

JANUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

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

From Your Temporary Shepherd ~

Greetings everyone! Happy New Year!

It was a great joy to be with you during the Advent and Christmas season, and I want to thank all of you who helped make it so meaningful.

To everyone who helped decorate the sanctuary so beautifully for the season and those who purchased poinsettias in honor or memory of loved ones;

To all who participated in worship services, who served as worship leaders, read Scripture, and lit the Advent candles;

To all the children who attended Sunday School and sang in the children's choir, and to the C.E. board and teachers for all your time, energy, and faithfulness. And to Merian Rogers for teaching and presenting the children's choir;

To the adult choir for blessing us with music each week, and to Jeanne who selected such beautiful pieces for the season;

To Barb, Sue, and Gary for putting in all the extra time and energy that this season required;

To all those who coordinated coffee hours, receptions, and who attended Cottage Meetings and Advent Studies. And to Erika for organizing a craft time for the kids so parents could attend the Advent Studies;

To all who contributed funds or medical supplies for the mission trip to Honduras (January 19th – 26th);

To all who faithfully served on boards and committees during the year, who kept the finances in order and the church programs running smoothly;

To all who worked so hard for the Lord this year, often without notice or thanks – and sometimes during difficult days;

To all of you who know that Central Baptist is special in your lives, and who bring your best selves and best gifts to it – in season and out.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

I think 2019 will be an interesting and challenging year for us as we work together to resolve some of the past issues and continue planning for the future. We will have the opportunity to discuss and define the church's ministry, and seek God's direction as we look to a new day and prepare to the call of a new Pastor.

There is a quote from Nora Neale Hurston which says, "There are years that ask questions and years that answer". I anticipate that 2019 will be a year of asking questions at Central Baptist. But they will be good questions that will lead us to good, and perhaps, new places.

The Roman god Janus, for whom January is named, looks forward and back at the same time. Churches in transition are also called to this – looking back for a bit that we can better understand how to move ahead. I look forward to making this journey with you for however long we are together.



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New Year's blessing to you all!

Pastor Jerrie

**JANUARY
20TH
11:30**

ANNUAL MEETING



Voting members are encouraged to attend this important meeting. We will review and seek approval for the 2019 church budget. The Nominating Committee will present new members of church committees for approval, and reports from all Boards and Committees will be reviewed.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

This month the Board of Trustees met to consider the budget in order to make its recommendations.



We reviewed our project list in preparation for our end of year report. The installation of the light fixture outside the rear

alley door has been completed. As we have had some concerns about the safety and security of the alleyway for our members with that corner being very dark, we hope that this light will allow for more comfortable use at night.

We welcomed Pastor Jerrie to our meeting and thanked her for her insights. We also thank our outgoing members; Joe Wynn and Aimee Thompkins, for their diligent work this past year.



I hope you enjoyed the Christmas music in December, including our wonderful Candlelight Service. It is a privilege in the United States to have “freedom of religion” to worship as we wish and to sing the traditional Christian Christmas carols. Have you noticed that you rarely hear these songs in public places or on TV anymore? Of course, there are many fine holiday songs like “Winter Wonderland”, but they have nothing to do with the birth of Jesus. Is it “freedom from religion” that has banned our carols from most schools and other places?

When teaching music in elementary schools, I looked forward to introducing the classics like “Silent Night” and “O Come, All Ye Faithful” to very receptive students. Our carols come from many countries, and most are centuries old. I recently discovered that the tune for “The Friendly Beasts” (that the Children’s Choir sang) was written in the 12th century. And did you know that “Silent Night” (Austrian) was composed exactly 200 years ago? It has been declared an “intangible cultural heritage” by UNESCO. For most adults in our church, the traditional carols have brought us great joy since we were little children. In our society today, however, there are many young people who have never even heard of them.

Church is where you need to come to hear and sing our beloved carols and other wonderful hymns of faith, both old and new. Please come, sing and worship at our church in the new year (and bring your children!). Your presence and financial support will help keep Central Baptist shining as a beacon of Light, Hope, and Faith for years to come.

Wishing you many blessings in 2019.

Merian Rogers (Chair of Music Committee)

We have received a letter from Ed Guerard, Coordinator for Friends of Regional Ministries. He wrote to tell us that once again CBC is one of the top ten churches supporting Grotonwood and Oceanwood Camps and Ministries.

Let's keep up the good work!

- 4 Vicki Yefko, Jordan Ellinger
- 5 June Carr
- 8 Donna McEwan
- 10 Jackie Wynn, Sarah Ziemba



- 11 Ken Hawley
- 12 Andrea Rowley, Winter Ellinger
- 15 Ann Woodson, Gary Rowe
- 16 Anthony Ellinger
- 17 Benjamin Cleland, Emma Cleland, Jacob Wetherell
- 18 Jamilka Ellinger, Tyron Cote
- 20 Mary Hannah, Savanna Masso
- 22 Lisa Kedzierski, Amryn Ellinger
- 25 Gretchen Ingraham, Dorothy Smith, Julia Rowley
- 26 Merian Rogers
- 28 Judy Pullen, Frank Brucknak, Doreen White
- 29 Kevin Shay
- 31 Harriot Stewart

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Happy New Year from Christian Ed!

We have wrapped up a great first half of our Sunday School semester. Attendance has been pretty good each week with an average of 7-10 kids. Many thanks to all our dedicated teachers and to Merian Rogers for helping with the music.

Speaking of music, the kids did a great job singing for the Candlelight Service.

We ushered in 2019 with our third annual New Year's Eve party. It was well attended and thank you to all who joined us.



Moving into the new year, we will continue with our one room classroom format. The kids seem to love being in the bigger group. The Deep Blue Kids curriculum will continue to walk our students through the Bible. We found that the lessons align well with the church holidays.

If you have a student in our Sunday School, please don't forget to download the Deep Blue Kids app so they can reinforce Sunday's lesson during the week playing fun games, reading short scripture lessons, and watching movies. Give Dave Burgess a call if you have any questions.

Thanks

AND HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO....

Tyron & Heidi Cote on the 27th!



Stewardship Committee

We thank the many faithful supporters of our church for their time, hard work, and financial gifts in 2018. We urge even greater generosity in 2019 because of the continual deficit between our giving and the salaries and other expenses of the church.

Many "Stewardship Moments" were given throughout 2018 in Sunday worship services. These thoughts were not borrowed from publications, but were personal and heartfelt pleas from individuals in our church. As was suggested in earlier newsletter articles, we need to focus more on the actual definition of stewardship: the wise use and management of resources. If our giving is not to increase significantly, then it is clear that we must cut expenses if the church is to continue. As with our household finances, we must match our spending to our income.

We will discuss many important financial and stewardship issues at the Annual Meeting so please plan to attend on January 20th.



A PRAYER FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

Hold fast to your faith (Hebrews 4:14)

Assemble with the saints (Hebrews 10:25)

Pray earnestly every day (1 Thessalonians 5:17, 18)

Pray for great blessings (Malachi 3:10)

Yield not to temptation (1 Thessalonians 5:22)

Neglect not your talents and opportunities

Examine yourself daily (2 Corinthians 13:5)

Work diligently for the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Yield your members to righteousness (Romans 6:11)

Exercise yourself in godliness (1 Timothy 4:7)

Asim at sinless perfection (Hebrews 6:1)

Redeem the time (Ephesians 5:15, 16)



Three of our members will be leaving for the medical mission trip to Honduras on January 19th, returning on January 26th. They are Gretchen Ingraham, Kristine Kleindienst, and Barb Gunn. This will be Kris and Barb's first time. They are both grateful that Gretchen will be with them to give pointers as she has been five times!

Many thanks to all who brought in donations or gave money to support the mission. We will be happy to give a report upon our return.

Barb



DON'T FORGET THAT THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH IS FOOD COLLECTION FOR WESTFIELD FOOD PANTRY!



When One Is Sick....Two Need Help

A new support group is being formed for anyone caring for a chronically ill or disabled spouse or partner. It is not a religious group and all are welcome.

The first meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 15th and every third Tuesday of the month thereafter. The time is 3:00-5:00 PM. The location is the Enfield American Baptist Church located at 129 Post Office Road, Enfield, CT.

This program is part of the Well Spouse Association which is an organization dedicated to offering emotional support to the wives, husbands, and partners of the chronically ill or disabled.

For more information you can contact Patti Lawrence at REVSLAW@AOL.COM or 804-878-5266.

Patti is a friend of Pastor Jerrie's.

**Newsletter
DEADLINE**

**for February articles
is
January 29th**

From our Treasurer ~

This year Central Baptist Church has hit some milestone events regarding our financial picture. I'd like to share a few with you.

- Most obvious is our deficit budget. For the first time since I have been treasurer, we have finished the year in the red, literally. We are not in danger of bouncing any checks because I have put some payments with later due dates on hold. But to get a real picture of our finances I needed to get all our 2018 financial responsibilities in the 2018 budget.
- For the first time, our invested funds have dropped below \$500,000. To meet our 2018 financial commitments, we withdrew \$57,535. The 2019 proposed budget will potentially require \$90,234. There are only two ways to reduce the amount drawn: 1) spend less money or 2) take in more money.
- The Hayes Fund has been depleted. That money, so generously given by the Hayes sisters, supported the maintenance of the church buildings for many years. For a time, we were able to limit withdrawals to 3.5%, using just the income from interest. But between the slow down of the economy and the inflation, we gradually used the principal. I can say with confidence that we used the money for the intent it was bequeathed. We simply ran out of money. The next account that is dissolving quickly is the Ruth Mashin Fund.
- Salaries and benefits account for approximately 61% of our 2019 budget. Depending on whether we have a part-time or full-time pastor, the percentage ranges from 46% to 68%. Personally, I am giving some serious thoughts to a part-time pastor next time around.
- The mission budget stands alone. The committee has autonomy over the use of the money committed to our missions' program. They spend what they make, no more – no less. On December 31st the balance in the mission budget is always \$0.00.
- Another stand-alone budget item in Youth Ministry, line 320, Christian Education. The entire budget of \$2,345.00 has been donated or raised to support the youth program.
- Looking historically at the budget performance, 2014-2018, I noticed a declining trend in contributions beyond personal pledges. For example, communion contributions have declined 66% since 2015. All money collected that is marked communion is transferred to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. This money is used to help those in immediate need of financial assistance as determined by the Pastor. Gifts are confidential.
- Should you need a tax deduction, there are other line items that have been poorly supported in recent years. They include: building fund, future ministries, special music, and special holiday offerings. To donate, simply label an envelop with the name of the account and your pledge offering number and, of course, your name. Your contribution will be credited to you and included on your yearly statement for tax purposes.
- 2019 budget is a budget of need, no want. If you don't need it, don't buy it unless you have a secret resource of revenue.

I'm not in the business of telling anyone how to spend his or her money. But, supporting God's work through CBC is a good choice if you choose to make it. I liked Deb MacAdam's metaphor when she compared it to buying a cup of Dunkin Donut's coffee for God. Let's say we all did this once a week for one year. \$1.75 for one small cup times 52 weeks times 100 members = \$9,100.00. Three days a week, 3 times \$9,100 = \$27,300, would reduce the withdrawals from invested by 30%. Simply put; your normal weekly giving plus \$5 could make a sizeable difference in next year's budget.

Please remember – "Don't shoot the messenger!"

Yours in Christ,
Helena Mochak