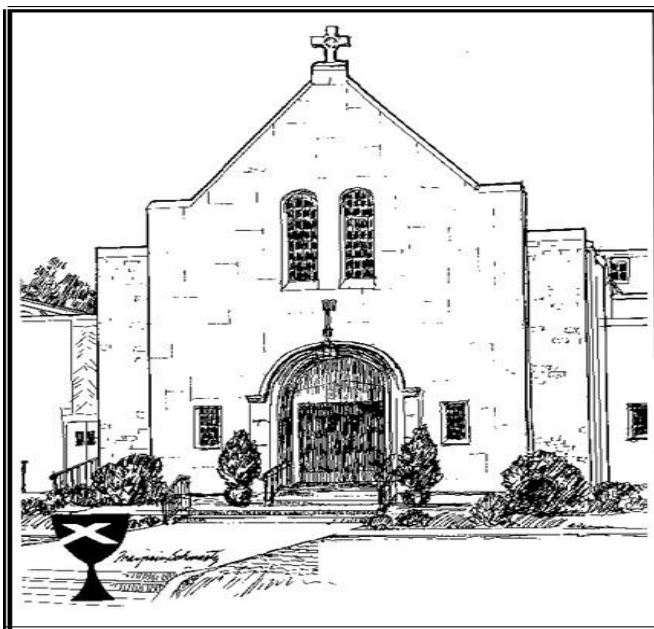


Central Christian Church **Banner**



February 2015

A Note from our Pastor, Bill Russell



Do you have this in a blue?

Pictured are Carol Scarberry and Micki Artman at our hugely successful Clothes Closet held on January 31st. About 100 people came to the Church, including many children, and all found good quality warm clothes including, in many cases, winter coats. Our thanks, as always, go out to all those who donated clothing and who assisted in this great Outreach project.



Most of you have heard that Anne and I are selling our house and will be moving. We are sad to leave where we are, but very excited that God has led us to something new. In meeting with the realtor, and talking about preparing our old house to show and sell, the main point was to rid our house of clutter and keep things tidy and in their place. We have to be ready, at a moment's notice to drop what we are doing and allow prospective buyers to take a look. This reminds me of how our lives as Christians are supposed to look if we are to be the best servants we can be. We must be ready when He needs us, we must be listening when He calls, our lives can't be filled with clutter that would obscure the message He wants us to carry. There is an old hymn no longer found in modern hymnals, 'I Want To Be Ready'. That hymn speaks to Christians being ready for the day that Christ returns, but it also speaks to us saying that our hearts, our desires, and our lives must always be ready to do those things that He needs us to do in this world. The Boy Scout motto was 'Be Prepared'. Our motto must be, 'Let's Be Ready'. Ash Wednesday is Feb. 18. What will each of us do during that time that will further our relationship with God? We can give something up, but that is negative. Or, we can do something extra for the kingdom. That's positive. Think about it. Our High Holy Days are fast approaching. I want to be ready.

Spotlight on Giving

This month the Spotlight is on an Offertory homily given by our Church Janitor, John Rainey. He is probably only the second Church Janitor ever to be our Service Leader, No prizes for guessing who was the first!

On Sunday January 25th, John gave us the following Offertory thought:

“A Church that is alive needs the generous support of those who love it. Only a dead Church demands no sacrifice. Have you ever heard anyone say ‘My church is always asking for money, I wish I belonged to a church that never needed any money.’ Surely they don’t mean that. Any church that is alive needs money. Only dead churches do not call on their members for support. If anyone should accuse your Church of always needing and calling for money, regard it as a compliment. Invite this person to rejoice with you that you both belong to something that is living and productive for Jesus Christ rather than a dead stagnant organization from which the glory of Christ has departed.”

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.

**All contributions for the March issue
must be submitted to the Church Office
by**

February 25th.

Editor: John Bennett

(901) 276-2708

Looking Ahead

Here is a reminder of some of the events planned for the next few months:

“Soup’er” Sunday – February 1st - Hosted by the Men’s Auxiliary

Ash Wednesday Service – February 18th

Maundy Thursday Service – April 2nd

Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday, April 4th

Easter – April 5th

Cookout – May 20th – Hosted by the Men’s Auxiliary

Summer Sale – Mid June

Behind the Scenes

Sometimes people are unaware of what goes on behind the scenes of the Church to make matters run as smoothly as they appear to do. This background work is epitomized by the dedication of our Janitor, John Rainey, who, on a cold wet Sunday morning, in January, arrived, in his best suit, to find a busted pipe and a veritable lake of water and mud on the Peabody side of the building. He took it upon himself to effect a temporary repair, thus staunching the flow, but in the course of this got himself soaked and spoiled his suit. Hence the expression on his face in the picture. You must realize that when that picture was taken the temperature was well below freezing.



To continue our theme of things that go on behind the scenes just look at the incredible list of programs supported by our DWM (Disciples Women's Ministries):

American Leprosy Program The American Leprosy Missions exists to serve as a channel of Christ's love to persons affected by leprosy and related diseases, helping them to be healed in body and spirit and restored to lives of dignity and hope. American Leprosy Missions is a global organization serving Christ by healing people and communities devastated by leprosy. For more information, go to www.leprosy.org.

Calvary Rescue Mission Calvary Rescue Mission is a non-profit, independent, faith-based shelter for homeless men in Memphis. They serve two full meals a day, offer clothing to the homeless, have a 2500 volume library, and provide nightly chapel services, counseling, a discipleship program, and lodging. Their goal is to reach homeless men and others with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and provide temporary shelter, food and clothing to homeless men who are in need. For more information, go to www.calvaryrescue.com.

Church Health Center The Church Health Center seeks to reclaim the Church's biblical commitment to care for our bodies and our spirits. Their ministries provide healthcare for the working uninsured and promote healthy bodies and spirits for all. For more information, go to www.churchhealthcenter.org.

Disciple Mission Fund (Love Offering) A ministry by which congregations, regions, institutions of higher education and general units share in the mission of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). This ministry is a faithful witness of receiving, caring and giving in the Christian community. The DMF receives contributions from more than 2, 00 Disciples congregations to support the worldwide mission of the church. This is done through annual contributions to the Disciples Mission Fund and through special offering received at Easter, Pentecost, Thanksgiving and Christmas. For more information, go to www.disciplesmissionfund.org

Fellowship of the Least Coin The International Fellowship of the Least Coin (IFLC) is a worldwide ecumenical movement of prayer for peace and reconciliation. Persons in this movement make a commitment to spend time in prayer, and to uphold in prayer others who are victims of jealousy, hatred, violence, and injustice to the family, community, nation, and the world. Every time one prays, she sets aside a "least coin" of her currency as a tangible token of her prayer. Church Women United is the custodian for FLC offerings in the United States. For more information, go to www.churchwomen.org.

Global Women Connecting GWC was formed in 1955 as World CWF to provide a channel by which all women members of the Stone-Campbell heritage churches and of the United churches who share that heritage, may be joined in fellowship and through which, by prayer, study, and service they may share the gospel to the ends of the earth. The name change from World CWF (WCWF) to Global Women Connecting (GWC) was adopted in 2004. It provides mission emphasis via a four-year service project that all member countries support. The current projects focus on Mozambique serving young girls, adolescent girls and young women who have been orphaned or are living in extreme poverty and have insufficient support to provide food, clothing, shelter and education. In Kenya, the focus is Harvest View Academy offering quality and affordable education to orphaned, neglected and disadvantaged Kenyan children. They hope to improve their service by providing adequate boarding for these children. For more information, go to www.discipleshomemissions.org.

Karat Place Founded in 1999 by Melvena Leake, Karat Place is a grassroots non-profit residential rehabilitation program for homeless women ex-offenders and their children. It is a member of Greater Memphis Interagency Coalition for the Homeless and has 501 (c) (3) status. It began as a four bed facility and has now grown to sixteen beds located at 829 N. Parkway. Ms. Leake and the live-in resident manager make up the "staff". For more information, go to www.karatplace.org

Meal Card Project The Disciple Women purchase gift cards in small denominations from a fast food restaurant that is within walking distance of the church to be given out to people who come to our doors and are hungry. The cards will purchase 1 small meal and the church staff has discretion over distribution of these cards.

Continued on the next page.

DWM (continued)

Memphis Union Mission Memphis Union Mission ministers to the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of men, women and children who are homeless, addicted, and in crisis. Their ultimate objective is for clients to become mature disciples of Jesus Christ; achieve freedom from substance abuse; reunite with family and loved ones and reemerge as self-sufficient members of the community. For more information, go to www.memphisunionmission.org.

MIFA (Memphis Inter-Faith Association) The mission of MIFA is to support the independence of vulnerable seniors and families in crisis through high-impact programs. For senior citizens, their most recognizable program is **Meals on Wheels**, but other programs include **Hands on Homes** to assist low-income seniors with selected home improvement projects; **Senior Companion** to pair low-income, active seniors with homebound peers for help with tasks of daily living; the **Transit program** providing transportation for seniors to appointments around the city. For families in crisis, their programs include **Emergency Services** to provide assistance with rent, utilities, food, clothing, and other necessities for families suffering from an unexpected loss of income. For more information, go to www.mifa.org.

Minister's Discretionary Fund Central has traditionally kept a small discretionary fund, distributed by the Minister, to be used to assist members and friends of the church in emergency situations, such as lack of utilities. Names and specific circumstances are provided to the Minister so that he can determine the appropriateness of assistance through the Discretionary Fund.

Neighborhood Compassion Clinic Established by Dr. John Lang and his wife Judy, a registered nurse, NCC is located in the Binghampton area of Memphis. They are open one evening a week and serve patients from infants to senior citizens. They treat diabetes, hypertension, colds, flu and any other ailment that is presented to them. The clinic is funded entirely through donations from friends, family and local church groups. The funds are used for everything from medical supplies to malpractice insurance. Operated solely by volunteers, no one on the staff is compensated for their services.

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 their 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 the vision of Rachel's Kids, "that every kid needs a relationship with a caring adult, a safe place to meet, a healthy start, a place to develop marketable skills, and an opportunity to serve others". Rachel's Kids is near to the heart of Central Christian Church, having been established by members Rachel and the late Harry Greer. Rachel is the daughter of Central's long-time member Pat Hammond. For more information, go to www.rachelskidsinc.org.

Woman to Woman Global Woman-to-Woman Worldwide (WWW) is sponsored by the International DWM and administered by the staff of Disciples Women in conjunction with Global Ministries. While the Woman-to-Woman Worldwide journey isn't a 'hands-on' mission it offers a way to respond to the call for church women to experience solidarity with one another, to affirm the unity of the church in Jesus Christ and to join the common struggle for justice and peace in the world today by educating and advocating for those needs. These international, ecumenical and personal experiences encourage faithful women to see the world through new eyes and bring that perspective back to their congregation and community. This experience includes visits to our in-country partners' programs and projects that focus on helping to improve the standard of living for marginalized impoverished women and children which in turn will raise the standard of living for their village or town. Upon their return home, they can make a difference by sharing what they have learned with their church, region, and their extended community and by raising funds to help improve the lives of the people they have met. For more information, go to www.discipleshomemissions.org.

DWM Service Project

During February the DWM will be continuing to collect flu and cold remedy medicines for the Compassion Neighborhood Clinic. The clinic is open one evening a week in Binghampton and provides free basic medical services to the residents of northeast Memphis who are impoverished.

Medical supplies needed include, but are not limited to, Children's Cold Medicines, Infant's Advil, Cough Syrups and Lozenges,, Childrens Zyrtec, Lip Balms, Kleenex etc. For a full list contact Carol Scarberry or Micki Artman.

We have already had generous donations and in the left hand picture you will see Floyd Scarberry presenting some of the collected items to Judy Lang of the Compassion Neighborhood Clinic. On the right are pictured Lind Johnson and Micki Artman in front of the Church poster listing the items needed.



Pictured on the left are John and Judy Lang with some of the Cold and Flu remedies collected so far together with a donation from the DWM

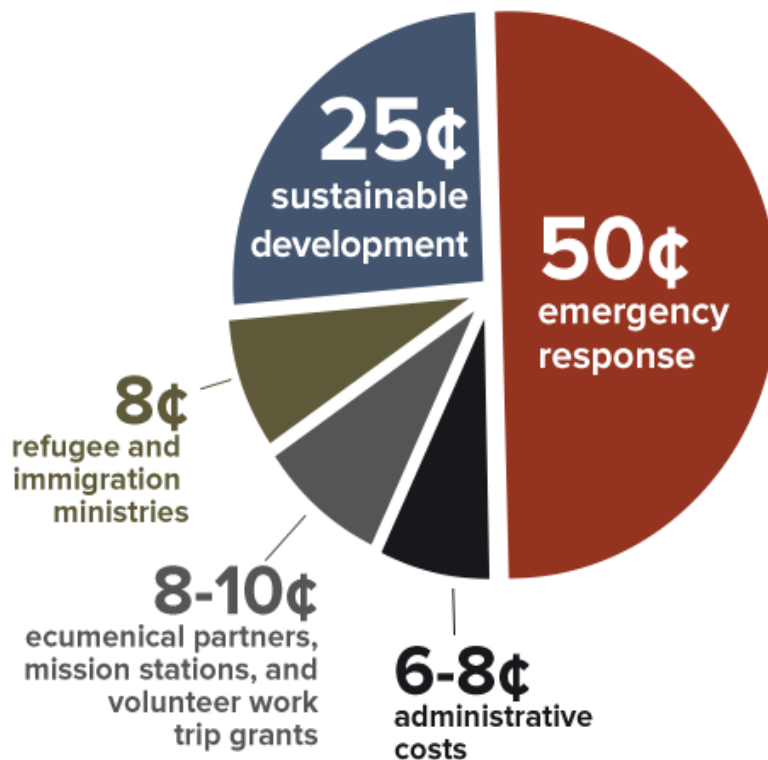
Week of Compassion

On two Sundays in February, the 15th and the 22nd, we will be taking up a special collection for the Week of Compassion.

The theme for this collection is “Will you put your Compassion into Action”. Like the Apostle Paul, when some of the early followers of Jesus were suffering a famine in Jerusalem, who organized an appeal to respond to their needs.

Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. They seek to equip and empower disciples to alleviate the suffering of others through disaster response, humanitarian aid, sustainable development and the promotion of mission opportunities. During worship service on Feb 15 and 22 you will hear how the Week of Compassion Special Offering has helped people effected by natural disasters both in other parts of the world and at home. Please consider that you can change the world in accountable, efficient, trustworthy, effective, sustainable way by supporting this mission. Will you put your compassion into action?

The following chart shows how every dollar, you contribute, is spent..



Building from the Board

At our board Meeting on January 15th a report was given by the Outreach Committee regarding last years achievements which included the estimated value of donations made, and Outreach Programs, at \$9,100.

The Treasurer, John Bennett, reported that the budgeted shortfall for 2014, of \$12K, turned into an actual shortfall of about \$2K, mainly due to actual income being some 36% over budget. He went on to say that, while it was a good year financially, the Church cannot continue incurring deficits each year. However we did end the year with cash balances of \$32K and liabilities of about \$2000.

A number of matters were raised particularly relating to maintenance of the buildings.

The next Board meeting will be on February 19th and all members of the Church are invited to attend.

A big thank you to one of our newest members, Jennifer Stevens for taking on the role of Board Secretary.

More Clothes Closet Pictures



Fellowship Schedule

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER & SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE

DATE	DAY	EVENT	TIME / LOCATION	PREPARED BY
02.01.15	Sunday	Fellowship Hour	Fellowship Hall	"Souper Sunday"
02.04.15	Wednesday	Wednesday Night Dinner	Fellowship Hall	Micki Artman
02.08.15	Sunday	Fellowship Hour	Fellowship Hall	DWM Potluck Luncheon
02.11.15	Wednesday	Wednesday Night Dinner	Fellowship Hall	Linda Johnson
02.15.15	Sunday	Fellowship Hour	Fellowship Hall	Father Tommy Sheppard St. Francis Old Catholic
02.18.15	Wednesday	Wednesday Night Dinner ASH WEDNESDAY	Fellowship Hall	Katrinka Hall
02.22.15	Sunday	Fellowship Hour	Fellowship Hall	Linda Johnson
02.25.15	Wednesday	Wednesday Night Dinner	Fellowship Hall	Mark Rutledge/Daphne Brown

If you need to make a change in the schedule, please give me a call at 262-6298. Thanks for your help! Daphne

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Memphis, TN 38104-5102



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This Month at Central

Sunday 1st
9:45 am Bible Class
10:45 am Worship Service
12:00 noon Fellowship—Souper Sunday

Wednesday 4th
6:30 pm Dinner
7:00 pm Bible Study

Sunday 8th
9:45 am Bible Class
10:45 am Worship Service
12:00 noon DWM Luncheon

Wednesday 11th
6:30 pm Dinner
7:00 pm Bible Study

Sunday 15th
9:45 am Bible Class
10:45 am Worship Service
12:00 noon Fellowship

Wednesday 18th Ash Wednesday
7:00 Joint Service with Kingsway Christian Church and
St. Francis Old Catholic Church

Sunday 22nd
9:45 am Bible Class
10:45 am Worship Service
12:00 noon Fellowship

Wednesday 25th

Sunday 22nd First Sunday of Lent
9:45 am Bible Class
10:45 am Worship Service
12:00 noon Fellowship

Worship Leader: George Goodnight
Loaf: Mark Rutledge
Cup: Kathy Young
Liturgical Color: Green

Dinner: Micki Artman

Worship Leader: John Johnson
Loaf: Daphne Brown
Cup: Debra Goodnight
Liturgical Color: Green

Dinner: Linda Johnson

Worship Leader: Mark Rutledge
Loaf: Richard Brown
Cup: Carol Scarberry
Fellowship: Father Tommy Shepperd
Liturgical Color: White

Dinner: Katrinka Hall
Liturgical Color: Purple

Worship Leader: Shula Shaw
Loaf: George Goodnight
Cup: John Bennett
Fellowship: Linda Johnson
Liturgical Color: Purple

Dinner: Mark Rutledge/Daphne Brown

Worship Leader: John Rainey
Loaf: Kathy Young
Cup: Debra Goodnight
Fellowship: Connie Bennett
Liturgical Color: Purple

Church Calendar for February

14th
Valentine's Day

19th
**Elders and Board
Meeting**

Birthdays

5th
Mary Artman

6th
Russell Lindeman

6th
Karla Mitchell

11th
Bill Bishop

23rd
George Goodnight