

We Are



Central Baptist Herald
December, 2017

Christmas Eve
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
JOIN US FOR THIS SPECIAL SERVICE
6PM



Central: Your Home for the Holidays.....

Dec. 3—First Sunday of Advent

[Choose Angels from The Angel Tree]

3:30 Bel Canto Christmas Concert

Dec. 9—Choir Sings Nat'l Anthem @Peabody

Dec. 10—Second Sunday of Advent

12-2:00 p.m. Children's Cookie Bake

Dec. 11—9:00 a.m. Decorating Adams Hall

Dec. 14--11:00 a.m. Prime Timers' Holiday Feast

Dec. 17—Third Sunday of Advent

[Wrapped /Labeled Angel Gifts Due— Final Day]

10:45: Central Children Present:

“Christmas Around the World” and

Central Choir Presents: “Love Came Down”

Dec. 24—Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:45 — Morning Worship (No Sunday School)

6:00 —Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

Dec. 25 — Merry Christmas!!

Christ is Born!!

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Sonny's Sayings...

We are approaching that magical window of the year, between Thanksgiving and Christmas, when we get in touch with our thankfulness and with the joy of giving. Thankfulness and giving to others are good themes for us to get in

touch with, regardless of who we are or where we come from, or even our religion. And during the time between Thanksgiving and Christmas, we will be inundated on the TV, and in movies, and in social media, with feel good, but generic stories about how good it is to be giving, and how good it is to live a thankful life. But by and large, they will be about those two virtues, separated from the expression of Christian faith. Christian faith, however, asks us to not separate these good and important thoughts from the God we worship.

I am not just talking about being able to give thanks and give food and white elephant gifts at our Sunday School Christmas parties, or at our company holiday parties, although those are excellent opportunities to give and be thankful. I'm also not just talking about shirts and bumper stickers that tell us to put the Christ back in Christmas, although they succinctly state in words what I am proposing.

What I mean by not separating those thoughts of being thankful and being givers from our faith is that those ideas are central components of the character of God in Jesus Christ. We should be thankful, not just because it feels good to give thanks. We should be thankful because it is a central characteristic of our faith, that we respond to God's gift of love to us by showing our thankfulness. We should be giving, not because it feels good to give, but because it is God's nature to give love and grace to God's Creation, including us as humans, including you and me as individuals, and wanting to be Christ-like, we choose to give. We show this to others, and we practice it in our lives, by joining together the words and the actions of faith that are connected to Thanksgiving and Christmas. If all we have are words, we come across as hypocrites who have nice slogans that we might or might not practice. If all we have are actions and cannot articulate why we do them, we have eliminated the best way we have of communicating that the source of our gratefulness and giving is found in the person of Jesus.

So as we approach this year, let us be people who celebrate with our culture, and with all humanity, the joy of thankfulness and the joy of giving, in words and in deeds, and let us also be confident in communicating that this joy comes from the author of our faith, Jesus Christ. I hope your Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas are special this year.

*Blessings,
Sonny*



Thanksgiving at Central, 11/19/17



A Word About Finance\$ from the Pastor....

The great news, as you are aware, is that our buildings were not tragically damaged in the past two hurricane seasons, but we did not escape unscathed in either case. In addition, the Adams Hall kitchen roof had to be replaced and none of that expense was covered by insurance. In one calendar year we are bearing the cost of two new roofs, resulting in significant financial strain. Insurance helped with the sanctuary roof (Hurricane Matthew damage), but not with the Adams Hall kitchen roof. In addition, significant deductibles (\$5,000 per building, per hurricane) have to be paid for Hurricane Irma damages in both the Marchman Building and Adams Hall. The building and grounds committee has worked very hard to curtail expenditures, but your generous support is needed to ensure that we close the year on a strong footing.

These big expenses meant that our "special" offerings (the most recent Christmas and Easter offerings) could not be held to help cover the typically lean summer months. The stewardship committee has set a goal of \$20,000 for this year's special Christmas Offering in the hope that we can get a "Fresh Start" by covering all our bills and other unexpected expenses. As usual, 10% of this special offering will be tithed to CBF missions. Any additional monies collected above the stated goal of \$20,000 will go directly toward the \$10,000 worth of storm deductibles.

This may seem like a lot to ask, especially since I am aware that many are already giving sacrificially, but I believe in the vision of our church, and in God who gave us our vision. I am confident that God will continue to provide for us as we continue to provide meaningful experiences for seniors and for interaction between seniors and young people. It is an exciting time to be in church! Thank you, in advance, for your prayerful giving; I look forward to seeing you in the coming weeks as we enter Advent and prepare for Christmas.

With gratitude and faith, Sonny

From YOUR Building & Grounds Committee---

The remediation work has begun in Adams Hall, the craft room and room 3. Great progress is being made and will continue through the Marchman Building until completed. We do not have a timeline at this time but will keep you informed as to the progress via Gwen's weekly emails.

The Sunday School classes that were affected should begin now preparing for the work in their classrooms by going through their room and discarding anything that was damaged or no longer needed, and preparing things (books, photos, scrapbooks, mementos, etc.) for storage. Please understand that we have limited storage and that we will need volunteers to help with moving the items to storage as you are able. We cannot depend on Steve to do this as he has his routine duties to perform.

A special thank you to Tom McCulley and Ken Bryant for replacing the deteriorated wood on the benches in the playground!

In the meantime----

If you turn it on---turn it off

Linda's Log...

The Advent season begins December 3rd! Perhaps you're like me and, unlike the days of childhood when the wait seemed interminable, it seems impossible that another year has passed! Some say that seemingly rapid time passage is a sign of advancing age, but I disagree because even students and young adults agree nowadays. We all cram our days and hours so full that there's scarcely time for the truly important things. And the Christmas season exacerbates the feelings of hustle and bustle. But I don't dread it, as some folks sadly do..

I have always LOVED the Christmas season! The excitement of beautiful lights and decorations and planning surprises and special treats is incomparable! I love the parties and the preparations and the special food and receiving cards and newsletters from friends and family. I love decorating the sanctuary and Adams Hall as well as my home to reflect the festivities! I love the excuse to get together and sing Christmas carols and eat fruit cake (the good kind that's mostly fruit and nuts!) and drink holiday flavored coffee! And it's great to see folks being especially attentive to children, particularly children whose families may be in need of a "hand up."

In the midst of all this, it's a great challenge, too, as Christians to keep focused on the real reason we spend time, money and energy looking "toward" the celebration commemorating the birth of Jesus. And if we truly believe that this is a sacred season, we are challenged to position ourselves during Advent and Christmas engaged in practices that strengthen our faith and expand our spheres of influence, without getting sucked in to the whirlwind of materialism and greed.

Congregational Survey Results

by Laura Cason, Deacon Chairperson

A "thank you" goes to all of you who helped us by completing all or some of the congregational survey several weeks ago. We knew it could only give us a snapshot of perspectives, not an in-depth understanding, and we appreciate your patience with what was admittedly a brief time to complete it.

The survey asked about your point of view on several main topics: worship, outreach and growth, ministry, discipleship, and our buildings. We hoped that it would provide a snapshot – not an in depth understanding-of the relative importance of our well-established traditions and newer, expressions of worship, outreach and ministry. One way to understand this is to look at areas where the viewpoints are most similar and those where they are most diverse.

Here are a few highlights:

- The strongest agreement (the highest percentage of like responses) was on this question: *"When I think about local visitors I am excited they get to experience our special brand of worship."* Just more than half of the 124 responding felt this way and only 7 left this item blank.
- Almost half said, *"When I think about the way we do worship I enjoy the mix of styles and leadership in our service."*
- The least consensus was for items concerning ministry, outreach, discipleship and our buildings. This, in spite of the fact that many of you who participated in the survey said you'd been involved in these areas of our church life.
- Very few said they felt anxious for visitors *"because our church is so different than their everyday life"*. And, very few felt that *"we are already doing effective ministry."*

Copies of the survey with the responses for each question are available in the church office. Thank you again.

A special Advent Devotional Guide is one way to begin. *Christianity Today* has prepared such a guide for the 2017 season and special contributors have made it possible for us to share this devotional guide with you in digital format free of charge. We will email this full-color 64-page guide to anyone who requests it for FREE OR for a \$5 requested donation (our in-house printing cost) we will be happy to prepare a hard copy.

Another Advent devotional guide I would recommend is available as a free mobile app or by daily email delivery and can be found at www.d365.org. This series, called "Following the Star" is written and published by Passport, Inc., an organization endorsed by CBF whose other primary focus is summer mission experiences for children and youth.

Participating in our Angel Tree project, beginning Dec. 3rd, is another way to draw closer to God during Advent. There will also be opportunities for hearing the Christmas story through music and for helping our children bake cookies for shut-ins, and inviting friends and neighbors to join us for these special events and activities. You may have already made other plans for drawing nearer to God during this season, but regardless of how you do it, I would like to encourage you to make spirituality a priority during this season...you just might be surprised to learn that it will then carry over into the new year and perhaps the rest of your life. May God bless us all as we truly seek to follow the Savior..



Loving and caring,

Preparing for Advent and Christmas.....



December 2017

Regular Sunday Schedule:
 9:15 a.m. Faith Discussion Grp.
 9:30 a.m. Sunday School (all ages)
 (Regular SS Cancelled 12/24)
 9:30 a.m. LifeTree Café
 (Will meet 12/24)

Regular Tuesday Schedule
 10:30 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study
 1:00 p.m. Women's Christian Book Club
 (12/19 11-1 p.m. Brunch,
 No Book Club 12/26)
 2:30 p.m. Beginning Bridge

Regular Wednesday Night Family
 5:45 p.m. Family Dinner,
 6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study
 Shine!, Youth Gathering,
 Nursery Provided

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Lifetree Café: Sundays 9:30 a.m. Marchman Bldg., Rm. 115 12/3 Secrets of Finding Contentment, Live a Satisfying Life 12/10 Children with No Place to Call Home, Helping Kids in Crisis 12/17 Mental Illness, Breaking the Silence, Overcoming the Shame 12/24 Overcoming Hardship, A Father & Son Beat the Odds 12/31 No Lifetree this Sunday			Family Dinner Menu: 12/5 Spaghetti, Meat Sauce & Meatballs, Corn Salad, Garlic Bread 12/13 Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Spinach All meals include Salad, Rolls, Beverages & Dessert. Cost - Seniors 65+: \$5, Adults: \$7, Kids 18 eat FREE		1 Birthdays: Ruth Betha Rebecca Richardson	2 Birthdays: Nobuko Meadows William Rawls
3 Angel Tree Available Choose an Angel for a Child's Christmas Gift 3:30 Bel Canto Christmas Concert Birthdays: Melissa Gallman John Penny	4 5:30 p.m. Deacons' Prayer Time 6:00 p.m. Deacons' Mtg. Birthdays: Danielle Carlson Betty Jo Heck	5 Birthdays: Emily Burrows	6 Birthdays: Billie Griffith Markus Eldridge Landen Roessler	7 Birthdays: Diane Lauxman Skylar Weiskittel	8 Birthdays: Kim Schap	9 4:00 p.m. Harlem Globetrotters at the Ocean Center. Central's Choir sings the National Anthem Birthdays: David Redman
10 12:00-2:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Cookie Bake in Adams Hall 4:00 p.m. Hymn Sing UBIC Birthdays: Ray Smith	11 5:00 p.m. Bldg. & Grounds Mtg. 9 a.m. Decorating Adams Hall	12 Birthdays: John Lannon Jeff Redfearn Janet Wolfe	13 Birthdays: Maxine Sinnott	14 11:00 a.m. Prime Timers' Christmas Brunch	15 Newsletter Articles Due Birthdays: Robbie Jones Robert Padgett Sebrina Owens Shelly Owens	16 Birthdays: Dot Moore LuEllen Ransbottom Mike Sapp
17 10:45 a.m. Children Present "Christmas Around the World" & Adult Choir Presents "Love Breaks Through" Last Day to Bring Angel Tree Gifts Birthdays: Carolyn Garris Patty Rippey	18	19 11:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. Women's Book Club Brunch Birthdays: Art Giles Shirley West	20 Birthdays: Larry Donaldson No Wed Evening Activities	21 Birthdays: Art Schrysen	22 Thanksgiving Holiday - Office Closed Birthdays: Matt Nelson Millie Webert	23 Birthdays: Tammie Padgett Todd Smith
24 6:00 p.m. Christmas Candlelight Service Birthdays: David Smith 31 Birthdays: Dana Compton Sandy Dunn No Lifetree Cafe	25 Merry Christmas Office Closed Birthdays: Nick Burrows	26 Birthdays: Dorothy Hoehn Alice Horner Nelson Jill Richardson	27 Birthdays: Emily DeVane Noah DeVane No Wed Evening Activities	28 Birthdays: Lucius Cuda Jeff Merrill	29 Birthdays: Alexis Deever	30 Birthdays: Rev. Paul Jackson

Matt Nelson

"Most of what we call church we would have to teach Jesus." Have you ever been reading or watching something and come across a phrase that just stopped you in your tracks? I was listening to a fantastic interview of Bishop T.D. Jakes when he threw that grenade. He goes on to say that Jesus never saw an usher, a greeting committee, a choir, a deacon, a board member. Of course, Jakes is not saying any of these things are bad, but the reality is that we have attached organizational structures to the religion of Jesus Christ and made it into something completely different than what was set up. For me, this takes on two avenues of revelation for the church today: 1) this is not how things have always been, and 2) this is probably not how it will always be. I don't think the answer is abandon all organized religion in search of authentic nomad Christianity because not everyone is built for that kind of lifestyle.

There is a sacredness of space that a church building provides; a sacredness in how a church observes their own variation of worship. But it is key to remember that these offices were put into place for the church to further their institutional

goals: to serve the poor and needy in their community and to bring the lost back into the fold of God. When the rally cry is for the program itself, we have lost sight of the function of the program. As we move forward with some major decisions in how to spend the money from the camp, in how to grow, in how to impact the community, let us take a second and imagine what each model would look like to Jesus. Explain our style of worship to him. Explain our attitudes toward visitors to him. Explain our vision of Central Baptist Church to him and imagine what he would say. Maybe Jesus would love our ideas, or maybe there's still something yet to be discovered or something lost along the way. May God grant us discernment to make the most of the blessings bestowed on each of us.

—Matt



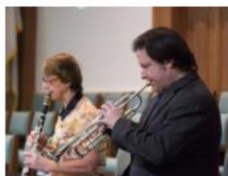
"Christival" @ Central 2017—God's Beloved



Our November worship was enhanced by artists and musicians who generously shared their gifts and talents as Central placed special



emphasis on "Christ in the arts." Ken and Mary Bryant coordinated the weekly sanctuary displays of sculptures, paintings and stained glass. During worship, musicians, vocalists, and drama teams presented special solos, duets, readers' theatre and drama. We're indebted to both church family artists and community artists as well as other folks who shared some of their "in home" art displays.



Angel Tree Mission Project

The annual Angel Tree project benefits preschoolers from needy families at The Chiles Academy Day Care, a charter school for teen mothers. Angels will be available for your selection in the sanctuary Dec. 3; you may choose an angel and sign the clipboard with your name, phone number and number of

the angel you selected. **Wrapped gifts need to be returned to the church for distribution by Dec. 17. Please be sure to attach the angel to the outside of the wrapped package.**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Matt—30!

Isabella— Sweet 16!

SHINE! Children are preparing to present "Christmas Around the World" in worship on Dec. 17. After the children's focus on Dec. 3 and 10, they will be rehearsing for this program, as well on Wednesday nights prior to the 17th. Parents are urged to ensure that elementary age children who want to participate in this program are present to prepare.



Summer 2018 Dates for Children's Activities

June 10-13— Passport Kids Camp @ Stetson, Deland (\$154)
(\$50 Deposit due Jan. 1)

July 8-12— Performing Arts Camp @ Central Baptist (\$50)

August 3-5— Vacation Bible School @ Central (Free)

Praising God!

Year-to-Date (11/26/17)

Avg. Worship Attendance: 136

New Members: 12

Total Receipts: \$372,832.67*

Total Spending: \$400,372.8

*Includes \$35,000 from Trust Account

\$850 was collected as "Change for Change"

Special Gifts this Month

\$850 Given to Purchase Turkeys, Plus
100 Boxes of Stuffing Collected for
Holiday Meal Mission Project

In Loving Memory of:

Ellie Jackson

From Bobbie & Lynn Albovias

Samantha Amos, Mavis,

Donald Maxwell, Betty Turner

From Edward & Martha Meadows

Betty Turner

From: Gwen Bills, Shirley Hess,
Irene Beckham & Red McNeil,
Debbie Moulis, Art &
Joan Schrysen, Gail White,
Keith & Mary Ellen Schmitt,
Ronald & Vanessa Bradstreet

Peggy Hanstine

From: Juanita Epton

Betty Turner, Jim Turner &

Peggy Hanstine, Samantha Amos

From: Tom & Elaine McCulley

In Honor of

Tony Gibson's birthday

From: Bo & Peggy Lynn Gibson

Christmas Offering Goal: \$20,000

(See "A Word About Finances from the Pastor" pg 2)

You Can Give Now

Online giving is available using this QR code or
at the church website www.centralbc.org.

Visa and Mastercard accepted.



Holiday Feast!

Reserve NOW!

December 14, 2017 - 11:00 a.m.

Adams Hall—\$2 Lunch

EVERYONE WELCOME!

Bingo @ 10:45 a.m.

"The Shenanigans" Musical Variety Show

Sign-up in Church Office or Call Rosenell (386-253-1369)

Questions? Call Tommie Lou (386-767-0123)

Servant Leadership

Ministers..... All Members
Senior Pastor..... Rev. Sonny Gallman
Assoc. Pastor of Discipleship/Outreach . . . Rev. Linda Pigott
Assoc. Pastor of Worship, Youth & Families. . . Matt Nelson
Choir Director..... Rev. Lee Gallman
Organist..... Penny Redfearn
Pianist..... Meg Pokorny
Office Manager..... Gwen Bills
Custodian..... Steve Lauxman
Camp Volunteer Ministry..... The Swartzfager Family

The Halifax Herald

A Publication of Central Baptist Church
142 Fairview Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL 32114
This newsletter may be viewed online at

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Office Hours: Mon-Thu.: 8:30 a.m - 5:00 p.m.

Fri.: 7:30 a.m - 4:00 p.m.

Closed Daily for Lunch: 12:30-1:30 p.m.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
Central Baptist Church
Worship Guide and Herald
142 Fairview Ave., Daytona Beach, FL 32114