



Central Scene

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

January 2016

Highlights from the December 2015 Session Meeting

Meeting on Sunday afternoon, December 20, the Session:

- ▶ Welcomed the three incoming elders who will begin their service in January.
- ▶ Received and reviewed the Financial Statements for November.
- ▶ Heard a report from Marty and Dave about a recent meeting with an agent of our insurance company. After reviewing all our coverage with him, they reported they were satisfied with the coverage we have and didn't see any places we could reduce our coverage to lower our premiums without taking risks we don't want to take.
- ▶ Talked about the mission projects at The Salvation Army Shelter and the CASA Shelter that Dana's Sunday Class have taken on, and thanked her again for challenging all of us to think beyond our walls.
- ▶ Agreed that this year's Moravian Love Feast had gone well. This was the second year we've done the whole program in McElyea Hall, and they agreed that it is less disruptive that way. It is part of Central's heritage and we intend to continue celebrating it every December.
- ▶ The wonderful music of the morning's Christmas Cantata was still fresh in our hearts, and all the elders thanked Marty and all the music-makers for the uncountable time and energy they put into it. The idea of combining choirs and worshipping together with First Presbyterian was inspired, and we hope it is the beginning of other ways we can worship and serve together.
- ▶ Gave Marty permission to attend the National Conference on Sacred Music in Texas, January 6 - 8.
- ▶ Heard plans for our traditional Readings and Carols for Christmas Eve at 5:30 on the 24th.
- ▶ Heard an update from the Pastor Nominating Committee. They will take a break during the holidays and begin their work again in January.

They have received a number of inquiries from ministers interested in our position, although none yet seemed to be a potential good fit.

- ▶ Heard Betty Coles tell about upcoming PW plans.
- ▶ Talked with Dave about plans for the first quarter on next year, including:
 - New job descriptions for Session Committees;
 - Guidelines for the use of our facilities by outside group;
 - Some study and discussion for the congregation during Lent about Central's mission.
- ▶ The Session also agreed with Dave's request for a week of vacation the first week in January. Our worship leader on Sunday, January 3, will be Rev. "Bo" Lewis of Little Rock.

The meeting was closed with thanks and appreciation to Laura Pierce and Amanda Chandler for their faithful service on the Session.

Men's Annual Chili Luncheon set for January

The Men's Chili Luncheon will be Saturday, January 30, at 11 a.m., in McElyea Hall. The cost will be \$7 per person and \$20 per family of 3 or more. To-go orders also will be available for purchase.

The proceeds raised will go toward various projects around the church and fund the Men's bi-annual retreat. The men have previously used funds raised to paint the fences around the building, construct the VBS mural, and sponsor children at Christmas. We thank everyone for their support and hope to see everyone there!

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
January 18, 2016 - Office Closed

Central Presbyterian Church
6300 Trinity Drive
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

Treasurer: Connie Detmers

Clerk of the Session:

Presbyterian Women Moderator: Betty Coles

Youth Sponsor: Marty Shell

SESSION

Class of 2016

Nelson Buchanan
Tommy Dunlap
Jemmie Moseley

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

Read any good books lately? One book that touches me deeply is a deceptively simple, fairly short novel called Gilead. Marilynne Robinson hasn't made the best-seller lists often because she hasn't written many books, but this one won a Pulitzer Prize for literature when it was published about ten years ago. Her recent book of essays and reflections is one of Time magazine's Top Ten books of 2015.

She writes the words of John Ames, an aging pastor in the small town of Gilead, Iowa, in the 1950's. He knows that his seven-year old son won't really get to know him, so he is writing down key memories and thoughts to help the boy know him better when he grows into adulthood and his father is gone. I'm not sure which struck me more - that a young woman could write so convincingly the thoughts of an almost elderly man, or that a non-minister could write so accurately about matters of faith and theology in a small-town church.

Here's a taste of some of his advice to his son: "When you encounter another person, when you have dealings with anyone else at all, it is as if a question is being put to you. So you must think 'what is the Lord asking of me in this moment, this situation?' If you confront insult or antagonism, your first impulse will be to respond in kind. But if you think, as it were 'this is an emissary sent from the Lord, and some benefit is intended for me . . . the occasion is to demonstrate my faithfulness, the chance to show that I do in some small degree participate in the grace that saved me'"

I was surprised to see Gilead on the table of books at our recent books/baked goods/jewelry sale, and was disappointed that it didn't sell. I wondered if someone had tried it and didn't like it well enough to keep it.

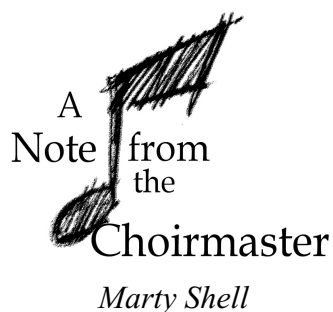
Beginning a new year often takes more courage and determination than we like to think about. Perhaps a story of someone facing life's difficulties with some insights into how God's grace makes a difference will help lighten your burden. If this snippet whets your appetite, I'll keep the book on my desk.

See you Sunday,

Dave

January
2016





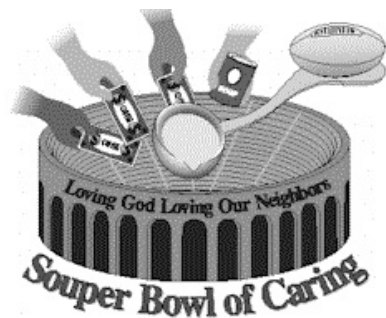
This has been possibly the best Christmas season we have ever experienced! Our performance of *Let There Be Christmas*, by Joseph Martin, was a huge success! What a great day it was as Central and First joined together to celebrate Christmas! It was truly a

great blessing to have both churches worship together. The choirs outdid themselves. Thanks to all of our volunteers for all of the hard work, extra rehearsals. Because of you it was a grand performance! It was a fantastic display of the Christmas spirit and the sharing of our talents and the gift of music. We look forward to many wonderful future opportunities like this!

We certainly hope everyone has had a wonderful and safe holiday season. Happy New Year to all!

2016 Souper Bowl of Caring: Get in the game!

The Souper Bowl of Caring is an effort to glorify God and care for *the least of these our brothers and sisters* by



encouraging people to give one dollar as they leave worship on Souper Bowl Sunday, February 7, 2016.

The first Souper Bowl was launched by the Senior High Youth Fellowship of Spring

Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC, in 1990. The partnership has grown from 22 churches the first year to 11,200 congregations representing every U.S. state, Canada, and Puerto Rico.

Your \$1.00 bill is your ticket to being a player in the Souper Bowl of Caring. Our youth will collect your donations as you leave worship. All the proceeds will go to Neighbor to Neighbor.

Hungry and hurting people everywhere are counting on you. So bring at least a buck, and get in the game!

Central Notes

- ▶ **The Monthly Fellowship Luncheon Will Be Held** Sunday, January 17, following morning worship. All are invited to join in this time of fellowship.
- ▶ **The Session Will Meet** Sunday, January 17, following the Fellowship Luncheon, in the conference room.
- ▶ **The Church Office Will Be Closed** Monday, January 18, in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday.
- ▶ **The Deadline for the January Issue of the Central Scene** is Tuesday, December 19. Please turn in all articles, announcements, and meeting dates to the church office by the end of the day.

Resolve to Revitalize

Church revitalization is a hot topic, and ideas for congregations can bring fresh energy and meaning to personal and family life, too. Consider the following tips:

- Have a clear vision. It's easy to go along day to day without considering what you're moving toward. Beyond the everyday routine, what bigger vision does God have for you? This year, take specific steps toward living that out.
- Ask questions. What gets you excited — even passionate? What issues or situations break your heart? What are you good at? Resolve to use a talent or something you enjoy to help heal hurts.
- Balance history with innovation. Honor your past as God's gift that makes you who you are, but be open to change. Dare to step out in faith for the sake of your life's mission. Try something new in the spirit of the God who's always doing a new thing (Isaiah 43:19; Revelation 21:5).

The best way to revitalize a church might be to revitalize the lives of its individual members!



Judy Diane Brooks Buchanan, 65, of Pine Bluff went to be with the Lord, Thursday, December 31, 2015. Funeral services were held January 5, 2016, at Central Presbyterian Church in Pine Bluff with Reverend Susan Wiggins officiating. Pallbearers were Jeff Buchanan, Spencer Buchanan, Jeremy Brooks, Michael Brooks, Tommy Hardin, and Richard Martin. Burial was in Bellwood Cemetery in Pine Bluff. Arrangements were handled by Cranford Funeral Home of White Hall

Judy was born August 10, 1950 in Bastrop, Louisiana to Audrey Bearden Brooks and the late Bo Brooks. She was a member of Central Presbyterian Church in Pine Bluff. Judy was loved by many, and she was a truly compassionate person. She had a smile that would light up a room and her personality would do the same. She will be remembered as a loving daughter, sister, wife and mother. To her family she was the best and will be missed. Judy was a homemaker and spent her time enjoying her friends and family. She will now join a few of her family

members in the afterlife as she waits for all to be together again.

She is preceded in death by her father; brother, Mike Brooks.

Judy is survived by: her husband, Nelson Buchanan, whom she married July 6, 1971; sons, Jeff and Spencer Buchanan; mother, Audrey Brooks; brother, Robert Kavanaugh; sister, Elizabeth Ware; grandchildren, Marlee Buchanan, Madison Noble, Allissa Buchanan.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Central Presbyterian Church, 6300 Trinity Dr. Pine Bluff, AR 71603.



Gifts to the Church



In Loving Memory of Judy Buchanan

Patsy & Dave King-Undesignated
Mary Shannon & Lawrence Fikes-Undesignated
Sheila & Jimmy Horn-Undesignated
Jemmie Moseley-Undesignated
Bill VonTungeln-Vera Lloyd
Suzy VonTungeln-Undesignated

In Loving Memory of Jane Margrave

Mildred Gaunt-Undesignated

In Loving Memory of Nell Horne

Lan & Mike Kelley-Undesignated
Hollis Hughes-Undesignated
Carolyn & Tommy Mebane
Mary Kientz-Undesignated

In Loving Memory of Richard Perdue

Hollis Hughes-Undesignated

In Loving Memory of Dr. William "Bill" Detmers

Nelson Buchanan-Undesignated
Lan & Mike Kelley-Undesignated
Karen & David Perdue-Undesignated
Lurline Elam-Undesignated
Hollis Hughes-Undesignated
Grace Episcopal Church-Undesignated
Patsy Glover-Undesignated
South Arkansas Business Solutions-Undesignated
Alpha & John Pickell-Undesignated
Eva Marie Pearson-Undesignated
Mildred Gaunt-Undesignated
NAMI Arkansas-Undesignated
Carolyn Theis-Undesignated

In Loving Memory of J.B. Hercher

Hollis Hughes-Undesignated



The newsletter deadline for the **February** issue of **Central Scene** is **Tuesday, January 19**. Please turn in all articles, announcements, and meeting dates to the church office by the end of the day.



"You'll love the congregation.
We're just chock-full of sermon material."

Important Dates January

- 01 New Year's Day - Office Closed
- 02 Take down Christmas/Advent decorations
- 03 GP: Bo Lewis
- 06 No Choir
- PW General Meeting
- 11 Evening Circle - 6:30 p.m. - Perdue Library
- 17 **Fellowship Luncheon**
12:15 p.m. - McEleya Hall
Session Meeting - 1 p.m. - conference room
- 18 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday observed - Office Closed
- 19 **Newsletter Deadline**
- 30 **Men's Chili Luncheon Fundraiser** - 11:00 a.m. - McEleya Hall
- 31 **Trinity Village Vespers** - 4:00 p.m. - Trinity Village Great Hall

Youth News

Thanks to Dana Neal and her Sunday School class for co-ordinating our efforts to take gifts to CASA and the Salvation Army. It was a special moment for all when we gathered 14 people to help the kids at CASA go shopping from our 'store' and select gifts for their moms. It was great to see our youth blend with the kids from CASA, help them make the selections for their moms, and assist in getting the gifts wrapped. It was a great blessing to see all work together to share in this event. Our youth also gathered items to share with the men staying at the Salvation Army. Thanks to everyone for all your efforts. To see the sparkle in the eyes of others as we shares our talents and gifts topped off a truly wonderful holiday season!!



GUIDING LIGHT

Make this flashlight to remember that God, our light, always shows us the way.



What you need:

- Flashlight with handle strap
- Yarn (6 to 8 inches)
- Colorful pony beads
- Stickers (including foam letters)
- Batteries

What you do:

1. Tie the yarn through the flashlight's handle strap so two equal lengths hang down.
2. String the pony beads onto the two yarn lengths, and secure the ends with knots.
3. Decorate the flashlight with stickers. Use letters to spell "God is light."
4. Keep the flashlight by your bedside as a reminder of God's guidance. Use the flashlight to read a Bible verse before bed each night!

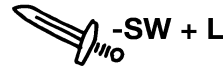


LET THERE BE LIGHT

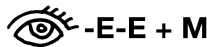
In a world of darkness, God guides us so we can walk in his ways.

Directions: Write the name of each picture, subtracting and adding letters as indicated. Then fill in the blanks to complete 2 Samuel 22:29, NIV.

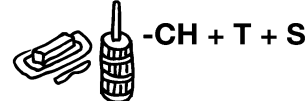
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M Y



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I N T O _____ .



2 SAMUEL 22:29, NIV

Answer: "You, LORD, are my lamp; the LORD turns my darkness into light." 2 Samuel 22:29, NIV

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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Pine Bluff, AR
Permit #514

Return Service Requested



05 Hester Insley	19 Tommy Dunlap
05 Jemmie Moseley	19 Randy Neal
09 Logan Mosley	26 Alexander Perdue
09 Weston Mosley	27 Avery Peyton
10 Benjimen Neal	28 Weston Vick
12 Donald Walker	



Lectionary Readings for the Month of January

Sunday, January 3

2nd Sunday after Christmas Day

Jer. 31:7-14; Ps. 147:12-10; Eph. 1:3-14; John 1:(1-9)
10-18

Sunday, January 10

Baptism of the Lord

Isa. 43:1-7; Ps. 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Sunday, January 17

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isa. 62:1-5; Ps. 36:5-10; 1 Cor. 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

Sunday, January 24

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Neh. 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Ps. 19; 1 Cor. 12:12-31a; Luke
4:14-21

Sunday, January 31

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jer. 1:4-10; Ps. 71:1-6; 1 Cor. 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30



Christmas Poinsettias Placed in the Sanctuary

*We would like to thank everyone who adorned the
sanctuary with poinsettias this Advent Season*

Tommy Dunlap & Marty Shell

*In memory of Margie Watson, Nell & Bob Dunlap, Georgia Diffey,
Randi Shell, and Lester & Marie Shell*

Karen & David Perdue

In memory of Ruby O. Carey and Jane Margrave

Lynda, Brady, Adam, Brianna,

Kodee, Jacob, Weston & Mary

In memory of Earl W. Vick, Jr. and Nell Horne

Jemmie D. Moseley & Family

*In memory of Martin Moseley, Sr., Mr. & Mrs. B. Bryan Moseley, and
Mr. & Mrs. Bonner G. Davis, Sr.*

Zac, Laura, & Langston Cosner

*In memory of Danleigh Joyce Cosner, Dora VonTungeln, Barbara
Simpson, and Nell Horne*

Judy and Nelson Buchanan

In honor of Bea. Magee and Audrey Brooks

In memory of Mike Brooks, Grady Magee, and Linda & Scotty Douthit

Mary Shannon & Lawrence Fikes

For the Glory of God

Melissa & Rick Tucker

In honor of Karen & David Perdue

Patsy Glover

In memory of Alvin Glover

Gary Johnson

In honor of Cynthia, Matt, & Anna Johnson

Valerie Reichen and

Donna & Marlin Shipman

In memory of Murray Reichen

Patsy & Dave King

In memory of Loved Ones

Erin Shaw & Ryan

*In honor of Dr. Lois J. Faucette and the Family & Friends of
Central Presbyterian Church*

Mary Kientz

In memory of Sonny Kientz

Regular Group Activities at Central

Are you looking for a way to become more involved in the work of the church or community? Maybe you would like to find a positive way to increase your social interaction with others? Are you in need of support for a personal issue with which you are dealing? Central offers, or is host to, many groups and activities that could help you do all of those things and more. Below is a list of group activities here at Central. We invite and encourage you to participate in as many of these activities as you would like. We hope you will join us!

Ballroom Dance Lesson: 2nd Saturday - 7:00 p.m. - McElyea Hall

Ballroom Dance: 2nd Saturday - 8 to 11 p.m. - McElyea Hall

Blue Moon Sunday: 5th Sunday - 5 p.m. - McElyea Hall

Central Choir: Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. - Choir Room

Men of the Church Breakfast Meeting: 3rd Saturday - 8 a.m.

Monthly Fellowship Luncheon: 3rd Sunday - 12:30 p.m. - McElyea Hall

Noon Bible Study: Thursday - 12 p.m. - Perdue Library

Presbyterian Women Evening Circle: 2nd Monday - 6:30 p.m. - Perdue Library

Regular Session Meeting: 3rd Sunday - 3 p.m. - Conference Room

Square & Folk Dancing: Monday - 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. - McElyea Hall

“The Firm Believers” Aerobics: Mon. & Wed. - 9 to 10 a.m., Tues. & Thurs. - 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. - McElyea Hall

Trinity Village Vespers: 5th Sunday - 4:30 p.m. - Trinity Village Great Hall

Youth Group: 2nd & 4th Sundays - 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. - Youth/Activities Bldg.

For more information on any of the activities listed, contact the church office at (870) 879-9074.