

THE HERALD



Christmas is Coming!

Our thanks to the many volunteers that showed up on Monday, November 27 to decorate the Sanctuary and Adams Hall for our Advent and Christmas services and gathering. Be sure to check back in January for photos from all of the exciting December events.



This Christmas Tree is waiting for you to decorate it.

This year, we have a special tree in the church foyer and are asking everyone to bring an ornament that is special to you and add it to our tree.

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**Central unconditionally
welcomes and affirms all
people to the journey of
faith in Jesus Christ.**



A look at our finances

Year to Date
(As of 11/26/23)

Receipts Received: \$438,077.25
Receipts Spent: \$369,328.27

You can donate to Central by visiting, www.centralbc.org and clicking on the give now link or by scanning this QR code with your smartphone camera.



Gifts to Central

In Memory of:

**Trevor & Jennifer
Leonardi
for the MOPS Ministry**

**From: Kevin & Kimberly
Leonardi**



Christmas Offering

Our Christmas offering goal for this year is \$15,000. Your gifts help further the ministries of Central. If you wish to donate, please specify "Christmas Offering" with your gift.

Announcements and Special Events



Food Pantry

Join us for our next food giveaway on Thursday, December 14th at 10am. We're looking for volunteers to help out – if you're interested, please give our church office a call.

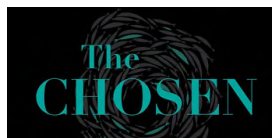
Angel Tree

We are once again accepting donations to purchase gifts for the children of Chiles Academy. If you wish to contribute toward this missions project, please specify Angel Tree on your donation. Gifts may be given until December 10.



Christmas Eve Worship

This year Christmas Eve falls on Sunday which means you'll have two opportunities for worship. Sunday at 11am we'll have a simple, vespers service where we'll sing a few hymns, have an offering and a short message. Then at 6pm, we invite you to come back and join us for our Christmas Eve candlelight service with special music.



Christmas Special

The Chosen has resumed on Thursday nights at 5:30pm in the Marchman Building but on December 14, we will be showing a special Christmas episode that you must see!

Community Christmas Concert



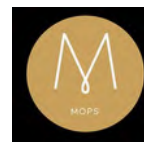
Come and join us on Saturday, December 16 for a special holiday event in Adams Hall! The festivities begin at 3 pm with a Christmas concert and sing-along. Afterward, we will share a meal together. Please bring a dish to share.



Christmas Party

The PrimeTimers Christmas Party will be taking place on Thursday, December 7 at 10:30am in Adams Hall. This year's entertainer will be Jonathan Brady who will sing your favorite Christmas songs. Following the program a delicious Ham lunch will be served. Cost is \$5 but hurry, reservations are due in by Monday, December 4.

MOPS



Our MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) group will have one gathering for the month of December. They will meet on Friday, December 8 at 9:30am.

Holiday Office Closures



Since Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. The church office will be closed on December 25 & 26 and January 1 & 2.



Sonny's Sayings

As I'm writing this column, it is the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Tonight I am responsible for cooking mashed potatoes. We were planning on using the leftover turkey from our church Thanksgiving dinner, but had not thought out the side dishes just yet. One of the Manor residents, thinking about Connections, said that there was some extra potatoes that she knew of, and wanted to bring them over for us to use. Which means that instead of the easy-to-make mix-in mashed potatoes we usually cook, our potatoes for Connections will be the real deal. It will also mean extra work to get them ready for tonight, but they might be the best mashed potatoes I've ever made.

Last Sunday morning, around 3AM, I woke up to put the turkey in the oven and get it cooking. I woke up again at 7AM to put the mostly cooked turkey in the smoker, so that the flavor of the turkey would be good. And all of that was preceded by preparing a special brine for flavor and juiciness, putting the turkey in a deep pot filled with the brine and clearing space in the refrigerator for it to sit overnight. It was again extra work, but it was necessary to do it right.

And I will be repeating that process today and tonight with the turkey, because we have guests coming for Thanksgiving dinner with the family tomorrow.

I did have a moment this morning when I asked myself why I was putting myself through that kind of labor, when I could just as well have cooked the turkey in the oven (on Sunday morning and again tomorrow) only to make life easier on myself. I could have just as easily accepted the gift of the real potatoes, brought them home to the family for later use, and just cooked the mix-in potatoes for Connections, especially when it is the night before a major holiday. It is tiring work, and often doesn't get the gratitude and recognition that I feel like it deserves.

I did ask myself why I do it, why I agree to it, but I know deep down. I did it because I felt like the church deserved my very best. I felt like the people of Connections deserved my very best. I look forward to telling the manor resident, "Those potatoes that you're eating? Those are your potatoes. Thank you for giving them for everyone else to enjoy." And tomorrow, I feel like my family, and our guests, deserve my

Continued on page 4

Stewardship Reminder

As the year is coming to an end, we are behind on our year-to-date giving compared to last year.

We know that everyone's finances are a little tighter but if you have the ability to help us catch up or increase your giving, it would greatly help our church.

Your contributions help us to continue to do the work God has called us to in this community.

*"O come, O come,
Emmanuel, And ransom
captive Israel, That
mourns in lonely exile
here, Until the Son of God
appear."*

*"O come, Desire of
nations, bind All peoples
in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and
quarrels cease; Fill the
whole world with
heaven's peace."*

*"Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O
Israel!"*

*"Therefore the Lord
himself will give you a
sign. Look, the young
woman is with child and
shall bear a son, and
shall name him
Immanuel."
-Isaiah 7:14*

*"Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
His name is called
Emmanuel;
God with us,
revealed in us;
His name is called
Emmanuel."
- Bob McGee*

*"It came upon the
midnight clear, That
glorious song of old,
From angels bending
near the earth,
To touch their harps of
Gold:
"Peace on the earth,
good will to men,
"From heaven's all
gracious King.
The world in solemn
stillness lay,
To hear the angels
sing."*

MERRY
Christmas

best. And I look forward to thanking them for the food that they will prepare.

I also feel like giving others my very best is the best gift I can give to God. And I'm not trying to toot my horn here. The reason I'm writing all of this is because that's what the very best churches are made of: a community of people offering their very best to others as a gift to God. Whether it is a cook giving their best; musicians giving their best; business experts giving their best; decorators giving their best; volunteers giving their very

best; or anything else. When we mix our very best for others with God's love for others, pretty amazing things can happen.

So I'm grateful this year that I had the chance to offer my best for a few days. And as I look forward to the next year in our faith community, I intend to ask myself regularly if I'm giving my very best at the tasks I'm engaged in. Would you join me in that same commitment?

Blessings,

Sonny

MOPS Thanks Our Veterans



In November, Our MOPS moms, wrote and addressed over 130 cards like the one pictured above, to the veterans at Emory L Bennett Veterans' nursing home in Daytona Beach. The MOPS program meets monthly to help support young mothers raising preschoolers but very often they engage in activities that give back to the community. Central is proud to sponsor this ministry which helps young mothers and we are especially grateful to Mary Ellen Schmitt and the countless other volunteers that help to keep this ministry going.



History in Our Own Backyard

The background behind these Live Oaks should look familiar. Recently, these two majestic oaks were featured on the East Volusia History page. The author of the post Jordan Tyler Hobson believes these trees to have been here since the Seminole Wars of the 1800s. That's pretty impressive!

Fun at the Fall Festival

October 29 was a day of food, fun, decorations, and candy as we had well over 100 families and kids from the area join us for our annual fall festival and Trunk or Treat.



*"Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey."
- Zechariah 9:9*

*"Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord:
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of His word;
In God my Savior shall me heart rejoice."*

*"Tell out, my soul, the glories of His word:
Firm is His promise, and His mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children's children and forever more."
- Timothy Dudley-Smith*

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!*

We'd Love to Hear from You

This month we added additional pages so that we could offer more content that is hopefully easier to read and see.

With all of our extra holiday gatherings, there were so many great photos that we wanted to share with you.

The Herald is a labor of love and our goal is to share with you what we're doing in the life of Central Baptist but we're always curious what you think of the final product.

Recently, we have tried a couple of new additions including more photo spreads, and additional written content.

In the coming months, would you like to see more articles? Do you prefer editions that have extra photos? Would you like to hear more from our church committees and ministry partners?

Please let us know by sending us a note, email at secretary@centralbc.org or call the office, 386.255.2588.

--BJ Meyer, Editor

Central Gives Thanks

For the last three years, we have set aside the third Sunday in November as our Thanksgiving Sunday and this year was no exception. We sang Thanksgiving songs, recognized and gave thanks for one of our faithful members, see page 8, heard special music from the ensemble complete with beautiful video slides. Following the service, we enjoyed a delicious Thanksgiving meal in Adams Hall.



Meyer's Musings



I have always been a person who has had one foot in the past and the other in the future. A big part of this is due to the fact that I am of the millennial generation; born in the 80s and became an adult in the early 2000s. My generation in many ways was a transitional one going from analog to digital. Growing up, we didn't have a computer until I was 14/15 years old so book reports were typed on a typewriter. My kids were amazed when I told them that I didn't have a cell phone until I was an adult.

I had to read books to do reports because there was no Google or internet to search. I think this is why I am equally at home in both the non-tech and the tech worlds. There are times that I want to actually write something down with pen and paper and other times I reach for my iPad or computer to type a document. I blog online but recently I have embraced the old art of keeping a physical journal or diary to write down my thoughts. This last part is where I want to center my article.

I have been trying for the last month to find ways to "unplug" more from the online world. Recently, I stumbled across a journaling book called "Turn Your Phone Off - A Guided Journal To Help You Stay Offline." I was immediately intrigued so I started thumbing through the pages and noticed that its organized into three sections. The first section has some action steps to do while

offline, for example, it encourages you to write a note or card to someone or pick up the phone to call rather than sending a text. The next section is a morning and evening journaling section with prompts that cause you to stop and think as you reflect and on the day ahead and then the day you had. The final section has blank pages for additional notes and thoughts.

I like how this journal has pushed and challenged me with my goal of unplugging. While I don't always get it right, it has caused me to be more conscious about my time online. Since I've cut back, I've noticed that I am more present in the moment and able to full take in my surroundings. The biggest take away is I don't feel as rushed or stressed to get to "what's next."

We just celebrated Thanksgiving, a time to give thanks, show gratitude and reflect on the provisions that God has given. We are about to celebrate Advent and then Christmas. One negative that can happen with both of these seasons is the inability to slow down and savor the moments right in front of us. I want to challenge you this season to send a card, pick up the phone and connect with someone that you have not seen in a bit and as you do, try not to think about what's next but just be present in the moment. I promise it will be a rewarding and truly fulfilling experience for both you and the other person.

On the Journey,

BJ

If you liked this month's *Musing*, I'd like to invite you to check out my blog, beejmeyer.wordpress.com

As I mentioned in this month's article, I may not post as often but when I do, I write very similar content to what is here. It's kind of a way for me to engage with others in a non-judgmental, non-reactionary way.

You may not always agree with my takes on certain issues and that's fine, the blog is basically me figuring out and living daily life.

*"Angels, from the realms
of glory, Wing your flight
o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's
story, Now proclaim
Messiah's birth:
Come and worship,
Come and worship,
Worship Christ, the new
born King!"*

*"Saints, before the altar
bending, Watching long
in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord,
descending, In His
temple shall appear:
Come and worship,
Come and worship,
Worship Christ, the
newborn King
- James Montgomery*

What's Happening at Central?
December 2023

The Halifax Herald
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Central Baptist Church
152 Fairview Avenue
Daytona Beach, FL 32114-2104

MKT
Non-Profit
US Postage Paid
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PI 266

Dec. 3 @ 2:00pm Carolers @ The Blake
Dec. 7 @ 10:30am PrimeTimers Party
Dec. 8 @ 9:30am MOPS
Dec. 10 @ 2:00pm Carolers @ Benton House
Dec. 14 @ 10:00am Food Pantry
Dec. 16 @ 3pm Christmas Sing-Along
Dec. 17 @ 2pm Carolers @ Ormond in the Pines
Dec. 24 @ 6:00pm Christmas Eve Service

Weekly Events

Sundays

Sunday School at 9:30am

Sunday Worship at 11:00am

Shine at 5:00pm

Youth at 5:00pm

Tuesdays

Bible Study via Zoom at 10:30am

Meeting ID: 3262313643

Password: 882551

Women's Book Club at 12:30pm

Wednesday

Lunch with the Pastor at 12:15pm

Connections at 5:15pm

Thursdays

The Chosen at 5:30pm

Servant Leadership

Ministers.....All Members
Senior Pastor.....Dr. Sonny Gallman
Music Leader.....Laurie Moran
Minister of Senior Adults.....Rev. BJ Meyer
Office Manager & Organist.....Rev. BJ Meyer
Pianist.....Meg Pokorny
Custodian.....Steve Lauxman

Thank You Central Servants

On Sunday, November 19, Central had the opportunity to publicly thank Martha Meadows for her years of faithful service to Central.

Martha is well known as the “card lady,” always sending out thoughtful cards and notes at holidays and in those times when you need to be reminded that someone is thinking of and praying for you. She’s also quick with a phone call and a kind word to remind you that you are loved.

For years, Martha faithfully served in the choir, and as a cook and assistant cook in the kitchen here at Church and out at camp.

How appropriate that we got to say thank you to Martha on the Sunday that we celebrated as Thanksgiving Sunday.

Martha, we are indeed grateful and thankful for you and your many talents! We love you!!

