

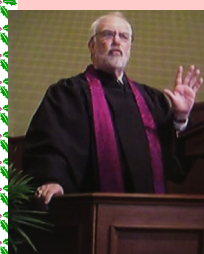


Christmas

December 2022



Message From Pastor Bill Russell



Pastor Russell

This will be my 75th Christmas, more than some of you, less than some of you. I've celebrated in 6 Russell houses, one with my mother, five with my wife and children. Once the children were there, now they're gone, replaced by grandchildren. Once Anne was with me, for 52 of those celebrations. No longer. Life continually changes, it ebbs and flows. However, Christmas never changes. The reason for Christmas is love, God's love, love so great He sent Jesus. He gives us life and joy. And then, He gives us family and friends. And He gives us more and more and more. How we celebrate the birth of our savior evolves, just as our lives do. The message of Christmas is always the same: Emmanuel. God with us. Because He loves us. Merry Christmas, friends. I love you. Bill

We hope to see you next Sunday at Central Christian Church:

Worship begins at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School begins at 10:30 a.m.

There's a smiling face waiting to greet you.

Worshiping At Christmas
December 24th and 25th



Christmas Services for 2022

Christ City Church -

5:00 p.m. 12/24

Central Christian Church -

10:00 a.m. 12/25

Generosity Abounds At Central Christian Church!

In just a few weeks time, members at Central, along with such groups as the African Violets, donated over \$300 toward the Thanksgiving Outreach Offering in support of feeding needy families in the Binghampton community. In the photo, Rachael Greer is receiving the donations from Mark Rutledge, a member of the Outreach Committee.



And, on the inside:

Pg. 2, Happenings at Central Christian

Pg. 3: Central's 100 Year Anniversary Pg. 5: Sanctuary Repairs

Pg. 6: Church Calendar and "Hey! Is it your birthday?"



Central
Christian
Church

The
Banner



Thanksgiving Dinner A Success!



According to everyone who attended this year's Thanksgiving Dinner, the meal was a huge success! Those in attendance served themselves from a center table buffet that had the most delicious food prepared by the great chefs Debra and George Goodnight. The meal not only included turkey and dressing with gravy, but included delicious green bean casseroles, corn pudding, sweet potato casseroles, and a variety of home made desserts (see photos).

Not only did the Goodnights prepare a delicious meal, but Debra Goodnight decorated the center buffet and dinner tables with beautiful table cloths, napkins, place mats and center pieces.

Inquiries were made about the center pieces at everyone's table. It was learned that the artistic talents of Micki Artman created the floral arrangements that adorned the tables.

After the dinner, Pastor Bill gave everyone the opportunity to express what they were thankful for - in their own writing! Guests read out loud their "blessings" and Bill expanded on their blessings.

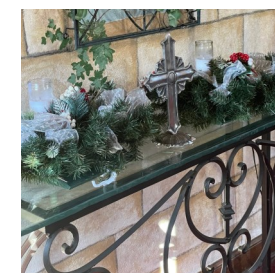
(The *Banner* photographer [Pete Parker] was supposed to take more photos of the buffet table and attendees. Apparently he was more interested in dining on the fabulous food provided by the Goodnights than taking photos. He has been severely chastised!)



The upper left sign greeted the dinner guests along with the beautiful table decoration. The second row of photos show the outstanding desserts from the Goodnights. Pastor Bill opened the dinner with a prayer.



Christmas Begins at Central Christian Church



Lighting First Advent Candle



The church has now been readied for enjoying the Christmas system and to remember the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ



Members who stayed for Fellowship after Advent service, helped decorate the tree.



From the desk of Mark Rutledge,
Chairmen of the 100 Year Anniversary Committee:



As I reported in the November issue of the *Banner*, plans for celebrating Central's 100th anniversary are still taking place. With a little bit more work, a "Save the Date" post card will be mailed out in late January or early February. Diane Senger, Linda Johnson, and I are still preparing a mail out list. If you know of someone outside the church (ex. A former member?) who might like to attend, email their address to the church. Also, with help from Dr. Jeff Brewer, the program for May 12th is almost complete. More news to be reported in the January issue of the *Banner*.



Another Mysterious Visitation!

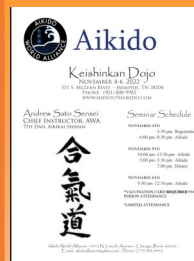
It's not unusual for custodian John Rainey to find clothing and other donated items left outside near the kitchen door. However, John recently went outside to help with some gardening and discovered something entirely different.



Several months ago, for reasons unknownst to Mr. Rainey, the church's two-wheel dolly disappeared, and where it is, no one knows. The word must have gotten out that Central needed a new two-wheel dolly, because one was left outside at the kitchen.

John Rainey contacted Waldo Gumshoe to investigate. Mr. Gumshoe said to give thanks to God and move on!

Aikido National Convention at Central



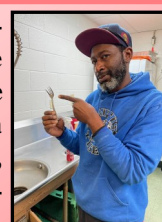
The weekend of November 4th put Central Christian Church on the map. Aikido Martial Arts participants traveled from such states as New York, California, Georgia and as far away as Alaska to be a part of the Aikido National Work Shop.

Andrew Sato Sensei, Chief Instructor for the AWA (7th Dan, Aikikai Shihan), came to Memphis from Chicago for the three days of Aikido instruction. Approximately 50 attendees of all ages and skill levels attended the work shop. The photos below show a sample of the activities done during the convention.



A Grinch in the Kitchen!

Several day just before the special Thanksgiving Wednesday Night Dinner (see article on page 2) was to take place, the garbage disposal could be turned on, but had a racket that sounded like the ball bearings, or some other part of the disposal, had malfunctioned.



Mr. James

A call to Mechanical Systems was made to have the disposal repaired. James, the tech who came to Central to make the repairs, quickly analyzed the situation and came up with the solution. He found that someone had dropped a fork down the disposal, and was lodged deep in the unit. The Property and Grounds Committee thanks Mr. James for the quick repair!

Worth Repeating -

Offertory Thoughts



Kathy Young

(An Offertory by Kathy Young, presented in late October.)

People in the New Testament world were often sent to beg if they had some physical affliction, such as blindness. The Jews of that time believed that the possible cause of such an affliction was unforgiven sin, either that of the afflicted person, or the parents of the afflicted person. Often when Jesus performed miracles of healing, they were accompanied by the forgiveness of sin. This action was probably more for the people watching than for the person being healed. Sometimes Jesus would remark that the person being healed had more faith than the watching audience.

Our society does not blatantly equate affliction with sin, but our society does sometimes shun and look down on people who have the misfortune of being poor or sick or homeless. But the good news is that there are many faith-based organizations that are willing to help these people. Our church, though small, does what it can to help people. We may feel compelled to pat ourselves on the back for it, but it is what we are called to do.

That part of our worship, which we call the offertory, reminds us of this calling, not just by giving money to this church, but in all of our efforts to improve the society in which we live. And small does not mean ineffective. The intimacy of one small gift, such as a lunch for one day, can have a far-reaching effect.

From the *Banner* Staff: Several members of Central's congregation have mentioned how they liked or were moved by an Offertory Thought presented by the Worship Leader. Here are two that have been submitted as "worth repeating". This also gives those members and friends, who were not able to attend the service when presented, an opportunity to enjoy the message..

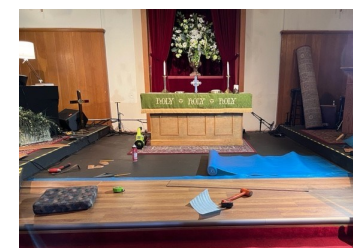


George Goodnight

(An Offertory by George Goodnight, presented in November).

We provide pencils in the pews, but, I guess, we expect everyone to bring their own pen, for no one writes a check with a pencil. Some folks think we should have the offering after the sermon so that our *cheerful giving* will reflect our approval for the Pastor's message. No pressure there! But, the truth is, we rely on our hearts to help us show our appreciation for, and the need to support and enhance, the long and storied ministry from this giving corner of our world. With that in mind, we well accept our tithes and offerings.

Speaking of Giving The photos below were not received in time for the November *Banner*. The photos show some of the work being done in the Chancel area near the Communion table. Rob, Micki, and Clay Artman, along with Wesley Goodnight, gave up their free time and resources to make the improvements.



And from Christ City Church:

MORE giving...



For the past several weeks members from Christ City Church have been "spiffing up" Walker Hall and the Walker Hall Kitchen. The old gas stove was removed and, as the first photo shows, Mandy Grisham and her dad (retired minister Howard Fuller) are painting the wall. The second photo shows window improvements in Walker Hall and added décor. The last two photos show the baptistry curtain ties with their new hooks. The mystery still remains as to who exactly did the repair.

In the works: Sanctuary Repairs



For several years there have been problems with leaks in the Sanctuary area. On Monday, November 21st, work began to remove the old paint peeling from the walls, columns and support beams.

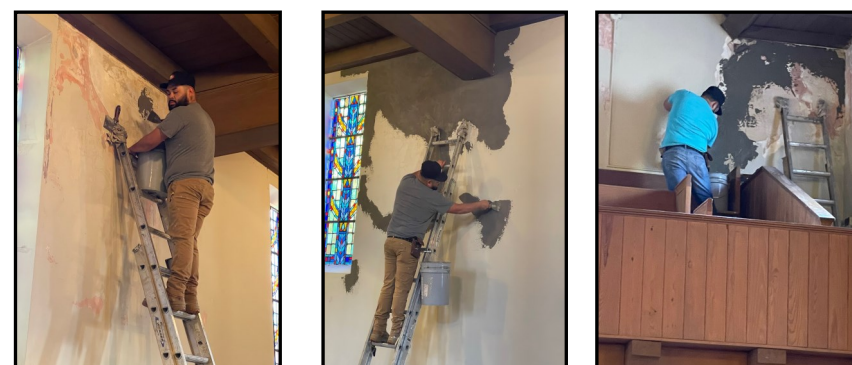
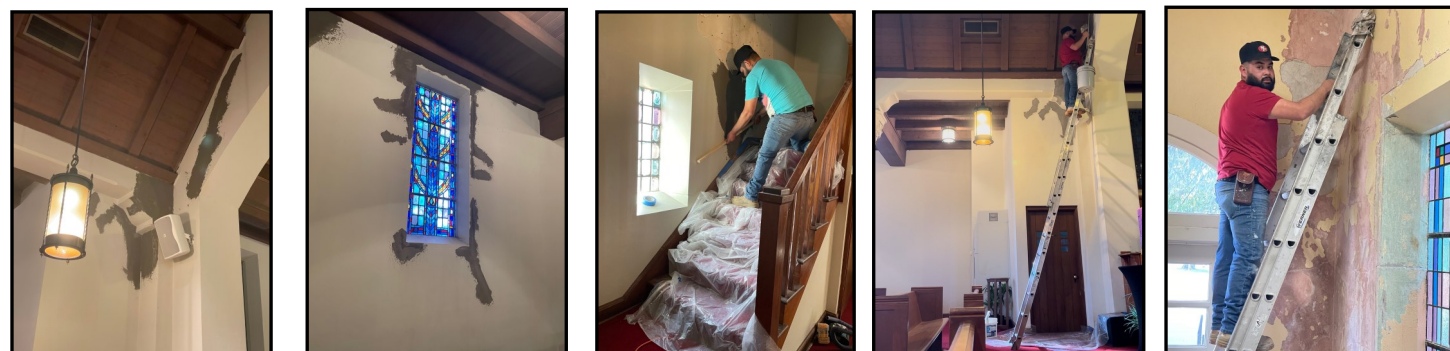

Of course, “*things happen*” and that day was no exception. Some hidden damage was found in some of the metal support columns and the concrete support beams.

To the rescue came Mr. Jorge Rangel who began moving pews (by himself!) and the ladder to start scrapping off the old paint. Several days later, he began to plaster over the rough spots on the walls where the damages were.

Work in the Sanctuary had not yet been completed by the time the *Banner* went to press. More about the Sanctuary repairs and the extra costs in the next issue of the *Banner*.



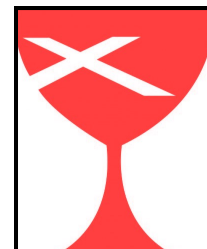
↓ In Progress Photos Before Photos ↑

Once all the repairs have been completed, the next part of the project will be to paint, not just the repaired areas, but to paint the entire Sanctuary and entry area near the Peabody entrance. Unfortunately, painting may not be in the church’s budget until later next year.

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH, CELEBRATING OVER 99 YEARS OF MINISTRY IN MIDTOWN MEMPHIS


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Happenings in December 2022 & More


Happy Birthday!




Paula Anabel 12/10

Amy Lindeman 12/26



Nanda Noordermeer 12/29



Below is the list of those serving as
Worship Leader for December

Date	Worship Leader
4	Mark Rutledge
11	Kathy Young
18	John Bennett
25	Debra Goodnight

Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and the Lord will reward them for what they have done. Proverbs 19:17

Merry Christmas

From The Banner Staff

Ed. In Chief: Diane “W.W.” Senger
Cub Reporter : Mark “Snoop” Rutledge
Proofer: John “The Rock” Rainey
Comm. Dir.: George “M.I.” Goodnight

 *Church Calendar's Horizon:*

December 14
Wednesday Night Dinner

December 24
*Christ City Church
Christmas Service 5:00 p.m.*

December 25 
*Central Christian Church
Christmas Service 10:00 a.m.*

December 31
New Year's Eve



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by email at centralchristian@cccmemphistn.org