

The + theme

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH

January - February 2018

Dessert Party & Talent Show

Youth Fundraiser

Friday, February 9th @ 6:30pm

Bring family and friends for a great evening and a great opportunity to show your support and love for Central's youth ministry. The event is free, we simply ask you to consider leaving a donation at the end of the evening.



Beginning January 1 the office staff will have new email addresses.

Leroy@centralofmelbourne.com

Jeff@centralofmelbourne.com

Shannon@centralofmelbourne.com

[\(Kathy\)](mailto:Office@centralofmelbourne.com)

[\(Linda\)](mailto:Financial@centralofmelborne.com)

All old email addresses will remain in effect for several months to give everyone time to change.

From the Office...

- ◆ Church Directories will now list any cell phone numbers we have in the system unless you DO NOT want your cell number published. Please let the office know if you do not want your cell phone number listed.
- ◆ Please pick up your Christmas cards from the mail box in the foyer.

In this issue...

From the Pastor	2
Music Ministry	3
Student Ministry	4
Preschool	6
Women's Ministry	6

From the Pastor...

"And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then He said to them, '*Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.*'" (Matthew 4:18-19)

How did Peter and Andrew learn to "fish" for men? By being with Jesus. They responded to the invitation that Jesus extended to them. They followed. They stayed with. They watched and saw. They listened. Then they reproduced what Jesus was doing.

In short, they became disciples.

They were not disciples of programs or churches or formulas. They were disciples of Jesus.

The same Jesus who gave them, and us, a commission: "*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, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*" (Matthew 28:19-20)

What Peter, Andrew and the rest of the disciples learned from Jesus, they are now told to carry on teaching others those same truths. Again, how did they learn what they learned? By being with Jesus. By spending time in the presence of Christ. And that practice was to be brought forward by the disciples to others.

If you could ask Peter or Andrew, "How did you disciple others after Jesus ascended?", I believe they would say, "We did what Jesus did when He was physically present. We invited others to spend time with us. We taught them truth. We showed them love. We presented Christ to them through life itself."

Did you catch the last part of Mathew 28:20? "*I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*" He was about to physically leave this planet. How would Jesus be with the disciples after He ascended? Much less the question, was He just talking to those disciples gathered on that hill in Galilee? Then why the phrase "to the end of the age"? What age?

Jesus was speaking of His permanence within all believers. [2 Corinthians 6:16 NKJV] For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "*I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people.*" The presence of Jesus is still among us today in and through each believer.

But the question is, are we in the presence of Jesus? Are we following, listening, learning, spending time with and watching and seeing what Jesus is doing? And are we then taking the presence of Jesus in us to others that they may see Christ and be invited into our lives (hidden in Christ) to be discipled into Christ themselves? For that is God's plan "A" for us. There is no plan "B". Jesus invites us to follow Him still as He presents Himself to us through a disciple today. He then commissioned us to invite others to follow Him as we present Christ through our lives to others.

But this takes time. It takes doing life together. It takes transparency.

Do you know that you have heard Christ's invitation to be saved and to join Him in Heaven someday?

That didn't take long to answer, did it?

Do you know that you have heard Christ's invitation to disciple others as He lives in you today?

How can we be so rock solid on hearing and responding to an invitation to be saved and be so certain of our eternal destiny if we can easily disregard the same invitation to disciple others as part of our walk towards our eternity? To be discipled, nothing has changed since Peter and Andrew were called to follow and spend time with Jesus. Being discipled is still about following and spending time with Jesus. Discipling others is still about leading others to follow and spend time with Jesus.

Would you show others Jesus, who resides in the temple of you? What He has taught you, shown you, spoken to you since you have spent time with Him.

Is He with you? Then make His presence known to others. That's the challenge and high call I want to sound forth for each of us. That we realize and act on the fact that we are still carrying out the great commission to make disciples. Jesus has vested His authority in you, believer, that you carry the presence of Christ intentionally to others.

As 2018 unfolds, it is my prayer we grasp and exercise the authority we have in Christ to both be discipled and to disciple others in the presence of Jesus. May we see 2018 become the year of Matthew 28:18! For if it does, we will see each of us engaged in and carrying the Great Commission of Mathew 28:19-20. We won't just relinquish this calling to all as a calling for the few. You are the presence of Christ too.

In Christ,

Pastor Leroy

Joy to the World

Isaac Watts (1674-1748) was a young man when hymns and songs other than the Psalms were allowed to be sung in the Church of England. However, at age eighteen the young Watts became extremely dissatisfied with the deplorable songs and singing that was characteristic of the typical worship service during the late seventeenth century. One Sunday while traveling home from such a service, young Watts became extremely disgusted and began to complain about the state of the church music. After listening to Isaac's rant about the poor quality of congregational singing, the elder Watts challenged, "Well, then, young man, why don't you give us something better to sing?" The young Isaac accepted the challenge and composed a new song every Sunday for the next two years for his church service.

Later, Watts became determined to set the book of Psalms to music incorporating a New Testament meaning and style. In 1719, Watts released the collection, *Psalms of David Imitated in the Language of the New Testament*. This collection contained a paraphrase of all but twelve of the 150 Psalms. The song, "Joy to the World!" was part of the collection and is a paraphrase of the latter part of Psalm 98.

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth; make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.

Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills be joyful together before the Lord;

For He cometh to judge the earth; with righteousness shall He judge the world,
and the people with equity.

This song has become a favorite song of many. It is most often sung at Christmastime. However, if you examine the lyrics of the song you will not see any mention of shepherds, wise men, or a manger. The reason being Psalm 98 refers to the second coming of Christ. When Christ returns the second time, He will appear as both Redeemer and Righteous Judge. In that day, the curse of sin will be lifted and heaven and earth will rejoice.

Isaac Watts wrote over 600 hymns during his lifetime. These songs included traditional metrical Psalms as well as "human composure hymns" – musical expressions based entirely on personal expressions of praise. His influence on the music of the Church in England has earned him the title, "Father of English Hymnody." The contemporary church continues to sing many of Watts' songs including, "O God Our Help in Ages Past" (Paraphrase of Psalm 90), "Jesus Shall Reign" (Paraphrase of Psalm 72), "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" and "I Sing the Mighty Power of God."

A Joyful Noise

My heart was blessed by the music ministries presentation, *Noel Notes: Lessons in Listening*. I would like to thank everyone who used his or her gifts to make such a presentation possible. There were over sixty-five people involved in this year's presentation. God certainly used everyone's talents and gifts to bring Him glory! As the New Year begins, it is a perfect time to join one of the ministries. Please see me for more information about your place in the choirs, orchestra, handbell ensemble, or media technicians. There is definitely a place for you to use your gifts.

In closing, the word "maranatha" is a Aramaic expression that means, "Our Lord comes." It was used as a greeting by the oppressed Christians of the early church. The greeting replaced the Jewish greeting shalom (peace). Let us begin the New Year with this same joyful awareness of Christ's imminent return. Joy to the world...maranatha!

PraiSing 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
- Handbells - Sundays at 6:20pm

Crossroads

British prime minister Herbert Asquith once spent a weekend at the Waddesdon estate of the 19th-century Rothschild family. One day, as Asquith was being waited on at teatime by the butler, the following conversation ensued:

"Tea, coffee, or a peach from off the wall, sir?"
"Tea, please," answered Asquith.
"China, India, or Ceylon, sir?" asked the butler.
"China, please."
"Lemon, milk, or cream, sir?"
"Milk, please," replied Asquith.
"Jersey, Hereford, or Shorthorn, sir?" asked the butler.

Asquith's experience at the Waddesdon estate is similar to what it's like going out to a restaurant these days. Once a choice is made from the menu, the server has plenty of follow up questions. Each day is filled with choices - some big and some small, but choices none the less. At times we call these moments "crossroads". How should we handle these moments?

In Jeremiah the Lord commands His prophet in this way, "*Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls*" (*Jeremiah 6:16*).

It's important as we go through our day and our lives and encounter crossroads, that we consider God's instruction to Jeremiah. If we are willing to commit to these instructions, we are more likely to choose the path that is good.

He first tells Jeremiah to look. Often we fail to even recognize we are at a crossroad. As we walk in the Spirit we will see the crossroads before us and know the choices we have to make. We must LOOK at all times knowing that the spirit of the anti-christ is already in the world today.

Secondly, Jeremiah is instructed for the way that is good. We must prayerfully go through our days. Certainly each day is filled with uncertainty and unexpected turns. We can only navigate this life in a way that glorifies the Father in Heaven by asking Him to be our guide and strength. Ask God for clear vision and to show us the way that is good.

Many times we try to maneuver the roadway of life without asking God to guide us. There's plenty of reasons why this might be. One is that often we don't expect to hear from Him. We must pray with expectation. We can befriend faithfulness (*Psalm 37:3*) by exercising our faith and trust in the Lord and it begins with daily prayer.

However, there are times we fail to ask God for the good path because we fear the results. Making the right choice is not always easy, especially in a fallen world. This again is an opportunity to trust the Lord, even in the difficult circumstances.

The reward in seeking the Lord daily through the crossroads of life is rest, "...find rest for your souls". As we choose the good path, we actually bring peace to our lives.

This is the theme of our up and coming AVALANCHE! Avalanche is the annual youth winter retreat. We have Jim Johnson, the original Avalanche speaker returning this year, and leading worship will be Kyle Robinson, the worship and youth leader at FBI. Please be in prayer for Avalanche being held January 14 & 15 and consider the teachings of Jeremiah 6:16.

Shalom,
Shannon England

Youth Ministry

avalanche

January 14th & 15th

Holiday Inn Express - Malabar Road

Speaker: Jim Johnson

Worship Leader: Kyle Robinson



Crossroads

"Stand beside the roads and watch. Ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is."
Jer. 6:16



Sunday, January 14th

5:30pm	Check In
6:00pm	Dinner and Orientation
8:00pm	GENERAL SESSION I
9:30pm	Small Group Time in Rooms
11:00pm	Lights OUT!

Monday, January 15th

7:00am	Breakfast at Hotel
8:30am	AVALANCHE Breakers
9:00am	GENERAL SESSION II
10:00am	Small Group
10:30am	Check out of room
11:30am	Lunch at Hardees
1:00pm	Andretti's Thrill Park
2:30pm	Snack
3:00pm	GENERAL SESSION III
5:00pm	Dismiss

In order to plan appropriately, please go to our website and sign-up for Avalanche at www.centralofmelbourne.com. The cost is \$25.

Regular Sunday Activities

- 9:30 am - Sunday School
- 10:45am - Morning Worship Service
- 5pm - Youth Praise Band Rehearsal
- 6pm - Joint Evening Worship Service
- 6:30pm - G.A.'s, Acteens, Blitz & Handbells
- College/Young Adults after evening service

Wednesday

- 5:20pm - Family Supper
- 6pm - Bible Study, Youth Group, Children's Choir, Ladies Bible Study, ESL
- 7pm - Adult Choir Rehearsal
- 8:30pm - College/Young Adults

Preschool Ministry

Thank you for providing socks and pajamas to 14 children through the Florida Baptist Children's Home!



 Florida Baptist
Children's Homes

**The playgrounds are underway!
See the changes as the weeks progress!**



Horizon

Taking this opportunity to thank Katie Moore for serving in preschool. She will be missed as future plans move her with Eric, with his job in the next few months. Her service has been a valuable contribution to our preschool! She has been faithfully serving as assistant teacher in Sunday school in the 1's & 2's class, preschool committee, and as a paid worker. We Will Miss You!

This also means a big hole will be open to fill her positions.

Please consider how you can help serve in preschool.

Contact Karen White for more information at karenw@cfl.rr.com or the church office (321)723-3681.

Women's Ministry

The New Year can often bring a mixed bag of emotions and memories for many of us. Some may have just experienced the best year ever and look forward to an even greater one ahead. Others may have had one struggle after another. This fresh calendar year brings with it a hope for things to be better. Whether you've just walked through the greatest year of your life, or are incredibly glad to see this one finally over, one truth still rings clear amidst it all. You are not alone. Not ever. God is "with us".

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." ***Joshua 1:9***

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." ***Isaiah 41:10***

"Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you." ***Deuteronomy 31:6***

My prayer this new year for the Women's Ministry is that we will obediently follow where God leads us, that we always share the gospel and that we continue to have servant's hearts.

In Christ,

Lea Ann

Missions

FIGHT FOR ME

South Asia: IBM and South Asian Church Rescue Women

A woman with wild, scraggly hair stood outside the home of two short-term IMB workers. She started screaming and calling for water when she saw the female workers approaching.

Carissa Townes* says the short-term workers moved the hysterical woman's hair from her face. They realized she had a rope around her neck. She's been tied to something, and the rope rubbed a gash in her neck.

Carissa said unfortunately many women are trafficked and sold into prostitution in South Asia, a fate that had clearly befallen their visitor.

"We called her Maya, which means love in the South Asian language, because it helped us recognize that God loves these women," Carissa said. "We need to be the hands and feet of Christ in a way that's real for them because there is no one fighting for them."

Carissa said after a long period of praying and exploring different avenues, they realized that the global church could be the answer.

Partnering Southern Baptist churches in the U.S. donated funds to build a safe house for women who've escaped the sex trade. Carissa says the beauty of this safe house is that the women are taken under the church's wing. The pastor and his wife live in the same compound as the women, and they welcome them as family. Pray that trafficked women in South Asia continue to find hope through this ministry.

*Name changed



Box Top\$ for our Christian HomeSchool Fellowship Group.

Every Box Top you save gives them 10¢. It all adds up to a lot of ca\$h.

All you do is clip and drop them in the small box in the Fellowship Hall.



Donate to University Park Elementary School by collecting bottle caps and 12-pack end tabs.

Scan or enter codes from your favorite Coca-Cola beverages to give back to your local community. Each code gives the school 5¢ - 10¢.

Codes are located in bottle caps or on 12-packs of Coca-Cola products.

Enter them yourself or drop them off at the church office.



February 18th @ 6pm

December - January - February at a Glance

- ♦ December 24th - Worship Service Only @ 10:45am
- ♦ December 24th - Christmas Eve Service @ 5pm (No Childcare)
- ♦ December 25th - Church Office will be closed for the week.
- ♦ January 1st - Happy New Year - Office Closed
- ♦ January 8th - Saints Alive
- ♦ January 14th & 15th - Youth Avalanche
- ♦ January 31st - Potluck Wednesday
- ♦ February 9th - Dessert Party & Talent Show @ 6:30pm
- ♦ February 12th - Saints Alive
- ♦ February 18th - Quarterly Business Meeting @ 6pm
- ♦ February 23rd & 24th - Youth Poverty Experience

Merry Christmas

for unto us a child is born

**The Church Office will be closed Monday, December 25th through
Monday, January 1st.**

**Please call and leave a message or send an email if you have any needs
during this time. 321-723-3681 or office@centralofmelbourne.com**

MINISTERIAL STAFF

Leroy Williams, Senior Pastor
Leroy@centralofmelbourne.com

Jeffrey Hagans, Minister of Music
Jeff@centralofmelbourne.com

Shannon England, Student Minister
Shannon@centralofmelbourne.com

OFFICE STAFF

Kathy Schluter, Office Manager
office@centralofmelbourne.com

Linda Spicer, Financial Secretary
financial@centralofmelbourne.com

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9am-5pm



2503 Country Club Road ~Melbourne, FL 32901

Phone: 321-723-3681

www.centralofmelbourne.com



Central Baptist Church of Melbourne, FL