

Central Christian Church **Banner**



February 2016

A Note from our Pastor, Rev. Bill Russell



Because Easter is early this year, so, too, is Lent. The season of Lent is a time of preparation for the Christian, preparation for the agony of the cross, preparation for the victory of the resurrection. Historically, Lent is a time of introspection and examining our lives and hearts; it is a time of repentance and spiritual discipline. Lent begins Wednesday, February 10. That's Ash Wednesday. I urge you to take a few extra moments each day during this meaningful time to do whatever will help you grow closer to Christ. Think about and reflect on all that our Savior went thru, just because He loved us. Think about how you might help draw someone closer to Christ. And, if you want a short, poignant prayer to say daily during Lent, memorize Psalm 51, verse 10. That says it all.

DWM Luncheon February 14th

The Disciple Women invite our members and friends to celebrate Valentine's Day with a special lunch and program brought by John & Judy Lang of the Compassion Neighborhood Clinic located at Caritas Village. The Compassion Neighborhood Clinic originated from John & Judy seeing people delay or forgo medical treatment due to lack of insurance or limited financial resources. It has grown to serve nearly 1,000 patients and provides education on health issues and directs patients to other community resources. The Valentine's lunch will be very special and will feature a Chocolate Fountain. Plan to spend Valentine's Day with your church family in worship, stay and enjoy lunch and the DWM program! Also mark your diaries for Neighborhood Compassion Clinic's yearly fundraiser on April 5, 2016



Spotlight on Giving

On Sunday January 24th Daphne Brown delivered the following offertory message on behalf of Carol Scarberry. It is entitled “Never Let Go”:

“Discouraged by his 10 years of defeat in his efforts to end slavery, William Wilberforce (see below), who became a politician in 1780 and an evangelical Christian in 1785 was distressed and disheartened. One day he opened his Bible to seek uplifting and understanding. A piece of paper fell out. It was a letter from the famous Methodist Minister, John Wesley. Wesley’s words were challenging and powerful.’

“He wrote “unless the divine power has raised you up, I see not how you can go through your glorious enterprise in opposing that abominable practice of slavery unless God has raised you up for this very thing, you will be worn out by the opposition of men and devils. But if God be for you, who can be against you. Are all of them together stronger than God. Go on in the name of God and in the power of His might.’

“It took Wilberforce 20 years to see slavery abolished in England. So how does John Wesley’s message apply to us at Central? Carol said that when we went through the New Beginnings Evaluation, she felt like giving up then she felt courage enough to help make things change. When we start a project that takes time, hard work and financial resources, we meet opposition and grow weary. We have so much to offer and to share in this church ... yet our membership isn’t where we want it and we become discouraged. ‘But if God be for us, who can be against us?’ Let us now give back to God’s church and Never Let Go.”

William Wilberforce 1758 to 1833

A native of Kingston upon Hull, Yorkshire, in England, he began his political career in 1780, eventually becoming the Member of Parliament for Yorkshire (1784–1812). In 1785, he became an Evangelical Christian and in 1787, met Thomas Clarkson and a group of anti-slave-trade activists, including Granville Sharp, Hannah More and Charles Middleton. They persuaded Wilberforce to take on the cause of abolition, and he soon became one of the leading English abolitionists. He headed the parliamentary campaign against the British slave trade for twenty years until the passage of the Slave Trade Act of 1807. He also championed causes such as the foundation of the Church Mission Society, and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Church Door Ministry

Our Church Door Ministry continues to provide snack bags, sandwiches, fruit drinks and water to homeless and others in need who come to our Church door. We also hand out vouchers for an overnight stay and meal at the Memphis Union Mission. A big thankyou to those who donate money and needed items for this mission including our own DWM, The African Violets Society and Scoops Ice Cream as well as the many individuals who make donations.

A Note from Carol Scarberry

Dear Friends:

Your cards, prayers and food were a comfort during a difficult time. Thank you for all your calls and to those who attended the funeral of my sister Marie.

We appreciate your friendship.
Love Carol

Editors Note

If you want to receive the Banner by E-Mail please contact the Editor, John Bennett, by phone on (901) 276–2708 or by e-mail at: centralchristian@cccmemphistn.org

All contributions for the March Banner should be emailed or sent to the Editor at the Church Office by February 25th.

Past copies of the Banner together with sermons, special music videos etc. can be found using links to YouTube on our Website at cccmemphistn.org.

Homily before the Lord's Prayer

We have a tradition in our Church that the Service Leader give a short introduction to the Lord's prayer. Recently Daphne Brown gave us the following homily:

“God our Father, as we join together in our service this morning, we come with our thoughts of gratitude for all the blessings that we receive.

There are so many things, Father, that we take for granted; the things of our material lives that are necessary for our daily existence. We thank You for our food, for our homes, for our families, for our work. But most of all we thank you because we live in a country that grants us the opportunity to worship in the way that we feel is right for us.

We pray for the leaders of this community and the leaders of our nation and those throughout the world. May they be guided by your love and grace.

We pray for this church that it will always remain open for those who are seeking, that there will be knowledge given to them, that we will provide fellowship for the lonely, comfort for the sad, healing for the sick and that it will shine like a beacon in this community.

Finally, Father, we ask for a blessing on this service today. May it touch our hearts and lead us to walk in accordance with your Holy Will. We ask these things in the name of Jesus the Christ who taught his disciples to pray saying.....”

Church Notice Board

Birthday Party

Debra, Wesley & Allen Goodnight are hosting a birthday party for George Goodnight to celebrate his big 75 at their house on Sunday, February 21 from 5:00 to 7:00. All church members and friends are invited to join in the fun and please, no presents!

Pastor's Office Re-Furbish

The Disciple Women voted to renovate our Pastor's Office in 2016 and that work will begin Valentine's Day weekend. If you would like to help, please see Rob Artman or Wesley Goodnight.

Plans are:

Walls: Strip grass cloth and paint

Ceilings & light fixtures: Replace, as needed

Floor: Clean & polish wood floor & purchase new rug

Furniture: Purchase new love seat & replace desk

1st Free Clothes Closet of 2016

We will open our free Clothes Closet to needy families on Saturday, February 13th from 8:00 to 10:00. (Note the time change!) We have a good amount of clothes to distribute so will meet on Friday night, February 12th from 5:30 to 7:30 to set up and organize. Come and help if you are able.

Save the following dates

Tennessee Regional Assembly October 7 – Oct 9 at Henry Horton State Park Inn & Conference Center in Chapel Hill, TN

Western Area Women's Spiritual Journey March 19 Lindenwood Christian Church

Resource Leader: Pastor Karren Todd with New Direction Christian Church

531 S. McLean at Peabody,
Memphis, TN 38104-5102



OFFICE: 901-276-2708
WWW.CCCMEMPHISTN.ORG
CENTRALCHRISTIAN@CCCMEMPHISTN.ORG
EMAIL: CENTRALCHRISTIAN@CCCMEMPHISTN.ORG

This Month at Central

Wednesday 3rd
6:30pm Dinner and Bible Study

Meal prepared by: Linda Johnson

Thursday 4th
11:30 am Lunchtime Bible Study

Sunday 7th Pledge Sunday
9:45 am Bible Class
10:45 am Worship Service

Service Leader: Debra Goodnight
Loaf: Carol Scarberry
Cup: Daphne Brown
Refreshments: Souper Sunday

Wednesday 10th
6:30pm Dinner and Bible Study

Meal prepared by: Daphne Brown

Thursday 11th
11:30 am Lunchtime Bible Study

Sunday 14th
19:45 am Bible Class
10:45 am Worship Service

Service Leader: George Goodnight
Loaf: Debra Goodnight
Cup: Kathy Young
Refreshments: DWM Hosted lunch with Chocollate Fountain Valentine's Day

Wednesday 17th
6:30pm Dinner and Bible Study

Meal prepared by: John Rainey

Thursday 18th
11:30 am Lunchtime Bible Study

Sunday 21st
9:45 am Bible Class
10:45 am Worship Service

Service Leader: John Johnson
Loaf: John Bennett
Cup: Mark Rutledge
Refreshments: Tami Taylor

Wednesday 24th
6:30 pm Dinner and Bible Study

Meal prepared by: Debra Goodnight

Thursday 25th
11:30 am Lunchtime Bible Study

Sunday 28th
9:45 am Bible Class
10:45 am Worship Service

Service Leader: Mark Rutledge
Loaf : George Goodnight
Cup : Carol Scarberry
Refreshments: Bridgett Sharp

Church Calendar for February

9th
Shrove Tuesday
Mardi Gras
10th
Ash Wednesday
14th
Valentine's Day
15th
President's Day
21st
Elders and General
Board Meeting.

Birthdays

5th
Mary Artman
6th
Russell Lindeman
11th
Bill Bishop
23rd
George Goodnight