**Central Baptist Church**

 **September 2016**

**CBC Courier**

**Pastor’s Pen**

*I am only one, but I am one.  I cannot do everything, but I can do something.  And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do.  ~Edward Everett Hale*

Dear Central Baptist Church Family,

In today’s world we face tensions and challenges as a mainline Christian church. Changes in our culture, communication and more have impacted the universal church. CBC, with all its beauty and spirited community may seem isolated as an Island allowing us to enjoy God’s striking creation and close community ties. However, it does not allow us to escape the changes taking place around us in our world we share we all God’s children.

Growing up a half century ago in the town of Norfolk, CT, similar in many ways to this Island community, I remember most all families belonged to either the Congregational church or the smaller Catholic Church. Many parishioners were baptized, confirmed, married and buried by their respective church. Nearly everyone was involved with church activities and church played a significant role in their community. Today there are many distractions, choices and diversions that were absent then.

It is disturbing to hear from religious leaders as well as other voices that tell us America is not considered a “churched society” where our values and time have strayed from the church. The understanding of the church is varied and today’s Protestant or Catholic person’s spirituality is not necessarily anchored within the disciplines of Christian doctrine and tradition. I believe and give thanks to God that CBC does not fall into the parameters outlined above. The need remains apparent that we should be cognizant of what many other churches are experiencing.

CBC is alive and well with a wonderful, giving, hospitable group of people who I have witnessed time and time again go to great lengths doing what God calls us to – that of serving others. This is an element of our worship outside of Sunday services. I am proud to be a part of this community of faith sharing in our missions, outreach and those ‘spur of the moment gatherings’ to support an immediate crisis or event.

Is there more we can do? How else can we serve God and our brothers and sisters in Christ? One way is inviting your neighbors, friends, and other acquaintances to CBC worship services and other church activities who may be absent a church home. It has been recognized and documented that a high percentage of people who do not attend worship services *simply have not been asked*! This can be one of the greatest challenges for any church. Yet I pray CBC can be that catalyst to foster relationships through the care and love shown so frequently ‘inside’ our church to the wider community, uniting us with more people, sharing our gifts, love, laughter and time together in worship to God.

Envision what this congregational family might look like, if, with God’s help, joining with young and ‘not so young’ alike, we share our Christian faith to the wider community that God calls us to serve?

I welcome conversation with you; your questions, ideas, needs, concerns, visions and dreams as I share mine with you from the pulpit, in a group venue or individually. I urge everyone, as we enter this fall season of Sunday school and other ministry programs, to be in prayer as to what CBC offers you, as well as, what you may be able to offer CBC. A wonderful and appropriate response for all we have received from God is to live our lives in ways that honor Him and bless others.

In Christ’s love,

*Pastor Kurt*

**Communion Sunday Collection**

For our communion collection, Sunday, September 4th we will be collecting diapers and wipes.

**Rally Sunday**

Rally Sunday worship will begin as we normally do and instead of a children’s message, there will be an adult message. The remainder will be the youth’s first Sunday school class (one-room schoolhouse) in the sanctuary. Reason is two-fold. We want to make this a special day for our youth as well as show all congregants what occurs during the remaining 45 minutes when the youth are in their classroom. It will hopefully show how our curriculum is easy to use and provides the teachers step by step instructions on the day’s lesson. With this, it is our (CE and myself) hope that congregants will sign up to volunteer as teachers. There will also be ‘Make Your Own’ sundaes following the service!

Children will have name tags pinned to a cork board in the foyer and are encouraged to wear them each and every Sunday, returning them to the cork board at the end of coffee time.  All members are encouraged to get to know the kids in our church family!

After the service, during coffee time, Christian Education Board is sponsoring Sunday Sundaes to celebrate the beginning of the new church year. Everyone can make their own ice cream sundae with sprinkles and assorted toppings. We will be re-establishing the Kids’ Table, so kids have a place to sit with their snacks, but adults are encouraged to sit down with them, too, in order to get to know our church kids. Christian Education will have someone at a table in Clarke Hall for collecting Sunday School registration forms, for recruiting Sunday School teachers, and to answer any questions about any of the Christian Education programs for the new church year. If you want to help our Sunday School program by teaching, we are asking that people form a team of two who sign up for all the Sundays in just one month during the church year. Christian Education, including Pastor Kurt, will provide the curriculum, the training, and the materials, so we are just asking for a few hours of your time to make a positive difference in the life of our children.

**Loving Sunday School Teachers Wanted**

As our Sunday School year begins in September, we will focus the worship service on September 11th around the faith education of our church kids. For Sundays September 18th and 25th, Todd and Kathy Merrill will be the Sunday School teachers. Starting in October, Christian Education Board is hoping to have congregation members volunteer in pairs for a month of Sundays.  The church has already purchase a curriculum for every Sunday in the church year, so teachers do not need to create their own materials.   For each Sunday, Christian Education will have a folder of the lesson plan, accompanying pictures, and a few song suggestions, so teachers also do not need to create or research these items.  Sunday School lasts for approximately 45 minutes during the worship service.  We encourage NOT making snacks for kids downstairs as we would really like them to come back upstairs during coffee hour to meet other people, so teachers do not need to bring snacks or treats.  Mostly, we are hoping teachers will bring their love of children and their faith so the kids will have the chance to learn about God’s love for them, and to experience the love and support of adults at CBC.  You will have support from the Christian Education Board (Elizabeth Richter, Arlene LaBua, Kathy Merrill and Kurt Satherlie), including a weekly meeting, if you find that helpful.  Please consider signing up at the Christian Education table during coffee hour on September 11th, 18th or 25th.  Christian Education will provide a training session on the curriculum at 11:00a.m. on Sunday, September 25th.

**Sunday School Curriculum Training**

September 25th from 11:00a.m. to Noon, the Christian Education Board will be leading a training session on the church’s Sunday School curriculum.  This training is intended for an audience of volunteer children, but also for any parents or congregation members who would like to know what goes on down there during church!  Handouts will be provided.  If you have any questions, please ask a member of Christian Education Board (Elizabeth Richter, Arlene LaBua, Kathy Merrill or Kurt Satherlie).   And no, you don’t have to sit in little chairs for the training!

**Bible Study**

Our weekly Bible Study group will start again on Tuesday, September 13th, at 10 a.m. in Clarke Hall.  Pastor Kurt will have materials to review and we will have the opportunity to discuss our direction for this fall.  If you would like to contribute, please bring a dish to share for a light brunch. We hope to see you and consider bringing a friend!  Everyone is welcome!

**Ladies’ Breakfast**

Ladies Breakfast will be held on Thursday, September 15th at 9 a.m. at Slice of Heaven.

All CBC ladies welcome!

**CBC Choir**

Choir rehearsal will begin next Sunday, September 11 at 10:45. We will begin the new music season on September 18. If you have thought of singing with us, give it a try. You have already passed the audition! We look forward to a varied selection of worship music from many genres this season as well as instrumental music. If you have any suggestions or ideas, please speak to Norman Newberry or any member of the choir.

**CBC Fall Mission Day**

The American Baptist Women's Ministries of R.I. will be meeting here as our guests on September 17, 2016 from 9am-2:30pm.  They will be having, as their guest speaker, Omar Bah founder and director of the Refugee Dream Center in Providence.  He was a tortured refugee from Gambia, Africa.  Rev Kurt will be leading worship and Kathy Merrill will be leading the music. Lunch will be provided by our church. We will be putting sign- up sheets for donations of coffee snacks and desserts.  We will need hostesses as well. The church women are invited to come to this event, so mark your calendar and be part of the wider church mission. Come and enjoy a day meeting people from all over R. I.

**Coming Soon! Financial Peace University**

Do you struggle with debt?  Learn how to take control of your money and get it working for you.  Starting September 21st and every Wednesday through November 16th, Financial Peace University is offering a class from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Central Baptist Church.  Cost is $99 per household (Assistance is available).  Register on-line at daveramsey.com/findaclass or call Dave Dolce 401-374-2858. Also, call Dave with any questions or concerns.

**Warm Coats, Warm Hearts Coat Drive**

As fall approaches and it is time to switch your closets to more seasonal clothing, please feel with the warmth of your heart to donate coats, hats, mittens and possibly winter boots for people who are in need. If you have donations, please contact Jean Britton. 423-0470

**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 or Kathy Merrill.

**Mission Possible:  Write-a-Soldier**

Thank you so much to everyone who has written cards to soldiers as part of our Write-a-Soldier mission.  Thank you, too, to people who donated personal hygiene and other items to be sent to the army unit we adopted.  We have sent dozens of cards and two boxes of items to them and hoping our efforts have helped them feel support and lifted their morale.  Starting in September, we will no longer sit down at the table in Clarke Hall to write cards, but if anyone wants to continue to contribute cards to the army unit, please give them to Kathy Merrill up to September 18th for inclusion in a package before the unit returns home in October.

**Christian Education Topics**

As we begin this church year, the Christian Education Board would like to hear from you if you have ideas of topics you would like to have covered in Forums or classes, but also if there are topics you would like to lead/teach!  Please contact a Christian Education Board member on either of these:  Elizabeth Richter, Arlene LaBua, Kathy Merrill or Kurt Satherlie.  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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