

## NOVEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

# CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

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

From Your Temporary Shepard ~

### Greetings to all you good folks!

I used to title this intro. column, "Everything you wanted to know about your Interim Pastor but were afraid to ask." However, that expression is pretty outdated now, so I've changed it to "*Ten Fun Facts About Your Interim Pastor*". I'm not really sure how fun the facts are, but it seems to be a good way to tell you about me. So here goes.....

I was born and grew up in Cooperstown, NY, home of baseball and James Fenimore Cooper. My father owned a book store so I blame/credit him for my love of books. My mother was a social worker, then a museum guide. I channel her when I'm doing historic tours in Storrowtown during the Big E.

I graduated from Hiram College, Western Kentucky University and Andover Newton Theological School. Andover Newton (ANTS) has recently relocated to Yale, to the sadness of many. The "Hill" was a special place for us all as we prepared for various kinds of ministry.

I've served as an associate pastor, co-pastor, and then as settled pastor for 12 years at a church in western NY. Since I left there in 1995, I've been doing interim ministry in NY, Conn., and Mass. CBC is my 14<sup>th</sup> interim. Don't be impressed by this – every church is different and has its own story, culture, joys, and challenges.

After living in parsonages for 30+ years (and moving with almost every interim), I took the plunge and purchased my own house in 2009. It's a cute little cape in Chicopee and I can't believe I've been there for 9 years already! I love the house, my gardens, and the neighborhood. And I love making my own decisions (can I paint the living room, move that flower bed, hang this big picture here? YES, I can!) But dealing with repair people myself, and of course, paying the bills, has been a challenge. No more picking up the phone and calling the Trustees!

My kitty Scarlett shares my house with me, or I share with her, not sure which it is. She's an indoor cat and her favorite activity in nice weather is lying by the screen door and catching the sun and the breeze. She also enjoys the kids, squirrels, and birds in the front yard.

My grandsons, Ben (4) and Luke (2) live in Plymouth with my son and daughter-in-law. They are, of course, the most wonderful boys ever born, and I don't see them nearly enough. You'll see their pictures in the office, along with some other special "church kids".

I love what I do, even after 38 years. Of course, there are bad days, and plenty of ups and downs. But I think being with people in the best and worst times of their lives is a real blessing – and no two days are the same.

My favorite Bible verses are Philippians 4:13 (NT) and Jeremiah 29:11 (OT). My favorite hymn is not in your hymnbook, but my second favorite is "Great is thy Faithfulness".

Speaking of the office, it's almost put together, so feel free to stop by. Many thanks to those who have helped me move in and get settled! You'll see some of my sheep collection and also plates from former churches and schools. (Does CBC have a plate or mug for my collection?)

Coffee, chocolate, and lobster are at the top of my favorite foods list. The chocolate cake for coffee hour last Sunday was a real treat. Thanks!

Wow! That really is ten things! I am delighted to be here and look forward to working together with you for the next few months. Please be patient as I get to know you.

Blessings,  
Pastor Jerrie



### Stewardship – Whose Responsibility?

Research on the actual definition of “stewardship” reveals some surprises. While the commonly understood meaning is that we are to give generously back to God that which He has already given us, it is far from a complete picture. The dictionary definition, in fact, says nothing about giving money, time, or anything to the church. Stewardship is defined as a “responsible planning and management of resources.” Christians usually stretch this concept of stewardship to include church giving in the sense that we are to manage our blessings wisely, and part of that management is to return a portion to God. Our annual pledge drive in November is your chance to plan your gifts to Central Baptist. As always, we urge you to pray for your church and give generously.

However, as important as giving is, it is only part of good stewardship. The larger component is *what do we do with the offerings we collect?* This is the “responsible planning and management” quoted above. In this regard, the Stewardship Committee has little control. (The annual Stewardship budget is only about \$200 used to purchase offering envelopes.) Spending for salaries is determined by whatever search committee or board is charged with the hiring process. The Trustees are responsible for day-to-day bills, repairs and maintenance of the church, and thus function as stewards of much of our spending. Each board and committee is responsible for its own budget, and we know that the persons involved are all doing their best: doing their duty as they see it.

All this is to suggest that stewardship in the truest sense is shared by many committees and individuals throughout the church. As with our

families and households, responsible planning would suggest living within our income. May God guide us toward greater wisdom and generosity.

Respectfully submitted,  
George Rogers for the Stewardship Committee

### Pastor’s Discretionary Fund

The holidays will be upon us before we know it, and with them comes requests for assistance from those in need. Your contributions to this important ministry allow us (the church) to help these folks.

Whatever you are able to give is most appreciated! Please put your gift in a pew envelope and mark it “Pastor’s Discretionary Fund” or send a check to the church office with the same notation on the memo line.

Thank you for your support!  
Harriet Stewart, Co-chair  
Deacons

### NOVEMBER WORSHIP



Stewardship season is upon us, followed by Thanksgiving/Gratitude season. We hope you will be here to worship with your church family during these special days!

- Nov. 4 All Saints Sunday, Communion
- Nov.11 “Stewardship 101”
- Nov. 18 Thanksgiving Sunday/Pledge Sunday
- Nov. 25 TBA (because Pastor Jerrie doesn’t even know yet)

### NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



- 3<sup>rd</sup> Jolianne Dexheimer
- 4<sup>th</sup> Jim MacAdam
- 5<sup>th</sup> Erin Ziemba
- 7<sup>th</sup> Suzanne Sheldon
- 9<sup>th</sup> Sandy Adams
- 10<sup>th</sup> Christopher Eck
- 11<sup>th</sup> Shauna Kusnick
- 14<sup>th</sup> Madeline Hannah
- 16<sup>th</sup> Keith Plant, Phyllis Brainard
- 17<sup>th</sup> Frank Bruchnak III
- 18<sup>th</sup> David Sharples
- 21<sup>st</sup> Michael Chechile
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Alice Rogers, Leo Donahue

24<sup>th</sup> Antonio Rodriquez

27<sup>th</sup> Judy Paquette

29<sup>th</sup> Clint Jensen

## A Word or Two From Christian Ed.



For the last year or so I have spent a lot of time thinking about our Sunday School. I really mean worrying about our Sunday School and Christian Education at Central Baptist Church. There have been some bright spots such as our Young Ministries Program and Vacation Bible School. Our numbers were low, but the energy and excitement generated by the few was mighty. We even thought Sunday School got off to a good start last Fall. But much to our dismay, the numbers dropped drastically and, at least at the high school level, the attendance on Sunday morning was Teacher - 2 and Students – 0. Anne and I had some great discussions and tried to solve the problems of the world. No success there either.

So here I sit a year later thinking and worrying about Sunday School and Christian Education at Central Baptist Church. To finish this story, I have to back up just a bit. In August, at a Christian Education meeting, we discussed the success of Vacation Bible School. Because numbers were low (again) we opted for a “one room school” approach. And it worked!! Our attendance held steady. The older students assisted the younger ones, who thoroughly enjoyed the attention. At this point it would not take a rocket scientist to conclude that this approach might work for our Sunday School. And it seems that we are not alone with this dilemma as we were able to secure a curriculum designed specifically for that purpose. We had to try something!

Well, I am happy to report that we are experiencing a rebirth of our Sunday School. If you want to see for yourself, come on down. Promptly at 9:45, a gaggle of geese and one gander join the teaching staff for 1.5 hours of Christian Education. Now I purposely chose this metaphor because that is what 5 or 6 little girls and 1 slightly older young man sound like as they sing with Merian at the

piano and Dave on the guitar. From music, they go into the Bible lesson for the week and wrap it all up with a video designed to support the lesson. This quarter the topic has been Jesus’ Families. Next stop for the kids is worship in the sanctuary where they pray, sing and hear God’s message. This is a very important part of the plan because it demonstrates their connection to the whole church family. About 11 kids return to the classroom setting to participate in an activity related to the message of the week.

Here is how I know this program is working:

1. The children are singing louder than the adults. (Well not quite, but I know they will next week.)
2. The children have requested to sit together in the sanctuary. (A demonstration of community.)
3. The children are happy.
4. The attendance is consistent and, in some ways, increasing.
5. The teaching staff has some new faces.
6. And parents report that their cherubs look forward to coming again.

Many thanks to Merian, Dave, Debbie, Courtney, Deleesha, Gary, Lauren, and Caitlin!

Helena and Anne

Co-chairs of Christian Education



This month the board will focus on putting the budget together. Thank you to all the committees who submitted their individual budgets. You all made it in for the first deadline and that is very much appreciated.

As we approach the winter season, we are wrapping up the many projects that took us to the outside of the building. The freshly painted doors, the welcoming front-scape, the buttoning up of the holes in the masonry – all of these not only contribute to the appeal of our church to the community but also protect the structure itself from the coming snow and ice. Hopefully, we have solved some damaging water problems with the grade changes in the front, the repairs to the floor, and the sealing paint on our doors and trim.

Barb has helped us pick out new phones for the office. It seems that our messages were no longer

retrievable due to the age of the equipment. We are in good shape to start our new adventure with Pastor Jerrie.

# November 20<sup>th</sup>.



19<sup>th</sup> Jason & Beth Tompkins  
24<sup>th</sup> George & Bernice Kedzierski  
27<sup>th</sup> Bill & Harriet Stewart  
29<sup>th</sup> Mark & Jeannette (Larue) Balboni

**Would you like to be on the Search Committee? If so, call Bill Stewart at 413-642-5858.**

### GETTING TO KNOW YOU

One of the things that helps me get acquainted with a congregation is inviting small groups of folks to gather informally for coffee and conversation. These are often referred to as "Cottage meetings" or "Parlor meetings". A group of 7 or 8 people works best, and I will have sign-up sheets out soon. I would like to have these during November, if possible.

If anyone would like to host a group in your home, please let me know soon. (The requirements are setting up space and making coffee or tea). Regardless of where we gather, I hope you will participate so that I am able to learn a bit more about you and your church. Looking forward to seeing you there!  
Pastor Jerrie

**Newsletter DEADLINE**

**for December is**



Advent begins on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Come help decorate God's House on November 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 for the arrival of His Son. After the greens are in place, the Trustee's will host a pot luck supper in Hayes Hall. Join us for this special time of getting ready for the holiday and visiting with friends

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Monday – Thursday

Phone: 413-568-0429

Pastor Jerrie's Phone: 518-331-0390

Jerrie's Email: [revjasm@gmail.com](mailto:revjasm@gmail.com)

Barb's Email: [barb.gunncbc@comcast.net](mailto:barb.gunncbc@comcast.net)



Our monthly community breakfasts have been growing every month. In October we served over 60 delicious meals! Please join us on November 17<sup>th</sup> for the next gathering to welcome our less fortunate friends. Many hands make lighter work for everyone. Prep time is at 8:00, breakfast is served at 9:00.



Being a Christian is like becoming a Jack-O-Lantern. God picks you up from the pumpkin patch, and washes all the dirt off you. He then scoops out all the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, and meanness. God then carves you a new face with a big, broad smile and then puts his light inside you for all the world to see. So, let your light shine before all people.



Technology has come a long way baby! Let's try to catch up a bit by getting this monthly newsletter on line. At this time, it is available on the church website but a separate newsletter email can go out. By receiving it on-line you will not only get it in full color; it will also save the church money. For those who don't have a computer, it will be mailed as usual.

It costs CBC approximately \$50 each month in postal fees alone to mail. That does not include the expense in materials and time to reproduce over 200 copies, collate it and prepare it for mailing.

If you would like to take advantage of the on-line newsletter and you don't think I have your email, please put "NEWSLETTER" on the subject line and send it to me. ([BarbGunnCBC@comcast.net](mailto:BarbGunnCBC@comcast.net)) Thank you!



Barb in the office

## THE STUDENT COOKS ARE BACK

This is the second year that CBC is hosting the students in the East Mountain Road Transition Program on Wednesday mornings. Many of you have seen our friends in the building when they walk to the office to help Barb with some of the office tasks. As part of the usage agreement, the transition group pays a small stipend to the church.

We asked Sarah Arnett from the Westfield Public Schools to give us an update on the cooking side of the program: *The Cooking Club is back in full swing this Fall! The East Mountain Road Transition program provides an opportunity for the participants to learn healthy meal preparation each Wednesday. Each week, 5 to 7 participants provide input on meal preparation, learn to follow simple step recipes, learn important skills of kitchen safety, and also collaborate together in creating delicious meals from start to finish. The highlight of the afternoon is sitting together and enjoying the meal we have prepared together.*

As you go about the business of the church, you might peek in to say hello and welcome. You will recognize some of our own CBC faces in the crowd.

We are pleased to be able to work with this valuable program so in keeping with our own mission.





# November



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 7:00 Music Notes	2 Office Closed	3
4 <i>All Saints Sunday</i> 9:45 Sunday School 10:30 Communion Worship Service	5 10:30 Bible Study	6	7 10:30 Cooking Class 7:00 Choir 7:30 AA	8 6:00 Trustees 7:00 Music Notes	9 Office Closed	10
11 <i>Stewardship 101</i> 9:45 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 C.E. Mtg.	12 10:30 Bible Study 6:00 Missions	13 6:15 Grandparent's Mtg.	14 10:30 Cooking Class 7:00 Choir 7:30 AA	15 1:00 Deacons Mtg 7:00 Music Notes	16 Office Closed	17 8:00 Prep 9:00 Community Breakfast
18 <i>Thanksgiving Sunday</i> 9:45 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Fellowship <b>STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY</b>	19 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 Church Council	20 2:00 Governor's Center  <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	21 10:30 Cooking Class 7:00 Choir 7:30 AA	22 	23 Office Closed	24
25 9:45 SS 10:30 Worship Service 4:30 - HANGING OF THE GREEN	26 10:30 Bible Study	27	28 10:30 Cooking Class 7:00 Choir 7:30 AA	29 7:00 Music Notes	30 Office Closed	

