



Central Christian Church **Banner**

May 2016

A Note from our Pastor, Rev. Bill Russell

I must confess that I am not an early morning riser, and I am not a big fan of sunrises. I'll gladly look at pictures. That said, one of the biggest blessings I have had in a long time was last Thursday morning when 7 of us gathered to begin our new Drive-Thru Prayer initiative. The enthusiasm that met me at 6:40 was absolutely contagious among those other 6 people, and when we prayed before we began, I felt a true spirit of excitement and joy. The people who stopped and joined us in prayer were delightful and were beyond complimentary about our new step in ministry. Friends, this is sending a message to our neighbors, that we care, and God cares, about them. I ask you all to pray for those involved in this ministry, and then pray for those who come wanting someone to pray with or for them. Sunrise may not be so bad after all.



Spotlight on Giving

On Sunday, April 2nd, John Bennett shared the following Offertory thought:

Today is Holy Humor Sunday. The Sunday after Easter, was for centuries the culmination of a week of joyous celebration of Jesus' resurrection, a week rich in joy, laughter, parties, jokes, singing and dancing. This Greek custom stemmed from the musings of early theologians who considered the possibility that the Resurrection was God's joke on the devil – Risus paschalis, the Easter laugh.

There are those who believe that humor has no place in a Church service though we all know Pastor Bill is not one of these. Consider also the following

In Ecclesiastes 3.4 it says "there is a time to weep and a time to laugh"

Archbishop Chrysostom writing in the 4th century says "That laughter has been implanted in our souls".

St Thomas Aquinas said "there is a time for playful deeds and jokes"

Now Martin Luther and John Calvin were not known to have a lighter side and yet Luther said "you have as much laughter as you have faith" and John Calvin "we are nowhere forbidden to laugh".

G K Chesterton "a good joke is the closest thing we have to divine revelation".

But what has this to do with the offertory. Well a sense of humor goes with an open heart. Hopefully an open heart goes with an open wallet or purse. So just remember that parachutes, wallets and purses have one thing in common they don't work unless they are open. Please make your wallets and purses work for the good of the Church and the community, but above all for the Glory of God.

Memorials and Honorariums

During April we received generous donations to our building fund particularly to help pay for improvements to the lighting in our Fellowship Hall. Donations were received from Carol and Floyd Scarberry and St. Francis Old Catholic Church. We also received a gift, for the same project, from George and Debra Goodnight, the gift being partly a memorial to Dorothy Taylor and partly in honor of Jean Dando.

It is the generosity of our congregation, and others, that keeps this Church alive, and enables both the maintenance of our buildings and, most importantly, our continued ministry and outreach within this community.

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 May Banner should be emailed or sent to the Editor at the Church Office
by May 30th.**

**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.**

New Regional Minister

In the last Banner reference was made to a Called Regional Assembly to be held on Saturday, April 16, 2016 from 11:00 to 1:00 at Woodmont Christian Church in Nashville. The purpose of the Assembly was for the Churches in the Tennessee Region to affirm or deny the Call to Rev. Dr. Christal Williams as the Regional Minister and President of the Christian Church in Tennessee.

Central had 6 attendees for the Called Regional Assembly and had 4 voting delegates namely Debra Goodnight, John Johnson, Linda Johnson and Rev. Bill Russell, Minister.

Rev. Dr. Christal LaShawn Williams was elected regional minister for Tennessee by unanimous acclamation at that meeting.

Rev. Williams has held positions such as associate regional minister in Illinois-Wisconsin. She has also served in Illinois, Iowa, Ohio and Indiana. She will begin her term on Aug. 1.



Rev. Dr. Christal LaShawn Williams

Hot Diggity Dog Sunday

On Sunday, April 23rd, we were treated to a Hot Diggity Dog Sunday Fellowship. Mark Rutledge (pictured on the right in the red apron) prepared a delicious spread of Hot Dogs with all the trimmings and we were joined by the congregation of St. Francis Old Catholic Church.

The weather was kind so the meal was served outside in the breezeway adjoining our Chapel Garden.



Summer Sale

It's that time again "when all hands are called to the pumps" as we once again prepare for one of our main fund raisers of the year, our Annual Summer Sale. The following notice was distributed at the April Board Meeting and you are asked to put these dates in your diary or pin this page to your refrigerator, whichever you prefer. Contact Debra Goodnight if you wish to host a meal. This is a preliminary schedule and you be made aware of any changes:

Central 2016 Summer Sale Work Schedule

Date	Day	Time	Lunch/Dinner Host
June 15	Wednesday (set up)	6:30 to 8:30	
June 18	Saturday	9:00 to 2:00	
June 19	Sunday	12:30 to 4:30	
June 22	Wednesday	6:30 to 8:30	D. Goodnight
June 25	Saturday	9:00 to 2:00	
June 26	Sunday	12:30 to 4:30	
June 29	Wednesday	6:30 to 8:30	
July 2	Saturday	9:00 to 2:00	
July 3	Sunday	12:30 to 4:30	
July 4	Monday if needed(Holiday)	9:00 to 12:00	D. Goodnight
July 6	Wednesday	6:30 to 8:30	
July 8	Friday	9:00 to 5:00	D. Goodnight
July 9	Saturday (SALE DAY)	7:00 to 2:00	Hot dogs/ D. Goodnight
July 16	Saturday (1/2 Price)	7:00 to 12:00	Hot Dogs/ D, Goodnight
July 17	Sunday (Clean up)	12:30 to 4:30	

Fellowship Hall is reserved from June 15 to July 18 – No events to be scheduled during that time.



Drive-Thru Prayer Mission

We have a new project which definitely comes under the heading of Evangelism. On the last Thursday of each month we will organize a Drive-Thru Prayer Mission. Commuters driving past our Church will be greeted by a sign (see front page), inviting them to stop by, between 7:00am and 8:00am. They will be greeted by a prayer partner who will listen to their prayer need whether it be a prayer seeking help, a prayer of contrition or a prayer to thank god for the good that has happened in their lives. The prayer partner will then pray with them and if there is a concern the commuter will be able to request that prayer concern be put in our bulletin for the next Sunday. We will also have hand outs, if requested, regarding the Disciples Church, and cards giving details of a prayer concern phone line.

Our first Drive-Thru Ministry was on April 28th and resulted in two prayer concerns being added to our Sunday bulletin.

African Violets



Our good friends, the African Violets, held their Annual Flower Show and Sale on 24th and 25th April in our Fellowship Hall. While the Society is primarily there to enable the sharing of information regarding these beautiful plants, they also do a fantastic job in contributing to our Outreach causes particularly the Food Bank collections.

For more pictures, and details of the prize winners, visit The Memphis African Violets Society on FaceBook.



Church Signs

You must by now be aware of our newer brighter and more informative Church signs. A new frame has been constructed on the corner of Peabody and McLean and this will hold easily interchangeable signage.

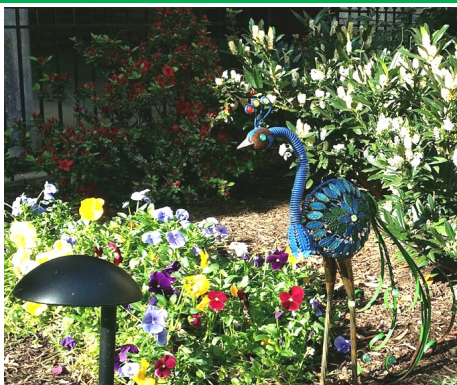
Already we have had a sign for our Drive Thru Prayer Mission, pictured on the front page, and on the right you can see our “generic” sign of welcome which also advertises our service times.

As the year goes on more signs will appear for the Summer Sale, Autumn Evening and other events.

If you want a particular sign made, ask at the Church office for a submission form from the Signs Committee which is led by Micki Artman.



Church Grounds



Spring is here and to prove it look at the pictures of our Chapel Garden. A place of beauty to be admired or, if you wish, a place for prayer or quiet contemplation. The rest of the Church grounds also look amazing especially the display of roses on the Peabody side.

Our thanks go to everyone who tends the flower beds, as you do an amazing job.



Mother's Day

The modern holiday of Mother's Day was first celebrated in 1908, when Anna Jarvis held a memorial for her mother at St Andrew's Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia. Today St Andrew's Methodist Church now holds the International Mother's Day Shrine. Her campaign to make "Mother's Day" a recognized holiday in the United States began in 1905, the year her mother, Ann Reeves Jarvis, died. Ann Jarvis had been a peace activist who cared for wounded soldiers on both sides of the American Civil War, and created Mother's Day Work Clubs to address public health issues. Anna Jarvis wanted to honor her mother by continuing the work she started and to set aside a day to honor all mothers.

Our Congregation at Play



Paul Cooper, having a day off from his role as Father Christmas, together with Bertie the Church "guard dog"!



Our janitor, John Rainey, in costume for his first acting role as a in the play "Enemy of the People" which plays at the Evergreen Theater until May 7th. John wishes to thank all the congregation for their support in this new endeavor.

The Community of St. Therese of Lisieux

Our DWM have taken on a new Community Service Project, The Community of St. Therese of Lissieux. This organization provides support and education to women who have survived lives of prostitution, trafficking, addiction, and life on the streets to help them lead lives of service to themselves, their families and others.

Through relationships with other non-profits agencies, individuals, and direct funding, they are able to offer a two-year residential program which provides relationships and community building; spiritual direction; transportation to appointments and training sites; medical, dental and mental health treatment/management; inpatient/outpatient referrals; legal support/intervention; educational opportunities; job skills training; career direction and job retention training; financial training; and housing procurements for graduates of the Community of St. Therese Lisieux.

They have provided us with a list of needed items ranging from tissues to bedroom curtains, and that list will be available in the Fellowship Hall shortly.

Please help us help them by bringing some of the listed items or, if you prefer, you can give money as Carol Scarberry, Micki Artman, or Linda Johnson, our savvy shoppers, will be happy to purchase for you.



Linda Johnson making a presentation to Sandra Ferrell, of The Community of St. Therese of Lisieux, on behalf of the DWM.

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This Month at Central

Sunday 1st
9:45 am Bible Class
10:45 am Worship Service

Service Leader: Carol Scarberry
Loaf: John Johnson
Cup: Debra Goodnight
Refreshments: Daphne Brown

Wednesday 4th
6:30pm Dinner and Bible Study

Cinco De Mayo (May 5th)
Meal prepared by: George Goodnight

Sunday 8th
9:45 am Bible Class
10:45 am Worship Service

Service Leader: John Bennett
Loaf: Kathy Young
Cup: George Goodnight
Refreshments: John Rainey

Wednesday 11th
6:30pm Dinner and Bible Study

Meal prepared by: Daphne Brown &
Carol Scarberry

Sunday 15th
9:45 am Bible Class
10:45 am Worship Service

Service Leader: Daphne Brown
Loaf: Mark Rutledge
Cup: Carol Scarberry
Refreshments: DWM and Congregation

Wednesday 18th
6:30pm Dinner and Bible Study

Meal prepared by: Carol Scarberry

Sunday 22nd
9:45 am Bible Class
10:45 am Worship Service

Service Leader: Kathy Young
Loaf : Debra Goodnight
Cup : John Bennett
Refreshments: Connie Bennett

Wednesday 25th
6:30pm Dinner and Bible Study

Meal prepared by: Men's Cookout

Sunday 29th
9:45 am Bible Class
10:45 am Worship Service

Service Leader: George Goodnight
Loaf : Carol Scarberry
Cup : John Johnson
Refreshments: Carol Scarberry

Church Calendar for May

7th
Memphis Camerata

11th
Minister's Conference

15th
Salad Pot Luck
DWM Luncheon
And Program

Birthdays

8th
Linda Johnson

11th
Dorothy Feimster
John Bennett

28th
John Rainey