

Messenger

1200 Forrer Blvd., Kettering, Ohio 45420

Email: office@ccc-ket.org

Website: www.ccc-ket.org

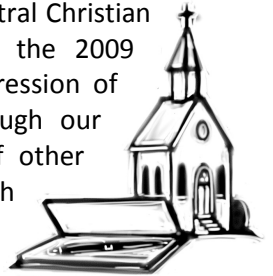
VOLUME LVI - Weekly Publication

December 1, 2008

2009

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

On behalf of the Stewardship Ministry and the membership of Central Christian Church, I wish to thank you for your generous response to the 2009 Stewardship Campaign. Your estimate of giving is a strong expression of support for our 2009 vision at Central, and God's work through our congregation. Your commitment, when combined with those of other members and friends, will allow firm planning for church programming and outreach activities during the coming year. Your generosity will assure meaningful content in those activities. Thank you once again for stepping forward with your commitment to Central Christian. May God bless you for your faithfulness and generosity.



Terry L. Sigman, Chairperson,
Stewardship & Finance Ministry

YOU ARE INVITED!

The Christian Education (Children/Youth), Christian Family Life, Elders and World Outreach ministries will be hosting a Birthday Party for Jesus on Sunday, December 21st during the Fellowship hour following the Traditional Service. Please plan to stay and join us to celebrate the Birth of our Savior. Additional details will be coming in next week's Messenger. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact Melissa Moody at 626-6503 or via email at mmoody5409@yahoo.com.



ANNUAL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM & CARRY-IN DINNER



The Annual Children's Christmas Program & Carry-In Dinner will be held on Sunday, December 14th. 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.

FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE & TRADITIONAL CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

You and your family are invited to our Christmas Eve Services. Our Family Christmas Eve 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.



Morning Watch
Sundays 9:00 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 Shackelford
Custodian

Sue Taylor
Music Director

Dan Oliver
*Bell Choir Director &
Director of Audio/Visual*

Lois Sutherland
Organist

Jenny Garner
Nursery Care Provider

Serving In December

Deacon Captain: Melissa Moody

Deacons Serving: Jenness Sigman, Shirley Wilcox, Don Wilcox, Bob Cochoy, Jean Cochoy, John Willman, Lora Davidson and Joe Albrecht.

Deacon Prep/Clean Up: TBA

Elders for Communion

Dec 7th Don Ashbrook and Moniqua Suits

Dec 14th Dan and Jamie Oliver

Lay Leaders

Dec 7th Steve Bowser

Dec 14th Bob Wheeler

Fellowship Hour

Dec 7th Property Ministry

Dec 14th Deborah Group

Wall Calendar

The wall calendar located outside of the church office lists the scheduled activities of the church ministries. To get an activity listed on the wall calendar, please contact the church office.



The Week Ahead

Sunday, Dec 7th	9:00 am	Morning Watch
	9:15 am	Christian Education Crusaders Class Max Lucado Class Unbinding the Gospel Class
	10:30 am	Traditional Service Godly Play
	11:30 am	Fellowship Hour
	11:40 am	Bethany Choristers
	12:00 pm	Christmas Play Rehearsal
	4:00 pm	Chi Rho
Monday, Dec 8th	6:30 pm	CWF Meeting
	9:00 am	Quilters
	12:30 pm	Senior Fitness Christmas Party
Wednesday, Dec 10th	7:00 pm	Property Meeting
	12:30 pm	Senior Fitness Class
	1:30 pm	Joanna Group
	7:00 pm	Kettering Toastmaster Deborah Group
Thursday, Dec 11th	9:30 am	Prayer Shawl Ministry
	6:30 pm	Laudate Ringers
	7:30 pm	Chancel Choir
Saturday, Dec 13th	9:30 pm	Scrapbook Ministry

Messenger Holiday Schedule

Due to the following three day holiday work weeks, the Messenger will not be published the weeks of:

December 22nd - Christmas

December 29th - New Year

Food Pantry

Many thanks for your donations. Last week we were able to feed 6 families. Let's continue to feed the hungry in our community. Pantry Hours: Mondays and Wednesday from 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Donations can be placed on table located in Narthex.

Members & Friends

Hospice Care	- Pat Farnsley Home
Home Care	- Ruby Kreider Thelma Harman Robert and Frances Mayes Earline Grice Norma Kirkland Marian Herron
Autumn Health Care	- June Tate
Bethany	- Kathy (Golda) Anderson
Harborside Healthcare	- Jim and Eleanor McNulty
Liberty Retirement Home	- Ed Bausman
Oaks of West Kettering	- Virginia Moore
Summersville	- Margarie Barkalow Eugene Griffith
Spring Creek	- JoAnn Reichbauer
Sycamore Glen	- Anne Walters
Trinity	- Garnia Moses
Waterfront Retirement	- Mary Rothenbuhler

Our Sympathy and Prayers are with the family of Veda Smith who passed away on Saturday, November 22nd. Funeral service was held on Saturday, November 29th at Newcomer Funeral Home in Kettering.

The Sanctuary Flowers on Sunday, November 30th were given by Sena Dixon in honor of the Hinman Family.

Happy Birthday: On Saturday, December 6th, **Dorothy Strasser** will celebrate her 90th birthday; On Thursday, December 18th, **Elwood "Pete" Byrkett** will celebrate his 92nd birthday; and on Wednesday, December 24th, **Mary Catherine Stewart** will celebrate her 101 birthday.

Memorial Fund

General Fund

In Memory of Veda Smith

Jim and Marty Robinson

Jack and Arlene Willman

Music Fund

In Memory of Lois Gephard

Roger and Lois Sutherland

Christmas Basket Fund

In Memory of Fred Merriman

Rusty and Carole Clifford

Worshipping at Central

Sunday, November 30, 2008

Christian Education	24
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Nursery/Godly Play	15
Morning Watch	19
Traditional Service	<u>132</u>
Total Worship Attendance	199

Our Offering (Operating Fund)

Sunday, November 30th	\$5,549.00
2008 Offering to Date	\$260,212.00
2008 Expenses to Date	\$262,926.00

Faith Finders/Seekers Finders

The afternoon youth groups will be taking a break for the holidays. Meetings will resume on January 11th. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Mohr, Brad Kassner or Laura Seaman.

Children's Play Practice

There will be a mandatory play practice for all children participating in the Christmas program on this Sunday, December 7th at noon in the Sanctuary. This is the only opportunity the kids will have to rehearse in the Sanctuary prior to the play on December 14th, so please be sure your children attend. We will be done no later than 1:00. If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Moody at 626-6503 or via email at mmoody5409@yahoo.com

Attention Chi Rho

Chi Rho will meet from 4-8 p.m. on Sunday, December 7th in order to tape and plan our Christmas program. Pizza will be provided for dinner. If you have any questions please call David or Tammy Turner at the church or 643-3011.

Attention CYF

Please make note of the following items.

1. This coming Sunday, December 7th is a very important meeting. We will be finalizing our skit for the All Church Christmas Program on December 14th. Please – everyone needs to have their part written and memorized. We need to make this a very productive meeting.
2. Our meeting on Sunday, December 14th will be the All Church program. Please plan to attend the potluck dinner with your family and participate in the skit!
3. Our CYF Christmas Party and White Elephant gift exchange will be on Sunday, December 21st at 6:00 p.m. Details on where and what to bring will be available next week.
4. For questions on any of these things, please call Mary Lou Pence (434-8157).

THANK YOU

The CYF would like to thank the congregation for their support in the Baked Potato and Salad Bar luncheon fundraiser held on Sunday, November 23rd. Approximately 80 people joined us for food and fellowship following the Traditional Service and helped the CYF clear over \$400. The money will be split with part going to the CYF fund to be used for an upcoming mission trip and the rest shared by the 5 members who will be attending the UN Seminar in February 2009. We also thank Ponderosa on Airway Road for their donation of the potatoes served. And for parent support, the CYF thanks Scot Burnett for the gift of tropical houseplants to sell. Scot separated and potted a number of his own plants to create items to share. Also present to help in the kitchen and with set up and clean up were Chuck and Beth Bentley, Larry Green and Scot Burnett. Your help is greatly appreciated.



Prayer Shawl Ministry



Looking for a Stocking Stuffer for the holidays? The Prayer Shawl Ministry will be selling items after church on Sunday. Proceeds go to purchasing yarn for prayer shawls.

From Financial Secretary

The 2009 Financial envelopes will be available for pickup in the Narthex beginning Sunday, December 7th. If possible, please pick up your envelopes to avoid the expense of mailing them to homes. Envelopes that are not picked up by December 28th will be mailed to your home address of record on December 29th. Individuals selecting either weekly or monthly envelope sets as indicated on the Estimate of Giving card should have the appropriate set assigned to you. Envelopes are not assigned to those that requested none as the envelope type on the Estimate of Giving Card. If you change your mind and would like a different set type than what is assigned to you, please contact Chuck Bentley, Jr. (436-4914) and an alternate envelope set will be provided.

Church By-Laws

The By-Laws committee, chaired by Darlene Rogers, will meet in January to review and update the church by-laws. If anyone has any changes which you would like to have considered, please submit in writing and place in the Properties mail box clearly marked "By-Laws". Or you may submit by email to cdarlene@woh.rr.com.

Poinsettias

Please use this form to order your Christmas Poinsettias. The cost for each red poinsettia is \$10.00. Please your order early. The deadline to order is Sunday, December 14th. 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 _____ poinsettias. (\$10.00 each).

In Honor of:

In Memory of:

Your Name:

Poinsettias will be used to decorate the Sanctuary from December 21st through December 28th.



The Last Word...

by David P. Turner





This past Sunday began the season of Advent – the season of waiting and watching for the coming of Christ. Wendy Wright, author of *The Vigil*, believes that the Church’s annual Advent vigil is a very special time of the year for Christians – a time filled with opportunities to deepen our spiritual lives and grow closer to God. For her, Advent is a time when we can live out the promise of Psalm 46, “be still and know that I am God.” She writes:

The ancient desert dwellers of our early Christian communities tell us that the surest way into the heart of God is to be still. In being still we learn to be attentive to the vast and hidden stillness that permeates all things. So I invite you to begin by becoming attentive to that stillness as well. Seek it first in your own home. Go at night into the darkened room of your sleeping child and breath with the moist, quick risings of a child’s breath. Rise in the thin light of a new day. Do not turn on the lamp or the television or the coffee maker, but stand by an east window and let the dawn’s fingers creep up over the fingers of your own hand. Listen next for stillness as you venture out of doors. Hear

in it the splintering of fall leaves as you cross a grassy knoll between paths in the park. Find it in the first cape of snow draped over the eaves of your house. Turn finally to your own heart. The same still is there as well. At the core, buried beneath the turbulence of emotions rubbed raw by life’s labor, is the same still discovered in the slow-moving sap of an autumn tree. In that primordial stillness beats the heart of God...

Advent is a time of stillness and preparation – a time of expectation and longing for the fullness of God. But it is also a time of joy and celebration, as we give voice to the joy that is already ours. Advent points us toward the “Hallelujah Chorus” of Christmas day, but it does so acknowledging that God is already as close to us as the air we breathe and the ground beneath our feet.

Join us each Sunday in our Advent journey toward Christmas as we pause from our frantic holiday activity to listen in the stillness for the whisper of God’s voice. Join us as we lift our hearts and our voices in thanksgiving for the gift of God’s light in the birth of Jesus Christ.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																	
<h1>DECEMBER</h1>						<table border="1"> <tr><th colspan="7">January 2009</th></tr> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> </table>	January 2009							S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
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21 Christmas Sunday 8:30 pm CYF Waffle Breakfast 11:30 Birthday Party for Jesus	22 No Messenger 9:00 am Quilters 12:30 pm Senior Fitness Program 7:00 pm CWF Meeting	23 7:00 pm Elders Meeting	24 12:30 pm Senior Fitness 5:30 pm Family Christmas Eve Service 7:30 pm Traditional Candlelight Service	25  MERRY CHRISTMAS	26 Church Office Closed	27 <i>Each of us is held tenderly in God's loving embrace.</i>																																																	
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