

Central Scene

The Monthly Newsletter of Central Presbyterian Church, Pine Bluff, Arkansas

August 2016

Good Neighbors

Bradford Pear Trees are fast-growing and can be attractive. In the spring they produce bright white blossoms and in the fall their leaves can turn several shades of red. But they are notoriously brittle and they often don't stand up well in storms.

Sometimes they just fall apart for no apparent reason, which is apparently what happened to the Bradford on the south side of our building. A couple months ago a major branch just separated from the trunk and landed on the ground. Marty spent much of a day cutting it up and hauling it off. In the middle of July another large section fell off, for no obvious reason. The Buildings and Grounds Committee looked at it on Sunday, the 24th, and decided to find a tree service to cut up and haul off what was lying on the ground. They also decided that the rest of the tree should be removed because if it falls, it is likely to fall toward the building, and that could do major damage to the roof and a stained glass window.

And then, on Tuesday, the 26th, our good neighbors at Trinity Village next door had some of their maintenance staff come over, cut up the branches lying on the ground, and haul it all away. We were so surprised and pleased by their thoughtfulness. We have thanked them for their kind help, and we wanted you to know so you could add your thanks, too.

What remained of the tree has now been cut down, and that side of the building looks like it did when the church was being built 20 years ago. What can we add to that side to help give our church building the warm, welcoming appearance we want it to have? We are eager for your suggestions.

PNC Committee Update

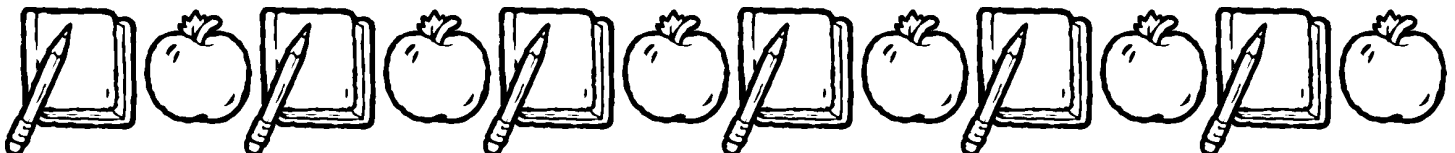
It is really getting exciting in the life of Central. We have a candidate and are currently awaiting on Presbytery to help us finish up the process. We hope to make an announcement very soon. Keep us in your prayers, not only to support the PNC committee, but also our new pastor as well. We will be counting on your support for our new pastor and family as they make Pine Bluff & Central their new home. We will release more information as soon as we have permission. Grace and peace to all for your patience and support during this time.

Time to Pause

The Hebrew word *selah* (pronounced "say-lah") occurs 74 times in the Bible - all but three of them in Psalms. Biblical scholars aren't sure what it means, but a few ideas have predominated: a musical interlude, a break to ponder or "weigh" the passage just shared, an affirmation akin to "Amen." Some scholars, noting connections in Hebrew to the word for "lift up," suggest *selah* may indicate a place to stop and exalt the Lord.

The website GotQuestions.org advises that we combine these possible meanings: "When we see the word in a psalm or in Habakkuk 3, we should pause to carefully weigh the meaning of what we have just read or heard, lifting up our hearts in praise to God for his great truths."

In the words of Psalm 24:10 (ESV), "Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory! *Selah.*"



Central Presbyterian Church
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P.O. Box 1105
Pine Bluff, AR 71613

...a congregation of the Presbyterian Church
(U.S.A.) through the Synod of the Sun and the
Presbytery of Arkansas.

Directory

Office Phone Number (870)879-9074

E-mail:
centralpc@cablelynx.com

Website:
www.centralprespb.com

Transitional Pastor: David S. King

Choirmaster/Organist: Marty Shell

Secretary: Erin Shaw

Nursery Attendants: Laura & Zac Conser

Treasurer: Connie Detmers

Clerk of the Session: Betty Coles

Presbyterian Women Moderator: Betty Coles

Youth Advisory Team:

Marty Shell
Maggie Shell-Howsen
Dana Neal

SESSION

<u>Class of 2016</u>	<u>Class of 2017</u>
Nelson Buchanan	Denise Mosley
Tommy Dunlap	Laura Cosner
Jemmie Moseley	Betty Coles (clerk)
Benjimen Neal	Marty Shell

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Membership in Central Presbyterian Church is open to all who profess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. New members will be received upon baptism and profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith, or by letter of transfer.

CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

To celebrate God's love, nurture growth, share our faith, and serve the needs of others.

A Word from our Transitional Pastor

VBS wasn't just for kids this year. A group of adults met in the Library to broaden our understanding of how the Bible speaks to us. We looked at a study on "Great Themes of the Bible." If we try hard enough, we can often find an individual verse that says what we want to hear. The author wanted us to see more clearly that this approach "makes us miss the big messages that help us see more clearly." He suggested these four "Great Themes":

- God is with us. We are not fugitives wandering the Earth on our own.
- God is more concerned with "the least of these, my brothers and sisters," and not as much with the kings and others who wield power;
- God loves us. "At the center of all Creation is a heart of compassion."
- "God is always bigger than we think." "Our minds are too small to fathom the enormity of God's mind and God's heart."

I was a little surprised that the author didn't speak of "covenants." Much of the story of God's relationship with us involves promises - from the covenants made centuries ago to the people of Israel to the covenant we hear Jesus make: "this cup is a new covenant, sealed in my blood . . ." Our group also wanted to be clear that we believe that God loves all of creation, including the rulers of the world, but that God has a particular love for the poor and needy.

For me, the great theme of the Bible is "God's grace." There is little in life we can accomplish on our own. It is God's grace, not our god intentions, that turns us around and lifts us up. God's grace enables us to be loving, faithful people.

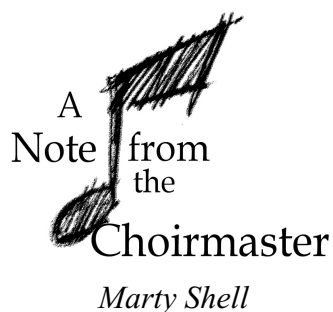
What about you? What would you say are great themes of the Bible? Let's talk about it.

See you Sunday,

Dave

August
2016





We certainly hope you have been enjoying our summer selections of the "ole time" hymns we all grew up on, continuing this month. New choral music was purchased a few months back, and we will be sharing those selections during our fall season. We are grateful for

those that have stepped up to share their talents with us over the summer by volunteering to do solos, duets.

Summer vacations are coming to a close, and school will begin this month. Remember the school zones as you go about your daily travels.

It's Time to Update Our Church Directory

Please contact the church office if your current directory entry is incorrect or needs to be updated because your information has changed in the past year. We are looking for updates on the following information: current family information; names, addresses, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, birthdays, and anniversaries. To make changes to your entry, you may give us a call at (870) 879-9074, e-mail us at centralpc@cablelynx.com, or drop a note in the mail. As always, all information provided will be kept private within the church family.

A Month of Sundays

"August is like the Sunday of summer," an online meme proclaims. But that means different things to different people.

If you see Sunday as the end of a week - a chance to sleep in, do "nothing," relax and play - then August might be your downtime at the end of a busy summer. If Sunday feels heavy because the onslaught of the workweek is approaching, then August may carry the dread of falling leaves and falling temperatures.

But if you view Sunday as a fresh start to the week, then August, with a new school year and new church programming around the corner, can be exciting. And if you honor Sunday as the Sabbath, indeed "August is like the Sunday of summer." God invites us to enjoy these holy days and give thanks to him, the Creator of all seasons.

-Heidi Mann

Central Notes

- ▶ **The Evening Circle Will Not Meet** during the summer. Regular meetings will resume in September.
- ▶ **The Men of the Church Will Not Meet** during the summer. Regular meetings will resume in September.
- ▶ **The Monthly Fellowship Luncheon Will Be Held** Sunday, July 17, following morning worship. All are invited to join in this time of fellowship.
- ▶ **The Session Will Meet** Sunday, August 21, in the conference room following the luncheon.
- ▶ **Dave and Karen Will Host Vespers at Trinity Village** Sunday, August 21, at 4 p.m. in the Great Hall. All are invited to attend.
- ▶ **When Making Special Gifts to the Church** (memorials, honorariums, benevolent giving, etc.), **please write separate checks for each gift and designate what each gift is for on the memo line of the check.** This helps ensure that contributions are recorded and maintained correctly.

News from our Presbyterian Women



A great big "Thank You" to everyone who brought food and helped serve at the Trinity Village Brunch which was held by the Presbyterian Women on Thursday, July 21. We had a great crowd in attendance, and the residents really seemed to enjoy it.

Our Presbyterian Women will have a General Meeting on Sunday, September 4, in the Library after morning Worship.

The Greatest Example

How often we quote Leviticus 19:18: "Love your neighbor as yourself." It's not a bad standard to reach for; even Jesus repeated it (see Matthew 22:39 and elsewhere). But in John 13:34, as Bible scholar Dr. Harry Wendt points out, Jesus changes the wording slightly but crucially: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another" (ESV).

Perhaps during his time on earth, Jesus realized humans don't actually love ourselves very much or very well. So using self-love as the bar by which to measure neighbor-love might be ineffective. Although we may act self-enamored and self-impressed, it's often just a cover for inner feelings of self-loathing and self-doubt.

After washing his disciples' feet and before sacrificing his very life for them (and us), Jesus changes the wording - and the example that will lead us: "Love one another not as you love you, but as I love you." Unconditionally. Unreservedly. Wholeheartedly. Unto death. And into life everlasting.

A Small Laugh

God warned a man named Lot to take his wife and flee out of the city," said the Sunday school teacher, "but Lot's wife looked back and was turned to salt."

A curious boy then asked, "What happened to the flea?"

The Master Puzzler

In *Laughing in the Dark* (Howard Books), Christian comedian Chonda Pierce calls God the Master Puzzler, because "in him all things hold together" (Colossians 1:17). In his infinite wisdom, God "can organize the colors better than anyone (Have you seen a sunset lately?) He knows where to fit every shape and size (Have you seen a mountain range?)."



Until God places the last piece, the final picture is a mystery to us. But in the meantime, God offers order and purpose, providing his law as the puzzle's edges.

Pierce encourages people to let the "Master Puzzler" take over when life gets messy. Like the prophet Jeremiah, we can cry, "GOD, pick up the pieces. Put me back together again. You are my praise!" (17:14, *The Message*).



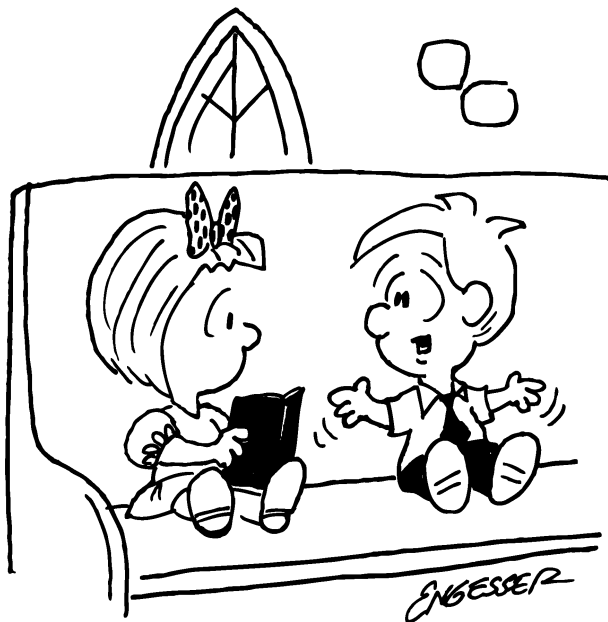
What's Up?

Ever wonder what God is doing in your life, or what - if anything - he's accomplishing through you? You aren't alone! Many people in the Bible surely felt the same way, from Joseph as a prisoner in Egypt to Mary as a young, unwed expectant mother.

Answers may come in time ... or may need to wait until we get to heaven. Meanwhile, like missionary Elisabeth Elliot, we can take comfort in this truth: "God is God. Because he is God, he is worthy of my trust and obedience." Elliot proclaimed, "I will find rest nowhere but in his holy will that is unspeakably beyond my largest notions of what he is up to."



The newsletter deadline for the September issue of **Central Scene** is **Monday, August 22**. Please turn in all articles, announcements, and meeting dates to the church office by the end of the day.



"If we're all dust, why take a bath before the service?"

Important Dates August

- 10** **Noon Bible Study** - Perdue Library
- 12** **Youth Lock-In** - 7 p.m. -
Youth/Activities Building
- 21** **Fellowship Luncheon** - 12:15 -
McElyea Hall
Session - 1 p.m. - conference room
- Trinity Village Vespers** - 4 p.m. -
Trinity Village Great Hall
- 22** **Newsletter Deadline**



Youth News

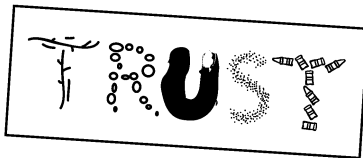
Join us on Friday, August 12, in the Youth/Activities building beginning at 7:00 p.m., for a youth lock-in. That evening we will enjoy games, movies, and lots of fun fellowship! We will serve hot dogs with all the trimmings. Bring your sleeping bag and stay the night!

Breakfast will be served bright and early before the kids head home. Parents may pick up their kids at 7:30 a.m. Saturday morning. We are looking for donations of trail mix and other snacks that they kids would enjoy. Join us for food, fun, fellowship and friendship as we celebrate the close of summer!

Also, we are looking for volunteers to help us with our fall youth program. Let one of the youth sponsors know if you will be able to help us out! As always, thanks for all you do to support our Youth program here at Central!

TRUST POSTER

No matter what you face, God is with you. Make this poster as a reminder to always trust God.



What you need:

- Cardstock
- Glue
- Twigs (a 3" piece and a 2" piece)
- Pebbles
- Black paint
- Paintbrush
- Sand or glitter
- Broken crayons (2 or 3)

What you do:

1. On the left side of the cardstock, trace a 3"-high letter T with glue. Place twigs on the glue lines.
2. Trace an R of the same size. Place pebbles on that glue.
3. Use black paint to make a U.
4. Trace an S in glue. Pour sand (or glitter) on top.
5. Make another T with glue. Place the crayons on top.
6. After the poster dries, shake off the excess sand (or glitter) into a trash can.



NEVER FEAR!

The Psalms are full of inspiring prayers to God, who always looks after you.

Directions: Use the clues to fill in each missing letter. Then use those letters to complete Psalm 13:5, NIV.

What plants grow in D I R ₁

The opposite of play W O ₂ K

One-of-a-kind ₃ N I Q U E

A hug and a K I ₄ S

Sour T A R ₅

To speak very loudly Y E ₆ L

Immediately N ₇ W

Bees live in a H I ₈ E

A dandelion is this W ₉ E D

I ₁ ₂ ₃ ₄ ₅ in your unfailing ₆ ₇ ₈ ₉ ;
my heart rejoices in your salvation. Psalm 13:5, NIV

Answers: dirt, work, unique, kiss, tart, yell, now, hive, weed;
I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. Psalm 13:5, NIV

Central Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 1105
Pine Bluff, AR 71603

Return Service Requested



05 Kessler Perdue	18 Rick Pierce
06 Lawrence Fikes	20 Broc Detmers
06 Val Reichen	24 Charlotte Perdue
07 Mildred Patterson	24 Mary Kientz
13 Robert Brown	28 Allison Moseley
16 Mike Kelley	29 Brynne Massey
17 Ansley Howsen	29 Anna Rowland

Celebrating 
An Anniversary This Month

0
1 Mr. and Mrs. James Hayes
09 Mr. and Mrs. Emil Brown
11 Mr. and Mrs. Kyle Judkins
15 Mr. and Mrs. George Moseley
17 Mr. and Mrs. Mike Kelley
18 Mr. and Mrs. Frank Merritt

Lectionary Readings for the Month of August

Sunday, August 7

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isa. 1:1, 10-20; Ps. 50:1-8, 22-23; Heb. 11:1-3, 8-16;
Luke 12:32-40

Sunday, August 14

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isa. 5:1-7; Ps. 80:1-2, 8-19; Heb. 11:29-12:2; Luke
12:49-56

Sunday, August 21

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jer. 1:4-10; Ps. 71:1-6; Heb. 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17

Sunday, August 28

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jer:2:4-13, Ps. 81:1, 10-16; Heb. 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke
14:1, 7-14