

Messenger

1200 Forrer Blvd., Kettering, Ohio 45420

Email: office@ccc-ket.org

Website: www.ccc-ket.org

VOLUME LVI - Weekly Publication

December 8, 2008

THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

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

The active Stewardship Campaign to establish a church budget for 2009 was completed when the Executive Board approved the proposed budget on November 18th. As your Stewardship Chairperson for 2009, I wish to thank you, the congregation for your support in helping us establish a workable budget for Central Christian Church. The budget was set at \$306,906. Although the amount budgeted is approximately \$4100 under expected receipts, we are confident that we will receive more than the expected receipts through blessings from our God as we carry out His work. In spite of the poor economic conditions that many are facing, 75% of the pledges submitted were either increased or remained the same! With this support, Central will continue to promote *individual spiritually, true community, and a passion for justice*, as we develop and implement great programs.

A new program for Performance Evaluation has been started to properly recognize the job performance annually for our Senior Minister, Office Manager and Custodian. In this system, goals are being established through mutual consent between the employee and a responsible committee. The responsible committee will rate employee performance against those goals next year. This performance rating will then be used by the Salary Review Committee to consider salary increases.

In addition to thanking the congregation, I wish to thank the members of the Stewardship Ministry for their tremendous help during the just completed campaign. These people are Chuck Bentley, Jr., Bob Cochoy, Tom Giles, John and Teri Jump, Merle Kidd, Lynn Rogers, Brenda Shoup, Bill Smith, Rex Strine, and David Turner. Moniqua Suits, our 2009 Public Relations Chair, also contributed greatly to our efforts although not a member of the ministry. In the near future, Moniqua will be giving a presentation which will show you how your church is attempting to meet our goals and how the money that you generously give will be used in God's work. And as always, Renita Lewis, our Office Manager did a great job publishing the information needed to conduct the campaign.

Thank you,
Terry Sigman
Stewardship/Finance Chair

We Invite You & Your Family To Join Us

Children's Christmas Program & Carry-In Dinner on Sunday, December 14th. Carry-In Dinner will begin at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Children's Christmas Program at 7:00 p.m. The joy of Christmas is reconnecting with family and friends sharing love, laughter and music as we rejoice in the birth of our Savior.

Family Christmas Eve Service & Traditional Candlelight Service on Wednesday, December 24th. Family Christmas Eve Service will begin at 5:30 p.m. This contemporary service designed with children in mind. The Traditional Service will be at 7:30 pm. The choir will sing and the bells will ring as we celebrate the coming of the newborn King.



Serving In December

Deacon Captain: Mark Sigman

Deacons Serving: Jenness Sigman, Shirley Wilcox, Don Wilcox, Bob Cochoy, Jean Cochoy, John Willman, Lora Davidson, Don Voyls, Joe Albrecht, Tiffany Zimmerman and Matthew Pence

Deacon Prep/Clean Up: Lourdes Giles

Elders for Communion

Dec 14th Dan and Jamie Oliver

Dec 21st Doug and Mary Lou Pence

Lay Leaders

Dec 14th Bob Wheeler

Dec 21st Larry Merkle

Fellowship Hour

Dec 14th Joanna Group

Dec 21st Birthday Party for Jesus

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 14th	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
	1:30 pm	Oakcreek Nursing Home
	3:00 pm	Walnut Creek Nursing Home
	6:00 pm	Christmas Carry-In Dinner
	7:00 pm	Children Christmas Program
	Monday, Dec 15th	9:00 am
12:30 pm		Senior Fitness Christmas Party
Tuesday, Dec 16th	1:00 pm	Lydia Group
Wednesday, Dec 17th	12:30 pm	Senior Fitness Class
	7:00 pm	Kettering Toastmaster
Thursday, Dec 18th	9:30 am	Prayer Shawl Ministry Party
	6:30 pm	Laudate Ringers
	7:30 pm	Chancel Choir

Attention: Executive Board

The Executive Board will **not** meet next Tuesday, December 16th. The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, January 12th at 7:00 p.m. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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

Last week we were able to feed **4** families. Let's continue to feed the hungry in our community by donating. **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
Heartland of Centerville	- Nancy Tossey
Liberty Retirement Home	- Ed Bausman
Oaks of West Kettering	- Virginia Moore
Summersville	- Marjorie Barkalow Eugene Griffith
Spring Creek	- JoAnn Reichbauer
Sycamore Glen	- Anne Walters
Trinity	- Garnia Moses
Waterfort Retirement	- Mary Rothenbuhler

The Sanctuary Flowers on Sunday, December 7th were given by Joan Norman in memory of Susan L. Norman-Oditt.

New Members: On Sunday, November 23rd, **Destiny Boyer**, 1136 Chelsea Avenue, Dayton, Ohio 45420, (937) 252-7406, united with Central Christian through confession of faith. Welcome Destiny into our church family.

On Sunday, December 7th, **Corrine Hedrick**, 1724 Rockhurst Ave, Kettering, Ohio 45420, (937) 252-0121, united with Central Christian through transfer of membership and Corrine's daughter, **Emily Langford** united with Central Christian through confession of faith. Welcome Corrine and Emily into our church family.

Memorial Fund

Music Fund

In Memory of Veda Smith
Roger and Lois Sutherland

Fogle Scholarship Fund

In Memory of Veda Smith
David and Jean McCall

Christmas Basket Fund

In Memory of Bill Ivan
Rusty and Carole Clifford

Worshipping at Central

Sunday, December 7, 2008

Christian Education	24
Nursery/Godly Play	29
Morning Watch	18
Traditional Service	<u>132</u>
Total Worship Attendance	179

Our Offering (Operating Fund)

Sunday, December 7th	\$9,264.00
2008 Offering to Date	\$269,476.00
2008 Expenses to Date	\$271,260.00

Christian Education Meeting

(Children/Youth)

The Christian Ed (Children & Youth) ministry will meet this Thursday, December 11th at 7:00 p.m., in the Library. Anyone interested in participating in the spiritual development of the future of our church are encouraged to attend. If you have any questions, contact Melissa Moody.

Attention CYF!!!

- ☺ Remember to attend the All Church Christmas program this coming Sunday, December 14th with your families and participate in our CYF skit. Please plan to arrive by 5:00 p.m., to put the final touches on our skit.
- ☺ On Sunday, December 21st we'll meet at 6:00 p.m., at the home of Alexis Garybush for our annual Christmas Party and White Elephant gift exchange. Please bring \$5 for food plus either a 2 liter drink or a bag of chips and a gift white elephant gift – don't buy anything, just bring something from home – the funnier the better!!! The party will last until 8:30 p.m.
- ☺ Questions – please call Mary Lou Pence at 434-815.)

Prayer Shawl Ministry

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

From Financial Secretary

The 2009 Financial envelopes will be available for pickup in the Narthex. 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.

What's So Amazing About Christians?

Consider this: God loved the world so much that he came visiting. God slipped into the world as a helpless baby, without fanfare or heraldry. Think of it: The baby, born of humble parents, the man a carpenter, the woman still in her teens, scholars say. Jesus was born in a backwater town called Bethlehem, in a stable reeking with animal smells. It took years before people fully comprehended God's self-revelation. Even John the Baptist, sitting in Herod's prison, sent a message to Jesus asking, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" (Matthew 11:3, NRSV). Jesus then explained that he was working miracles and bringing good news to the poor. That became even more clear when Peter concluded that Jesus was "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16, NRSV). What's amazing about Christmas is that it began in a manger. And today more than 2 billion people around the world celebrate Jesus' birth.

NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR
Noel Hallelujah Merry Christmas Happy New Year

UN Seminar information

As many of you know 5 of our CYF – Hannah Bentley, Monica Bentley, Alexis Garybush, Tim Green, and Matt Pence will be attending the bi-annual UN Seminar in February. The kids have been busy writing their application papers – the second one is due on January 9th. We've also been holding fund raisers to help defer some of the expense to each CYF member. Each of the age-eligible CYF members (you must be a junior or senior in high school) to go has many reasons they want to go. Tim Green writes "The UN Seminar has been something I have looked forward to for a long time. My father has been talking about it ever since I was old enough to listen and I can't wait for my turn to go on this prestigious trip." Matt Pence says "The trip would mean having the chance to meet people in our government and grow in my faith as I travel with other youth from across Ohio." Monica Bentley hopes to meet new friends, grow in her faith and learn about herself in new ways. As a State CYF officer, Hannah Bentley is excited to go on the trip and cites her older brother's Craig and Rob great experiences as further reasons to want to go. Alexis Garybush writes "Going on the UN Seminar will be a very memorable experience for me. I believe that it will help me grow in my faith and share it with others." Bottom line – the trip costs money and the CYF is asking the congregation to help with sponsorships. You have been very generous in your support of our fundraisers to date. Right now we are asking for donation sponsorships to insure each of the five kids can go. When the kids send in the final paper in early January, their final payment of \$450 is due and then each person needs to bring \$300 in cash for public transportation and meals not included in the base trip cost. In return for sponsoring the UN participants, each participant will prepare a 'trip highlights' presentation for an upcoming worship service. Should you be willing to help sponsor these CYF members, please place your donation in Sunday's offering plate or send it directly to the church office – marking it "UN Seminar sponsorship". The donations will be divided among the 5 participants. The youth "THANK YOU" in advance for your generosity.



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

Christmas is everywhere! Christmas is no longer primarily a religious and spiritual celebration, but a major cultural phenomenon. This isn't all bad. Christmas often becomes an open door into the church for many who have never met Christ, nor heard the Good News. But the sheer volume of Christmas in our culture does make it harder, even for those in the church, to remember what our celebration is really all about.

A while back I read a story that illustrates how this can happen – despite our best intentions. The story is about a young couple that was separated by the Korean War. The young man was drafted into the army and sent overseas. Soon after he left, his wife discovered she was pregnant and soon delivered a baby boy.

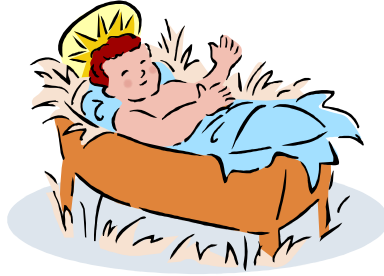
During the three years the father was gone, the mother established a bedtime ritual in which the boy gave a goodnight kiss to a framed picture of his daddy. They did this every night – so the boy would always remember his father who loved him, but who was so far from home. On the day the father finally returned, there was a great celebration.

That night, after everything had quieted down, the young couple got their son ready for bed. First, the boy ran and gave his mother a big goodnight kiss. And then the boy ran across the room, right past his father, who was standing there with open arms, and kissed the old picture goodnight, before running happily off to bed.

Every family and every church have Christmas traditions that are often deeply meaningful. We use these traditions to honor God and celebrate God's incarnation in Jesus. But it is important for us to remember that our traditions, no matter how old or beautiful, are symbols that point beyond themselves to something and someone else.

The Living Christ is a reality among us. The Spirit of God guides our lives and draws us together in love. Any tradition or symbol that helps us to remember that is a good one – no matter how simple or childlike it might be. But in this season of ritual and tradition, let us be careful we do not run past the reality of God's presence only to embrace a symbol. God's light is coming into world's darkness. May we, then, be children of the light.

You're Invited



What: A Birthday Party for Jesus

When: Sunday, December 21, 2008 during the Fellowship Hour

The Christian Ed (Children & Youth), Elders, World Outreach and Christian Family Life ministries are hosting a Birthday Party for Jesus.

Join us during the Fellowship Hour on Sunday, December 21 for cake, decorations and a fun hour with your church family as we rejoice and celebrate in the coming of our King.

Since birthday parties mean presents, we are asking everyone to bring one non-perishable food item for the food pantry. Help us to help our community during the most wonderful time of the year!

If you have any questions, contact Melissa Moody at 626-6503 or via email at mmoody5409@yahoo.com

