

We Are



# Central Baptist Herald

## July 2022

*Central Unconditionally Welcomes  
and Affirms All People to the  
Journey of Faith in Jesus Christ.*

### Is Separation of Church and State a Bad Thing?

By Lewis Smith

It may surprise many to learn that the idea of "Separation of Church and State" came most strongly from the Baptist church. You read that right, it was the Baptist leaders who were the biggest supporters and influencers of this idea. Today, the concept can have a bad connotation among certain circles of Christians but its intentions were pure and really a good thing.

You see, back in the 17th and 18th centuries, Baptists were a persecuted people, even in America. We want to believe that America has always been a place of freedom, especially for religion, but at that time it really wasn't. Baptists were persecuted for a variety of reasons, including how they baptize people. Since the Puritans were the first to colonize the New England area, it follows that they brought with them their religious practices. The irony, of course, was that the Puritans fled England because of religious persecution from England, and now they were the ones who were persecuting other beliefs and practices of Christianity, and this persecution even included imprisonment. Roger Williams, who was the founder of the First Baptist Church (yes, literally the first) was forced to leave Massachusetts and, "Baptist," as a practicing faith, was banned from there in 1645. Williams founded Rhode Island because he wanted to create a place where the individual was truly free to have liberty of conscience.

Unfortunately, there was also persecution of Baptists in Virginia, but this time the Baptists had some leverage. The Baptist leaders said they would not support the American cause against England if protection was not put in place for religion. It was the Baptist leaders and their influence that helped Thomas Jefferson in passing the "Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom" and the most famous piece guaranteeing freedom, the 1st Amendment.

Baptists have always been committed to religious freedom for all people. This is something to be proud of and remember this month, as we celebrate not just our nation's independence, but also the freedom to believe and worship as your conscience dictates, without fear of persecution.

So, "Is Separation of Church and State a Bad Thing?" This author's answer is an emphatic, NO! It is a wonderful thing to be celebrated, because it protects all of us.

### In this Issue...

Sonny's Sayings.....	P2	Eagle Scout Project.....	P4
Gifts to Central.....	P2	Sermon Quote.....	P5
Thank Yous.....	P2	Church Business News.....	P5
July Calendar.....	P3	Office News.....	P5
Potato Bar Fundraiser.....	P4	Meyer's Musings.....	P6



## Sonny's Sayings

I recently read a very good article about how the church can approach these very unstable times in which we live. It seems that every time

we turn around, there is yet another stressor on people of faith, and really, upon the world. Whether it is Supreme Court decisions, extreme weather, war in Ukraine, the pandemic, political and social divisions that seem to get sharper with each moment, we are living in a volatile time.

Often, in times like these, apocalyptic anticipation increases exponentially. The thinking of this is, "Certainly, the second coming must be soon. How can things get any worse than they are right now?" It will not be a surprise to you that this kind of thinking is not new. Predictions of the rapture date back to the World Wars, to the Cold War, and some even before, when things seemed really bad in the world. As well, theories abound about how and when the second coming will take place. There are theories about blood moons, Russia and Iran, and many others that are out there.

What I ran across in the article ("The Church, the Future, and the Vow of Stability," by Frederick Schmidt) was how the Benedictine monks understand the second coming. Schmidt says "Benedictines are not a community shaped by endless speculation about when Christ will return, but a community shaped by the conviction that Christ will return." For them, that changes everything. Rather than reading the signs of the times, they shape their community with a conviction that Jesus will return at some point.

How does this change things? If I am focused more on whether Jesus is coming back instead of when, then my urgency is not centered on whether Russia or Iran will invade Israel, or whether this or that world event changes the timeline. Instead, my urgency is centered on building communities and relationships that reflect the values of Jesus. My urgency is centered around loving my neighbor, welcoming the stranger, and choosing grace over judgment.

All of that to say that in tumultuous times, difficult times, where it seems it cannot get any worse, we as Christians need to redouble our efforts to be the face of Jesus in all that we do, which as disciples, is what we should be doing anyway. I hope that you all have a great month filled with God's presence.

Blessings, Sonny.

### Year-to-Date

Total Receipts: \$150,879.92

Total Spending: \$154,879.92

### Special Gifts this Month

#### In Memory Of:

**Vicky Jackson**

From: Lifetree Café and  
Marty & Darla Petty

**Toni Jordan**

From: Living Waters

**Trevor & Jennifer Leonardi**

From: Kevin and Kimberly Leonardi  
For: General Fund, and  
Youth & Children's ministries.

## Thank You

Dear Members and fellow Christians,

Thank you for the beautiful Peace Lily. It was greatly appreciated.

God Bless,

Debbie Jordan Aaron

Dear Central Baptist,

We appreciate your church's kindness in the use of your Dream room and numerous resources.

A check (has been given) in memory and honor of Toni Jordan. We were blessed by her commitment and faithfulness in Living Waters and service to the Lord. We will miss her.

God bless your church. Thank you for all you do!

Blessings,

Living Waters

# July 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1 Birthdays</b> Mary Covington Sarah Petty Dent Marty Richardson	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5 Birthday</b> Kaylee Peterson	<b>6 Birthday</b> Vicki Smith	<b>7 Birthday</b> Doris Scott	<b>8 Birthday</b> Carson Gallman	<b>9 Birthdays</b> Mary Anne Daskovs Savannah Surgent Grace Tucker
<b>10</b>	<b>11 Birthdays</b> Fred Meincke June Swartzfager	<b>12 Birthday</b> Ken Bryant	<b>13</b>	<b>14 Birthdays</b> Leah Case Donna Murphy	<b>15 Birthdays</b> Lightnin' Epton Janie Harris	<b>16 Birthday</b> Shirley Hess
<b>17</b>	<b>18 Birthdays</b> Lee Gallman Jim Scott	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21 Birthdays</b> Charles Litvaney Joan Maxwell Samantha McCulley	<b>22 Birthdays</b> Doris Claxton Ruby Rutt	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25 Birthdays</b> Jim Hitson Bill Schap	<b>26 Birthday</b> Trenton Free	<b>27 Birthday</b> Joy Wallis	<b>28 Birthday</b> Laura Cason	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

## Potato Bar Fundraiser to Benefit Camp

On Sunday June 5, following the worship service, everyone was invited over to Adams Hall for lunch which included Baked Potatoes with all the fixins', Salad and Dessert. Thanks to everyone's generous donations, the Youth raised over \$500.00! Be on the lookout for an announcement about an Ice Cream Social fundraiser. We are also seeking donations to help send our children and youth to camp in July, if you would like to donate toward our camp scholarship, you can do so on our website or by mailing in your donations. Just make sure that you specify "camp scholarship" on your gift.



### Performing Arts Camp



Calling all children grades 1– 8 for this year's performing arts camp.

They will be performing "The Mystery at Camp ONE WAY"  
The camp features drama, music, art and loads of fun!

**Dates are July 24-28**

Sunday—2pm-5pm

Monday-Thursday— 9am-2pm

The performance will be on Thursday night at 7:00pm

Bring a bag lunch—snack and drinks provided. Cost is \$50.00  
Registration forms are available in the church office.

## Eagle Scout Project

In May, we were approached by an Eagle Scout candidate named Arthur from Troop 65 about a service project idea that he had for our church. His proposed project was to paint the railings and support posts for the Marchman building which involved stripping and sanding the rust off (where needed) and then repainting the new areas.

To help Arthur raise money for his project, he used one of his other talents, that of being a skilled Clarinet player and came to Central a couple of Sundays in June to play his Clarinet during the worship service for donations to purchase the supplies needed for his project.

As you can see in the photos, this was no small project but he and his team did a fantastic job and our railings look so much nice.

Central wishes to thank Arthur for choosing us to complete his Eagle Scout project.



# *What's happening at Central?*

July 2022

\*\*A Reminder that the church office will be closed July 4\*\*

## Upcoming Events

<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
July 7 @ 10:00am	Craft Class	Central Manor—Activities Rm.
July 11-16	Passport Youth Camp	Berea, KY
July 17-20	Passport Kids Camp	Eatonville, GA
July 24– 27 (S. 2-5, M-Th 9-2)	Performing Arts Camp	Sanctuary
July 27 @ 7:00pm	Performance of PAC	Sanctuary

## Weekly Events

<u>Day/Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sundays @ 9:30am	Sunday School	Marchman & Main Bldgs.
Sundays @ 9:30am	Early Morning Gathering	Zoom
Sundays @ 11:00am	Worship	Sanctuary
Sundays @ 7:00pm	AA—Softer/Easier Way	Adams Hall
Sundays @ 8:00pm	AA—Love & Service	Adams Hall
Mondays @ 10:00am	AA-Wednesday Women	Adams Hall Rm. 3
Mondays @ 12:00pm	Al-Anon—Serenity	Adams Hall Rm. 3
Mondays @ 6:30pm	Girls Pack	Marchman Rm. 206
Mondays @ 7:00pm	Girls Troop 1	Marchman (Boy Scout Rm)
Mondays @ 7:00pm	AA-Aloha Group	Adams Hall
Tuesdays @ 10:00am	Sonny's Zoom Bible Study	Zoom
Wednesdays @ 12:15pm	Lunch with the Pastor	Main Bldg. Rm. 4
Wednesdays @ 2:00pm	AA—Wednesday Women	Adams Hall Rm. 3
Wednesdays @ 5:15pm	Connections	Adams Hall
Thursdays @ 5:30pm	Cloggers	Marchman Rm. 208
Thursdays @ 6:00pm	Boy Scouts	Marchman (Boy Scout Rm)
Fridays @ 10:00am	AA-Wednesday Women	Adams Hall Rm. 3
Fridays @ 12:00pm	Al-Anon	Adams Hall Rm. 3

### Sermon Quote from Hal Marchman

"Let me give you a list, a well-balanced person is one who can give as well as receive; one who can be both practical and idealistic; one who can dream large dreams and also be realistic; one who is self-disciplined and at the same time remains a free spirit;

One who seeks intelligence and remains aware of a wisdom beyond sheer intellect; one who has the capacity to burn with righteous indignation and who can then turn to soothe with compassionate forgiveness; one who can hate evil wherever it is found and embrace goodness where it can be perceived;

One who can criticize without mortally wounding and also gently hurt when necessary for growth; one who can stand up and be counted without knocking down everyone who does not stand up for the same thing;

One who is willing to risk speaking his piece loud and clear but is equally willing to listen to what others would say; one who faces up to the fact of ugliness and cherishes touches of beauty;

One who has the capacity to love yet is not possessive or over indulgent; one who loves his country but is not blind to its faults; one who calls himself a Christian yet is aware that he does not always act like a Christian; One who believes in the truth about God, yet still knows that he does not have all the truth; one who believes in God and turns to Him yet knows that we have to assume responsibility for our lives."

*From a sermon dated March 15, 1981*

### **Bridge anyone?**

Are you interested in learning how to play bridge? A beginner group will be meeting on Mondays at noon, starting on July 11th. Please contact Penny Redfearn at 386-523-7249 for more information.

### Church Business News

*(Update)*

On Sunday, June 5, a communications meeting was held to discuss the church budget for 2022. Part of this meeting included the discussion of taking money from the church trust to help balance the budget. The budget was presented at this meeting by the stewardship committee with a vote to take place on Sunday, June 19th. The motion would be presented in two parts: 1) To vote on the proposed budget for 2022. 2) To vote on taking the money from the Trust that was requested from the budget.

Motion 2 could only be voted on if Motion 1 passed by 75%.

On Sunday, June 19, a church conference was held to vote on these two motions. Since they were being presented at the same time, motion 1 had to be counted during the conference before proceeding to motion 2 to make sure the 75% threshold had been met.

Both motions passed and the 2022 budget is now official.

### News from the office

One of my "long term projects" is updating the church telephone directory. It's been roughly 8 years since our most recent pictorial directory was published. While this new directory will not have pictures, it will have updated mailing addresses, telephone numbers and email contacts. Thanks to some dedicated volunteers, we are almost ready to publish this new directory. Now, try as we might, this initial printing may still contain some errors, but the good news is, since this is an "in house" project, it will be very easy to correct them.

My plan is to publish a final draft for members to look at sometime in the middle of July and then make corrections, if any, and re-release the final version sometime in August. Copies will be available in the church office; if you would like a copy mailed to you, please call the office.

— BJ Meyer



## *Meyer's Musings....*

See what I did there? My version of "Sonny's Sayings." Anyway, I've been wanting to write this article for a bit but had to wait until everything was official with my new job title.

I am so excited and honored to be taking over as the Office Manager and Senior Adult Director; one is a new title for me and the other a title I use to have when I was here 8 years ago. Let me back up a bit and share my journey at Central.

I first came to Central in 2006 after Betty Dean had retired. I was 24 years old and looking for a new position as a church organist. My first Sunday was Palm Sunday—nothing quite like starting on a high holy day.

At that point, I had only been studying the organ for about 4 years and was serving at a church in New Smyrna Beach as well as teaching music at a private school in Deltona. I really liked the church I was at but some things happened there that really hurt me and I was looking for a fresh start. Central was that fresh start!

I started at a very interesting time in the life of our church—not long after I arrived, the Pastors and Music Minister resigned. I was told what was going to happen and asked if I wanted to stay? Since I had just experienced some hurt at my previous church I was told that if I wanted to leave too that it was totally understandable. I thought about it and said "Thank you but I believe I'm going to stay at Central." I'm so glad I did because what I didn't realize was that this period of transition and healing that the church was about to go through was also going to help me personally because I too needed to heal. Ironically, I was asked if I wanted to be the choir director when the music minister resigned, I decided to turn down that position in favor of focusing on my teaching position.

Four years later, that offer came up again but this time I decided to take it and resign from my teaching position to become a full time music and senior adult minister here at Central. The next four years were some of the happiest times of my life—serving, laughing and loving alongside amazing people—it doesn't get any better than that.

It was during this next period that I met my future wife, Amy with whom in a few weeks I'll be celebrating 10 years! After 8 wonderful years, a teaching position opened up at a new school here in town and I decided to go back into teaching.

### The Halifax Herald

A Monthly Publication of  
Central Baptist Church  
152 Fairview Avenue  
Daytona Beach, FL 32114-2104

MKT  
Non-Profit  
US Postage Paid  
Daytona Beach, FL  
PI 266

For the next 6 (almost 7) years, I taught kids how to play band instruments and worked with Senior Adults at a new church—ironically the church I grew up in. Then, 2020 came, the pandemic hit and like many people, I found myself out of work; I couldn't teach in the same way I had been and the church I was at could not longer afford to keep me.

I think the old saying is true "When God closes one door he opens another" because in 2021, I had the opportunity to fill in as organist here, ironically, on Palm Sunday. Do you think God has a sense of humor? I sure do! Anyway, about a month later, I got a phone call asking if I wanted to come back to be the organist here at Central and my first official Sunday back was Mother's Day.

Then in November with Gwen's retirement, I was approached about the idea of working a few hours a week in the office editing the newsletter, bulletin and prayer list. I am so grateful that this ended up turning into a full time position, although if you had told me a year earlier that I would be work as an office manager I probably would have laughed.

I am so happy to be back here with everyone and working in a position that is both fulfilling and rewarding.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for loving and caring for me and my family.

—BJ Meyer