

From The Pastor

Approximately one year ago I preached my first official sermon here at Central Christian as a part-time pastor. Much has happened since February 5, 2012. My life has been enriched and filled with nothing but blessings. God abides here because I choose to see God's hand in everything we do, in all that we have, and in the hopes we carry for the future. There is a joyful attitude towards church life here because we choose to be joyful! Quite often we are described as an aging community; but I fail to see the negative connotation (if there is such a thing). I see an innocence, an openness, and a generosity of spirit. This is the way I would choose to age. I have been received with love and held up with respect--and for this I will be forever grateful. I take this as God's affirmation that I should keep going!

With all its weather challenges January has proved to be a very productive month. We will have had at least one meeting regarding the planning of children's ministry at Central Christian Church. God has spoken to one of our members who has described her vision for an event to be announced in the coming months. We will collaborate with First United Church of Christ this Lenten season and reactivate those ministries we have shared in the past. We will also respond to the community in Marion by entering into new ministries where we can use our strengths.

While we wait for the weather to warm and for crocuses to bloom we must cherish each moment we have for what it is--a gift to see things anew and become new. Whenever I feel myself feeling uncertain or weakened I hear God say: "Walk in Grace!"

Walking with you,
Merlyn

THOSE SCHEDULED TO SERVE IN FEBRUARY

ELDERS:	Feb.	3	Dorothy Frye	Ken Mishler
		10	Sheryl Reeve	Pam Denzer
		17	Janice Middaugh	Sheryl Reeve
		24	Pam Denzer	Dorothy Frye

DEACONS:			Tom Files	Eva Reiff
			Archie Holliday	Pat Schertzer
			Carolyn Owen	

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART:				
	Feb.	3		Sheryl Reeve
		10		Lisa Camm

CHANCEL FLOWERS



Chancel flowers during February are being provided by:

Feb.	3	Available
	10	"
	17	"
	24	"

FEBRUARY 3, 2013
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

VALET PARKING is offered by Kathie Sizemore at 8:30 a.m.

COFFEE HOUR starts at 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall on the first, second and third Sunday of this month. At 8:00 a.m. a community breakfast is offered the last Sunday of this month.

FOOD PANTRY - offers a chance for you to help feed the area's hungry. Please bring food staples to help us continue our support of this community-at-large ministry.



Ruth Group

Thursday, February, 7th; 1:30 p.m. in the Social Room
Study leader: Dorothy Kay
Hostess: Rae Maurer
All women of the church are invited.

CMF Breakfast

Saturday, February 16th; 7:30 a.m. at Marion Diner

Gazette Deadline

Tuesday, February 19th; 11 a.m.
Anything received in the office AFTER this deadline will be included in the NEXT month's newsletter.

THURSDAY EVENING SHARING

Evening Sharing starts at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Bring your family and friends and share your concerns. We will pray for God to help us and direct us in all that we do. Periodically entertainment will be offered and will vary from music to slide shows to guest speakers.

Message From The Trustees

Many of your concerns on maintenance and building repairs and projects have been taken into account and addressed by your Trustees.

We want to take this time to thank those of you who have donated graciously to the Capital Improvement Fund (roof repair). We are close to one third of the way towards our goal of \$36,000.

Our Church=Our Fellowship=Our Mission=Priceless

"Sharing Brings Joy"

Week of Compassion special day offering will be received on Sundays, February 17th and 24th. Please identify your offering so it may be included on your individual giving record.

Coupons

A coupon drop-off box has been placed on the Information Station table in the Fellowship Hall. Pick up coupons from the box in the small kitchen. Coupon Club meets on Fridays at 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

2012 Giving Statements & 2013 Giving Envelopes

Pick up your statement and your envelopes in the Fellowship Hall on the Information Station table.



ADDRESS CHANGES:

Josh Votaw, 206 West Dombaugh Street, Nevada, OH 44849
Kay Whitehead, Kingston, Apt. 118, 464 James Way, Marion



Utilities for December 2012

Columbia Gas	\$ 778.73
Ohio Edison	\$ 185.93
Frontier	\$ 194.66
Aqua Water	\$ 113.72
Total	<u>\$1273.04</u>

ROOP & DORIS HANS - Many of you may recall a sweet couple originally from India that went to our church over a year ago - Roop and Doris Hans. Doris was big into knitting. She knitted many, many beautiful hats for the Christmas Mitten Tree and knitted hats to include in a few shoeboxes for the Shoebox Ministry. I received a call from Doris informing me of the passing of her husband Roop on December 26th and two days later the passing of her eldest sister on December 28th in India. She is currently living with her son near Dover, Ohio. Sympathy cards may be sent to her at 776 Garberdale Square NE, Apt. J, Bolivar, Ohio 44612-8597. Please keep her in your prayers...Brenda Reish.

From Bill Schertzer

When I delivered Don Creviston's Christmas goodies that was prepared by the Ruth Group, he wanted to express his thanks to them and all church members. He brought back memories when four Ohio Edison linemen, Woodrow Frost, Pete Frazier, Bill Glimpse and himself were active members. We also found we were both graduates of Coyne Electrical School, in Chicago, he in 1930's and I in the 1940's. Don is 95.

STAY TUNED! COMING SOON!

We will gather to share music once a month. All those interested in coming for an informal evening of music, celebrated in the fellowship hall, please be ready to come to show off your gifts, simply listen, or experiment. Bring your CDs to share or sing/hear your all-time favorite hymns. Refreshments will be served.



THANK YOU NOTE . . .

Thank you for the "Christmas Staff Love Gift". I am so blessed to be a member and an employee of Central Christian Church. I cherish all the great friendships that have evolved and continue as I start my 36th year here. The best to each of you.

Dorothy Frye

THANK YOU TO Libby Davis for helping in the office.

**OUR LIBRARY BOOKS
YOU'VE GOT TO LOVE THEM !**

New books you'll love to read:

THE NEXT LEVEL: A Parable of Finding Your Place in Life (David Gregory)...The author of *Dinner With A Perfect Stranger* offers insights into questions such as What is your ultimate purpose?; How can you know when you are achieving that purpose?; and What would your life look like if you were living out your true purpose?

PROOF OF HEAVEN: A Neurosurgeon's Journey into the Afterlife (Eben Alexander, M.D.)... Thousands of people have had near-death experiences, but scientists have argued that they are impossible. Dr. Alexander was one of those. Then, his own brain was attacked by a rare illness. For seven days he lay in a coma and then, as his doctors considered stopping treatment, his eyes opened. He had come back. His recovery is a medical miracle. But the real miracle of his story lies elsewhere. While his body lay in coma, Alexander journeyed beyond this world and encountered an angelic being who guided him into the deepest realms of super-physical existence. There he met, and spoke with, the Divine source of the universe itself.

from the back cover

LOVE ANTHONY (Lisa Genova)...Two women facing loss spend a winter on Nantucket Island. Olivia is trying to understand why her son was afflicted with autism, why he died at the age of eight, and what was the meaning of his life. Beth, after fourteen years of marriage and three daughters, is dealing with her husband's infidelity. She finds comfort after she begins to write a story about a little boy. The two women meet by chance in this story about love, autism, and motherhood.

On the library bulletin board you can read an excerpt from the book *Plant A Geranium in your Cranium*, by Barbara Johnson. It had special meaning to one of our members.

CCC LIBRARY FACTS AND FIGURES

70 books were added to our libraries during 2012. The Memorial Library received 55 and the Children's Library 15. Of this total 23 were gifts from individuals and 47 were purchased new. A list of these is posted on the bulletin board.

Money given to the library fund in memory or honor of friends and family totaled \$205.00. The cost for books purchased is \$407.26 And the amount in the fund at the end of 2012 is \$656.46.

27 readers checked out 143 books during the past year.

Take time to look over the magazines, newsletters, bulletins, and brochures in our magazine rack. There is much information about Disciples of Christ organizations and activities (schools, missions, workshops, and more); local groups (Love, Inc., the Council on Aging); and The American Bible Society.

If you haven't seen the photo albums in the library come on in and enjoy seeing pictures of our church family over the years.

Remember that the library is open to all on Sunday morning so stop by to look for a book, meet with others to discuss what you are reading, look to see what is new on the bulletin board, or just relax in one of the glider chairs.

Please let me know the titles or subjects of books you would like to find on our shelves.

Melba Huddlestun CCC librarian

"I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of library."

...Jorge Luis Borges

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Brenda Reish shares: In November when Central Christian was getting ready to bring a close to our campaign for the shoeboxes for another year, I went on line to pay for the shipping for Dad's shoeboxes and was given the option to "Follow Your Box". I furnished my email address and December 21st received the following information:

Merry Christmas from Samaritan's Purse! Thank you for participating in Operation Christmas Child and for choosing to "Follow Your Box". Your gift box(es) went to **ZAMBIA**.

Forty-six percent of Zambia's 13.8 million people are 14-years-old or younger. In the 2012-2013 season 242,432 shoe box gifts will be delivered to children in Zambia, which first received the gifts in 1999. Since then, 1,320,456 children in Zambia have received a shoe box gift.

Operation Christmas Child offers a follow-up discipleship program to our ministry partners in conjunction with the shoe box gifts. This year in Zambia, these Bible lessons will be offered to 22,400 children who receive a shoe box gift.

The Greatest Journey begins when children are freely offered Gospel storybooks along with their shoe boxes. The Greatest Gift booklets - printed in over 70 languages - contain colorful illustrations that explain the Good News of Jesus Christ in a simple, engaging style.

After receiving a shoebox gift, boys and girls are invited to participate in the voluntary Bible study course produced by Samaritan's Purse. The 12-lesson set guides children through a study of who Jesus Christ is, what it means to follow Him, and how to share this exciting message with others.

To help these boys and girls continue to grow in their faith, we also want to provide them with their own copies of the Greatest Gift New Testament. This edition also includes select Old Testament stories, a dictionary, and a section that encourages the children to memorize Scripture.

Prayer Concerns

Members

Terry Beers _____
Dorothy Besch
Dorsel and Betty Denney
Paul & Olga Geissler
Roger & Esther Kingsley
Betty Leib
Gene Miller
Joel Reeve
Barb West
Millie Zug

Non-members

Paul Bender (*Shirk*) Morgan Magers (*Reeve*)
Roxanne Bisel (*Schmalz*) Linda Mahan (*Middaugh*)
Vickie Camm (*Camm*) Ruth Manier (*Kingsley*)
Brad Campbell (*Miller*) Debbie Melvin (*Reish*)
Michelle Cole (*Holliday*) Jim & Christy Missler (*Camm*)
Dave Doss (*Tidd*) Paul Pezley (*Schertzer*)
Ken Ellinwood (*Tidd*) Marcia Riggelman (*Davis*)
Rick Huddle (*Schertzer*) Elaine Scarlett (*Reeve*)
Lori Hoover Hudson (*Lusch*) Helen Swinehart (*Frye*)
Chuck Klingel (*Tidd*) Jack Willis (*Shirk*)
Jeanie Kuchenbecker (*Reeve*) Randi Woessner (*Reish*)
Sheila Leibold (*Snyder*)

Military:

Michael Dunfee (*Winters*) Jason Knotts (*Owen*)
Sabastian Fortney (*Middaugh*) Isaac Ryan (*Ryan*)
Erin Kirk & Kevin Kirk (*Kirk*) Alex Sayre (*Holliday*)



OUR SYMPATHY TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF . . .

Donna Tomaziefski
(Carolyn Owen's sister)
who passed away January 13, 2013

**CCC CELEBRATES
FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

Happy Birthday!

2	Micky Millisor	18	Tim Sharrock
3	Tom Files	20	Adam Cantrell
5	Trea Butler		Grant McAllister
10	Kimberly Price	23	Cindy Oberdier
14	Blake Kawabata	27	Diane Mayne
15	Mickey Bloomfield		Robert Oberdier
		28	Linda Newell

Happy Anniversary!

21 Ken & Pat Mishler
 Bruce & Nancy Snyder

If you have a birthday and/or an anniversary in February and it does not appear on the list above, please contact the church office immediately so we can update our files and include it in the future. Thanks!