

# Messenger

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VOLUME LV - Weekly Publication

December 3, 2007

## Morning Watch

Sundays 8:30 am

## Christian Education

Sundays 9:15 am

## Traditional Service

Sundays 10:30 am

## Fellowship Hour

Sundays 11:30 am

## Staff

### David P. Turner

Senior Minister

### Renita Lewis Whitaker

Office Manager

### Anthony Shackleford

Custodian

### Dan Oliver

Music Director

### Sue Taylor

Chancel Choir Director

### Lois Sutherland

Organist

### David and Lisa French

Bethany Choristers

### Brenda Garybush

Nursery Care Provider

## Children's Christmas Program & Carry-In Dinner

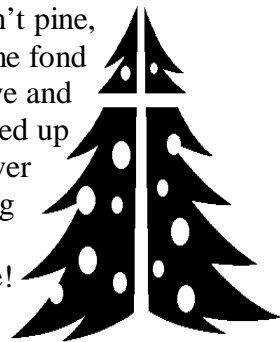
The Annual Children's Christmas Program & Carry-In Dinner will be held on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. The dinner will start at 6:00 pm and the Children's Christmas Program will begin at 7:00 pm. Everyone is asked to bring a main dish to share. In addition, those whose last names begin with A - M are asked to bring a dessert. Those with last names beginning with N - Z are asked to bring a side dish.



You and your family are invited to our Christmas Eve Candlelight Services. Our Family Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will begin at 5:30 pm. This contemporary service is designed with children in mind. We will sing carols and embrace the love of the season. Our Traditional Candlelight Service will begin at 7:30 pm. The choir will sing and the bells will ring as we celebrate the coming of the newborn King.

## The Heartfelt Christmas Tree

There is a special Christmas tree that lives within the heart. It isn't pine, and can't be bought at any store or mart. Each branch holds some fond memory of joyful Christmas cheer, reminding us of those we love and always hold dear. The gifts beneath this Christmas tree are stacked up very high with kindly deeds of thoughtfulness that one could never buy. The Heartfelt Christmas tree expands through every passing year with lovely gifts and blessings from far and near. Atop this tree a star shines bright, while angels sing God's praise; Rejoice! The Christ-child's Love is shared and blesses ALL our days.



## Serving in December

**Deacon Captain:** Melissa Moody  
**Deacons Serving:** Carol Strine, Jim King, Barbara King, Don Wilcox, Shirley Wilcox, Ann O'Diam, Bill Brockhouse, Scot Burnett and Connie Doss.  
**Deacon Prep/Clean Up:** Lorie Sigman and Pam Alderman  
**Acolytes:** Kirsten Milton and Conner Melton  
**Elders for Communion**  
**Dec 9<sup>th</sup>** Steve and Pam Bowser  
**Dec 16<sup>th</sup>** Brenda Shoup and Ben Williams  
**Lay Leaders**  
**Dec 9<sup>th</sup>** Tim Green  
**Dec 16<sup>th</sup>** Moniqua Suits  
**Fellowship Hour**  
**Dec 9<sup>th</sup>** Worship Ministry  
**Dec 16<sup>th</sup>** Max Lucado Classes

## The Weeks Ahead

Sunday-Dec 9 <sup>th</sup>	8:30 am	Morning Watch
	9:15 am	Christian Education Crusaders Class Max Lucado Class
	10:30 am	Traditional Service Godly Play
	11:15 am	Bethany Choristers
	11:30 am	Fellowship Hour
	6:30 pm	Chi Rho and CYF Youth Choir
Monday-Dec 10 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am	Quilters
	12:30 pm	Senior Fitness Program
	6:30 pm	World Outreach Ministry
Wednesday-Dec 12 <sup>th</sup>	12:30 pm	Senior Fitness Program
	1:30 pm	Joanna Group
	7:00 pm	Invitations of Romans Kettering Toastmasters
Thursday-Dec 13 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 am	Prayer Shawl Ministry
	6:45 pm	Laudate Ringers
	7:30 pm	Chancel Choir

## Joanna Group

The Joanna Group will meet on Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm in the Meeting Room. Read: Mark 1:146:29. Bring robes and pajamas for Mercy Manor Home

## Outreach Ministry Meeting

The Outreach Ministry we will meet on Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm and Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 pm. If you can not make any of these meetings, please contact April Parcel at 848-4506.

## Central Christian's Food Pantry

We greatly appreciate your food donations. Last week we were able to feed 4 families. Let's continue to help feed the hungry throughout our community by donating.



## Members and Friends

**Hospitalized:** Donald Newhouse, Kettering  
**Hospice Care:** Pat Farnsley, Home.  
**Long Term Care:** Eleanor McNulty and Ann Walters, Sycamore Glen; Garnia Moses, Trinity; June Tate, Autumn Health Care; Marjorie Barkalow, Summerville; Virginia Moore, Oaks of West Kettering; JoAnn Reichbauer, Spring Creek; Roberta Ware, Ruby Kreider, Thelma Harman, Wanda Riggs, Robert and Frances Mayes, Mary Rothenbuhler, Earline Grice, Elzie Hawkins, Norma Kirkland, Dennie Slish and Marian Herron, Home.  
**Sanctuary Flowers** on Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> were given by Joan Norman in memory of Susan L. Oditt  
**Our Sympathy and Prayers** are with the family of Vivian Byrckett who passed away on Wednesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>. Funeral service was held on Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at Routsong, Funeral Home in Kettering.

## Members and Friends Directory

Please note the following in your Members and Friends Directory:

**Bill and Lee Smith**  
(937) 435-3519

## Memorial Fund

### General Fund

**In Memory of Vivian Byrckett**  
Rollin and Temple Ann Hanson  
Jim and Marty Robinson  
Bob and Jean Cochoy  
Crusaders Class

### General Fund

**In Memory of Cynthia Bentley**  
Great Start Pre-School  
Ronald and Alice Maiwald

### General Fund

**In Memory of Lida Talley**  
Southwest Ohio Health Association

### Music Fund

**In Memory of Ruby Rees**  
Libby Burnett

## Worshiping at Central

Sunday, December 2, 2007

<b>Christian Education</b>	37
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<b>Nursery</b>	5
<b>Morning Watch Service</b>	20
<b>Traditional Service</b>	150
<b>Total Worship Attendance</b>	175

### Our Offering (Operating Fund)

<b>Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>\$9,064.30</b>
<b>2007 Offering to Date</b>	<b>\$263,087.00</b>
<b>2007 Expenses to Date</b>	<b>\$272,220.00</b>



Thanks to everyone for the thoughts and prayers during my recent surgery. My new hip is working well; and the therapy is going as scheduled. I look forward to joining you soon on Sunday morning.

**Rex Strine**

### CWF News

- ? Our Rummage sale was a success with a total of \$1,833.05 in sales. Thanks to everyone who donated items and helped with the sale. The proceeds go to the mission fund. A special thanks to Laura Nolan and Lori Sigman for all their help.
- ? Your generosity helped to purchase 280 blankets. Our last Blanket Sunday offering totaled \$1,402.
- ? Christmas time is here. Are you looking for a stocking stuffer? Think about purchasing something home made by the ladies of the Prayer Shawl Ministry after church on Sunday. All proceeds will go to purchasing yarn for our Prayer Shawl Ministry.

### Christmas Stockings

The children of Central Christian have been asked to fill Christmas stockings for the children of the families we are helping this Christmas. We need donations of small toys, small stuffed animals, crayons, coloring books and any other small items you feel children will enjoy finding in their Christmas stocking. For more information, please contact Mary Mohr at 277-4913.

### Stuffing Christmas Stockings

On Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, Mary and Michael Mohr will meet with all children age 4-5<sup>th</sup> grade in the Fellowship Hall after church. We will stuff Christmas stocking for the families we are helping this Christmas. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Mohr at 277-4913.



### World Outreach Christmas Baskets

The World Outreach ministry will set up in the Narthex this Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> to receive your gifts for our Christmas Basket families. We ask that you return the wrapped gifts with the gift tag taped to the outside. You will also notice the red and green Christmas Basket envelopes in the pews for your monetary donations. We will be buying the food for the baskets with these donations. Thank you for helping your brothers and sisters in Christ have a happy and blessed Christmas. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

### What Is Christmas?

Christmas is belief in the past, courage for the present and hope for the future. It is a fervent wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace.



The Advent wreath is a symbol of watchfulness and increasing joy as Christmas approaches. Lighting its candles is a common practice on the four Sundays leading to Christmas. Different color combinations for the candles are used depending upon the church or denomination. Some churches use four blue candles around the wreath with one white candle in the center, while some use all white candles. Many denominations light purple candles on the first two Sundays, pink on the third, purple again on the fourth Sunday and a large white candle on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. The wreath, the candles and the colors all have symbolic significance. Here are just a few of the many and various interpretations:

- The circular green wreath symbolizes the everlasting love of God, having no beginning or end. Green represents eternal life.
- The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. One tradition says that each candle also represents one thousand years. They total 4,000 years — the time from Adam and Eve until the birth of Christ.
- Purple, in ancient times, was expensive and was considered the color of royalty and kings. On Christmas, Christ is proclaimed King of Kings. Purple also symbolizes humility and penitence.
- Blue is another color often used as a symbol of royalty. Some churches use blue candles to symbolize the night sky and the anticipation of the announcement of Christ's birth. Blue also symbolizes the beginning of a new creation as in the waters of Genesis 1.
- The first purple candle signifies Hope.
- The second purple candle stands for Peace.
- The pink candle for the third Sunday symbolizes Joy and signifies the halfway point of Advent.
- The final purple candle is for Love.
- The large white candle in the center is the Christ candle. Its light symbolizes Christ the Savior — "the light of the world."
- The beauty and brightness from the glow of all five candles is a reminder that Christ's life was the light for all earth's people — "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:5)

### Poinsettias

Please use this form to order your Christmas Poinsettias. The cost for each red poinsettia is \$10.00. Please your order early. Our deadline is Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. Payment must accompany your order, payable to Central Christian Church. You may place your order form and check in the offering plate or mail to church office.

I/we would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ red poinsettias. (\$10.00 each).

**In Honor of:**

**In Memory of:**

**Your Name:**

# The Last Word...

by David P. Turner

Anyone who has ever had a nasty cold knows the power of a virus. Likewise, anyone who has ever had their computer attacked by the digital variety also knows the danger that viruses represent. A few years ago I received a warning of another kind of virus in my email. This is how it read:

“WARNING.... WARNING... ADVENT VIRUS IS GOING OUT: Be alert for symptoms of inner hope, peace, joy and love. The hearts of a great many have already been exposed to this virus and it is possible that people everywhere could come down with it in epidemic proportions. This could pose a serious threat to what has, up to now, been a fairly stable condition of conflict in the world. Some signs and symptoms of the Advent Virus include:

- An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.
- A loss of interest in judging other people.
- A loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others.
- A loss of interest in conflict.

- A loss of the ability to worry. (This is a very serious symptom.)
- Frequent, overwhelming episodes of appreciation.
- Contented feelings of connectedness with others and nature.
- Frequent attacks of smiling.
- An increased susceptibility to the love extended by others as well as the uncontrollable urge to extend it ourselves.

Does this sound like a virus you would like to catch? If so, then you have to expose yourself to the people who have it. As Leonard Sweet writes, “We need to search out opportunities to revisit the meaning of Christmas, to flee manic mall madness, to mingle with those for whom the Messiah is a meaningful presence in their lives. Seek out the community of the infected and inflamed and the fervent and feverish. You’ll catch the Advent Virus every time!”