

FEBRUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

No matter who you are or where you've been, you are welcome here

From Your Temporary Shepherd ~

Aaah, February!

February is an interesting and unique month. It is the shortest by at least two days, and contains one federal holiday, two cultural ones, and sometimes a religious one, Ash Wednesday – which this year is in March.

My friends who struggle with depression find February to be extra challenging. The festivities and family gatherings of the Christmas season are over, the days are still pretty dark, and spring buds haven't even thought of peeking up through the frozen ground. (As I look out at my perennial garden, it's hard to believe that there are lovely blossoms resting under all that snow.)

We are well aware that February is Heart Month and Black History Month. But did you know it is also Great American Pie Month, National Bird Feeding Month, National Cherry Month, and National Grapefruit Month?

And in addition to Groundhog Day and Valentine's Day, other "cultural" holidays in Feb. are Bubble Gum Day, Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast Day (I could get behind that), Stuffed Mushroom Day, Thank a Mailman Day, Send a Card to a Friend Day, Boy and Girl Scout Days, Kite Flying Day, Clean Out Your Computer Day, Random Acts of Kindness Day, National Chocolate Mint Day (yum), Love Your Pet Day, and about 50 other special and frivolous days. I guess someone thought Feb. needed more occasions to celebrate.

I don't mind winter, but I don't like the early dark. I don't get depressed, but I do get restless. Once I've caught my breath after the flurry of holiday services and activities, I'm ready for something new and different to take us through the bleakness of winter. The weeks before Lent, and Lent itself, provide that opportunity. The days go by fast, and the baby Jesus is growing up. He is teaching and preaching and healing the sick. Soon he will find himself in big trouble with the authorities – and we know the rest of the story.

Telling this story in whatever ways we can, to whomever we can, is one of the commissions of the church. Discovering new ways to do this, exploring the meaning of life together as a congregation, and focusing on how to move forward from here, all come out of this commission. In this short, unique, challenging, cold, crazy month of February, I look forward to joining you in this.

Stay warm and well, and be careful out there, and be blessed!

Pastor Jerrie

A WORD FROM DEACONS

On behalf of the Board of Deacons, I thank everyone who helped with the luncheon following Jackie Wynn's Memorial Service. No one had to be asked, they just came forward and did what was needed. In fact, I had to turn folks down because we had so many volunteers! It was truly an outpouring of love for someone we all admired for her courage. She will be greatly missed!

You are at peace now, Jackie.
God Bless You, my friend!

Harriet Stewart
Deacons



The following was received from the Westfield Food Pantry:

Dear Central Baptist Church,

Thank you so much for your donation of \$692.15 to the Westfield Food Pantry. As you know, this time of year brings additional challenges to the hungry of Westfield. Because of your generosity, we were able to meet the needs of those most vulnerable to these hard-economic times.

In 2018, the Westfield Food Pantry was able to provide over 250,000 lbs. of food for a monthly average of 1,200 individuals in need. Fifty-one percent of our clients are children and fourteen percent are elderly who rely on your continued support. With tough economic times, continuing this year is proving to be as much of a challenge as last, and we greatly appreciate your support.

Thank you again for your generous contribution.

*Sincerely,
Elizabeth Eastman
Deputy Director*

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

413 Main Street

Easthampton, MA 01027

Is having their 26th Annual Sportsman's Banquet on March 8th. All are invited to attend and enjoy this event and a delicious Roast Beef meal FREE OF CHARGE.

There is a brochure with more information posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

This month the Board of Trustees met to consider the expenses for the month noting that the cost of insurance and utilities make the month more challenging to budget. We are currently looking at our signage in front of the church and on the city access roads for update. We welcome new



committee member Regina Holzapfel to our group. Regina will work with Helena to monitor our investment accounts.



A WORD FROM NANCY FRISBIE.....

One of the couples that I met in Greenlake are now in Indonesia learning the language and customs of their new mission field. Since October of 2018 they have suffered from intestinal parasites and worms. Valerie and the children have gotten better but Aaron is having many problems and is scheduled for more tests in Singapore. Some of us complain about going to Springfield or Boston for tests. The specialists are in Singapore and they have to fly there. So, I ask for prayers for Aaron and his family. And please also pray for the medical teams in the Democratic Republic of the Congo as the worst Ebola outbreak is happening now and spreading to the major cities in the area.





SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The Board of Christian Education is most pleased to report that the one room school approach to Sunday School is still working well. In fact, I would deem it a success.

With a nucleus of five or six preteens and visitors numbering up to six more, we have found an exciting way to reach our children with God's message. Our Sunday morning study time includes a 15-20 minute period focusing on Christian music, a 15-20 minute Bible study which includes a short video featuring the day's theme, and finally a 15-20 minute craft session that supports the day's message.

The most exciting evidence of learning is evident during the review activities. When the children demonstrate the learning that has been going on, it makes me smile. They can actually name names, summarize events and retell stories from the Bible. Using a multidisciplinary approach to a lesson gives us a better chance of reaching more children.

During the winter months we have been studying the miracles of Jesus, in particular the healing miracles. "Jesus Heals a Young Woman" and "Jesus Heals Ten Men" tell the story of men and women of faith who are the recipients of God's compassion and mercy. The children explore ways that they can help a family member or friend who is sick. Be sure to ask your children about what they have learned in Sunday School. AND....DON'T TAKE "NOTHING" FOR AN ANSWER.

Following is a general list of questions that most children think about. Use these questions to start conversations with your children and to help them understand God and Jesus and their relationship with them.

- Why did God create the world?
- How did God make the whole world in six days?
- What animals were on the ark?
- Why did God make people?
- Does God have friends?
- Can we see God?
- How does God talk to us?
- Who is Jesus?
- How did Jesus walk on water?
- How do we know Jesus loves us?
- What is Heaven like?
- How will going to church help us to know God better?

Christian Education Board



WHY HYMNS? BY PAUL LUSHER

In a time when music serves as a source of conflict in many churches, the goal of the Center is to return peace and power to the Church. Music can do this.

As Martin Luther said, "Next to the word of God, music deserves the highest praise."

When music and the Word of God are combined, a powerful force for good is unleashed. The singing of hymns encourages the best of the Christian faith. Again, in the words of Luther, "The gift of language combined with the gift of song was given to mankind to let him know that he should praise God with both word and music."

We believe that hymns must remain at the forefront of congregational song. No other musical form can replace the singing of hymns in the church. For only hymns can unite a musical language (harmony, melody and rhythm) of varying styles with a theologically minded text inspired by a strong personal experience. And the singing of a hymn allows the contemporary Christian to sing with the saints through centuries of triumph and tragedy.

Thus, by proclaiming God's truth through hymns, the believer enters a unique place. A place where truth and beauty unite to inspire hope and confidence.

The beautiful hymn, *Holy, Holy, Holy*, contains these words: "Only Thou art holy, There is none beside Thee, Perfect in power, in love and purity."

In singing a hymn, the mind is nourished and the spirit lifted as this thrice holy God becomes the object of worship and adoration. Singing a hymn is not only a great privilege, it is truly a great opportunity!

Jeanne Gannon



February is collection month for RMMO. RMMO stands for Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering. This offering directly benefits ministers we know and love: The Rev. Richard Painchaud, The Rev. Dr. Bruce Pullen, The Rev. Lois Pinton, The Rev. Dr. Linda Shaw, the Rev. Thomas Rice, the Rev. Paul Ferrin (Deb MacAdam's Dad). Please give generously.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

As a college professor I would sometimes remind my students that "We all find time to do the things that are important to us." While my music students at Westfield State were generally very talented and conscientious, I did have occasion to use that phrase when an assignment was late or incomplete. If the assignment was not a priority, then what was important to that student? Other academic work? Family responsibilities? Video games? Work? Parties?

We could ask ourselves the same question in regard to church activities: attending worship, service on boards and committees, supporting and attending other church functions. Where do we prioritize our church – our service to God – among our many activities. Just like college students, our actions speak louder than our words: we all find time to do the things that are important to us.

A parallel situation can be drawn in terms of our financial commitment to church. What is important to us and how is that reflected in what we do with our money? Our closets and basements are probably full of items we chose to purchase – to spend our money on – items that may now be unused and gathering dust. A familiar verse reminds us of the ultimate futility of acquiring more and more "stuff".

Matthew 6:19-21 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven – for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Where is your treasure? Where is your heart?

George Rogers
Stewardship Committee



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
SWEETHEARTS**



- 1 Jason Babinski
- 2 Florence Sherman
- 5 Pat Taylor
- 6 Madelynn Lubas
- 7 Daniel Wetherell
- 9 George Kedzierski
- 10 Kyle Engley, Michael Wynn
- 12 Barb Gunn
- 13 Adrian Larue, Kevin Wynn
- 14 Pastor Linda Shaw
- 15 Tina Jensen, Caroline Babinski
- 23 Sue Eck, Frank Mochak III
- 24 Dick Painchaud, Jr.; David Wetherell, Jr.
- 25 Jean Zercher
- 26 Katie Kopczyunski
- 28 Kevin Ellinger

AND ANNIVERSARIES.....



- 6 Frank & Mabel Brucknak
- 9 Jim & Deb MacAdam
- 14 David & Heather Dexheimer
- 19 Tom & Anne Woodson



**LET'S HEAR IT FOR
LISA LABOMBARD!
SHE TOOK FIRST PLACE
IN SPECIAL OLYMPICS
BOWLING ON SUNDAY!**



**NewsLetter
DEADLine**

**for March articles
is
February 20th**

FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offerings this month (RMMO).					1 Office Closed	2
3 9:45 Sunday School 10:30 Communion Worship ANNUAL MTG 2:00 Youth Gr. Hoagie Pick Up	4 10:30 Bible Study	5	6 10:30 Cooking Class 7:00 Choir 7:30 AA	7	8 Office Closed 7:00 Cottage Mtg @ Burgess'	9 2:30 -5:00 Hays Hall in use
10 9:45 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	11 10:30 Bible Study	12 2:30 Governor's House 6:00 Missions 6:15 Grandparents	13 10:30 Cooking Class 3:00 Cottage Mtg 7:00 Choir 7:30 AA	14 1:00 Deacons 6:00 Trustees 	15 Office Closed	16 8:00 Prep 9:00 Community Breakfast
17 9:45 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship	18 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 Church Council PRESIDENT'S DAY	19	20 10:30 Cooking Class 7:00 Choir 7:30 AA NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	22 Office Closed	23	
24 9:45 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	25 10:30 Bible Study	26	27 10:30 Cooking Class 7:00 Choir 7:30 AA	28 		