

Central Christian Church
 (Disciples of Christ)
 P.O. Box 1459 • 219 E. Short St.
 Lexington, KY 40507
 859-233-1551 • fax: 859-252-9287
 website: www.centralchristianlex.org

Periodical

The Chimes (USPS-097-160), is published
 Bi-weekly by Central Christian Church
 Periodicals postage paid at Lexington, KY 40511.
 Postmaster: Send address changes to:
 The Chimes, Central Christian Church,
 PO Box 1459, Lexington, KY 40588



Front page written by:
 Dr. Michael Mooty, Senior Minister

Central Calendar

Sunday, December 6, 2009

Alternative Giving Fair & PeaceCraft Sale

8:30a...Worship, Sanctuary*

9:30a...Church School*

9:30a...Evangelism Ministry, Parlor

10:30a...Fellowship Time, Fellowship Center*

11:00a...Worship, Sanctuary / McDaniel Presentation*

5:00p...Youth Groups, Youth Center

6:30p...Teen SING, Sanctuary

Monday, December 7, 2009

9:30a...Ministers Meeting, Conference Room

7:00p...CCC Basketball @ Crestwood

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

4:00p...Development Committee, Conference Room

4:45p...Kids SING, Youth Center

5:00p...Cultivating Mindfulness, Conference Room

6:30p...Handbells, Room 205

6:30p...Elders Discernment Group, Room 207

Thursday, December 10, 2009

7:00p...Child Care Center Holiday Program, Sanctuary

Friday, December 11, 2009

11:30a...Lunch Bunch, Room 219

1:30p...Circle 14, Room 210

Saturday, December 12, 2009

5:00p...Parents w/Children U 10, Youth Center

Sunday, December 13, 2009

Kids SING, Teen SING & Handbells

8:30a...Worship, Sanctuary*

9:30a...Church School*

10:30a...Fellowship Time, Fellowship Center*

11:00a...Worship, Sanctuary*

12:00p...Outreach Ministries, Discovery Room

4:00p...Youth Caroling

Monday, December 14, 2009

9:30a...Ministers' Meeting, Conference Room

11:30a...Staff Christmas Lunch, Staff Lunch Room

6:30p...Circle 15, Potluck @ Penny Little

6:30p...CCC Basketball @ Crestwood

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

5:30p...Stewardship & Finance Meeting, Conference Room

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

9:30a...Mother's & Grandmother's, Parlor***

6:30p...Elders Discernment Group, Room 209

Thursday, December 17, 2009

Friday, December 18, 2009

Last Day of School - Fayette Co.

Saturday, December 19, 2009

*Child Care Provided

** ChristCare Groups are always open to Newcomers.

Call Carolyn @ 233-1551, ext. 134

Have any empty Pringles cans??? KidsCentral is collecting these for a project, please bring them in to the Children's Center located in the new building.

The Chimes

Newsletter of Central Christian Church

Vol. LXIV-USPS-097-160

December 2, 2009

No. 25

**Sunday in Worship
 December 6, 2009**

2nd Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m.

Jake Caldwell, preaching
 Michael Mooty, leading worship
 Kathy Schaefer, elder

11:00 a.m.

*McDaniel Memorial Choral
 Presentation
 Magnificat (Jonathan Willcocks)*
 Michael Mooty, leading worship
 Julia Hall & Jack Morris, elders

Malachi 3:1-4

Luke 1:68-79

Philippians 1:3-11

Luke 3:1-6

Meditative Prayer in Chapel
 After 11:00 a.m. Service
 Sunday Service Broadcast
 on the Radio at 11:00 a.m. –
 On WGVN – 1580 AM.

December 13 / 11 a.m.
 Kids SING, Teen SING and
 Handbells

December 20 / 11 a.m.
 Solos from Handel's *Messiah*
 5 p.m. Solstice Service

December 24 / 6 & 11 p.m.
 Sally Kelton, harp
 Tom Bragg: "O Holy Night"
 Rachele Snellgrove:
 "Breath of Heaven"

Dear Friends,
 Uninvited guests.

By now, you've heard more of the story than you want to hear. Mr. & Mrs. Sahali made it past the security checkpoints and into the state dinner at the White House. They had no tickets to the event, nor were they on the guest list, but somehow she ended up shaking hands with the president.

Early reports had it that Ms. Sahali was trying to land a spot on the upcoming *Desperate Housewives of Washington*. I think that she should not only be a character in the unreality drama, she should write the script for every episode. It has been reported that she claims on her Facebook page that she was a Washington Redskins cheerleader, a claim which the Skins deny. I mean, if you're going to reinvent your past like that, why not cheer for the Cowboys?

When interviewed on the Today show earlier this week, they portrayed themselves as the victims. Their lives have been disrupted, their business has suffered, their friends have abandoned them, sniff, sniff. But in the end, it may all turn out to be a good thing. Maybe this is their fifteen minutes and we won't have to hear from them again. And maybe the Secret Service will reexamine its protocols and avoid future embarrassment. All of this has gotten me to thinking about those guests who appeared in Bethlehem to see this newborn about whom they had heard. Both Matthew and Luke tell a story about uninvited but invited guests.

Luke says that when Jesus was born, angels appeared to shepherds and announced his arrival. I'm afraid that I have seen too many Christmas cards to appreciate the scene that Luke

describes. In my mind's eye, I see this tranquil, bucolic hillside with awestruck shepherds gazing at the heavenly chorus. I suspect, however, that Luke's first readers would have responded to this story by saying, *shepherds?* As I understand it, first century shepherds in Israel were the lowest of the lowest class. Have no marketable skill? Can't get a job anywhere else? Become a shepherd. Think of the job you would least like to have. That's who heard the angels sing. Matthew tells a different story. He says that the guests who came to Bethlehem were astrologers, probably from Persia. Not Jews. Gentiles. Foreigners. People who believed the silly superstition that the movement of the planets and stars governed human destiny. You would think that the Chief Rabbi of Jerusalem would have been informed. Jewish scholars and teachers. But no. Gentiles. Astrologers. They were on the guest list.

Two stories about uninvited guests. Uninvited, that is, by the main characters in the story. To the father and mother, those who came to see their child were unexpected strangers, yet they were evidently welcomed. Matthew and Luke, however, make it clear that the shepherds and the astrologers were invited. God wanted them to know about this child. God wanted them to witness this world changing event. The lowest of the low, the poorest of the poor, and people outside the realm of respectable faith, they were the first to know, the first to see. I wonder why they were on God's guest list?

Glad to be your pastor, Central.

Michael

"Daring to Give"

Through Sunday, November 29, 2009, pledged members' contributions are in excess of \$580,000.00 and we are anticipating that this number will continue to grow in the weeks ahead. This amount is approximately \$58,000.00 less that was pledged in the same time period in 2008. **IF YOU HAVE NOT MADE A PLEDGE FOR 2010, YOUR COMMITMENT IS STILL NEEDED.** Please place your commitment card in the envelope that was mailed to you in your pledge packet and place it in the offering plate this Sunday or mail it to the church office. In addition, there will be commitment cards in the back of the sanctuary.

Again, thank you for your support and for being an important part of the ministry of Central Christian Church.

Stewardship and Finance Ministry

Spread Christmas Cheer to those who need our help



The Disciples Women Organization will sponsor Salvation Army Christmas Stockings again this year. The project benefits local children and adults within our community and it is a terrific way to get the entire family involved in a Christmas service project. Stockings are available at the reception through Sunday November

22. Filled stockings may be returned to the church beginning November 29 through December 10.

A Christmas Invitation

The Ida Withers Harrison Circle is hosting a worship service (including communion) at Richmond Place on Thursday, December 10, at 1:30 p.m. in the large gathering room on the first floor. Michael Mooty and Jan Ehrmantraut will lead the service. We hope that as many Central members as possible can join our Richmond Place members and friends for this holiday service.

Winter Solstice Service

5:00 p.m. on December 20

Central Members and Friends are welcome at a Winter Solstice Service jointly hosted by Central Christian Church and NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness). Scheduled close to the shortest day of the year, the Solstice Service provides a time for reflection without the added expectation of the holiday spirit, which can be a very difficult expectation for those who have lost a loved one, are on a challenging personal journey, or who feel the cultural "hype" of the season makes it difficult to be present with God. Join us at 5 p.m. on Sunday, December 20, for a contemplative, quiet time apart. Currently we anticipate hosting the service in the Commons Room, 2nd floor.

Mid Week Fellowship Christmas Potluck

Come join Mid Week Fellowship for a Christmas potluck dinner on December 13, 6:00 pm, at the home of Ron and Penny Little, 968 Rockbridge. Bring a potluck dish. Call Diane Ballard, 489-7571, for details.

Christian Care Communities Class

Keith Knapp, President of the Christian Care Communities (CCC) will speak at 9:30 am on December 13 regarding a new ministry focus for CCC and Disciples congregations. In addition to sharing general information about the CCC ministry, Keith will challenge us to consider how a partnership between congregations and CCC can take a significant lead in the growing crisis of elder care. Such a partnership will help equip families in taking care of older family members, capitalizing on the already trusted relationship between CCC and Disciples congregations. Join us in the Commons Room (second floor, youth wing) on the 13th to engage in conversation about a concern common to many of us.

ALTERNATIVE GIVING & PEACECRAFT FAIR

The Alternative Giving Fair will be held Sunday, December 6, in the Fellowship Hall. This traditional event at Central supports valuable ministries in the local and global community. Please stop by Fellowship Hall before and after church, purchase gifts for loved ones which gives to others as well.

Volunteer Opportunities in the Church Library

There are several opportunities available for service in the church library from shelving books to helping prepare new books for circulation. If you are interested in this ministry opportunity please contact Debbie Rice at 260-8895 or DebbieRice@insightbb.com.

There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate's loot on Treasure Island. ~ Walt Disney ~

CCC God's Pantry Expanded

Many, many thanks to Central member Ethan Hughes, Troopmaster David Marshall, and Boy Scout Troop 1789. For Ethan's Eagle Scout Project he and members of his troop helped expand our God's Pantry distribution area into another room - allowing for easier access, egress and storage by adding a wall and cutting a doorway in an already existing wall. Our God's Pantry volunteers, clients and even the person who delivers the food from the warehouse are thrilled with the new layout.

Win a free copy of

The Gift of Creation, Images from Scripture and Earth

Come by the church library to enter the drawing. No cost! Just complete an entry blank.



This beautiful new book features photography by Tom Barnes, University of Kentucky Extension Wildlife Specialist. The vivid images of Earth and the varied forms of life that call it home, are combined with essays exploring what scripture says about caring for God's creation and a scientific assessment of the state of the earth. Drawing will be held on Sunday, December 20th.

Worshipping at Central November 29, 2009

8:30 a.m. Worship	51
11:00 a.m. Worship	303
Children's Worship & Wonder	28
Total Worship Attendance	382

Worship Visitors

We had 46 visitors in worship on Sunday and were pleased to welcome *Ralph Terry, Mr. Tracy Wilson* and many others who visit with us regularly.

Sympathy

To Shayanna Little in the death of her grandmother Joyce Justice.

To John & Florence Staton in the death of John's niece Louise Pergrem.

Lunch Bunch to Host Berea College County Dancers

Central's Lunch Bunch will feature the Berea College Country Dancers on Friday, December 11. Join us in Fellowship Center for 11:30 am lunch, followed by the performance. Cost of the meal is \$6.00 and reservations are due by Monday, December 7. Call Sharon @ 233-1551 or email ssamuell@centralchristianlex.org. We will be receiving a free-will offering to help defray travel costs of our guests and their meals.

Since 1938, the Country Dancers have been performing and leading workshops, bringing dances of Europe and the Appalachian region to exuberant audiences, and sharing the joy of dancing. The group has toured extensively, and performed at festivals from Paintsville's Apple Festival to the Wimborne Folk Festival in southern England. The Country Dancers offer a program that demonstrates similarities between local dances and their European counterparts including English Country dances, American Contra dances, Morris and sword dances, Danish folk dances, and Appalachian square dance and clogging.

Come enjoy a great meal and a wonderful program!

4th Annual Christmas Story Time & Carol Sing

On December 20th you are invited to attend our Annual Inter-generational Christmas Story & Carol event in the Commons Room (Youth wing) during the Sunday School hour (9:30-10:30 a.m.). The event is open to the entire congregation, from the youngest to oldest. Michael Rintamaa will once again lead us in some of our best-loved Christmas Carols and Michael Mooty will read from a few of his favorite Christmas books. It is a wonderful way to spend some time of fun and fellowship and we hope many of you can make it!

Memorial Gifts

Have Been Presented To Central Christian Church in Loving Memory of

JAMES TROSPER

By

Don & Barb Stephens (for A Time to Build)

ANNUAL HOLIDAY HOUSE

Pimlico Christ Care Ministry

Holiday House is a one day event, hosted by Central and other area churches, for families in the Pimlico area. The typical family is a single parent with 2-3 children; this event allows them to purchase Christmas items for their children at 1/3 the cost.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- *Pray for the families ahead of time and for the event itself
 - *Contribute monies earmarked Holiday House-Pimlico ministry
 - *Contribute new items for the event (watch for list of suggested items and the collection bin in following weeks)
 - *Volunteer to assist on the day of the Holiday House December 12th 9:30 a.m.-12 noon
 - *Educational and toy items geared for children ages 6-12.
- Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

Call Connie Hubbard 859-948-7903 with questions

Mitten Tree



We will be collecting hats, socks and mittens for James Lane Allen through the month of December. There will be a collection area in the gathering area. Please place the items on the tree, or the basket by the tree. Your help for the school is always appreciated.

Make Room, a Practice of Hospitality

Every member can show Central hospitality during the Advent and Christmas seasons.

- If you park in the Chase garage and you are able to walk the stairs, please park on the second or third levels. This saves space on the ground level for persons with limited mobility.
- Please move to the center of the pew to make space for persons who arrive after you.
- Please be sure to pass the attendance pad located at the end of each pew. This helps our ministers be aware of the presence of our members and guests.
- Please introduce yourself to people around you after the worship service.

Thank you for all the ways you live out your Christian vocation and welcome one another in the name of Jesus of Nazareth.

AIDS in Christian Community would like to say a big thank you to all those who gave donations and purchased pies from Movable Feast. They were able to raise over \$775 thanks to you!