

# Messenger

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VOLUME LVIII - Weekly Publication

January 18, 2010

## Morning Watch

Sundays 9:00 am

## Christian Education

Sundays 9:15 am

## Traditional Service

Sundays 10:30 am

## Fellowship Hour

Sundays 11:30 am

## Church Office

Monday – Friday  
9:00 am – 4:00 pm

## Staff

### David P. Turner

Senior Minister

### Renita Lewis Whitaker

Office Manager

### Anthony Shackelford

Custodian

### Dan Oliver

Bell Choir Director &  
Director of Audio/Visual

### Lois Sutherland

Organist

### Jenny Garner

Nursery Care Provider

## CYF SPAGHETTI LUNCH



CYF will host their annual Spaghetti Lunch this Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup> following the 10:30 a.m. service. Please plan on staying for this extended fellowship time. The spaghetti lunch also includes: Italian salad, garlic bread, brownies and sundaes on tap! The cost is \$6 per person, \$3 children under 10, and \$20 maximum per family. Please join us for a delicious meal, fun and fellowship. **Attention CYF:** All CYF'ers need to come to the Morning Watch Service so we can cook the rest of the morning. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Lou Pence: [marylou207@worldnet.att.net](mailto:marylou207@worldnet.att.net) or 434-8157 or Lisa French [limaefrench7@aol.com](mailto:limaefrench7@aol.com) or 296-9245.

## WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY



January 18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. One of our Lord's last prayers included his petition "that all of them may be one ... that the world may believe ..." (John 17:21). Our Lord knew that if Christians were fiercely divided, those outside the Christian faith would not likely want to be followers of Christ.

Sincere loving Christians will work and pray for Christian unity. A good example of two Christians who took Christ's prayer — "that all of them may be one" — seriously, may be seen in the account of the Methodist bishop, Everett Palmer, visiting the ailing Pope John the XXIII at the Vatican.

The kindly pope received the Protestant leader with genuine friendliness and affection. Later, while shaking Bishop Palmer's hand, the pope smiled warmly and said, "Let us forget the sad centuries when we met only to quarrel, and let us meet to love one another."

Not long afterwards, the gentle pope — sometimes called the "Protestant Pope" because he insisted that Protestants no longer be called "heretics" but separated brethren — died. Bishop Palmer also died within a few years, but not before writing *The Glorious Imperative*, the moving story of his visit with the dying bishop of Rome.

## Serving In January

**Deacon Captain:** Lora Davidson

**Deacons Serving:** Andrew Green, April Parcell, Greg Moon, Jenness Sigman, John Bucy, Larry Merkle, Margaret Merkle, Mark Sigman, Melissa Moody and Ruth Sempritt.

**Deacon Prep/Clean Up:** Andree Flynn and Laura Nolan

### Elders for Communion

**Jan 24<sup>th</sup>** Terry Sigman and Ben Williams

**Jan 31<sup>st</sup>** Charles Bentley, Sr., and Chuck Bentley, Jr.

### Lay Leaders

**Jan 24<sup>th</sup>** Lora Davidson

### Fellowship Hour

**Jan 24<sup>th</sup>** CYF Spaghetti Lunch

**Jan 31<sup>st</sup>** Christian Education (Adult)

## Wall Calendar

The wall calendar located outside of the church office lists the scheduled activities of the church ministries. To get your activity listed on the wall calendar, please contact the church office.

## The Week Ahead

<b>Sunday, Jan 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	Morning Watch
	<b>9:15 am</b>	Christian Education Max Lucado Class History of the Disciple- Church Class
	<b>10:30 am</b>	Traditional Service Godly Play
	<b>11:30 pm</b>	Fellowship Hour
<b>Monday, Jan 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12:00 pm</b>	Faith Seeker/Finders
	<b>9:00 am</b>	Quilters
<b>Wednesday, Jan 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	Senior Fitness Class
	<b>9:30 am</b>	Senior Fitness
<b>Thursday, Jan 28<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	Kettering Toastmasters
	<b>9:30 pm</b>	Prayer Shawl Ministry
	<b>6:30 pm</b>	Laudate Ringers
<b>Friday, Jan 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:30 pm</b>	Chancel Choir
	<b>7:00 pm</b>	Group Interaction
<b>Saturday, Jan 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>1:00 pm</b>	Cheers

## Severe Weather Conditions

During the winter months we can expect days with unsafe driving conditions. To be informed if a church activity has been cancelled watch channels **2** and **7** for church cancellations.

### Worshiping at Central

Sunday, January 17, 2010

Christian Education	28
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Nursery/Godly Play	12
Morning Watch	19
Traditional Service	<u>132</u>
<b>Total Worship Attendance</b>	<b>163</b>

*God's Promise*

## Members & Friends

### Hospice Care

- Pat Farnsley (Home)

### Home Care

Henrietta Farrow

Thelma Harman

Robert and Frances Mayes

Earline Grice

Regina Kempton

Norma Kirkland

Bob and Jean Thompson

Merle and Dorothy Ryan

Doyle Ware

### Autumn Health Care

- June Tate

### Bethany

- Millie Molz

### Harborside Healthcare

- Eleanor McNulty

### Liberty Retirement Home

- Ed Bausman

### Lincoln Park

- Marilyn Weaver

Kathy Anderson

### Summersville

- Marian Herron

### Spring Creek

- JoAnn Reichbauer

### Sterling House

- Elwood Byrnett

### Sycamore Glen

- Anne Walters

### Waterford Retirement

- Mary Rothenbuhler

## Sanctuary Flowers

The sanctuary flowers on Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup> were given by The Von Gruenigen Family in memory of Madonna Goss.



**Congratulations to First-Time Parents,** Brent and Karen Phares, welcomes Peyton Elizabeth born on January 2<sup>nd</sup> (5lbs - 8oz). Also, congratulations to the grandparents, Jim and Barbara King.

## Special Thank You

I would like to thank the members of Central Christian for your cards, prayers and kindness shown to me after the passing of my mother, Margie Bilbrey on December 25<sup>th</sup>. Your expressions of sympathy were a blessing.

**David Bilbrey**

## Memorial Gifts

### General Fund

In Memory of Lillian White

Janice Fusler

## Donations for Haiti Relief

If you would like to give to the relief effort in Haiti, donations can be made to Week of Compassion through our website, at the church office or on Sunday mornings. Week of Compassion (the Disciples of Christ name for Church World Service) is often on the ground in places like Haiti even before the Red Cross. Our women have been making health and infant kits for Church World Service for many years. One hundred percent of your offering goes directly toward helping those in need. It is absolutely the best way to do your part in helping those in need – not only in Haiti, but all over the world.

## CYF Notes!!!

- ☺ On Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, Chi Rho and CYF gathered for their annual bowling trip. We had a great time with all 15 youth and the adults joining in on the fun. Our next joint outing will be on Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at Laser Quest on Alex-Bell Road. Watch for details!!!!
- ☺ CYF will have a regular meeting on January 31<sup>st</sup> and will meet at the home of Sarah Wilhoit on February 7<sup>th</sup> for our annual Super Bowl party! Details to follow.
- ☺ **Mid Winter Retreats Are Coming Up** – Please complete your application and turn it into the church office with your \$50 registration fee this Sunday!!!! Applications are located in the Narthex or you can request one via email at [office@ccc-ket.org](mailto:office@ccc-ket.org). Turn in your application in ASAP so Renita can get them sent to Columbus. The Wilmington Conference retreat is February 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> at Mt. Healthy Christian Church in Cincinnati. Phyto Conference retreat is February 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> at North Canton Christian Church. Get your application in as we need to know how many are going so we can have enough adults available. Transportation details will follow. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Lou Pence or the church office.
- ☺ Finally, mark your calendars for Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup> for the annual Baked Potato and Salad Bar lunch. Again this is an annual event hosted by the CYF and you won't want to miss the extended fellowship time.

## Emergency Preparedness

FEMA and Ready.gov encourage individuals, families and businesses to prepare for emergencies or disasters that can occur in the home and business. We all need to be self-sufficient as we may need to survive on our own after a disaster. Being prepared with food, water, and other supplies in sufficient quantity to last for at least three days and up to four weeks. Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster, but they cannot reach everyone immediately. You could get help in hours, or it might take days. Basic services such as electricity, gas, water, sewage treatment, and telephones may be cut off for days, or even a week or longer. Or, you may have to evacuate at a moment's notice and take essentials with you. You probably will not have the opportunity to shop or search for the supplies you need.

A disaster supplies kit is a collection of basic items that members of a household may need in the event of a disaster. Visit [www.fema.gov/plan/prepare/supplykit.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/plan/prepare/supplykit.shtm) or [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) - businesses to review checklists and suggestions. Preparing our homes, schools and businesses now will help us to take advantage of sales, ensure we have the recommended supplies and will ultimately lower stress. Examples of brochures on the Ready.gov site include:

- "Preparing Makes Sense - Get Ready Now"
- "Preparing Makes Sense - Older Americans"
- "Preparing Makes Sense - Individuals with Disabilities and Other Special Needs"
- "Preparing Makes Sense - Pet Owners"



## Church Choir Director Position

There is an immediate opening for Director of Adult Chancel Choir. **Requires:** strong vocal music directing; advanced piano; excellent interpersonal skills; prefer, but not limited to individual with church music background; and desire Bachelor's Degree or higher **Send resume to:** Central Christian Church, 1200 Forrer Blvd., Kettering OH 45420, **Attn:** Human Resource Committee or **By email to:** [ccc-rlewis@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ccc-rlewis@sbcglobal.net), Resumes accepted until 1/29/2010.

## Central Christian's Food Pantry

Last week we were able to feed 5 families thanks to your donations. Let's continue to feed the hungry in our community by donating. Donations can be placed on the table in the Narthex marked "Food Pantry." We also accept monetary donations.

## "God's Minute"

God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). As we think of those who have lost their lives because of the earthquake that struck Haiti. Let us remember, the souls of the righteous are in the hands of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seem to have died, and their departure was thought of as a disaster, their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace.

Therefore, dedicate this message in remembrance of those who have lost their lives because of this tragedy. The following is a poem in their honor:

### *I'm Free*

*Don't grieve for me for now I'm free,  
I'm following the path God laid for me.  
I took His hand when I heard Him call,  
I turned my back and left it all.*

*I could not stay another day,  
To laugh, to love, to work or play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way,  
I found that peace at the close of the day.*

*If my parting has left a void,  
Then fill it with remembered joy.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,  
Ah yes, these things I too will miss.*

*But be not burdened with times of sorrow,  
For I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My life's been full. I've savored much,  
Good friends, good times and loved ones' touch.*

*Perhaps my time seemed all too brief  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.  
Lift up your hearts and share with me.  
God wanted me now. He set me free!*

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## Thoughts for the Week

*Each choice or action moves you either  
toward or away from God.*

*Prayer is about your heart, not about your words.*

*Forgiveness is a gift from God you can give every day.*

## **The Last Word...**

**by David P. Turner**

Last night at the first Executive Board meeting of the New Year we voted on the proposed budget for 2010. Because of our 40 day all-church study of *Unbinding Your Heart* in the early fall (and the corresponding sabbatical from regular church business), our annual stewardship program was pushed back. It is also partially due to *Unbinding Your Heart* that our approach to giving/spending in the coming year has been reevaluated.

For the past several years, our church has been blessed to be able to meet its fixed expenses (not budgeted expenses) and finish out the financial year without a deficit. This included holiday offerings, local outreach giving and other “pass through” offerings, such as Week of Compassion, Blanket Sunday, etc. What it didn’t include was a line item in the budget for our Disciple’s Mission Fund. In that respect, we have been running a significant deficit. It was our hope to make a contribution to the mission fund of the Christian church from our regular operating expenses, but at the end of the year the money simply wasn’t there.

When our Stewardship Ministry began plans for the upcoming year, we had a decision to make. Either we needed to eliminate the line item in our budget for mission – reflecting our actual giving out of operating expenses – or else make it the centerpiece of our budget. I’m proud to say that our Stewardship Ministry and Executive Board have chosen to take a step of faith in our approach to the “family checkbook.” Instead of waiting till the end of the year to see what is left, our giving to the Disciple Mission Fund will be the first check written at the beginning of each month

(@ \$1,000 per month) – starting right now. Additional special offerings will continue to be solicited through the year, as well (e.g., after just one Sunday we were able to send a check to Week of Compassion for \$1,200 for Haiti relief with more offerings coming in).

Of course, this comes at a time of great economic uncertainty and fear. Many of our members and friends have seen their ability to give diminished in the recent past. For another year, we were unable to offer our staff even a cost of living adjustment. Already, our staff is saving the church approximately \$21,000 a year by relying on the insurance benefits of spouses – and “belt-tightening” is being done at every level. However, we believe that making mission giving a first priority instead of an afterthought will ultimately be the best and most faithful course of action.

One of the things we emphasize in our annual stewardship program is the need for individuals and families to put God first in terms of their spending. The Bible has promised those who put the Kingdom first will experience blessings beyond what they might have imagined possible – and many of us have experienced this personally. Now it is time to put this faith into practice as a community.

The difficult truth is that the budget for 2010 includes expenses that cannot be entirely underwritten by the pledges we have received thus far. Central Christian Church has a rich history of generosity and outward-directed ministry and I believe we will not only meet this challenge, but exceed it. I’m proud to be your pastor and to share in this commitment to mission, both at home and around the world.