**Central Baptist Church**

 **May 2017**

 **CBC Courier**

**Pastor’s Pen**

Dear CBC Family,

Many of you are aware that my parents founded a private residential school for children with special needs called Laurel School in Norfolk, CT. Over time they added a dormitory, classroom and gym housing 16 children along with their own five. My fraternal grandparents lived with us and helped my parents run the very successful school for almost forty years. There is much I learned growing up with such a varied group of children I felt were simply an extended part of our family and they were treated this way by my parents and teachers alike.

Both parents worked at the school, mom as teacher and principal and my father as the director. The day began early with little downtime from the moment they woke until each child was snug in bed and never did I hear either of them complain about the long hours as they simply lived each day enjoying their work, being home with all their children, staying very active in church and with the community.

Under the glass cover on my dad’s desk was the poem, “Slow Me Down Lord” that I am sure my father read each day. All my siblings and I could recite it at an early age and I would like to share it with you in hopes you place it somewhere you can read it daily. Enjoy!

**Slow Me Down Lord**

*Wilfred A. Peterson*

Slow me down Lord
Ease the pounding of my heart
by the quieting of my mind.

Steady my hurried pace
with a vision of the eternal march of time.
Give me amid the confusion of the day,
the calmness of the eternal hills.

Break the tension of my nerves and muscles
with the soothing music of the singing streams
that live in my memory.

Help me to know the magical restoring power of sleep.

Teach me the art of taking MINUTE vacations,
Of slowing down to look at a flower,
to chat with a friend,
to pat a dog,
to read a few lines of a good book.

Slow me down Lord
and inspire me to send my roots
deep into the soil of life's enduring values
that I may grow toward the stars of my greater destiny.

Blessings and Peace,
*Pastor Kurt*

**Communion Sunday Collection**

For our communion collection, Sunday, May 7th we will be collecting food items for our local area food bank. We are looking for things like peanut butter, canned goods, Pasta & pasta sauce and any non-perishable box items, such as cereal and crackers.

**CBC Annual Meeting**
Our annual meeting will be held in May 7th  Join us to hear reports about our congregation’s work during the past year, elect leaders for the new year, and consider our annual church budget.

Stay tuned for the date and time!

**Ladies’ Breakfast**

Ladies Breakfast will be held Thursday May 18th at 9 a.m. at Slice of Heaven. All CBC ladies welcome!

**Financial Peace University**

This class will answer many of your financial and money questions you have, help you develop a sound plan to a stress free life. FPU is offering a class from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at CBC, Every Wednesday through May 10th. Cost is $89 per household (Assistance is available). Register on-line at daveramsey.com/findaclass or call Dave Dolce 401-374-2858.

**June Festival**

**Saturday, June 17 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.**

  CBC’s largest fundraising event of the year is just around the corner. Here are some ways you can help.

***Volunteer***Volunteer to work at the festival by signing up on the poster in Clarke Hall. Recruit others to work with you.

***Donate Items***
Begin to clear out your clutter and encourage neighbors and friends to do the same. We hope to receive donations of the following items for the sale:

• gently used household & garden items • toys & games

 • small wood & wicker furniture • marine & boating items

 • jewelry & vintage items • sporting & fishing items

 • artwork & decorative items • small rugs & appliances

(We are *unable* to accept televisions, computers, upholstered furniture, large appliances, or entertainment centers.)

If you need help transporting items to the church, please call David Dolce at 374-2858.

***Spread the Word***
Post *Clear Out the Clutter* flyers in the community. (Copies are available in the church parlor.) Spread the word about our Saturday morning (9:00 a.m.-noon) donation drop-off dates: May 27, June 3, and June 10.

***Get Silent Auction Items***Ask stores, salons, restaurants, and other businesses you frequent for items or gift certificates for the silent auction. A letter is available for you to present when you request an item. Also consider donating never-opened/never-returned gift items you may have.

***Bake Goodies***
Bake and freeze your favorite goodies for the bake sale.

***Potted Plants***Pot thinned plants from your garden, and save them for the garden center.

**CBC Walking Party**

Please join us music in Clarke Hall on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00a.m. to 8:45a.m.We do a warm-up, walk a couple miles, do a cool down, then a few floor exercises. Please join us! Questions? Contact MariBeth Traer.

**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. We will meet on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month in Clarke Hall from 1:00-3:00 p.m. If you are interested, there is a sign-up sheet in the church parlor or contact Peggy Burse.

**Living and Dying with Confidence**

The class will be held on the 1st and 3rd Mondays at CBC from 1-2:30 pm. Join us as we gather to share our responses to daily reflections that will support us in living our lives with wisdom, integrity and compassionate hearts. Our reference will be” *Living and Dying with Confidence; a day by day guide* “by Anyen Rinpoche and Allison Choying Zangmo. For more information, there are flyers in the church parlor and for questions please contact Janet Larson.

**Thank You Sunday School Teachers**

Thank you for all the volunteers for teaching our Sunday School kids during the month of April! We saw some awesome crafts and happy faces on our kids and trust they are learning important lessons to serve them well fo**r** all the days of their lives!

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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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