



2022

Message From  
Pastor Bill Russell



Pastor Bill Russell

I went to eat with some friends last week at a well known restaurant, rather pricy, but always worth it. I eagerly anticipated the evening, I looked forward to it. Sadly, nothing went as planned. Our reservations were messed up, the rooftop terrace with a terrific view of the river was not open, they were out of items on the menu, and the food, which for 40 years has been excellent, was mediocre at best. Life's like that, isn't it? There are disappointments around almost every corner. Well, not EVERY corner. The Word of God, the Bible, never disappoints, it never falls short, and God always lives up to His promises. That's news that's about as good as it gets. The world makes promises, but the world cannot keep all of its promises. God does make promises, God CAN keep His promises, and God DOES keep His promises. There's an old Hymn, *If Thou but Suffer God to Guide Thee* says it perfectly:

*If thou but trust in God to guide thee, you'll find Him always there beside you to give you hope and strength within.*

God's promise to us. And He keeps it!

Good Samaritans



On one late July afternoon, a car pulled up to Central Christian Church. Four passengers came to the breezeway door and knocked. John Rainey, Central's custodian, answered the door. What followed was

amazing!

The ladies had heard about Central's Snack Bag Ministry through word of mouth. They called the church and asked if they could help by donating water to Central's Ministry. As you can see, a lot of water will be handed out to those in need.

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.

And, on the inside:

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



Looking Forward!

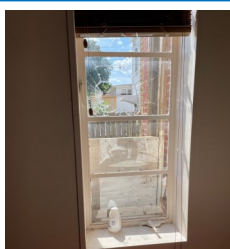
When people drive or walk by our church on Peabody, they will see a new sign letting everyone know that Central is a good place to have their wedding. Many thanks to Aaron Dale of Aikido Martial Arts (in photo above) who donated his time to help install the sign.



Rocks of Ages?



Shattered glass was found in the Parlor on Saturday morning Saturday July 23. The glass was from a window broken by two heavy rocks thrown through the window (see photo below). The Parlor was put off limits until the glass shards could be removed. As of Sunday, July 31st, the Parlor was once again available to hold Sunday School classes.



Shattered glass at Central is not new. In March of 2015, several rocks were thrown which broke several panels of the stained glass windows in the Sanctuary. It took several weeks to have those windows repaired. Fortunately a local stain glass company was contacted and helped to repair the broken Sanctuary windows.



Rocks used to break window



John Rainey covering window

Worth Repeating:

Offertory Thought on Sunday, August 7th

by Kathy Young



Experts are always coming up with life expectancy averages for a certain segment of the population in a certain geographical area. When we ourselves pass that average, we heave a sigh of relief, knowing that we have gone past the cut-off date and are still kicking. We understand that it's only an average and not the same as the date on the carton of milk in the refrigerator, but it still feels good to get past that average.

But what if there was a cut-off date for all humans? What if our life expectancy, barring accidents and illnesses, was the same for everyone and we only got to live to be a certain age? Would it make any difference in how we live? Would we spend our last years being kind and loving and generous, knowing that we only had a little time left? The experts who observe and study human nature say no. People would go on being who they are in spite of the prospect that at a certain date one's life would come to a sudden end, and there would be no second chance.

That's where being a follower of Christ makes a difference. Christianity calls us to be better than what human nature dictates. It doesn't matter how many years we have left. Our intent for each moment that passes is to be kinder, more loving and more generous. We give generously, not because our time is limited, but because Jesus is our example for living. Our lives, and the lives of those we help, are fulfilled by our being kind and generous and merciful and fair.

They Returned Refreshed!



Annie, one of the lead florists at Rachel's Florist on Poplar, rearranged and "refreshed" the floral arrangement that adorns the baptism window in the Sanctuary. Special care was taken to ensure that the arrangement fit perfectly in the opening and that the flowers were perfectly arranged. Central Christian gives a heartfelt thanks to Annie at Rachel's Florist.





## Vegetable Dinner: A Wonderful Success!

**Precinct 13-07:**  
**Central Christian Church**  
 Thursday, August 4th this year was a very busy time at Central. The day began early at 5:00 a.m. when church custodian John Rainey arrived early to brew coffee, turn on lights, and set the A/C to a cooler temperature. Though the precinct 13-07 opened promptly at 7:00 a.m. and closed at 7:00 p.m., the polling crew and Central's workers did not leave until just after 9:00 p.m.  
 John, along with Property Grounds Chairman Mark Rutledge, helped the polling crew with some minor tasks before the poll officially opened at 7:00 a.m. Mark and John have helped the crews for many elections.  
 It should be noted that Central Christian Church has been recognized as one of the best, if not the best, precinct to vote or work at. →



In the top left photo John Rainey places the American Flag outside the polling entrance. In the past, the voting commission used to provide the flag, but now Central Christian Church lends its flag for display. The top right and lower left photos are just a sample of the signage displayed along McLean Blvd and the entrance to the church parking lot. The lower right photo is John Rainey with Ben Higdon from Christ City Church. John and Ben offered free lemonade and orange juice to thirsty voters waiting in line.



In order to save space in the garbage bins, John had to cut the signs into small pieces.

The election officially ended Thursday evening, Aug. 4th. However, all those voting signs (see above photos) had to be taken down. It took two days to complete the task. In the photo on the left, John stores the last of the metal stakes, soon to be taken to the scrap yard. Proceeds went to the Snack Bag Ministry.

**Let Them Shine!**  
 Diane Senger, Central's Administrative Assistant, took a moment for Pete Parker (the Banner's new photographer) to snap a photo of Diane cleaning the breezeway windows. It's a tradition at Central that the windows are cleaned just before elections, and Diane insisted on doing the job herself. The Shelby County Election was held on Thursday, Aug. 4. Kudos to Diane!



**Little More Light, Please**  
 When the Sanctuary light went out that shines on the Worship Leader, and gives light to Layne Wilson (Central's instrumentalist), Christ City Church came to the rescue with some temporary lighting until the electricians could come and replace the burned out light. Central Christian greatly appreciates the light!



Guest and members of Central alike enjoyed a scrumptious and delightful Wednesday Night Vegetable Dinner on August 17th. Debra Goodnight coordinated various chefs from Central Christian's membership and friends to present a menu fit for a king. Wesley Goodnight and family prepared a wonderful corn pudding that added more for everyone to chose from.  
 After enjoying the evening meal, everyone had fun playing several rounds of Bingo. George Goodnight lent his expertise in randomly selecting the B-I-N-G-O numbers. Winners had the opportunity to select from a selection of prizes donated by George and Debra Goodnight.

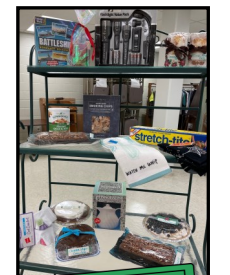


- Central Annual Vegetable Dinner**  
 Your Hosts Tonight
- Wesley & Emily Goodnight – Corn Pudding
  - John Rainey – Cooked Cabbage
  - Mark Rutledge – Fried Okra
  - Kathy Young – Fresh Sliced Tomatoes
  - Connie Bennett – Banana Pudding
  - Bill Russell – Ice Cream
  - Micki Artman – GR Beans w/New Potatoes
  - Debra & George Goodnight: Squash Casserole, Cottage Potatoes, Marinated Onions & Cucumbers, Peach Cobbler
- From Debbie & Jeff Jenkins' Garden  
 squash, banana peppers, bell peppers, new potatoes, okra

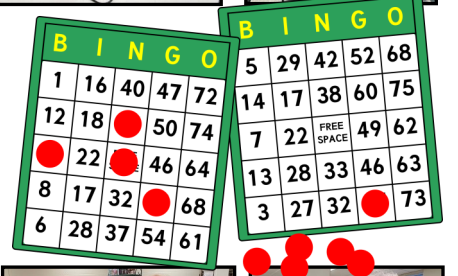
The two photos above are just a sample of the prepared dishes; Connie Bennet's banana pudding is shown on the right; and Debra Goodnight also prepared a mouth-watering peach cobbler.



The Evening's Menu



The three photos above show friends and family gathering around tables to enjoy their evening meal. The top left photo shows two men (Christian and Michael) visiting Central's Wednesday Night Dinner for the first time. To their left are Linda and John Johnson. With help from John, Linda was able to make the dinner despite the injuries to her leg.



**Did someone mention Thanksgiving?**  
 Well, it's not official just yet. However, November 24th will be here before you know it. No date has been set to have a Wednesday Night Family Dinner, but lets keep our calendars open for a Thanksgiving Dinner.





Kingsway Christian Church, under the direction of Dr. Jeff Brewer, will be bringing inspirational music to the service. Layne Wilson will be playing special music on the baby grand piano that was given to Central from Grace St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Stayed tuned to learn what more things are happening for the 100th Anniversary.

**Worth Repeating:**  
*Offertory Thought on Sunday, August 21st*  
 By Debra Goodnight

The author of Hebrews wrote in Chapter 13, verse 16:  
*Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have,*  
*For such sacrifices are pleasing to God.*

The author of Hebrews speaks of giving as a discipline. Notice that he could have equated doing good with anything:  
 "Do not neglect to do good and to pray"  
 "Do not neglect to do good and to study the Bible."  
 "Do not neglect to do good and to volunteer at church."

But he says something else - something at the heart of doing good: "  
*Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have,*  
*For such sacrifices are pleasing to God*

As we receive our offerings, know that we are sharing in a sacrifice that is pleasing to God. Giving is one of the many ways we share ourselves for God and our church. We give as we are able.

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

At the August 28th Board Meeting, I presented a brief status of the project. I noted that the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration is truly a once in a lifetime event. The question came to my mind as to what we at Central Christian should be celebrating and why. Our Pastor, Bill Russell, and I both agreed that the Celebration would be about how Christ has affected Central's ministries and its members over the years and that the Spirit of Christ is continuing to do so.

The program will be a service that shows what Christ has done in our lives through scripture, song, and verse. I can report that there will be at least four types of messages throughout the service: Messages of Peace, Joy, Love, and Hope. I can report that the choir from (continued above in blue)



**Making A Splash!**

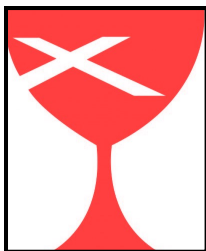
The heat and humidity could not damper the fun and food that was enjoyed on Sunday, July 24th. A water slide, enjoyed by the young and a few slightly mature adults, was erected on the Peabody side of the church. With lots of shade trees and three new picnic tables, the members and families of Christ City enjoyed the afternoon. Chefs John Rainey (left in photo) and Brandon Martin helped out to ensure that the hamburgers and hot dogs were done to perfection,

**Calling Mr. Bateman!**

Retirement does not keep a man from doing what he loves to do and who does it well. Mr. Brad Bateman, a retired mason, is helping Central Christian restore the church brick signage at the corner of Peabody and McLean. Because of his daily schedule, he works when the time allows. He plans to complete the work as soon as possible.

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

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**Happenings in September 2022 & More**

*Happy Birthday*

Bill Russell 9/4    John Johnson 9/13

Allen Goodnight 9/27    Haley Annable 9/28

*Church Calendar for September*

5 Labor Day  
 10 African Violet Plant Sale  
 22 First Day of Fall

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

**Believe it or not Halloween is just around the corner.** In the past, before the "you-know-what" pandemic, members at Central held a "Trunk or Treat". This year, Halloween falls on Monday. The "Fearsome Two-some" (John and Mark) will be canvassing members at Central Christian and Christ City churches to see if there might be enough interest in this event. Stay tuned!

Ed. In Chief: Diane Senger  
 Cub Reporter : Mark Rutledge  
 Proofer: John Rainey  
 Comm. Director: George Goodnight  
 Photographer: Pete Parker

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

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

*On the Calendar's Horizon:*

Oct 31 - Halloween  
 Nov 8 - General Election  
 Nov 24 - Thanksgiving

In the October 2022 *Banner*, look for:

- Another installment of Waldo Gumshoe's adventures and his successful solution to one of Central's mysteries.
- Update to 100th Anniversary Celebration

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