**Central Baptist Church**

 **September 2017**

 **CBC Courier**

**Pastor’s Pen**

Changes...............

September unfailingly feels like it arrives before we get a chance to find time for our planned list of summer activities. Although the weather may maintain a ‘summer feel’, most of us (unless I suppose you’re retired) begin some changes in our daily routines.

Teachers and students set the alarm clock maybe for the first time in a few months knowing that sunlight will not be shining in their bedroom windows when they awake for school. We begin to pull out our warm weather clothes to replace our summer attire. We witness a few leaves falling in a cooler breeze, while plants and grass begin to dry out and turn brown. Some people experience a feeling of joy with the cooler temperatures, beautiful scenery and fragrances while others still yearn to soak up the sunshine in preparation for fall and winter.

Understanding that change **will** happen is the first step in accepting it and managing the altered seasons in life. Change for many is difficult, however, it can be the stepping stone to some of the wonderful events that only God can see and we can only conjecture will be a positive experience in our future.

**The only thing that does not change is God.** Realizing God is a constant in our being cements us to a solid foundation as life throws us curve balls or, on the contrary, we take a pitch and hit a home run. Allowing our faith to remain strong on this solid spiritual base will help us to approach change in a constructive way with a more positive attitude to embrace all natures of change we encounter in life.

Chinese philosopher and founder of Taoism, Lao Tzu, says this of change: *Life is a series of natural and spontaneous changes. Don’t resist them; that only creates sorrow. Let reality be reality. Let things flow naturally forward in whatever way they like.* Once we accept that change is a natural occurrence, we can start looking for and finding lessons in it and inevitably grow stronger. Embracing change with a solid faith in an unalterable God of love and peace will steer us through rough seas of change and secure inner peace.

Changes are inevitable in life. How we deal with them is essential to a good and godly life as they come at us from one end of life’s spectrum to the other, from utter chaos to glorious events, accomplishments, and wonders beyond our imagination From an unknown author these words hit home for me to contemplate how I deal with changes in my life. I hope it allows you to ponder how you acknowledge, experience, and learn from changes we all encounter.

**~ *One day your life will flash before your eyes. Make sure it’s worth watching~***

Pax (peace) to all,

*Pastor Kurt*

**Communion Sunday Collection**

Running thru every Sunday during the month of September we will be collecting women’s hygiene items, diapers and wipes.We will be donating all the items to Lucy’s Hearth in Middletown

***THE SHACK*** **is coming to CBC.**

Please join us for pizza and a movie on Friday, September 15. “***The Shack” is*** a Christian drama film based on a novel of the same name. The pizza party will start at 6:00 and the movie will begin promptly at 7:00. Popcorn will be supplied. There is a sign-up sheet in the lobby. Any questions please call Patti Pereira 423-3685 or Wayne Robinson 847-6117.

**Welcoming Sunday**

On September 17th we will celebrate the beginning of our program year and to welcome back our choir from summer break. We also will continue to celebrate our 150th year celebration and to say a bittersweet goodbye to our organist and choir director Norman Newberry and to wish him well on his happy retirement! Please mark this day on your calendar and invite friends & family to join us on this special day!

**Children’s Sunday School Resumes**

On September 17th, children and youth will welcome new friends and old as we begin a new year of getting to know God better and growing in our faith together through fun activities and an engaging curriculum. Adults can participate in the fun, too, by signing up to help teach Sunday School!

**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 starting on Monday, September 18th.

**Ladies’ Breakfast**

Ladies Breakfast will be held Thursday September 21st at 9 a.m. at Slice of Heaven. All CBC ladies welcome!

**Within Our Church Family**
We extend our sympathy to:

Jean Britton and family following the death of Jean’s loving husband, Jim, on September 3.

**Red Alert! Church Grounds Appearance:**

Dear CBC Family,

I’m sure you agree our grounds need urgent and drastic attention!

Are you aware that there is a “Ground Keep Fund” a separate item in the general budget??

Bill & I make a monthly, automatic contribution to this. Perhaps there are others of you who would like to do the same, as a thanks to God for a blessing for a birthday, anniversary, paid off loan etc…

Our church’s new “Wayside Pulpit” sign is BEAUTIFUL!! This year the church is celebrating 150 years.

By improving our church yard appearance, it is a welcoming statement to potential new members.

Together in Christ,

Morna Bucklin

**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.

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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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