

Messenger

1200 Forrer Blvd., Kettering, Ohio 45420

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VOLUME LVII - Weekly Publication

May 4, 2009

Morning Watch
Sundays 9:00 am

Christian Education
Sundays 9:15 am

Traditional Service
Sundays 10:30 am

Fellowship Hour
Sundays 11:30 am

Staff

David P. Turner
Senior Minister

Renita Lewis Whitaker
Office Manager

Anthony Shackelford
Custodian

Sue Taylor
Music Director

Dan Oliver
*Bell Choir Director &
Director of Audio/Visual*

Lois Sutherland
Organist

Jenny Garner
Nursery Care Provider



MOTHER



**For those lucky to still be blessed with your Mom, this is beautiful.
For those of us who aren't, this is even more beautiful.
For those who are moms, you'll love this.**

The young mother set her foot on the path of life. "Is this the long way?" she asked. And the guide said: "Yes, and the way is hard. And you will be old before you reach the end of it, but the end will be better than the beginning."

But the young mother was happy, and she would not believe that anything could be better than these years. So she played with her children, and gathered flowers for them along the way, and bathed them in the clear streams; and the sun shone on them, and the young Mother cried, "Nothing will ever be lovelier than this."

Then the night came, and the storm, and the path was dark, and the children shook with fear and cold, and the mother drew them close and covered them with her mantle, and the children said, "Mother, we are not afraid, for you are near, and no harm can come."

And the morning came, and there was a hill ahead, and the children climbed and grew weary, and the mother was weary. But at all times she said to the children, "A little patience and we are there." So the children climbed, and when they reached the top they said, "Mother, we would not have done it without you."

And the mother, when she lay down at night looked up at the stars and said, "This is a better day than the last, for my children have learned fortitude in the face of hardness. Yesterday I gave them courage. Today, I've given them strength."

And the next day came strange clouds which darkened the earth, clouds of war and hate and evil, and the children groped and stumbled, and the mother said: "Look up. Lift your eyes to the light." And the children looked and saw above the clouds an everlasting glory, and it guided them beyond the darkness. And that night the Mother said, "This is the best day of all, for I have shown my children God!"

And the days went on, and the weeks and the months and the years, and the mother grew old and she was little and bent. But her children were tall and strong, and walked with courage. And when the way was rough, they lifted her, for she was as light as a feather; and at last they came to a hill, and beyond they could see a shining road and golden gates flung wide. And mother said, "I have reached the end of my journey. And now I know the end is better than the beginning, for my children can walk alone, and their children after them."

And the children said, "You will always walk with us, Mother, even when you have gone through the gates." And they stood and watched her as she went on alone, and the gates closed after her. And they said: "We cannot see her but she is with us still. A Mother like ours is more than a memory. She is a living presence....."

Your Mother is always with you.... She's the whisper of the leaves as you walk down the street; she's the smell of bleach in your freshly laundered socks; she's the cool hand on your brow when you're not well. Your Mother lives inside your laughter. And she's crystallized in every tear drop. She's the place you came from, your first home; and she's the map you follow with every step you take. She's your first love and your first heartbreak, and nothing on earth can separate you. Not time, not space... not even death!

MAY WE NEVER TAKE OUR MOTHERS FOR GRANTED...

Serving In May

Deacon Captain: Melissa Moody and Lora Davidson
Deacons Serving: Barbara King, Jim King, Scot Burnet, David French, Jenness Sigman, Mark Sigman, John Corbin, Andrew Green, Don Voys and Brenda Garybush.
Deacon Prep/Clean Up: Laura Nolan
Acolyte: Aaron Moody
Elders for Communion
May 10th Joan Norman and Rex Strine
May 17th Lynn and Darlene Rogers
Lay Leaders
May 10th Faith Seekers
May 17th TBA
Fellowship Hour
May 10th Elders
May 17th CYF Cookout

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

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|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Sunday, May 10th | 9:00 am | Morning Watch |
| | 9:15 am | Christian Education Max Lucado Class Christianity/World Religions |
| | 10:30 am | Traditional Service Godly Play |
| | 11:30 am | CYF Cook Out & Walk-A-Thon Craft Display/Demonstration |
| | 11:40 am | Bethany Choristers |
| | 12:00 pm | Faith Finders/Seekers |
| | 6:30 pm | Chi Rho & CYF |
| | 9:00 am | Quilters |
| Monday, May 11th | 12:30 pm | Senior Fitness Class |
| | 6:40 pm | Sanctuary Study Committee |
| Tuesday, May 12th | 7:00 pm | Executive Board Meeting |
| | Wednesday, May 13th | 12:30 pm |
| 1:30 pm | | Joanna Group |
| 7:00 pm | | Kettering Toastmasters |
| Thursday, May 14th | 9:30 am | Prayer Shawl Ministry |
| | 6:30 pm | Laudate Ringers |
| Friday, May 15th | 7:30 pm | Chancel Choir |
| | 8:00 am | Pastor's Class Trip |
| Saturday, May 16th | 6:00 pm | Oakwood Parade Bridge Club |

Joanna Group

The Joanna Group will meet on Wednesday, May 13th at 1:30 p.m. in the Meeting Room. Read: John 20:1-31. Bring item for layette kits and a can of food for our food pantry.

Bridge Club

The Bridge Club will meet on Saturday, May 16th at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions please contact Temple Ann Hanson at 426-0868.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Central Christian will have our Annual Congregation Meeting on Sunday, May 31st at 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall to elect officers for the new church year.

Members & Friends

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|--------------------------------|--|
| Hospice Care | - Pat Farnsley (Home) |
| Home Care | Kathy Anderson |
| | Thelma Harman |
| | Robert and Frances Mayes |
| | Earline Grice |
| | Regina Kempton |
| | Norma Kirkland |
| | Marian Herron |
| | Bob and Jean Thompson |
| | Merle and Dorothy Ryan |
| | Doyle Ware |
| Lillian White | |
| Autumn Health Care | - June Tate |
| Harborside Healthcare | - Eleanor McNulty |
| Liberty Retirement Home | - Ed Bausman |
| Lincoln Park | - William Warren |
| Summersville | - Marjorie Barkalow Eugene Griffith |
| Spring Creek | - JoAnn Reichbauer |
| Sterling House | - Elwood Byrkett |
| Sycamore Glen | - Anne Walters |
| Trinity | - Garnia Moses |
| Waterford Retirement | - Mary Rothenbuhler |

Our Sympathy and Prayers are with family of Patricia A. Fowler (*sister of Don and Mary Ballou*) who passed away on Sunday, May 4th. Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Thursday, May 7 at 12:00 p.m. at St. Albert the Great Church.

Sanctuary & Organ Flowers

Sanctuary Flowers on Sunday, May 3rd were given by Charles Bentley, Sr., in memory of Cynthia Bentley.

Grand Piano Flowers on Sunday, May 3rd were given by Elwood Byrkett in memory of Vivian Byrkett.



We would like to thank all those people who worked tirelessly to make the Rummage Sale a success by donating their time and/or sale items. The sale made \$1,700 to go to the mission fund. Items left were donated to Goodwill, Mercy Manor and Clothes That Work. Thank you for your help!

Worshipping at Central

Sunday, May 4, 2009

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Christian Education | 21 |
| <hr/> | |
| Nursery/Godly Play | 15 |
| Morning Watch | 21 |
| Traditional Service | <u>136</u> |
| Total Worship Attendance | 172 |

CYF Cook Out

On Sunday, May 17th following the Traditional worship service, please join the CYF for a cook out. Traditional picnic fare will be served – hamburgers, hotdogs, and the trimmings. The cost is \$5 per person with children under 12 years old just \$3 each. This will be our final fundraising event of the school year. It will be a great time to visit with friends and share a great meal – just think of it as an early Memorial Day party! Hope you can join us!

CYF Walk-A-Thon

Following the cook out, the CYF will head to Cox Arboretum to host a 3 mile WALK A THON in support of the Cleveland Children's Home. They are hosting a walk earlier in the month in Cleveland and since we couldn't go there, we're hosting our own. Please watch for pledge sheets over the next 2 weeks to show your support in this worthwhile cause. Hopefully fellow CYF youth from Middletown and Summit Christian Churches will be joining us. Pledges will be collected, combined and sent to Cleveland following the walk. Watch for more details in next week's Messenger and at the cook out.

Craft Display/Demonstration



Join us May 17th during the CYF luncheon after church for a Craft Demonstration/Display. Come see how some crafts are made. (If you have a craft you would like to demonstrate, contact Jane Bernard 901-4788 or janebernard@ameritech.net.)

This Summers Parade's

Our first outing participating in a parade was successful! Our next parade is Oakwood's "That Day In May," on Saturday, May 16th, followed by Centerville's "Americana Parade," on July 4th. CYF and Chi Rho'ers we could really use your help. Also all families and adults who wish to have a fun time are invited to participate. Keep watching your Messenger for further notices on assistance needed. Don't forget the new CCC t-shirt! For more information, you can contact John Brown at 439-0727 or jojocen@aol.com.

Volunteers Needed

The church has a need for qualified volunteers to do some basic chores. If you have do-it-yourself skills in gardening, plumbing, electrical, painting, etc., please leave a note in the Property mailbox, email lynncr@woh.rr.com, or call the church office at 254-2649. Especially in these troubled economic times, your volunteer service time is a necessary part of church stewardship

Thoughts for the Week

Life is what you make it, always has been, always will be.

The privilege of a lifetime is being who you are.

*There is no exercise better for the heart
than reaching down to lift someone up.*



Attention: Campers and Conferees

Here are important dates for camps and conferences scheduled for this summer at Camp Christian

Otter Camp for those who have finished 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades is scheduled for June 14 - 20, 2009. Several of Central's own serve as counselors so if you have questions or concerns about sending your child away for a whole week for the first time, please talk to Doug Pence who serves as a counselor and Matt Pence, Alexis Garybush, or Sean Green who serve as CIT's (counselors in training).

Wilmington Conference is scheduled for July 26th through August 1st. Students who have finished 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grade are eligible to go. Our own Monica Bentley will be serving as girl co-president this year. If you are unable to attend Wilmington Conference, please consider attending an alternate conference. Ask Sarah Wilhoit, Alexis Garybush, or Matt Pence who all attend other conferences.

Camp Miami Chi Rho Camp is August 2nd through 8th. Student who have finished 6th, 7th, and 8th grades are eligible to go.

Advanced Conference is August 9th through 16th. It is for college through 29 years of age young adults. Our own Ryan Turner is serving as an advance officer this year and David Turner will be returning as faculty.

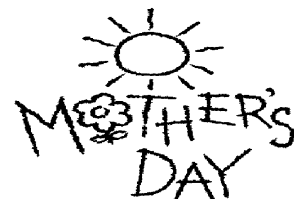
Applications for all camps may be downloaded from the Christian Church in Ohio website (www.cccinohio.org). Central will pay one half of each youth's application fee. If you don't have access to a computer, call the church office for a paper copy. Turn in your camp application and a check made out to 'Central Christian Church with your half of the fee into the church office. Scholarships are available for financial assistance with your fees. Check the state website or call the church office for details. No one will be denied access to go to camp!!! Questions – please call either Renita in the church office or Mary Lou Pence (434-8157). Renita will assemble everything and send applications and payment on to Columbus.

General Assembly is July 29th – August 2nd. At the Indiana Convention Center.

Adult Conference In Ohio

**Our Faith: From Roots to Fruits to Seeds
(Disciples Past, Present & Future)**

The 2009 Adult Conference is June 15 - 19, 2009 at Northwest Christian Church, 1340 Fishinger Road, Columbus, OH 43221. It begins with registration from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on Monday, June 15th and ends on Friday, June 19th at about 1:30 pm. More information and applications are located in the Narthax. Our journey at this year's Adult Conference is all about faith. We will see glimpses of our history to help us discover what is that makes us who we are as Disciples, so we will have a clear of our identity today. Each day we will learn new ways to nurture our own faith and to be fruitful in our study and discussion sessions. By the time we leave the conference and return to our churches, we hope to have new seeds to sow as we move into the future.



The Last Word...

by David P. Turner

I was talking to a friend today who is the pastor of a church in Indiana. The subject of “growing older” came up and he told me about a conversation he had with some of the kids in his Chi Rho (Jr. High) youth group. At some point he told them he was in his mid-forties. They said, “No you’re not, you are in you LATE forties.” My friend, who is 47, went on to explain that “mid-forties” actually encompasses the ages 44 through 49. They weren’t buying it. In the end, he had to confess that he was, indeed, getting older.

Being that my friend and I are approximately the same age, I suppose I fall into the same category. Watching your kids grow up is one good reminder of that fact (my mom likes to remind me I had already made her a grandmother when she was 46). The passage of time never slows down. The older we get the faster it seems to go! The babies for whom I had dedications when I first came to Central are now teenagers. The babies I knew in my first years out of seminary are now considered “old” by their own children (there is justice in this world!).

For the past week, I have been following the threads of my family’s genealogy. Technology allows for the “real” genealogists to share the hard work they have done with the rest of us. Even so, it is time consuming. Nearly every thread I follow takes me back through what seems like countless generations. I’m beginning to appreciate God’s promise to Abraham to make his children as numerous as “the grains of sand on the beach or the stars in the sky.

Every now and then I will run across an ancestor who has made a significant mark in the world. Oftentimes, there will be

pictures and documents attached to this person. I’m proud to have some famous DNA in my gene pool. However, most of my ancestors – like most of yours – were very ordinary. Even Oliver Cromwell – who I discovered in my genealogy last night – wasn’t anything special. Despite the fact he lived hundreds of years ago, he only happened to share a name with someone who was famous. Other than the year of his birth and death – I doubt if anyone remembers anything about him.

When I think about all the time people waste worrying about what others think – I realize spending a little time with your genealogy might not be such a bad idea. As someone once told me when I was stewing about a bad grade I received on some test or paper – “Do you really think anyone, including you, will even remember this 10 or 20 years from now?” Whoever said that was right.

So, should we be concerned about the way we live our lives? Absolutely. Like the Apostle Paul, we don’t live our lives to please or impress others or to leave a legacy. We seek to live our lives faithfully and righteously because we are children of a holy God and disciples of the One who showed us who and what God is like. As Paul wrote to his friends in Philippi, “*Not that I have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me... Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*” (Phil 3:12-15)

That is something worth living (and dying) for – in this and every generation.