**Central Baptist Church**

 **March 2019**

 **CBC Courier**

**Pastor’s Pen**

***God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.* ~*1 Peter 4:10***

Dear CBC Family,

Our congregation continues to amaze me! Why? Read on!

Central Baptist Church is relatively small in population and our resources limited by sheer numbers in comparison to larger parishes. Despite that, as God’s faithful stewards, we are engaged in many ministries ranging from local to international. Most, if not all, are supported with a combination of devoting our energies, individual gifts and money commonly referred to as our time, talents and treasures. One underlying element not overtly identified in stewardship is ‘love’!

A secular description from Webster’s dictionary defines ‘stewardship’ a*s the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care.* Spiritually, I would add that love is the beginning and end for all stewardship. Jesus said in John 13:35, *by this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another*. Stewardship is helping, serving, and giving to others in need built on a foundation of love. When Christ was asked, *which is the greatest commandment*, He replied, *Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.* Having hearts of love enables us to be good stewards.

As trustworthy stewards, our role as followers of Christ is to manage the resources and possessions of another in the best interest of the owners. That other person is God! Giving cheerfully with our time, talent and treasures is our response to God’s generous gifts we have received. Our stewardship acknowledges that God is the owner of everything, and we are managers for what God has entrusted to us, no matter how little or how much. Each person must decide for themselves how they will show their gratitude and appreciation to the Giver of all life. God does not ask us to solve the world’s problems, just to do our own part, that which is found within one’s own heart.

So why does our CBC family continually amaze me? Most of you are aware that recently my email was hacked. I lost my contacts, over 3000 saved emails, and the offender sent an email to hundreds of people asking to purchase $300 worth of iTunes gift cards for my niece. My day off was spent on the phone and computer working with my email server to rectify the violation. Several people who questioned the email as fraudulent nevertheless contacted me to verify and ascertain if I needed anything. Unfortunately, two parishioners from CBC fell victim to the scam and their kindhearted efforts to help me resulted in a large monetary loss. This only added salt to my wounds and of course to those conned.

Announcing my disappointment at Sunday services, clouds of despair parted as I witnessed the concern expressed by the congregation and with a unified and shared response to remedy the loss through a collection to the victims. Within a very sad and pathetic situation a silver lining showed ever so brightly. Parishioners were there for me and for one another. Genuine, unbiased love!!

This too is stewardship. *Through the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care* (Webster’s definition), CBC stood on the foundation of stewardship offering their gifts of love. *Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.**It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.* ~1 Corinthians 13:6,7. I thank God for you all!

In Christ’s love,

*Pastor Kurt*

**Communion Sunday Collection**

Today and for the month of March we will be collecting for Little Dresses for Africa Dignity Project. Join our Dignity Program and help us help them, by sewing “Sani-panties” distributed through Little Dresses for Africa. Include a new package of panties when you can! There are flyers out in the church parlor with more information on how to help or go to www.littledressesforafrica.org/blog/sani-pamti-sewing-intructions/. For questions, please contact Peggy Burse.

**Stewardship Campaign**

Our annual stewardship campaign will kick off this month. The campaign will seek pledges for our 2019-2020 fiscal year. (That fiscal year will run from May 1, 2019-April 30, 2020.) Please watch your mail for a letter and pledge form.

**Little Dresses for Africa**

The mission of “Little Dresses for Africa” is to provide relief to children of Africa, by distributing home-made dresses to little girls, primarily in African villages, but also other countries in crisis. These meetings will be on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in Clarke Hall.

**Ladies’ Breakfast**

Ladies Breakfast is on a new day!! The Ladies’ will meet Tuesday, March 19th at 9:30 a.m. at Meldgie’s Diner (909 Boston Neck Rd, Narragansett, RI 02882) All CBC ladies welcome!

**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!

**America for Christ Offering**

 *“Healing Communities”* is the theme for this year’s America for Christ Offering, which we will collect on March 17th and March 31st. All funds collected will support the ministries throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.

**We Noticed Some Nice Things Happening at CBC**

\*\*\*If you see someone “doing something nice for CBC or to Thank someone". Please call the church office 423-1651 or by e-mail to tanya@cbcjamestown.com your input is always appreciated…Thanks!!

**Lent & Holy Week Opportunities**

**Lenten Folders**
Make a special donation to CBC is by using a Lenten folder. The folders have spaces for inserting quarters throughout the Lenten season, as well as a pocket for currency or checks. They are available in the church parlor.

**Holy Week Dates
*Palm Sunday***, April 14

***Maundy Thursday***, April 18

***Good Friday***, April 19

***Easter Sunday***, April 21

**Easter Flower Orders**
If you would like to order Easter flowers for the sanctuary, please complete the enclosed form and place it, along with payment, in the box in the parlor or mail both to the church office at P.O. Box 295, Jamestown, RI 02835-0295. The deadline for orders is April 14th. This year tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths are $14 each. Easter lilies & Stargazer lilies are $15. The flowers will be provided by The Secret Garden.

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 Easter Flowers

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Telephone\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Given by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Flower choice:**

 ***Quantity***

**Choose one:** Tulip \_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Daffodil \_\_\_\_\_

 *or* Hyacinth \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Easter Lily \_\_\_\_\_

 Stargazer Lily \_\_\_\_

P*lease make checks payable to CBC.* Total amount attached \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 ***Would like to keep \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Central Baptist Church**
*A church with open doors A congregation with open minds A community with open hearts*

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 **Pastor Administrative Assistant Organist & Choir Director Custodians**
 Kurt Satherlie Tanya Crowley Walter Sage John & Jim Page