFFERING AN INCLUSIVE AND LOVING CHURCH AND SHARING THE WORD OF GOD. WE LIVE OUT THE STATEMENT: "IT'S NOT WHAT YOU BELIEVE BUT IN WHOM YOU BELIEVE."

Linda Johnson, Board Secretary

Looking Back over the Past 90 Years

Your Editors have been in touch with Rena Smith, widow of the late Rev. Robert Smith, Minister at our Church from 1973 to 1978.

The following is an extract from an e-mail she sent us. "...while we were at Central Christian Church, I masterminded a huge project for Evelyn (Rev. Evelyn Cartmill). At that time, we all knew that she was leaving her regional staff position in Tennessee, to move to Kentucky with her new husband, Don. (He was such a dear man.) So I started a "Friendship Quilt" for her. I mailed detailed instructions, along with fabric pieces, to every Christian Women's Fellowship in the Tennessee Region. I don't remember the statistics now, but we did receive quilt squares from almost every church!

After the squares were sent back to me, I sewed them all together. There were some churches that didn't follow directions, and I had to "fix" their mistakes. Then I turned the quilt over to Central's quilting group to do the actual quilting. It was decided to hang it in the Fellowship Hall for all to view when the Regional Assembly was hosted by C.C.C. AND ... Evelyn was to be ordained during the Regional Assembly. It was quite a celebration. Evelyn remains a dear, dear friend, yet to this day!

It was my job to hand sew the binding on to the edge of the quilt. Meanwhile I was very pregnant with our second child. I finished the binding on Friday evening, April 14th, and went to the hospital on the following evening. Whew!!! Our daughter Stacey was born on Easter Sunday morning, April 16, 1977. Yes, Robert had lined up a friend to be in the pulpit, just in case! But Robert made it into the pulpit that morning with fifteen minutes to spare!"



Rev. Robert Smith, from the picture that hangs in our Church Lobby.



A production of the Quilting Group that is on display in our Fellowship Hall.

New Year Prayer & Offertory from John Johnson

We are sharing via our Banner the prayer John Johnson presented as Worship Leader on the 1st Sunday of the New Year. It is so meaningful.

Father, we thank you for this opportunity to worship you in this New Year-the 90th year on this corner in Memphis. We pray that this will not just be a milestone in our history, but a continuation of our new beginnings program already begun as we seek to revitalize our church and our mission to serve you here. We pray that our efforts will bear fruit for you, and that many will be served.

Excerpts from his Offertory: On Epiphany Sunday, we need to take our lesson from the wise men that brought their gifts to the baby Jesus. They were the classic gift givers of all time. What can we learn from the wise men? As we begin our 90th year of worship here, we don't exactly know where we will be at the end of the year. But we know God is here, working powerfully in us. We need to give in faith and make the effort to worship the king. We are to worship him with a portion of all we have including time, talents and our money. Worship is a verb so we need to ask ourselves how we can worship him—in prayer, service and giving.

Message from Linda Johnson and Carol Scarberry

A reminder that the DWM Project to provide Cold and Flu remedies, for the Compassion Clinic, continues through February. Items needed are Band-Aids, Tylenol and other cold and flu medicines for Children, Cough Syrup, cough drops Kleenex, and Chap Sticks. Any other cold and flu items for Children would also be appreciated. You are also welcome to make a cash donation which will be applied for the purchase of these products.

New Deacons

On Sunday January 13th, in a very moving ceremony, we inducted two new Deacons, and one junior Deacon.

The picture shows, from left to right, Clay Artman, John Rainey, Pastor Bill Russell and Denise Price.



LENT AT CENTRAL

As we move into February, we head toward the season of Lent, perhaps the most hallowed period of the year for the Christian. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 13. After our regular supper, we will move into the sanctuary for a special Ash Wednesday service which will culminate with the imposition of ashes on the foreheads of those who wish. During Lent, on Wednesday evenings we will have guest speakers from around our city and from different denominations, sharing their Lenten thoughts and traditions. Lent is a special time, a time when we examine ourselves, a time, perhaps, when we admit our shortcomings. If you are not a Wednesday night regular, I hope you will come join us in this six week journey toward the cross. I know you will be blessed.

Bill Russell

Week of Compassion

Week of Compassion Collection 2013 will be February 24. Each week in February the Outreach Committee will have a Minute for Mission during Worship Service letting you know how your donations will help people both at home and around the world.

The theme of this Year's Week of compassion is Sharing Brings Joy to Us, to others and to God

Preparations for our 90th “Birthday” Celebration

Happy Birthday (well, almost)! 90th Anniversary (just around the corner)! Celebrate (let’s get started)! Here’s a list of events that are currently planned for our celebration. Be sure to keep your calendars open!

April 21st – Adam’s Avenue Camerata Men’s Ensemble will present a concert honoring the men and women who serve as “first responders” in our community. The Camerata will also recognize Central’s 90th anniversary during the concert. Exact time of the concert will be announced in February.

May 5th – The 90th Anniversary Celebration and worship service at 5:00 p.m. Choir members from Kingsway Christian Church and other talented guests will provide the music. Dr. Glen Stewart and Dr. Scott Pricer will also be a part of the service. More information to come!

“The Four Divas”, four members of the Opera Memphis’ chorus, will bring a concert to Central to celebrate our anniversary. The exact date and time will be announced soon.

There will be a dedication of “The Chapel Garden” around mid-March – possibly on Easter Sunday?! The 90th Anniversary Committee will keep you posted when this event will happen.



The Adams Avenue Camerata
Men’s Ensemble

Wednesday Night Family Dinners

The Wednesday Night Family Dinner Program is off to a great start! We have added some new talent to our already talented group of hosts. Micki and Rob Artman, with help from Clay, our newly installed Junior Deacon, brought a delicious meal to us in late January. You will not want to miss their next scheduled host date. Connie and John Bennett have rejoined our list of hosts and brought an authentic English meal of Shepherd’s Pie! We have even added our own Pastor, Bill Russell, to the schedule! For delicious food, an exciting Bible Study, and great fellowship, please make plans to attend our Wednesday Night Family Dinners at 6:30 PM each Wednesday through the end of May. Dates and dinner hosts are as follows:

February 6	Debra/George Goodnight	March 6	Katrinka Hall/Linda Johnson
February 13	Linda Johnson/Daphne Brown	March 13	Mary/Jack Artman
February 20	Pastor Bill Russell	March 20	Connie/John Bennett
February 27	Betty Jones/Marcus Mitchell	March 27	Micki/Rob Artman
April 3	Carol/Floyd Scarberry	May 1	Debra/George Goodnight
April 10	Katrinka Hall/Linda Johnson	May 8	Mary/Jack Artman
April 17	Betty Jones/Marcus Mitchell	May 15	Daphne Brown/Linda Johnson
April 24	Pastor Bill Russell	May 22	Men’s Cook-Out

Outreach Giving for 2012

The following is a list of Donations made by the DWM to Various Charities and Church Organizations :

Disciples of Christ (International)	
Disciples Mission Fund	\$2500.00
Global Women Connecting Service Project	\$200.00
Christian Church in Tennessee	
Disciples Mission Fund	\$1400.00
Bethany Hills	\$100.00
Blessing Boxes	\$38.50
Church Women United	
Sew-and-Share project	\$50.00
Tools of Hope	\$20.00
Prison Ministry	\$49.00
American Leprosy Mission	\$125.00
Calvary Rescue Mission	\$100.00

In addition the Church as a whole has made the following contributions during 2012:

Christian Church in Tennessee	
Disciples Mission Fund	\$2600.00
Special Offerings	\$1683.85
Capital Campaign	\$457.00
New Church Ministries	\$239.76
Vitalization of Congregations	\$59.94
Office Endowment	\$41.50

This is in addition to our direct giving to other charities, the giving of our time and effort to Outreach Projects such as the Clothes Closet and lastly the time and monetary contributions given for the maintenance of our Church. There is no way ours can be described as a "Maintenance Ministry".

Stop Press

The severe storm that came through on the night of January 29th tore down the guttering on the west side of the old church building. Mark Rutledge was able to effect a temporary repair using the string that Bill Russell used in last Sunday's message: "The string that binds us together". I don't think Bill meant us to take his message quite so literally.



New Church Publications Booklets

Linda Johnson has produced a new booklet of Memphis area resources. It includes contact information for places like food pantries and clothing closets. A further booklet is in preparation giving details of government help agencies, shelters, etc. and will be a wealth of information. We have long wanted to have a resource booklet of current places where people in need can seek help and are so appreciative of Linda putting these booklets together. If you would like a copies, contact Linda, or the church office, and be sure to tell her thank you!

We also have a new booklet on Central highlighting who we are, our Ministry Opportunities and our new minister, Bill Russell. It is wonderful and we want everyone to have several copies to give to people you meet as you are inviting them to worship with the Central family. You may obtain copies from the church office.

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

Sunday, February 3rd 10:15 am. Bible Class 10:30 am. Coffee in the Narthex 10:45am Service 12:00 noon "Souper Bowl Sunday" Hosted by the men of the Church Wednesday, February 6th 6:30 p.m. Dinner 7:00 p.m. Book Study	Serving, February 3rd Worship Leader George Goodnight Loaf Daphne Brown Cup Richard Brown	<u>Diary Reminders</u> February 10th Pledge Sunday February 14th Valentine's Day Saturday February 16th Work Party 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. February 22th Clothes Closet Ministry 8:30 a.m. to noon March 30th Easter Egg hunt for Local Children May 5th 90th Anniversary Celebration Worship Service 5:00 p.m. June 22nd Summer Sale <u>February Birthdays</u> Mary Artman 5th Bill Bishop 2nd George Goodnight 23rd Russell Lindeman 6th
Sunday, February 10th Commitment Sunday Regular Sunday Schedule 12:30 a.m. DWM Luncheon and Meeting Wednesday, February 13th 6:30 p.m. Dinner 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service	Serving, February 10th Worship Leader Kathy Young Loaf Mark Rutledge Cup Jack Artman	
Sunday, February 17th Regular Sunday Schedule Wednesday, February 20th 6:30 p.m. Dinner 7:00 p.m. Book Study Thursday, February 21st 6:30 p.m. Elders and Deacons Meetings 7:00 p.m. Board Meeting	Serving, February 17th Worship Leader Carol Scarberry Loaf Jack Artman Cup Daphne Brown	
Sunday, February 24th Regular Sunday Schedule Wednesday, February 27th 6:30 p.m. Dinner 7:00 p.m. Book Study	Serving, February 24th Worship Leader Debra Goodnight Loaf Richard Brown Cup George Goodnight	