



Banner



May 2014

A Note from our Pastor Bill Russell



Although the season of Lent is quite somber at times, and it is certainly not all fun and games, in listening to many of your comments, I think it was indeed a meaningful time and a time of spiritual growth. I appreciate greatly those of you who did so much to make the season come alive. I am thankful for those who came and so ably filled in for me. I am very blessed to have good friends to call on and I know that you were blessed by them.

Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday were what they were intended to be emotional highs and emotional lows, deep, hurting pain, and glorious celebration. That last sentence sounds a lot like my life... and yours: up and down and all over the place. Yet, thru it all, Christ remains Emmanuel: God with us.

That is the Good News that we must never forget. That is the Good News that we are commissioned to share. Lets get to it!



The Chapel Garden now that Spring is here.

Spotlight on Giving

On Sunday 27th April John Rainey, presented the following Offertory address:

“The following quote is from Matthew 25 ‘For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me.’

Many of you will be aware that when I first attended this Church I was homeless living either on the street or in overnight shelters. Your sign –Coffee with the Parson drew me in. It is difficult for anyone, who has not lived a life on the street, to conceive of the discomforts, humiliations and indeed dangers that are faced on a day to day basis by people living this way.

All that changed for me the day I walked into this Church. You fed me for a start and later you clothed me and a Church member took me in. Now I have a job at the Church. You cannot begin to know how grateful I am for how my life has changed. I am now in a position to help you help those still living the homeless life. The clothes closet has been a blessing to both my friends and me,

Last year, I had the chance to assist Linda Johnson, produce our Community Service Booklet which lets those in need know where help is available through clothing closets and food banks and this year I was invited to join the committee which organizes our new Back-pack ministry for the homeless. As you know each back-pack contains food, water, clothing and toiletries together with other things to make life that bit easier to those in need. The difficulty with this ministry will always be distribution. Some members of the Church carry one or two packs in their cars for when the opportunity arises. Packs are kept at the Church to be handed to those in need. So far 7 packs have been given away. This offertory request is not only that you give generously to this Church, that in turn gives so much to others, but that you also give to our back-pack ministry ably led by Micki Artman and Debra Goodnight.”

Visitors and New Members

We were so honored, in April, by the number of visitors we have had particularly for our Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday Services.

But we were also blessed on Easter Sunday by Jennifer Stevens coming forward, during our hymn of decision, to confirm her Christian beliefs and to become a member of our Church. Jennifer has already made her presence known by her willingness to help in our outreach programs. She has also offered to start a Sunday School for children.

She is pictured, on the right, helping with the preparation for the Easter Egg Hunt.

Editor's Note

**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.

Church Notice Board

Our Wednesday Evening Bible study in May will be based on the Gospel of Matthew. Please note that our Wednesday Dinners and Bible Study will be suspended during June and will resume in August.

The proposed work party dates for our Summer Sale are as follows:

Wednesday Night, May 21--Set up tables in Fellowship Hall after Wednesday Night Dinner

Thursday, Friday & Friday night bring items down to fellowship hall. Work night on Friday night, May 23

Work days: May, 24, May 25, May 31, June 1, June 7, June 8 (lunch is provided)



Building from the Board

The following is a summary of the Meeting of the General board held, following our Church Service, on Sunday April 13th. The full minutes will be presented at the next Board Meeting.

The meeting opened with prayer at 12:35pm and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved .

Pastor's Report: Bill Russell expressed appreciation to the guest speakers who occupied the pulpit and led Bible classes while he was away and also thanked Floyd and Carol Scarberry for opening up their lake house for the Men's Retreat earlier in the month.

Treasurer: Mark Rutledge gave the treasurer's report which indicated an income of \$8982 against expenses of \$9144 resulting in a small shortfall of \$162.

DWM: Linda Johnson indicated that the dates of June 14 and 21 have been selected as the dates for the Summer Sale and half-price sale.

Building and Grounds: Floyd Scarberry reported various repairs having been completed but that windows need replacing on the 4th floor of the Education Building and that the roof of the Gymnasium building needs patching, Estimates for this work have been requested.

Outreach: Debra Goodnight reported on the Easter Week of Compassion Offering and on foods and needed items delivered to Grace St. Luke's Food Pantry. The next collection for the Food Pantry would be the month of June. She also reported on the Back Pack Ministry in that, to date ,7 back packs have been produced.

Evangelism: Pastor Bill Russell thanked Mark Rutledge for his creative plans and Carol Scarberry and John Rainey in organizing the Easter Egg Hunt.

Calling: Carol Scarberry reported on visits, cards, phone calls etc. to those of the congregation who are sick or who are shut-in.

Communication: George Goodnight reported that the church has a new website and new site administrator.

Weddings: Connie Bennett reported on the progress with the wedding chapel particularly the seating.

Facilities Usage: Mark Rutledge reported on various events to be held before the next board meeting including the African Violet Society annual sale, the Community Easter Egg Hunt and the Memphis Camerata Ensemble who will hold a concert at 4:00 PM on May 18, 2014, and all are invited all to attend.

Young Adults' Program: Wesley Goodnight proposed Young Adult Group Meetings and John Bennett, as Board Chair, appointed Wesley as Chairman over committee to determine feasibility of the program. Pastor Bill Russell offered his assistance.

Adjournment: John Bennett adjourned the meeting at 1:15, and Pastor Bill Russell led the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Johnson, Board Secretary



Easter Egg Hunt

On Easter Saturday, 18th April, we held our Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Eggs were “hidden” in the Chapel Garden and on the lawn on the Peabody side of the Church. Children were divided, by age, into two groups, Hoppers and Chicks. While the younger kids, “Chicks” scurried after eggs in the Chapel Garden, Mark Rutledge led the older children, the Hoppers, through the Church to their hunting ground! The best way to report this event is by showing the pictures of the happy Faces.



All these events require preparation and here are pictured some of the volunteers.



Maundy Thursday Service

On Maundy Thursday Evening, after our Church dinner, the congregation moved to the Church for a somber service of remembrance of Christ's suffering in the Garden of Gethsemane and the Last Supper. A litany of the Passion was read followed by readings and Hymns culminating in Communion. The congregation left the Sanctuary in silence as befitted the occasion.

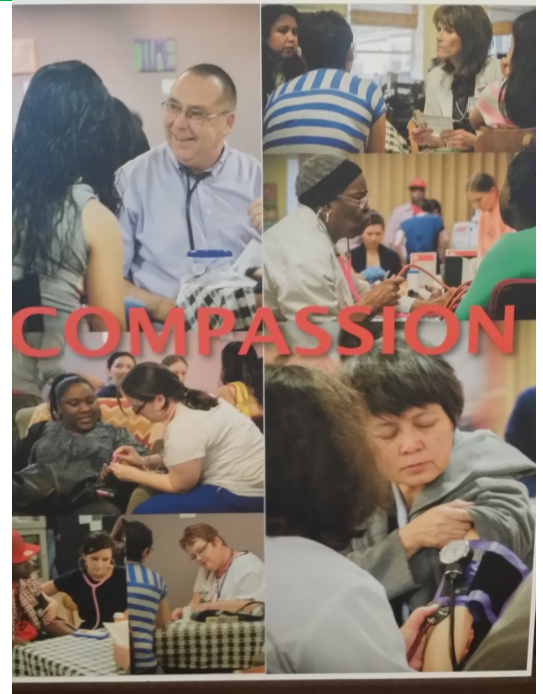


Memphis Camerata Men's Ensemble



Memphis Camerata Men's Ensemble rehearsing in the sanctuary at Central Christian Church for the May 18th concert starting at 4:00 pm. The theme of the concert is "Spiritual Journey" and includes such favorites as "Steal Away", "Psalm 23", and "Loch Lomond". A suggested \$10 dollar donation is requested at the door.

Compassion Neighborhood Clinic Fund Raiser



By now most of us know that every Tuesday, at Caritas Village in Binghamton, Compassion Neighborhood Clinic is open to provide medical services to those who need it. We have been fortunate to be able to help this great cause in the past. It was not, therefore, surprising that 16 members of our congregation attended their fundraiser at Bangkok Alley in Brookhaven Circle on April 1. We enjoyed wine, appetizers, and a silent auction of donated items.

Men's Retreat

On Friday and Saturday 11th and 12th April the Disciple's Men's Auxiliary, met in Retreat at Carol and Floyd Scarberry's home at Snow Lake Mississippi. While the pictures show that a great time was had by all there was also a serious side to the event.

On the Friday evening, after a meal of steaks grilled as only Floyd knows how to cook them, there was a table discussion of which stories in the New Testament had influenced those present. A discussion also took place as to how the Auxiliary could have it's own Outreach project and one proposal was for Nursing and Retirement Home visitations.



Rachel's Kids Summer Camp

Rachel Greer, through her organization , Rachel's Kids, sends up to 60 children to camp each summer. The cost per child varies and so do their needs for clothing and other necessities to enable them to attend the camp. Details of the items required etc. are given in the pictured "Flyer".

For further information as to what is needed, or what help you can give, please call Rachel's Kids Inc. on (901) 324 2137.



Rachel with the late Harry Greer and a couple of Rachel's Kids



The goal of Rachel's Kids Inc. is to provide opportunities and improved quality of life for those children who live in the inner city neighborhoods of Memphis. The sole focus of our effort is directed towards the children of the Binghampton section near Midtown Memphis.

A secondary goal is to develop professional, effective, and innovative grass-roots philanthropic leadership around the city. We have gone beyond saying "love your neighbor"; we have found a way to show them. Rachel's Kids has embraced the vision of former Secretary of State, Colin Powell, who expresses our vision "that every kid needs a relationship with a caring adult, safe places to meet, a healthy start, a place to develop marketable skills, and an opportunity to serve others".

Rachel's Kids sends up to 60 children to camp each summer. The cost per child ranges from \$130.00 for a local day camp to \$500.00 for a week long camping experience. The families are seldom equipped to provide the children with all the supplies they need, especially if they are attending a week long outing. You can help a child make a life time memory by providing any of the items listed below or you can sponsor a child with the registration fee to attend one of these camps.



2014 SUMMER CAMP



Bible
Suitcases
Pillows
Sleeping Bags
Sheets/Pillowcases (twin size)
Lightweight Blankets
Towels/Wash cloths
Bar Soap
Liquid Hand Cleaner
Tooth Brushes and
Toothpaste
Bug Spray
Sun Screen
Body Lotion
Deodorant
Band Aids

Water Bottles
Flash Lights
(batteries included)
Swim Suits
(boys and girls—all sizes)
Goggles and Masks
for swimming
Swimming Caps
Snacks
Quarters for Vending Machines
(many camps recommend \$20)

Rachel's Kids depends entirely upon donations from those who find this ministry helpful and worthy of their support. If you would like to have a part in the financial support of this ministry, you may make a tax-deductible donation by sending a check made payable to Rachel's Kids, Inc. and sending it by mail to the address below. To make a donation by credit card, visit the website at www.rachelskidsinc.org and from the homepage, scroll to the bottom, choose "How You Can Help" and then "Click Here To Donate". Your gift will make a difference.

Outreach Committee



Lucy Owen of Grace St. Luke's with John Rainey

Did you know that Pentecost Sunday is June 8 this year? Did you also know that the Pentecost Special offering will help in establishing new Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) congregations?

This year's Pentecost Offering will be taken on Sundays, June 1 and June 8. We give praise to God for the sacrifices of generations before us – the new churches that were started by courageous, visionary leaders. As a member of a Disciples church that was new once, will you consider participating in this offering so other churches can experience new life?



Mary Artman and Debra Goodnight, two members of our Outreach Committee.

During the month of June we will once again be collecting food for the food pantry at Grace St. Luke's Episcopal Church. The following is a list of suggested items that they need, though any donation is graciously accepted, including cash donations: Tuna, Canned Chicken, Cereal, Peanut Butter, Toothpaste, Toothbrush, Travel Size Shampoo

Outreach Committee

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This Month at Central

Sunday 4th
9:45 am Bible Class
10:30 am Coffee in the Narthex
10:45 am Worship Service
12:00 noon Fellowship

Worship Leader: John Bennett
Loaf: Richard Brown
Cup: Carol Scarberry
Refreshments: Carol Scarberry

Wednesday 6th
6:30 pm Dinner
7:15 pm Bible Study

Dinner Prepared by: George & Debra
Goodnight

Sunday 11th
9:45 am Bible Class
10:30 am Coffee in the Narthex
10:45 am Worship Service
12:00 noon Board Meeting

Worship Leader: John Johnson
Loaf: John Bennett
Cup: Debra Goodnight
Refreshments: Connie Bennett

Wednesday 14th
6:30 pm Dinner
7:15 pm Bible Study

Dinner Prepared by: Micki and Mary
Artman

Sunday 18th
9:45 am Bible Class
10:30 am Coffee in the Narthex
10:45 am Worship Service
12:00 noon DWM Luncheon

Worship Leader: Carol Scarberry
Loaf: John Johnson
Cup: George Goodnight
Refreshments: Daphne Brown
Luncheon: DWM and Congregation

Wednesday 21st
6:30 pm Dinner
7:15 pm Bible Study

Dinner Prepared by: Connie and John
Bennett

Sunday 25th
9:45 am Bible Class
10:30 am Coffee in the Narthex
10:45 am Worship Service

Worship Leader: Kathy Young
Loaf: Mark Rutledge
Cup: John Johnson
Refreshments: Katrinka Hall

Wednesday 28th
6:30 pm Dinner

Men's Cook Out

May Diary Reminders

6th
Bake Sale

15th
6:30 pm Elders Meeting
7:00 pm Meeting of General Board

18th
Memphis Camerata Concert

Birthdays

7th
Martha Bishop
8th
Linda Johnson
11th
John Bennett
11th
Dorothy Feimster
28th
John Rainey

Future Dates for your Diary

June 14st
Summer Sale

June 21th
1/2 Price Sale