

Central Scene

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

October 2016

Welcome Our New Pastor

On Sunday, September 11, our Congregation voted unanimously to extend a call to Rev. Jai Deok Kwak to be Central's pastor. Our Pastor Nominating Committee worked hard and searched faithfully for more than a year before they learned about him, and they spoke very positively to us about his background and his qualifications. Please help us extend a warm welcome to him and his wife, Young. In his own words, here is more information about Jai, his family, and his journey as a pastor.



Crossing seas, crossing boundaries

I came across the boundaries. My life has been a series of crossings. Like God led the Hebrews across the Red Sea, and into the wilderness to transform them and make them the people of God, God led me to cross boundaries, and transformed me.

I was born to a pastor's family as the youngest son. My father was a devout man of God. And the church he worked for was founded by an American Missionary Samuel Moore more than one hundred years ago. From such deep and enriching Christian heritage, God led my

two older brothers and me to follow the footsteps of my father. When God calls His servants, He leads them to their own wildernesses. He leads them through the dangerous and hostile seas and territories. He makes them realize that only God is the refuge and strength to His servants. It is particularly true for me and my brothers.

Looking back from where I stand now, I see my own wilderness that I had gone through. God had led me through that purposefully and intentionally. I did cross many dangerous and challenging seas and valleys. Sometimes they came to me with the faces of racism, cultural differences, academic challenges, financial crisis, and with many other faces. However, God empowered me and led me through each time as a faithful shepherd. He has been my rod and staff. He used each of my life experiences to train me and transform me.

My oldest brother, Rev. Jai Wook Kwak, now is pastoring the DongMak Presbyterian Church in Korea with more than 3,000 members. And he is an adjunct professor at the Presbyterian University and Theological Seminary (PUTS) in Korea. He also is serving the seminary as a board member and the president of the association of the alumni. However, he had gone through his own wilderness until he reached where he is now. God also led my second older brother, Rev. Jai Hyuck Kwak through his own wilderness. After many remarkable life experiences, he went to Bolivia as a missionary. Upon his returning to America, he received the call for ministry for Chinese people in New York. His ministry is fruitful now. And of course, he too, had gone through his own wilderness to get there.

Like my brothers and many of the brothers and sisters in Christ before us, I too have been to countless different places and circumstances led by God. Yet, I know I have more to face. God is demanding me to cross another boundary now. I heard His voice before; "go to the land I will show you." Through the enriching life journeys, God led me through, (*See New Pastor*, page 4)

Central Presbyterian Church
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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

Pastor: Jai Deok Kwak

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

Class of 2016

Nelson Buchanan
Tommy Dunlap
Jemmie Moseley
Benjimen Neal

Class of 2017

Denise Mosley
Laura Cosner
Betty Coles (clerk)
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

It wasn't long after I had graduated from seminary that I realized there was something very basic about being a pastor that my seminary education hadn't even touched on. In the first church I served I learned quickly that one of the fundamental issues of being a pastor is not favoring - not even seeming to favor -- some church members over others. Believe me, that has harmed a lot of churches more than disputes over basic beliefs. That's one of the main reasons that when we pastors leave a church, we leave emotionally and spiritually, not just physically. We must take great care not to do anything that will interfere with a congregation forming positive bonds with their next pastor.

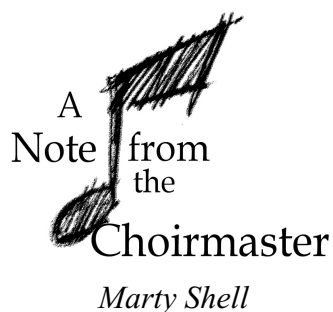
Beyond that -- and maybe even more important -- we must have a basic trust that God is leading us. It's the current pastor's role to help a congregation have a better sense of where God is directing them, and former pastors must not get in the way of that.

As I prepare to say thank you and good-bye - and for many of us this is the second time - I give thanks that we all did so well together the past couple years. We had some specific things we needed to accomplish, and we did that with patience and respect - which speaks so well of all of you.

I give thanks for all your kindness and your support. I give thanks that not once, but twice, you have allowed me to be your pastor. Not once, but twice, we have looked for God's leading together. And again, this guy who makes his living with words just hasn't found the words to thank you for the totally unexpected, much too generous love offering. Now it's time for a fresh face, a fresh approach, a fresh understanding of God's call to Central. Show him the kindness and the cooperation you've shown me, and you will have a grand adventure together. I look forward to times when we run into each other. I look forward to more conversations - but not about Central. Best wishes, and may you all continue to experience God's blessings.

Dave





What we like to call the “busy season” at Central is underway! Join us soon as we will begin our work on our Christmas cantata. We have a few extra chairs to fill and would love to have more voices to share the joy of the season.

If you would like to join us please let a member of the choir know of your request.

It's Time for Trunk or Treat!

Our Annual Trunk or Treat will be Saturday, October 30, at 4 p.m. We will have trunks full of goodies for the kids and a bounce house, too! This isn't just for the little ones, either! All kids at heart are welcome and encouraged to attend. Put on your favorite costume, or come as you are. We want everyone to come out and join the fun!!

PW News



Central's Presbyterian Women will travel to Keo, AR, Nov 9, 2016. We will carpool. If you are interested in traveling with us, please sign the sheet on the bulletin board or call Kay Cromwell at 267-1384. She will be one of the drivers and the number of people signing up will determine how many

additional drivers are needed. It will be loads of fun. We hope you'll travel with us!

Central's Presbyterian Women have been invited to join First Presbyterian for their Joy Gift luncheon Monday, Dec. 12, 2016, at their church. The cost is \$10. Entertainment will be provided by soloist, Charles Graham.

Kay Cromwell invites all of the women who were in the secret pal group to join her at her home on Saturday, December 10, 2016, at 2 p.m. for refreshments and our final gift exchange.

Central Notes

- ▶ **The Session Will Meet** Sunday, October 16, in the conference room following morning worship.
- ▶ **Central Will Host Vespers at Trinity Village** Sunday, September 18, at 4 p.m. in the Great Hall. All are invited to attend.
- ▶ **Stewardship Dedication Sunday is October 23.** The Harvest Luncheon will be held that morning following morning worship. During the meal, pledge cards will be distributed to each family.
- ▶ **Neighbor to Neighbor's Holiday Projects Are Underway!** Central has been asked to provide 100 cans of sweet potatoes by November 2, for the Thanksgiving baskets. Cans may be placed in the box behind the round table in McElyea Hall.



To our church family,

Thank you will never be enough to express our gratitude for all this church and its members have done for our family. But I will start with that. Thank you for making our family feel your love, support, and kindness. Mom loved y'all very much and so do we.

The Neals

Heritage Sunday

11:00 a.m.

November 13, 2016

**Central Presbyterian Church
Luncheon to follow**

Watch your weekly bulletins and November Central Scene for more details!

New Pastor (cont. from p. 1) such as migration to the US, educations, chaplaincy and through the church works, God equipped me with the heart, the wisdom, and the aptitudes of a minister. Now as an ordained minister of Presbyterian Church, I once again hear His voice; "Get ready to cross the Jordan River. I will be with you. I will never leave you nor forsake you."

I am a man of Diversity

Certainly the term diversity is the word fit to describe me. I had been through various jobs. I once was a small business owner, dealt with customers directly. I once was a sales director of a company, dealt with sales goals and strategies. I once was the owner of a private institute, dealt with staffing, financing, and managing of education programs. I once was a Trauma and Oncology chaplain, dealt with the life crisis and deaths. I am a staff chaplain of a long-term care facility, dealing with aging and end of life care. And I am an associate pastor of an immigrant church, dealing with life problems of those who are caught between different cultures.

Diversity can be found in my academic background as well. I studied medical technology (associate degree). I studied English language and English Literature (Bachelor's degree). I studied American Literature at the graduate school of Koryo University in Korea (Master's degree). I studied Theology (MM, MABS, and MDIV). I studied basic psychology and counselling (certificate), and various other continuing educations for the professional caregivers.

Such diverse experiences and learnings opened my eyes and enable me to understand the lives of others. I had my own sunny days and dark nights. Through my own experiences, I see others. Compassionate heart comes from experiences, I believe. And I believe that is what the Lord did in the work of Salvation. God placed Himself in the humanity. The Word of God became a flesh. By and through the mystery of the incarnation, God freed the humanity from eternal condemnation. Instead of refusal and denial, God embraced the humanity fully, and completely. Through my diversity, I embrace others. Sometimes, I find myself deep down in the pit called "humanity." And in that deep and dark bottom of the pit, I see my God. And there I greet others.

I am called to serve

One of my close friends asked me once: "why are you doing this? With your business skill, you can have a successful life." I know what he meant by that. I indeed

had successful businesses. However, profits and subsequent lucrative life did not lead me to spiritual contentment. Though my wallet was getting thicker, my spirit was in a state of bankruptcy. In the fields of ministry, by helping others in needs, and by preaching the Word of God, I have experienced the resurrection of my spirit in Christ. I have found the purpose of my life in the ministry. I am called, called to serve.

Our family

Our first son David, was born in Chicago, 1995. While in high school, he played saxophone in band. He has graduated high school and is now a junior at the University of Georgia at Athens, studying in "Public Relations." Our second son was also born in Chicago, 1997. Sean has a special gift of music. He played trombone in high school band, was first chair of all American (national) honor band. He is attending as a freshman at Georgia Tech, studying in "Mechanical Engineering." In his first year of college, he has achieved second chair in the Georgia tech symphonic orchestra.

I met my wife, Young Ju Oh, in my college freshman year, 1986. We got married in 1993. Young is from an educator's family. Her father is a retired high school principal. Her elder sister is a high school English teacher, and her younger sister is an Art teacher in a middle school. Young studied 'Clinical Pathology' in college and worked in a hospital for approximately 4 years as a Lab technician. Young continued her academic adventure in the field of Social Welfare, acquired a Master's degree, and taught undergraduate students for a couple of years. At the same time, she worked as an owner/principal of a private education institute for about 7 years. In Chattanooga, she ran an 'American Deli' business to support the family.

Young has been a wonderful wife to me and loving caring mother to our children. She also has been a faithful supporter and partner of my life journey.

Rev. Jai D. Kwak

Reverend Jai's Service of Installation will be held Sunday, December 4. We hope everyone will join us as we officially welcome Jai into our Central family.



The newsletter deadline for the **November** issue of **Central Scene** is **Monday, October 24**. Please turn in all articles, announcements, and meeting dates to the church office by the end of the day.



"When I type in your name and 'sin,' sir, there are over 20 million results."

Important Dates October

- 02 World Communion Sunday
Fellowship Luncheon
PW General Meeting
- 10 Columbus Day - Office Closed
Evening Circle
- 15 **Men's Breakfast Meeting** - 8 a.m.
- 16 **Session** - 1 p.m. - conference room
Trinity Village Vespers - 4 p.m. -
Trinity Village Great Hall
- 23 *Stewardship Dedication Sunday*
Harvest Luncheon - 12:15 p.m. -
McElyea Hall
- 24 **Newsletter Deadline**
- 30 **Congregational Meeting** - end of
worship - To Elect 2018 Class of
Session
Trunk or Treat - 4 p.m. - Church
Parking Lot
Trinity Village Vespers - 4 p.m.
Trinity Village Great Hall

Youth News

Thank you for your support of our youth programs. At our last fundraiser, you blessed us with over \$350.00.. We are offering another opportunity to support our youth on November 6. We are planning a youth Mexican pile-on fundraiser luncheon following the service. Costs are: \$8.00 per adult, kids 6-12 \$5.00, 5 and under free. Be sure to stay after the service for the food and fellowship. We greatly appreciate your support of our youth programs.

A couple of volunteers are still needed for our Sunday afternoon youth programs. If you are able to help us out please let one of our youth sponsors know.

Trunk or treat is coming to Central again this year. Mark your calendars for October 30 at 4:00 pm. Watch the bulletin for the latest news. Decorate your trunk, come in costume and let's all have fun. We are planning on a bounce house for this event as well.

FRIENDSHIP WALL HANGING

Make this with — and for — a special friend.

What you need:

- Paper and pencil
- Scissors
- Cardboard
- Aluminum foil
- Tape
- Acrylic paint (red, blue, green)
- Paintbrushes
- Permanent marker
- Twine
- A friend

What you do:

1. Trace a palm-sized heart in the center of the paper. Cut out the heart to use as a stencil.
2. Cover the cardboard with foil. Tape the heart stencil in the center.
3. Fill in the heart "hole" with red paint. Let dry. Remove stencil.
4. Cover your hand with blue paint, and make a handprint to one side of the heart. Cover your friend's hand with green paint and have him or her make a handprint to the other side of the heart. Let dry.
5. Write "FRIENDS" at the top.
6. On the back, tape twine to make a hanger.



Friends in the Lord

Jesus offers a perfect example of friendship.
What does he do for his friends?

Directions: Follow the clues to fill in the blanks. Then write the completed Bible verse below.

1. Better than; rhymes with *crater*: _____
2. Opposite of hate: _____
3. Opposite of yes: _____
4. Three minus two: _____
5. Not _____ but that; rhymes with *hiss*: _____
6. To place something down; rhymes with *say*: _____
7. Opposite of up: _____
8. Opposite of death: _____
9. Best buds: _____

" _____ has _____
_____ than _____: to _____
one's _____ for one's _____."

JOHN 15:13, NIV

Answer: "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." John 15:13, NIV

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October 2016						
2 Worship Fellowship Luncheon PW General Meeting	3	4	5 <i>6:30 p.m. Choir</i>	6 Noon Bible Study	7	8
9	10 Office Closed Columbus Day Evening Circle 6:30 p.m. - Perdue Library	11	12 <i>6:30 p.m. Choir</i>	13 Noon Bible Study	14	15 Men's Breakfast Meeting - 8 a.m.
16 Session - 1 p.m. Trinity Village Vespers - 4 p.m.	17	18	19 <i>6:30 p.m. Choir</i>	20 Noon Bible Study	21	22
23 Dedication Stewardship Harvest Luncheon 12:15 p.m. - McEllyea Hall	24 Newsletter Deadline	25	26 <i>6:30 p.m. Choir</i>	27 Noon Bible Study	28	29
30 Congregational Meeting Trunk or Treat - 4 p.m. TV Vespers - 4 p.m.	31		Usher Kay Cromwell Lay Reader Amanda Chandler			

September 2016						
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

November 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

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P.O. Box 1105
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Return Service Requested



03 Raymond Turner	14 Laura Hayes
05 Mary Wooten	14 Greer Cromwell
05 Laura Pierce	17 Lauren Fikes
05 Amber Poss	22 Betty Coles
08 Langston Cosner	30 Billy VonTungeln
17 Fletcher Perdue	

Celebrating 
An Anniversary This Month

18 Mr. and Mrs. Rich Cromwell
29 Mr. and Mrs. Zac Cosner

Lectionary Readings for the Month of October

Sunday, October 2

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lam. 1:1-6; Lam. 3:19-26 or Ps. 137; 2 Tim. 1:1-14;
Luke 17:5-10

Sunday, October 9

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jer. 29:1, 4-7; Ps. 66:1-12; 2 Tim. 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19

Sunday, October 6

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jer. 31:27-34; Ps. 119:87-104; 2 Tim 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8

Sunday, October 23

30st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Joel 2:23-32; Ps. 65; 2 Tim. 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14

Sunday, October 30

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Hab. 1:1-4, 2:1-4; Ps. 119:137-144; 2 Thess. 4:1-4, 11-2; Luke 19:1-10