

Central Christian Church **Banner**



CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF MINISTRY IN MID-TOWN MEMPHIS

www.ccememphistn.org

February 2014

A Note from Pastor Bill Russell

If you are like I am, you are eagerly anticipating the Winter Olympics which will inundate the media for much of the month of February. I love watching the skill, power, grace, agility, poise and athleticism of the athletes. I have great admiration for them and their abilities, but I always wonder is the pain and preparation necessary to be a world class athlete worth it? Paul likened the life of the Christian to that of an athlete, and just as athletes train, so, too, do Christians. By reading God's Word, by being in prayer, by worshiping with our brothers and sisters, by serving others, by loving and caring, we are in training, on a continuing basis, to do the things that God calls us to do. Those young men and women in Sochi did not just snap their fingers one morning and immediately become world class skiers, or whatever; there was long preparation spent training for the moment. As Christ's disciples and servants, we spend a lifetime in training, training for the moments when He calls us to feed His sheep and do His will. Unlike athletes, we do not get too old for what God calls us to do, but we must stay in shape, we must stay prepared, and we must be ready. When we are able to do well the things that God has for us, the Kingdom of God here on earth wins the gold. What is it I need to do, what is it you need to do, so that we may be ready for our event? Bill.

New Elder's and Deacons



In a very moving ceremony, conducted by Bill Russell, on Sunday, January 5th two new Elders and two new Deacons were appointed. The picture shows the laying on of hands during the ceremony. The two new elders are John Bennett and Linda Johnson shown kneeling on the left front row and the two new deacons are Chantey Nelms and Noah Ploderer shown kneeling to the right.

Spotlight on Giving

On January 19th, John Bennett gave the following Offering homily. During my first visit to this church I was struck by the design and workmanship in the roof. This design is known as a hammerbeam. Since then I have been trying to find a way to tie this wonderful architecture into an offertory homily. Well it is not too difficult. When our predecessors working on the design they didn't go for a cheaper alternative they went to the trouble of getting the best available. Here we are 91 years later and, with little or no structural maintenance, that roof is as good as the day it was built. It is our duty to ensure that the dream of those predecessors lives on. Thanks to them we are able to use much more of our resources to our outreach and ministry than to the rebuilding of our church.

So what is meant by "Hammerbeam". A Hammerbeam roof is an open timber roof truss typical of English Gothic architecture and has been called "...the most spectacular endeavor of the English Medieval carpenter." They are traditionally timber framed, using short beams, or Hammerbeams, projecting from the wall on which the rafters land. Essentially this enables the whole center section of the truss to be cut out thus raising the apparent roof height. The earliest hammer-beamed building still standing is in England, built in about 1290 and was built to accommodate the pilgrims travelling to Winchester Cathedral. In other words a Fellowship Hall.

So please give generously to our Church in the knowledge that, thanks to the foresight of the founders, only part of this offering is used for maintenance of the building, a large proportion is used for the benefit of the community.

Recent Church Improvements



Father Tommy Sheppard and Mark Rutledge standing by the newly repaired and repainted doors facing Peabody.



Our renovated kitchen. All the work was done by Church members.

Week of Compassion Offering

The theme for the 2014 Week of Compassion offering is WE ARE ONE and Central will take up an offering during Worship on February 16 & February 23. WOC is currently providing Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance in these areas of the world:

Water damage in Kentucky Winter Storm damage in Indiana & Georgia
Refuge Assistance in Uganda/Kenya/Ethiopia/Democratic Republic of Congo
Conflict in South Sudan Coffee Rust Assistance in Honduras
Typhoon Assistance in the Philippines Flood Recovery in Colorado
We ask that you prayerfully consider your giving to the Week of Compassion.

Outreach Committee (Micki Artman & Debra Goodnight)

Building from the Board

The following are the highlights of the Board Meeting on January 16th. January.

John Bennett, Chairman, opened the meeting with prayer and then announced the Ministry Team leaders for the coming year as follows:

Outreach- Micki Artman/ Debra Goodnight

Membership: Calling: Carol Scarberry

Fellowship Time: Pat Hammond & Quay Butts

Communication: George Goodnight

Event / Facility Usage: Mark Rutledge

Property and Grounds: Floyd Scarberry

Christian Education: Kathy Young

Wednesday Night Dinners: Daphne Brown

Evangelism: Bill Russell

Wedding Coordinator: Connie Bennett

By-Laws Committee: Wesley Goodnight

The Board celebrated the year-end accounts for 2013 which disclosed a surplus of \$14,316 and noted the generosity of the Central Members and Friends.

The Team leaders reported as follows:

The Minister will be on vacation March 16, 23 & 30 and Central will have guests filling the pulpit.

The Disciple Women's Ministry will consolidate the Executive Board Meeting and General Meeting on the 2nd Sunday of each month. The DWM 2014 budget will include \$500 per month donation to the Church, \$500 towards the Kitchen Renovation, \$500 towards the Chapel Fund and \$750 towards the Sanctuary Pew Cushion Fund.

The Kitchen Renovation is complete and the Peabody Exterior Doors have been repaired and painted.

The Week of Compassion offering will be taken up on February 16 & February 23.

'Souper' Sunday will be after church on February 2 and everyone is welcome to stay for soup, cornbread and dessert.

Debra Goodnight, Board Secretary

A Message from the Board Chairman

Debra Goodnight's year, in the Chair, is going to be a hard act to follow. We, not only achieved great things in the community but we have ended the year with a new confidence for the future. All I can hope is that we can build on that confidence going forward and translate that spirit into new initiatives both in our worship and also in our community outreach. At my first board meeting I raised the possibility of us providing back-packs containing some of the basic needs for homeless people and I hope this initiative can be progressed when we next meet. We still have outstanding recommendations, from the New Beginnings Program, to put into effect. Not the least of these was visitor friendly signage. Could this be combined with the deacon's offer to re-stripe the parking lot. Wouldn't it be great if, say, two parking spaces were designated for the use of visitors and signs were put up, directing our visitors, not only to the obvious places like the Church office and Fellowship Hall, but to the restrooms etc. Have you noticed how often now we have parents visiting with their young children. Could we go back to providing a crèche facility?

I am so honored to have been asked to take on this role. I hope I can do it, and you, justice. I will do my best.

John Bennett, Chairman

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 "Soup'er Sunday"

Worship Leader: George Goodnight

Loaf: Linda Johnson

Cup: Kathy Young

Wednesday 5th

Dinner Prepared by: Bill Russell &
Amy Lindeman

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: John Johnson

Loaf: Daphne Brown

Cup: Debra Goodnight

Wednesday 12th

6:30 pm Dinner
7:00 pm Bible Study

Valentine's Day Dinner prepared by
Debra and George Goodnight
Bible Study: Bill Russell

Sunday 16th

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

Worship Leader: John Rainey

Loaf: Richard Brown

Cup: Carol Scarberry

Wednesday 19th

6:30 pm Dinner
7:00 pm Bible Study

Dinner Prepared by: John & Connie
Bennett

Bible Study: Bill Russell

Sunday 23rd

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

Worship Leader: Shula Shaw

Loaf: George Goodnight

Cup: John Bennett

Wednesday 26th

6:30 pm Dinner
7:00 pm Bible Study

Dinner Prepared by: Micki Artman

Bible Study: Bill Russell

Please note that during February the
Bible study will be based on the letters of
Paul to the Romans and Ephesians.

February Diary Reminders

**2nd
Groundhog Day
Super Bowl**

**20th
Meetings of Elders and General
Board**

**14th
Valentine's Day**

**17th
President's Day**

Birthdays

**6th
Russell Lindeman**

**23rd
George Goodnight**

Future Dates for your Diary

**May 6th
County Primaries Elections
And Bake Sale!**