



# **CBC Courier**

## **Pastor's Pen**

*Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.” ~Psalm 100:4*



*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God . . . shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ~Philippians 4:6, 7*

Dear Church Family,

As I look at the photo above and survey all of God's creation, I sense how much I cannot fathom God's greatness. In this month of December when we celebrate our Lord's birth, I pray we all take the time to offer our gratitude and thanksgiving for everything we have and for all we know God has in store for us. When we lift our hearts to God for guidance, strength, peace, or any other request in prayer, may we first begin with our own sense of gratitude at God's omnipotence in our lives and in the world.

I remember ministering to many people in Hospice nearing the end of their physical life here on earth. Many wonder and have questioned whether this ministry was depressing, dreary, or difficult and I respond, 'quite the contrary'. Yes, certainly there are challenging and demanding intervals with shared tears, however, there are many wonderful stories I could share. Personal stories of incredible strong faith devoid of the fear of dying knowing Jesus had overcome death and as one person put it – “they would soon begin a new chapter of life in His Kingdom.” Over and over again I thought of the selflessness and the peace, (some glowing) as the focus was on their next journey awaiting them. For most, the only true concern was for their loved ones left behind.

This month we celebrate once again, the birth of our Savior, born into this world, fully human and fully divine, who has blessed us in our terrestrial bodies as well as the promise of eternal life as we enter His heavenly realm. The Advent season provides us the opportunity to reaffirm our beliefs in the wonder of life, in the beauty of creation and all the glorious blessings that surround us. One lesson I quickly learned in my

hospice ministry was life on this earth is relatively short and the importance of taking daily minute vacations to realize the gift of life.

It is a busy time for most however I would advocate that you allow time for prayer, self-reflection and realize the bounty of God's love. I pray all of you have a wonderful, joyous, healthy holiday as well as sense the Holy Spirit guiding and lightening our path while appreciating the Creator's blessing of forgiveness, peace, love *and life*.

In Christ's love,  
*Pastor Kurt*

***We have to pray with our eyes on God, not on the difficulties. ~ Oswald Chambers***



## **Christmas Fair**



**Saturday, December 3 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.**

As our annual Christmas Fair draws closer, here are some ways you may lend a hand:

### ***Baked Goodies***

Sign up to bake goods for our bake table. A sign-up sheet will be available in the church parlor.

### ***Silent Auction***

Donate a service (i.e., babysitting, tutoring, cooking) for the fair's silent auction. Gift cards/certificates and items such as jewelry, pieces of art, and collectibles also are welcome contributions for the auction.

### ***Christmas Items***

Donate holiday items—ornaments, candles, decorations, etc.—for the fair's Christmas table. A basket is available in the church parlor.

### ***Fair Volunteers***

Plan to work during the fair. We will need as many volunteers as possible--especially volunteers who are able to arrive in time to set up, work throughout the fair, and help with cleanup. We also will need volunteers to help during the week of the fair.

## **Advent & Christmas Worship Opportunities**

### ***Blue Christmas Service***

For many people, Christmas can be a bittersweet time—with sadness and grief coloring the season for those who have lost a loved one, struggle with a health or financial crisis, or live with a difficult family situation. We will offer a *Blue Christmas* service at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 18. This quiet service will acknowledge the sense of grief or loss that may come at this time of the year, as well as offer the hope of the Christmas message.

### ***Christmas Eve Service***

We will complete our Advent journey during our Christmas Eve service at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 24. The service will feature special music by our choir and the congregation's lighting of candles.

### ***Service of Lessons & Carols***

During our worship service on Sunday, January 1, 2017 we will continue our celebration of Christmas. We will share a selection of readings and Christmas carols.

## ***Celebrating the Joy of Christmas Concert at St. Matthew's Church***

Central Baptist, St. Mark and St. Matthew's Churches will jointly sponsor a concert Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. All proceeds will be used in support of an emergency assistance fund shared by the three churches. General admission is \$20. Tickets will be available to purchase at the door on the day of the concert. We are limited to only 250 tickets so do not waste any time.

## **Choir Christmas Party**

Members of CBC's choir are invited to a Christmas party, which will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, December 9, at the home of Anne and Fred Yole, 24 West Passage. A sign-up sheet for appetizers and dishes for the potluck dinner will be available in the choir's robing area.

## **Adopt a Family**

This Christmas season we have three different families for the Adopt a Family. We have a family of five, three girls and two boys. A family of three, a mom, a girl and a newborn boy. And a senior man. Feel free to take an ornament(s) from the Christmas tree that will be in Clarke Hall and donate to one or more of the families that we have adopted. There will be a sign-up sheet available for these families in Clark Hall. The deadline for these items will be Sunday, December 18.

## **Poinsettia Orders**

Orders for Christmas poinsettias for our sanctuary are being accepted. The plants will be available in red, white, and pink for \$16 each. You may designate the poinsettia(s) you order in memory or honor of a person or event. The deadline for orders is Sunday, December 11. Order forms are available in the church parlor or from the church office.

## **CBC Walking Party**

Please join us as we walk to up-beat music in Clarke Hall on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00a.m. to approximately 8:45a.m. We do a warm-up, walk a couple miles, do a cool down, then a few floor exercises to tone arms, legs, abs, chest and back. We are a fun bunch! Collectively, we've walked thousands of miles together! Please join us! Questions? Contact MariBeth Traer.

## **Bible Study**

Our Bible Study will be on break through the holiday season. Bible Study will resume on January 9<sup>th</sup> ...Happy Holidays!

## **Thank You Sunday School Teachers**

Please, when you see them, thank Marilyn Rodriguez, Marilyn Dennis, Cara Popovich and Frannie & Shane Vesely for teaching our Sunday School kids during the month of November! We saw some awesome crafts and happy faces on our kids and trust they are learning important lessons to serve them well for all the days of their lives!

## **Sunday School Teacher Sign-Up Continues**

There is a sign-up list for Sunday School teachers on the table in Clarke Hall. Happily, we have teachers who have volunteered all the way through December, but now we need to find people to volunteer for the months of January through April. The Christian Education Board and Kurt are available to help with questions and coordination of the Sunday School curriculum, which is printed out and available for teachers well before their Sunday to teach. If you have any questions, please see Pastor Kurt, Arlene LaBua, Elizabeth Richter, or Kathy Merrill

## **Financial Peace University**

"Back by popular demand, Central Baptist Church will be offering the Financial Peace University class in February of 2017. Do you want to learn God's way of managing your money? Would you like to simplify your financial situation and make it less stressful? Taking the 9 week class developed by Dave Ramsey will provide guidance and information so that you can take control over your financial life. If you are interested or have any questions please talk to Dave Dolce 401-374-2858."

## **Look Who Has Been Doing Things Happening at CBC**

### **Many thanks to:**

Marilyn Dennis, for cleaning out the third classroom downstairs... How do we collect so much stuff? Thank you Marilyn for taking on this challenge.

To everyone who bought items for the military boxes and to all who organized, packaged, and sent the items out. This was a wonderful mission's project.

And how about the Harvest Luncheon!.. Many thanks to the deacon's board and Jen for planning it, and to everyone who provided food, beverages, the set up and clean-up...fantastic!! What a wonderful way to enjoy the blessings of thanksgiving.

Our beautiful sign and the landscaping around it is done thanks to Emma & Andy Brown, and their families. It sure does enhance our lovely church.

And speaking of landscaping many thanks go out to all the members who planned and gave their time to help with yard cleanup a few Saturdays ago. What a noticeable difference it made!

Although not many people came to the coat pick up day, there were many, many nice warm coats collected. Thanks to the organizers and the folks who gave coats, hats, and mittens.

The coats are upstairs at CBC and still available to those who need them.

Jim and Maribeth donated a Christmas tree to be used in Clark Hall this year. They are playing Santa a little early this year! Thanks

As always we appreciate all the members for taking care of coffee hours for October and November. It is so nice to gather and socialize after church for not only coffee but the wonderful treats.

If you have something or someone you would like to have mentioned. Please call Arlene at 401-423-1002 or by e-mail to arlenelabua123@yahoo.com. . I have been away from church for a while and am still attempting to catch up with everyone. ...Thanks!!



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# Poinsettia Order Form

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

The poinsettias will be provided by The Secret Garden. They will be available in red, white, and pink and will cost \$16 per plant. Please make checks payable to Central Baptist Church. (Payment must be included with this order form.)

Include in the Christmas insert as:

(Choose *one*)    \_\_\_ In memory of    *or*    \_\_\_ In honor of

\_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

Color                    \_\_\_ Red    \_\_\_ White    \_\_\_ Pink

**The deadline for ordering poinsettias is Sunday, December 11.**

Please place your order form and payment in the box in the parlor, or mail them to the church office at P.O. Box 295, Jamestown, RI 02835-0295.

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## Central Baptist Church

*A church with open doors    A congregation with open minds    A community with open hearts*

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