**Central Baptist Church**

 **May 2019**

 **CBC Courier**

**Pastor’s Pen**

*A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. John 13:34*

Dear Church Family,

As we enter into this new month, *The Day of Prayer* is May 2nd with the theme, *Love One Another* taken from John’s Gospel. We witness Mother Nature following this track with April’s heavy showers producing lush green lawns and bouquets of flowers with panoramas exhibiting ‘fields of love’.

CBC has been and I have no reason to believe we will ever stop being a beacon of light and love for many in May and beyond. Members and guests observe this in many ways. This May we open our hearts and doors for the International Children’s Network, Matsiko Choir, who will be staying with us for four days of their national tour. On their last night at the church, Tuesday, May 7th, we will hold a potluck dinner prior to their third year of performing in our beautiful sanctuary. Please mark your calendars to attend this lovely event as we show our love to these beautiful orphan children by our presence and hospitality. Over the past two years seven Matsiko children have been sponsored by our Deacons and parishioners enlarging our congregations’ gift of love to a global level.

The smiles, laughter, stories, hugs and love from God’s little cherubs has been their gift to all of us. Each day the children will be performing at a different church or nursing home, returning to sleep in Clarke Hall with some of our parishioners graciously opening their homes. Donations of food and beverages for breakfast, lunch and dinners would be welcome. Please check with Tammy as all this may have been accomplished through with Saint Mark delivering a dinner as well as others. We hear from Matthew 25:40, *And the King shall answer and say unto them*, *Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these, you have done it unto Me.*

There is so much goodness and love in the members of our congregation on many levels. With Matsiko, Tammy Fasano has been working with ICN as an advocate to fill their schedule contacting several churches in CT, MA and RI. Some have decided to host them this year and others are already in the books for next year’s tour. With great admiration for the gift you have given to these children and continue to do, we offer our humble gratitude and thanks Tammy.

So many more gifts of love we offer our grateful thanks: For those who have enjoyed the landscaping around the church this spring, loving thanks go out to the Popovich family, Stuart, Cara and Ian.

The tired and rotten railroad ties will be removed shortly and be replaced by a gift of field stones from Dave Dolce who is also orchestrating having them installed by a professional mason.

Co-chairs, Debbie Nordstrom and Arlene LaBua took the bull by the horn with Betsey and Bobby Parsons, Secretary and Treasurer respectively, along with Pam Carr, Jennifer Satherlie McBride, Peggy Burse, Cara Popovich, Marjorie Hollister, (sure I’m forgetting some) and community members jumping through hoops with the town and state health department to make the cold food pantry a reality. They have formed a non-profit completely separating any ties with Central Baptist other than CBC’s loving gift of the church space. The Jamestown Community Food Pantry has already received accolades and donations of over three thousand dollars with no requests from the committee. A used commercial refrigerator has also been purchased joining the other three cold donated appliances in our freshly cleaned and painted room by Cara P and Tammy F. on the church’s lower level.

Have you seen the love gift of colorful young children dresses several members and Jamestown residents have made in Clarke Hall? This all commenced through the efforts of Peggy Burse. Many sewing machines are being used during each gathering and it truly is a wonder to witness.

Have you attended the monthly sessions of *Simple Blessings* lead by Janet Larson? If not, I urge you to attend as it will enlighten your spirit with its calming messages. *Simple Blessings* gently reminds us of God’s gifts we have received and can share with others.

Have you also seen the choir room adjacent to our altar? It was cleaned and shines with new coats of paint by Martha and Ken Mulvey.

Ladies, are you all involved in and attending the Central Baptist Church ecumenical dinner being held in Clarke Hall on May 22nd? Questions – contact Peggy Burse, Jean Britton or Marilyn Rodriquez.

Placing names to projects, events, and many other activities at CBC is problematic as others are missed in the message. If you remember any gifts of love from other members, please bring it to light so we all can offer our thanks.

With so many people sharing their time, talents, energy and treasures we are a church exuding love and thanksgiving to God. Please make an effort to thank these people as we continue to honor our Creator in the days and weeks ahead.

I personally share my thanks to all.

***Love*** *is always bestowed as a* ***gift*** *– freely, willingly and without expectation. ~anonymous*

In Christ’s love,
*Pastor Kurt*

**Ladies’ Breakfast**

The Ladies’ will meet Thursday, May 2nd & May 23rd at 9:00 a.m. Slice of Heaven. All CBC ladies are welcome!

**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 1-3 p.m. in Clarke Hall. Meetings for May are May 6th & May 20th.

**The Matsiko World Orphan Choir**

**The Matsiko Choir will perform at Central Baptist Church on Tuesday, May 7th**

**Please join them for a potluck dinner at 5:00 p.m. with a concert at 7:00 p.m.**

**Invite your neighbors and friends!!!**

*The Matsiko World Orphan Choir is a traveling choir of 23 orphaned and at-risk children from Nepal, Liberia, India, and Peru.  They are representatives of the 600 million orphaned and at-risk children worldwide.  The Matsiko Choir brings awareness and sponsorship to these children as they travel around the USA, performing with song and dance.  International Children’s Network (ICN) is the organization of the Matsiko World Orphan Choir.  ICN focuses its sponsorship specifically on the education of the child through the university and vocational level.  As an extension of sponsorship, ICN is intimately involved in every community where its sponsorship resides.  Not only does ICN cultivate relationships with families, leaders, pastors, and officials, but it also builds educational centers that provide infrastructure to support education for the children.  At ICN Centers, children can receive after-school tutoring, a daily meal, extracurricular activities, medical care, mentorship, and refuge.  We have found that these centers have a great impact on preventing child trafficking, increasing parental support of their child’s education, and influencing the child towards a better future that breaks their family’s cycle of poverty.*

**CBC Walking Work-Out**

Free and friendly! No gym membership fees required! Walk with us to up-beat music on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. starting on **May 9th**. We start with a gentle warm-up, walk about two miles, then cool down, followed by gentle stretches. This full-body workout is non-competitive and can be done at your own level/pace. Wear comfortable clothes and whatever shoes you like for walking, as well as a water bottle. We meet in CBC’s Clarke Hall for a well-lit, non-slip, and even flooring location. Questions? Contact Todd or Kathy Merrill.

**Simple Blessings**

"***Simple Blessings:*** *Centering Prayer and Discussion****:***" will be held Monday, May 13th from 1:00 - 2:30 pm. in Clarke Hall. If anyone is interested there is a flyer and Sign-up sheet in church parlor or you can contact Janet Larson for questions.

**CBC Annual Meeting**
Our annual meeting will be held on Sunday, May 19th at 11 a.m. in Clarke Hall. 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.

**Light of a Clear Blue Morning: *A Concert Celebrating Songs of Women at Home, at Work, and in Their Communities.***

**Sunday, May 19, 2019 4:00 p.m. at Central Baptist Church.**

One Voice**,** a Jamestown women’s a cappella vocal ensemble directed by Julie Beth Andrews, will present its annual spring concert, with selections of global music in folk, classical, and contemporary styles.  The music lyrics raise awareness for peace, equality, and social justice within the global community and include arrangements of African-American spirituals, as well as songs from Estonia, Kenya, and the United States.  Of special note are songs by Sweet Honey in the Rock and Wailin’ Jennys.  In addition to One Voice, Home Brew musicians Cheryl Grelle, Matt Bolles, and Judy Bolles will perform bluegrass selections.  Proceeds from the concert - a suggested donation of $15.00 - will be donated to an organization dedicated to helping women and children in need.

**Jamestown Community Food Pantry**

As we are fast approaching the anticipated opening date of the Jamestown Community Food Pantry (JCFP) the board members wanted to bring the CBC congregation up

to date.

 First off we want to thank the trustees for offering a room in the church basement as a startup point. It offers a wonderful central location. We are still awaiting the necessary permits and licenses that will make us a separate entity from CBC. We have only hit a few speed bumps! We have applied for a nonprofit and tax exempt status as well as licensing by the Department of Health. This all equates to the JCFP being totally independent of CBC. The pantry will be paying its own expenses while we work closely with Tanya to figure those amounts out. Our goal is to pay all expenses associated with operating the food pantry. Our phone lines and internet will be totally separate from CBC. Staffing for this new venture will be on a strictly community volunteer basis with no dependence on any paid CBC staff, unless they are volunteering on their off hours.

 We are hoping by complementing the work of the existing town pantry that the JCFP can offer up different varieties of food. If you or your friends/family are interested in volunteering or would like more information please call one of the board members listed below. There are lots of volunteer opportunities from answering the phone, restocking shelves or collecting food.

 By working together toward this common goal we are hoping our Jamestown children, seniors, and families that may have hit a rough spot in their lives can depend on having healthy food.

 Arlene LaBua: 401-423-1002, Deb Nordstrom: 401-742-3327

**June Festival: Saturday, June 15**

 Please save the date for CBC’s largest fundraising event of the year!! *(It’s just around the corner.)* Please stay tuned for more information to come in the near future!!

**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!!

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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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 Kurt Satherlie Tanya Crowley Walter Sage John & Jim Page