

WINTER 2017

the theme

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH
Bi-monthly newsletter

JANUARY & FEBRUARY



CENTRAL BAPTIST
CHURCH
Melbourne, Florida

from the pastor's <3

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PASTOR'S PEN

A word from the heart



Paul begins his letter to Timothy with, *“Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus,”* (2 Tim. 1:1). This has been given as a promise of life from God through Jesus Christ. This promise is in opposition to death. Death is the absence of life. Before we are given life through Jesus Christ, we are *“dead in our trespasses and sins”* according to the scriptures. And death has nothing that it can give. But, when we have been made alive, we now have life to give. And real, relational agape love is evidence of true life. [1John 5:12 NKJV] *12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.* [1John 3:14 NKJV] *14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.*

God has given us an abode in life. Through this new reality, we are called to share our lives with others through love. In this living reality, that is where discipleship takes place. It is life on life. Discipleship is life on life. It does not take place in its entirety from 9:30 – 12:00 noon on Sundays. That may be an engagement opportunity, but discipleship takes place around kitchen tables, at the shooting ranges, on back porches, at work, on golf courses, in school and everywhere else God has set our feet.

It takes a mentor and a learner. Everyone

should be a mentor to another and a learner from another at the same time. Discipleship starts with **engagement**. I engage in His Word and presence and seek to engage others there. It then becomes **involvement**. I become involved with what God has led me to. Jesus said: *“Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do”* (John 5:19). So, where you and I see and sense the Father working is where we get involved in the lives of others. This involvement opens the door to deeper investment and entrustment in life on life situations which will result in entrustment as God works in the lives of those involved.

But it must be intentional. This year, 2017, may it be the **Year of Life** for us. May we move around our environments looking to invest our God given life into others? May we seek to gain discipleship from the God given life of others as well? I look forward to leading us into the meaning of Life-on-Life Discipleship that can only come from what God has brought to life. [Matt. 28:19 NKJV] *19 “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,”*. It begins in life, the life that has been given to you by God in the place where death once was.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Leroy

Living Between the Steps

“The Lord directs the steps of the godly.
He delights in every detail of their lives”

Psalm 37:23

A university professor tells of being invited to speak at a military base in December. While there he met an unforgettable soldier named Ralph. Ralph had been sent to meet him at the airport, and after warm introductions, they headed toward the baggage claim. As they walked down the crowded concourse, Ralph kept disappearing. First, he diverted to help an older woman whose suitcase had fallen open. Then, he darted away to assist a mother to lift her two toddlers up to see Santa Claus. Then, he departed again to give directions to a lost traveler. Each time he came back with a big smile on his face.

“Where did you learn to do that?” the professor asked.

“Do what?” asked the confused soldier.

“To be so helpful and considerate to others.” The professor replied.

“Oh,” Ralph responded, “During the war, I guess.”

Then he told the professor about his tour of duty in Vietnam, and how it was his job to clear minefields, how he witnessed several friends get blown apart. “I learned to live between the steps,” he confessed. “I never knew whether the next step would be my last, so I learned to get everything I could out of the moment between when I picked up my foot and when I put it down again. Every step I took was a whole new world, and I guess I’ve just been that way ever since.”

I am at a season of life where I am trying to learn to live between the steps. It is easy with so much to accomplish, to forget to enjoy the journey. I must confess, when I travel, I seldom take time to enjoy the journey.

As we enter into the New Year it is my prayer that we learn to live and minister between the steps. Let’s be intentional about looking for opportunities to show the love of God to those that cross our path. Let’s be less concerned about the destination and be more present in the journey. Psalm 37 gives much wonderful advice as we enter 2017. Below are 3 great verses to set to memory:

“Trust in the Lord and do good. Then you will live safely in the land and prosper.

Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you your heart’s desires.

Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust him, and he will help you.”

Psalm 37: 3 – 5

I hope you have a Happy New Year.

Prai Sing Him,

Pastor Jeff

Get Involved!

- Children’s Choir (Grades 1-6) - Wed. at 6pm
- Adult Choir - Wednesdays at 7:00pm
- Orchestra - Sundays at 9:00am.
- Youth Praise Band - Sundays at 5pm

Extraordinarily Ordinary

The angel, Gabriel came to Mary and his first words to her were, "*Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you.*" Now, Mary's first response is that she was troubled, not by the presence of an angel but by what he said. WOW!! The only thing the angel told her so far is that she is highly favored and the Lord is with her. These words didn't seem threatening or troubling at all.

Here's the deal. It's hard to picture Mary as anything less than extraordinary being the mother of Christ and all. However, Mary was extraordinarily common - just like me, you, and all God's servants. Being the mother of God was not something she longed to be, it was nothing she deserved or earned. There was nothing special about Mary before that day other than what is special about anyone. We were all created by our Creator for His glory! Mary's response to all she's been told is perfect:

And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her (Luke 1:38).

You see, in Romans 9, Paul has us consider, "Who are you O man" when it comes to God's plan. We are nothing more than the clay and some will be used for what is noble such as Mary and some will be used for common. It doesn't make one of us is better than the other but it has us ALL rightly positioned before God on the ready, ready to be used according to His calling and His purpose.

As we enter into 2017 let's be on the ready, ready to be used according to His call and His purpose. There is a great opportunity coming in March for ordinary people to come together for the purpose of Christ. Brevard pastors are praying and we invite you to pray for the upcoming "Love Brevard Month". The goal is for the Body of Christ to come together in unity and service through love and prayer. Pray that God will open our eyes to opportunities to love on our community in the Name of Jesus. Please contact me if you'd like more information or are interested in being involved.

Jesus loves you!!

Shalom,

Pastor Shannon B. England

Youth Ministry

Avalanche

January 13 & 14

Welcome to the Information page for Avalanche 2017! This year's speaker is Matt Helmtoller who claims to be a cross between Gumbi and the Brawny paper towel guy. Matt is the author of One December Night. Matt and his wife Kelly live in Palm Bay and have a house full of kids!

This year's theme comes from Ecclesiastes 4:12, "And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken."

Location

Comfort Suite
1175 Malabar Rd NE, Palm Bay, FL
32907
(321) 369-1234

Check-In begins at 6:00pm. LOOK for Avalanche signs for Check-In Area. Please notify Pastor Shannon if you or your student will be arriving after 7pm. We will start serving Pizza at 6:45pm. Anyone arriving after 7:30pm will need to eat dinner prior to arrival. The first worship session begins at 7:30pm.

DO NOT ARRIVE BEFORE 6:00PM

Avalanche Schedule

Friday

Check-In Begins: 6:00pm
Pizza Party: 6:45pm
Session I: 7:30pm
In Rooms at 9:30pm
Lights Out: 11:00pm

Saturday

8:00am: Breakfast
9:00am: Frosty Morning Show
10:00am: Session II
12:00noon: Lunch
2:00pm: Andretti's in Melbourne
5:30pm: Hardee's
7:00pm: Session III
9:00pm: Dismissed



Fellowship

We are meeting on Sunday Nights following the evening service to cook together, play games, or join together at an open house. Let Pastor Shannon know if your house is available the fourth Sunday of the month for this open house gathering.

Wednesdays at 8:15pm

Mid-Week Worship is an opportunity to refuel. College, work, and life in this world certainly has its ups and downs. Whether you're experiencing a great week or one that will not end soon enough, Mid-Week worship is designed to refocus on what matters most, Christ Jesus. "but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ" (Ephesians 5:18-21).

Preschool News

Come have fun with us in preschool!

**Rock with
me!**



**Can I cook
for You?**



Let's play!



Immediate Needs:

- 3 to 5 year old teacher for Sunday class
- Paid worker for 2 Sunday mornings or 2 Wednesday evenings a month

Places to serve:

**Welcome Center- 10:30-11:05 Sunday mornings,
Classroom- church services for Sunday mornings & evenings,**

Contact: Karen White for more information

at karen@cfl.rr.com or the church office

*~Our purpose is to provide a safe Christian environment for
preschool children to grow physically, socially, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.*

Women's Ministry

..in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me. Philippians 4:11-13



Growing up in West Virginia, I learned the meaning of cold and winter.

When I was little my whole world was West Virginia and I actually thought it was normal to wear several layers of clothing and be bundled up so much you couldn't move, dig out driveways of snow, scrape ice off your car, and do all the other things that go along with snow, ice, and winter. Winter was actually one of my favorite times of the year though. A time of year to reflect. In our spiritual lives, we all have "winters" too and we have to winterize for them in order to face them. When winter comes it is a time of bleak and dark dreary days. We must face the fact that winter can be hard and trials are hard. Just like the season of winter, our spiritual "winters" can leave us discouraged, lonely, and depressed.

Winter can bring so many things along with it. Blizzards being one of the worst as the effects it leaves is so devastating. Circumstances in our lives can also be devastating. Bills mount up. Family members get sick or even die. Relationships get sour, and many other circumstances weigh down on us until we think we can't go on because we can't see what's down the road. I think that during these times we need to remember that God sees the outcome. He's our Potter and we are the clay. By praying, staying in the word and surrounding ourselves with fellow believers as a support system we can "winterize" ourselves.

Just remember we will all have "winters" in our lives, but choosing how we deal and prepare for them can make all the difference in the world.

But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold. Job 23:10

Futhering His Kingdom,

Lea Ann Burdette

December Activities

Christmas Eve Service

Saturday, December 24th at 5pm

Christmas Day Service

Sunday, December 25 at 10:45pm

There will be no Sunday School or Evening Service.

The Church office will be closed the week of December 26th

Please call and leave a message or send an email if you have any needs during this time. (321-723-3681 or office@centralbaptist.net).

Campus Prayer Walk

December 28 at 6pm

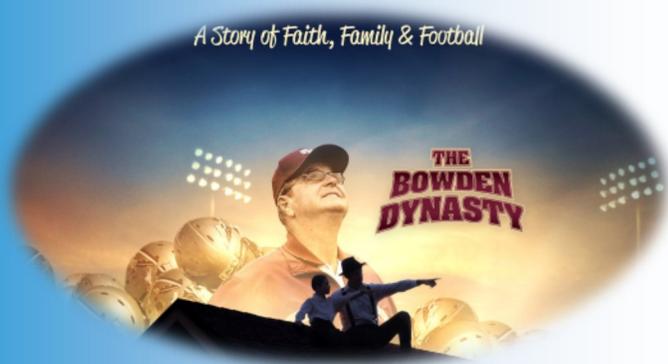
There will be no evening meal, no nursery and no choir.

Central to Seafarer's Ministry

Saturday, December 31

Please see Chris Gibbs if you are interested in joining in this ministry opportunity.

Upcoming Activities



Bowden Dynasty Movie

Sunday, January 8, 6pm
Carmike Theater, West Melbourne

We will also have regular Sunday
Evening service at 6pm

The Insanity of God Movie

Sunday, January 29 at 6pm
at Central in the Fellowship Hall

The Insanity of God is the personal and lifelong journey of an ordinary couple from rural Kentucky who thought they were going on just your ordinary missionary pilgrimage, but discovered it would be anything but. After spending over six hard years doing relief work in Somalia, and experiencing life where it looked like God had turned away completely and He was clueless about the tragedies of life, the couple had a crisis of faith and left Africa asking God, "Does the gospel work anywhere when it is really a hard place?"

“Soup Bowl Night”

Sunday, February 5 at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall

Love Brevard Seminar

at Central, Sunday, February 26 & March 5

6:00 - 8:15 PM

Watch your bulletin for more details!

From the Audit Committee



Jesus is Born in Bethlehem

Luke 2 1-14

1. And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.
2. And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria
3. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.
4. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem.
5. To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.
6. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.
7. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn.
8. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.
9. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.
10. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.
11. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.
12. And this shall be a sign unto you; you shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.
13. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,
14. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Central Baptist Church Audit Committee wishes everyone a Blessed Christmas.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS

The people of Israel were waiting for the Messiah their king. Jesus Christ was a descendant of David. God did not send Jesus to be an earthly king but a heavenly king. His kingdom would be much better than David's because it would never end. Even at Jesus birth, many recognized him as King

Jesus cannot be equated with any person or power. He is the Supreme ruler of time and eternity, heaven and earth, humans and angels. We should give Him His rightful place as King of our life.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

SAINT'S ALIVE

Meeting place - Fellowship Hall

Second Monday of the month at 11:30 AM

Covered dish to share

Giving gifts with deeper meaning

This year, give gifts that point people toward the deeper meaning of Christmas and their walk with Jesus. Here is a guide to giving gifts that reflect the character of the One on whom the holiday is centered.

On the long journey over windswept deserts and barren mountains, there's no way the wise men ever imagined Black Friday. Their dangerous trek to deliver treasures in honor of a new king was an unlikely precedent for the culture that has evolved around Christmas gift giving. Crowded shopping malls, discounted electronics, and marked down cashmere would have bewildered the men who carried their precious gifts to a shockingly humble destination.



Of the four gospels, only Matthew records the moment the wise men arrived in Bethlehem: “On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh” (Matt. 2:11).

“Gold for a king, frankincense for a priest, myrrh for one that was to die.”

Matthew is vague about so many things. He doesn't tell us where the wise men were from, the route they took to get to Jerusalem, or precisely when they arrived. He doesn't refer to them by name, describing them generally as “*magi from the East.*” Whether they were kings, brilliant astrologers, or diplomats, we can't be sure, but we know that they were impressive enough to cause a stir when they arrived in Jerusalem. We don't even know exactly how many wise men there were. Tradition developed around the idea of three magi—*three givers*—because there were three gifts.

The Meaning of a Gift

The focus of the story isn't on the identity of the wise men; it's on the significance of their gifts. Gold, frankincense, and myrrh: three valuable, meaningful gifts recorded so that we would remember. These gifts had symbolic value, alluding in a prophetic way to the identity of this seemingly ordinary child.

“Gold for a king, frankincense for a priest, myrrh for one that was to die,” explained the Scottish theologian William Barclay in his Commentary on Matthew. “These were the gifts of the wise men, and, even at the cradle of Christ, they foretold that he was to be the true King, the perfect High Priest, and in the end the supreme Savior of men.”

These gifts aligned with three aspects of Jesus's mission: a king announcing the arrival of his kingdom, a High Priest who would forever act as a mediator between sinful people and a holy God, and a suffering servant who would lay down his own life so that we could find eternal life in him.

The thoughtfulness of the magi should inspire us to think more deeply about the meaning of the gifts we give this Christmas.

- Do our gifts say anything about the character of the one at the center of the holiday?
- Are we focused on receiving, accumulating, and consuming or on giving?
- Are we thinking about how to make the name of Jesus known to others who have yet to meet him?



SEND CENTRAL

CHURCH MISSIONS OFFERING

JANUARY 25 - KICKOFF BANQUET
FEBRUARY 12 - WEEK OF PRAYER
FEBRUARY 19 - OFFERING

In keeping with Christ's command to go, this annual special offering is dedicated to sending Central Baptist Church beyond the church walls. Your gift will go directly toward pursuing missions and ministry opportunities at home and abroad!

Quilting Ministry

From Pat Gibbs

We raised \$250.00 for Lottie Moon with the silent auction Christmas quilt and \$20.00 for Women's Missions with the silent auction Red Bird Wall Hanging. We currently have another quilt in the Fellowship Hall for a silent auction. Please check it out and write your bid on the sheet.

We meet every other Monday at 10am in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any requests for quilts or information, please call Pat Gibbs at 321-432-5768.



JANUARY 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Office Closed 10am Quilting No Food Pantry	3 12pm No Men in Motion	4 Regular Wednesday Activities	5 1:30pm Builders SS Class Meeting, Central Home School 6pm Outreach	6	7
8 Regular Sunday Activities pm Church & Bowden Dynasty Movie in Theaters, 3pm Brookshire	9 11am Food Pantry 11:30am Saints Alive 6pm Stewardship 7pm Deacons	10 12pm Men in Motion	11 Regular Wednesday Activities	12 1:30pm Central Home School 6pm Church Outreach	13 Avalanche	14 Retreat
15 Regular Sunday Activities	16 10am Quilting 11am Food Pantry	17 12pm Men in Motion	18 Regular Wednesday Activities	19 1:30pm Central Home School 6pm Church Outreach	20	21
22 Regular Sunday Activities 3pm Brookshire Assisted Living	23 11am Food Pantry	24 12pm Men in Motion	25 SEND CENTRAL MISSIONS DINNER	26 1:30pm Central Home School 6pm Church Outreach	27	28
29 Regular Sunday Activities 6pm The Insanity of God Movie	30 11am Food Pantry	31 12pm Men in Motion		<p>Regular Sunday Activities Sunday School (9:30am), Morning Worship Service (10:45am), Youth Praise Band Rehearsal (5pm), Joint Evening Worship Service (6pm), G.A.'s, Acteens, Blitz & Adults (6:30pm), College/Young Adults after pm service</p> <p>Wednesday Supper (5:20pm), Word Walking, Youth Group, Children's Choir, Ladies Bible Study(6:00pm)Adult Choir Rehearsal (7:00pm), College/Young Adults (8:15pm)</p>		

FEBRUARY 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Regular Wednesday Activities	2 1:30pm Builders SS Class Meeting, Central Home School 6pm Outreach	3	4
5 Regular Sunday Activities 3pm Brookshire 6pm Soup Bowl Night	6 11am Food Pantry 7pm Deacon's Meeting	7 12pm Men in Motion	8 Regular Wednesday Activities	9 1:30pm Central Home School 6pm Church Outreach	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Week of Prayer - SendCentral Offering						
Regular Sunday Activities	10am Quilting 11am Food 11:30 Saints Alive 6pm Stewardship	12pm Men in Motion	Regular Wednesday Activities	1:30pm Central Home School 6pm Church Outreach		
19 Regular Sunday 3pm Brookshire 6pm Business Meeting	20 11am Food Pantry	21 12pm Men in Motion	22 Regular Wednesday Activities	23 1:30pm Central Home School 6pm Church Outreach	24	25
26 Regular Sunday 6pm Love INC Seminar	27 10am Quilting 11am Food Pantry	28 12pm Men in Motion	<p style="text-align: center;">Regular Sunday Activities Sunday School (9:30am), Morning Worship Service (10:45am) Youth Praise Band Rehearsal (5pm), Joint Evening Worship Service (6pm), G.A.'s, Acteens, Blitz & Adults (6:30pm), College/Young Adults meet after the evening service</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday Supper (5:20pm) Word Walking, Youth Group, Children's Choir, Ladies Bible Study(6:00pm), Adult Choir Rehearsal, (7:00pm), College/Young Adults (8:15pm)</p>			

Mission News

6 Reasons our Mission Force needs students, by Chad Stillwell, December 5, 2016,

God's global church is larger than it has ever been, and it's growing at an unprecedented rate. Throughout China, India, Africa, and Cuba, the church is growing exponentially. Despite this encouraging news, the need for missionaries has never been greater. The world population is skyrocketing, and the number of people with no access to the gospel is actually growing. These paradoxical trends highlight the need to be bold, passionate, and creative to get the gospel to all peoples and places on earth. To do this we need to enlist, train, and send all kinds of people to make disciples—not only adults but also younger people—serving by way of their various passions and skills. Students have a unique, unquestionable place among unreached people and in unreached places.

Here are six reasons students must go and, therefore, we must send them (giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering sends these students):

Students' Passion is Needed on Missionary Teams

Students are Needed to Do Things Career Missionaries Can't Do

Students are Needed to Go to Places Career Missionaries Can't Go

Living and Serving on Mission is Good for Students

Students Need to be Sent for the Sake of Their Own Future

Students Who are Sent Inspire Others to Help the Church to Fulfill Its Mission

Chad Stillwell rallies students and their leaders to be actively involved in God's global mission. He currently serves as IMB's student mobilization leader.

Are you a student looking for help engaging in mission or a student leader looking to encourage your students on mission? Check out the information on the upcoming Cross Conference, www.imb.org/2016.

Food Pantry

from Ellie Brown

During this holiday season, the Food Pantry has been very active. During Thanksgiving our staff was able to help feed 30 families. Without this these people would have had no Thanksgiving. This week we just gave boxes for Christmas. We had a larger number signed up for this event.

Our church has been very generous as we deal with hunger in our community. A Big Thank You to all the people who have helped feed the hungry. Without our generous church members, this would not happen.

May the Lord bless and keep you. May He make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you.

May He lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.

MINISTERIAL STAFF

Leroy Williams, Senior Pastor

Jeffrey Hagans, Minister of Music

Shannon England, Minister of Students

CHURCH OFFICE

Phone: 321-723-3681

Fax Number: 321-722-9781

Monday - Thursday 8am-5pm