

# JANUARY

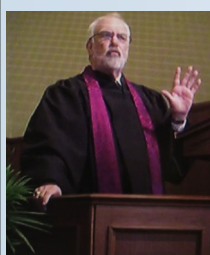
2023



Happy New Year!



## Message From Pastor Bill Russell



Pastor Russell

As we look forward to a New Year, I hope we understand that we, no matter how hard we try, are not going to be in control of things any more than we have been in previous years. Life is very much like a ten week old kitten: totally unpredictable, sometimes very good and, just as often, sometimes not very good at all.

But the constancy in each new year is the assurance we have that, come what may, God will be there too. Emmanuel: God is with us, that's the message we bring from Christmas into 2023 and it's a message to which we need to cling tightly. I pray that 2023 is a great year for each of you, and I pray that when life goes a little sour, you will remember the words Christ spoke, "I am with you always." That assurance and promise gives great strength and comfort.

Happy New Year, my friends. Love, Bill



## HER Faith Ministries

HER Faith Ministries began in 2008 as a ministry to help to address the rising incidence of poverty and homelessness among women and children in the City of Memphis. Rev. Dr. Elaine Y. Sanford founded the Ministry along with a group of like-minded volunteers to serve the needs of struggling families.

The Ministry provides emergency food, clothing, transportation assistance, some medical care, and spiritual guidance and mentoring.

Several members at Central participated in HER Faith Ministries 'Christmas Love' program to provide Christmas presents for children and elderly women in the Orange Mound area of Memphis. George Goodnight delivered gifts for 4 children and 2 elderly women to 'Cookie' Asberry at the Ministry. Gifts were provided by Debra & George Goodnight, Mark Rutledge, Linda & John Johnson and Rob & Micki Artman.

(photos: Cookie Asberry on the left & George Goodnight on the right)



And, on the inside:

Pg. 2, Happenings at Central Christian Pg. 3: Sanctuary Repairs  
Pg. 4: Church Calendar & "Hey! Is it your birthday?"



Central  
Christian  
Church

The **Banner**



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

As I reported in the December issue of the *Banner*, plans for celebrating Central's 100th anniversary are moving forward, and now at a faster pace. The "Save the Date" post cards will be mailed out in middle to late February. Decisions will have to be made real soon as to catering for the celebration. The next decision I have to make is to decide to print a program or not.

I had a phone call recently from a former member at Central: Marsha Thraillkill. She had heard about the 100th year celebration and wanted to know if she could help. I said yes!

If you know of someone who would like to attend the celebration on May 12th, 2023, please contact the church so that their name and address may be put on the mailing list. Don't delay!



On the Third Sunday in Advent, Central was blessed with a visit from Madison Goodnight (being held by her grandmother and her dad). Pastor Russell photo-bombed the picture.

Central's Outreach:  
We're making a difference!

For the past several years members of the Outreach Committee have been handing out *snack bag* meals to the needed. Once in a while a conversation arises and Outreach learns about the life of the one in need.

There is a gentleman who sought Central's help with food. Was he homeless? No, but he lives alone and his income barely meets his needs. It turns out that Joe (not his real name) was a Navy Seal during Desert Storm back in January of '91. He helped extinguish the oil well fires, and, as a result, was severely injured while doing so. Since then he has to undergo treatment weekly for the rest of his life. He cannot work. Not only food is helping Joe, but the companionship extended to him by Central's members, has made a huge difference in his life.

When members at Central Christian lend a helping hand, they are continuing to do the work that Christ would want them to do.

And over the Christmas holidays ...

Several things happened in December that didn't make the December *Banner*. Connie Bennet added some finishing touches to the Christmas tree in the Fellowship Hall and Christ City Church members gathered in Walker Hall to sing carols, including such favorites as Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer, Silent Night, and The First Noel.



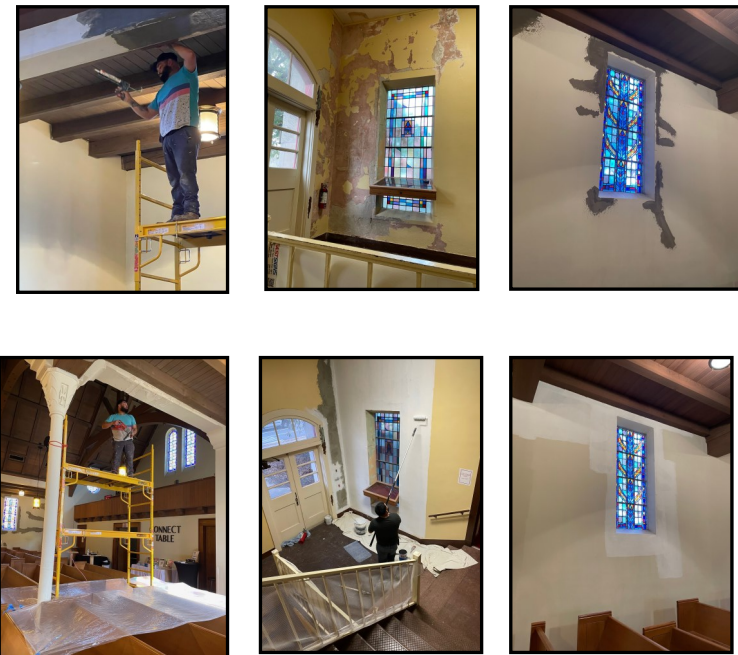
Above photos: (Left) Connie Bennett, (Right) Christ City Christmas carolers.





## In the works: Sanctuary Repairs

For over a week, repairs were being made in the Sanctuary to fix the peeling plaster caused by leaks in the ceiling and along the outside walls. The photos show Mr. Jorge Rangel repairing the concrete support beams in the Sanctuary and the damaged walls in the Peabody entrance. Current estimates are in the \$7,000 range to have the Sanctuary walls and Peabody entrance painted.



## Church Family Wednesday Night Dinner

A stupendous Church Family Dinner was truly enjoyed by all who attended the dinner Wednesday night on December 14th. Debra and George Goodnight (Central's world renowned chefs) sponsored the dinner and prepared such treats as ham, hash brown casserole, winter spinach salad, green Jell-o salad, ravioli with home-made sauce, and much, much more!

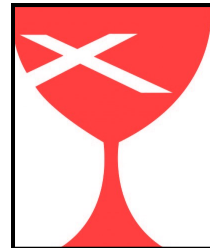
After the meal, Pastor Bill Russell presented a thoughtful story of Jesus' birth from a different point of view: from the view of Joseph!



In the above photos, John Bennett (top left) greeted the dinner guests; upper middle photo is one of the beautifully decorated dinner tables; in upper right photo (from left to right) are Rob Artman, Denise Stephens, and Randy Pennington wishing each other the best of holidays; the lower left and center photos are Debra Goodnight and Micki Artman setting the buffet table; the lower right is a sample of the scrumptious desserts.

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

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## Happenings in January 2023 & More

### Happy Birthday!



Brad Lott 1/4



Emersyn Annable 1/11



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

Date	Worship Leader
1	George Goodnight
8	John Johnson
15	Mark Rutledge
22	Kathy Young
29	John Bennett

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



### 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:

Jan 1 New Years Day  
Jan 11 Learn your name  
In morse code Day  
Jan 16 Martin Luther King  
Day



Can you guess  
where this  
photo was taken  
at Central?  
Call the  
church if you  
do!

Are you a **buff** per-  
son? That is, do you  
know about floor buff-  
ers? If so , please call  
the church and leave a  
message for Mark Rutledge.



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by email at [centralchristian@cccmemphistn.org](mailto:centralchristian@cccmemphistn.org)