

***From The Pastor***

**“The Shift”**

Going from old to new, from decline to growth, is a good thing although not necessarily an easy thing. New things are emerging at CCC while some old things are fading away. New programs such as the Community Meals, Bible Dialogue, Power Point and Website development with Facebook facilitation are bring with them a new look for this church. A new youth and young adult leader and events such as Grace on Fire bring with them new energy. There are new faces on campus and in the sanctuary as the Lord is adding to our numbers five new members over the last months with more on the way (Acts 2:47). As Pastor, one of my chief responsibilities is the equipping of the saints (that’s you/us) for the work of the ministry (Ephesians 4:12). This requires me to discern members’ gifts and callings and integrate them into the already existing infrastructure and/or the new emerging network of ministry and possibilities for Christian service. For all of this to result in growth that keeps CCC viable and relevant as a church, we need to have the right motive and sequencing. As I see it, by seeking first God and His ways all the rest will be added unto us (Matthew 6:33). This is the right motive. The sequence essential to such growth goes like this: 1) Seek God first and foremost and His ways; and, 2) He will add those to our church and 3) will cause us to prosper as a result both spiritually and financially. One of the hardest places to do this as a church in transitional shift (new growth) is in the Elders and Board meetings. There we have to deal with the old and the new all at the same time as it concerns our existing and emerging infrastructures especially as it relates to numbers and finances. “On the books” our numbers are still down and our finances are 20% off the black but there are signs of it all turning around PTL. As we emerge into a new season of church life, I want to encourage us to meet the challenge to grow in two areas: 1) make our decisions for the future on the basis of first seeking God rather than first seeking numbers and finances. And, 2) for us to declare a moratorium on the old ways of complaint that have been divisive in the past and have contributed to the present vacancy we have in the position of the Chair of the Board. Rather, seek God, pray and ask Him to bring forth the leader He has for us as Board Chair so that we can move on into the growth that is ahead. Pastor Bud.

**THOSE SCHEDULED TO SERVE IN DECEMBER**

ELDERS: Dec. 4 Sheryl Reeve Janice Middaugh  
11 Scott Braumiller Sheryl Reeve  
18 Betty Jo Bernow Scott Braumiller  
25 Tami Bloomfield Betty Jo Bernow

DEACONS: Lisa Camm Don Ryan  
Cheryl Obenour Polly Schmalz  
Aaron Reeve Josh Votaw  
Eve Reiff

CHILDREN’S TALK: Dec. 4 Mindy Bloomfield  
11 Maria Ford & Cali Boblenz  
18 Tami Bloomfield  
25 Lisa Camm

**CHANCEL FLOWERS**



Chancel flowers during December are being provided by:

Dec. 4 None Scheduled  
11 None Scheduled  
18 Christmas Poinsettias  
25 Christmas Poinsettias

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 4, 2011 - *Peace Sunday*

**VALET PARKING** is offered by Kathie Sizemore at 8:30 a.m.

**COFFEE HOUR** - 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall on the first, second and third Sunday of the month. A free community lunch is offered at 12 noon on the third Sunday. A community breakfast along with a sack lunch is offered the last Sunday of the month starting at 8:00 a.m. Children's talk is during the 9:30 a.m. worship.

**FOOD PANTRY** - offers a chance for you to help feed the area's hungry. Please bring food staples to help us continue our support of this community-at-large ministry.



### **Ruth Group**

Ruth Group will meet at church on Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup>; 10 a.m. to carpool to Mt. Vernon Central Christian Church. Bring a covered dish to share at the potluck before the joint Bible Study.

### **CMF Breakfast**

Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 a.m. at the Marion Diner

### **Bible Study**

Pastor Bud is hosting a unique style of Bible Study for all those wishing to be discipled by the Word of God on Wednesdays at 7 - 8:15 p.m.. Bring your questions, issues of import, Bible, and an open mind/heart for encounters with the truth that will prepare you for what God has ahead. Meet the challenge and come. Abiding in the Word of God is essential if one is serious about knowing and doing God's will and fulfilling his/her purpose in the Kingdom of God.

## Christmas Schedule

### **Sunday, November 27**

Advent begins on Sunday, November 27. The Worship Ministry will decorate the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas. Each Sunday School class is asked to decorate their own room.

### **Sundays, November 27 & December 4**

Poinsettia orders and donations will be taken in the Fellowship Hall by Pat Schertzer or Pat Mishler.

### **Sundays, December 11 & 18**

We will be receiving contributions for the Christmas Offering.

### **Sunday, December 18 - Church Staff Love Gift Deadline -**

A monetary gift of appreciation is being received for the church staff. Please mark "Staff Love Gift" on your envelope.

### **Christmas Eve, December 24**

Christmas Eve service begins at 7:30 p.m. This Christmas, come home to Christ and Central Christian Church.



### **Mitten Tree**

Dorothy Kay has learned that right now the city schools are well supplied with hats, gloves etc. for the school age children. This year we are asking that items for adults be brought in for the mitten tree. These items will be used as gifts for those attending the community meals, the homeless shelter and Turning Point. Thank you for your continued support for this worthwhile project. Deadline is Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **First Sunday, Loose Offering**

At the direction of the Church Board, the loose offering on the first Sunday of each month will be used to support local missions as determined on an "as needed" basis by our Outreach Ministry and reported to the Church Board. Support for our food mission from this source will continue until further notice.

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2011

For more than a decade, Operation Christmas Child has answered the call to share the love of Jesus Christ with hurting children around the world. In 2010, Operation Christmas Child collected 8.2 million shoebox gifts, which were sent to more than 100 countries. But Operation Christmas Child is much more than a holiday gift-giving project. There is a three-step discipleship program - known as "The Greatest Journey" - which equips local churches and ministry partners to help children become faithful followers of Christ. During the gift distributions, each child is given a booklet named *The Greatest Gift of All* which explains the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Our 2011 campaign for Operation Christmas Child - our Shoebox Ministry - has now come to an end. November 13, 2011 we dedicated 52 shoeboxes during the worship service. It was a beautiful sight to see 52 wrapped shoeboxes displayed at the base of the communion table. Thank you to EVERYONE who has participated in the Shoebox Ministry - Operation Christmas Child. Thank you to: Charlotte Miller for wrapping each plastic shoebox, all who purchased and packed shoebox gifts, all who gave financially toward postage to send each shoebox, all who helped move and transport the shoeboxes, and all who prayed for each shoebox/child that will receive the shoebox. By participating in this ministry, **YOU have shared the joy of Christmas, the love of the Savior, and the hope of the Gospel.**

## OPPORTUNITY TO GROW CENTRAL CHRISTIAN

Not only is December the time to celebrate Christmas and the New Year, it's time to make our pledge to Central Christian Church. We will be holding Commitment Sunday on December 11. At this time we will be receiving your pledge. Your financial contributions are very important to continue operating the church. In addition, your donation of your time to participate in church activities is beneficial to all members. We are reviving the youth and young adult programs. We have hired a Young Adult Youth Minister and a Preschool teacher for 2012. These programs would benefit from your participation. Please consider pledging your time, talent, as well as money to Central Christian Church in 2012. Thanks.

**Tom Files, Finance/Stewardship Chair**

## ROGER KINGSLEY 2011 LAYMAN OF THE YEAR

Roger Kingsley was recognized as the 2011 "Layman of the Year" by the Florida Disciples Men on May 15. This singular honor is bestowed by the FDM Commission each year as this Region-wide group recognizes the contributions of leaders from all over Florida. What a joy to see Roger's hard and committed work----here at Bethany, in Lakeland, and around the Region honored in this way!

## Attention

Central Christian Church is expanding its website to include Marion Star articles and Sunday sermons from Pastor Bud. If interested in reading the articles or listening to the sermons you can do so by going to our website at [marionccc-disciples.org](http://marionccc-disciples.org) home page and click on Church Pastor for the articles or Online Sermons for the sermons. In addition, we may be spreading the Gospel by video recording Sunday services then broadcasting the video recordings on the website, You Tube, etc.

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## Utilities for October 2011

|                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Columbia Gas        | \$104.22        |
| Ohio Edison         | \$369.52        |
| Ohio American Water | \$ 86.99        |
| Frontier            | <u>\$182.57</u> |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>\$743.30</b> |

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## **THANKS TO . . .**

- **Libby Davis, Patsy Krider and Brenda Reish** for helping in the church office.
- **the Hospitality Committee and anyone else who helped** with the Thanksgiving Dinner.
- **to all who donated** to "Coats for Christmas".
- **Will Camm** for working on the website and to **Jeff Schmalz** for taking over working on the website.

## **THANKS YOU NOTES . . .**

Hallelujah! We are home. There is no place like home. All the mail we received each day helped so much. So many from CCC and it's members! One hundred days is a long time to be away from home! The Lord has blessed us both with healing and better days. You each have had a part in all of this. Again many thanks.

**Gene and Charlotte Miller**

## The Book of Christmas

God gave us His best gift The Day Christ Was Born. The Christmas Story isn't just One Special Star or Shepherd's Abiding but God With Us.

Whether you are celebrating Christmas In Plains or plan to be Home For the Holidays, you can invite A Stranger For Christmas and Lovingly share A Christmas Feast. Keeping the Spirit of Christmas Alive by singing A Christmas Carol, listening to Handel's Messiah, and praying A Christmas Prayer on One Wintry Night can Shake Up Your Faith.

Enjoy A Family Christmas as you and yours share Beautiful Holiday Ideas, A Recipe for a Happy Christmas, make The Christmas Scrapbook and The Christmas Quilt. Discover The Traditions of Christmas. Learn about Celebrating the Christian Year. Enjoy reading The Donkey's Gift, Faces At The Manger, and Star of Wonder. This surely is A Season of Joy, especially when we share The Light of Christmas. The season is more than Red Boots for Christmas and The Blue Angel Ornament. It is Tidings of Comfort and Joy. If You're Missing Baby Jesus or wondering How Far To Bethlehem?, you can read The Good News Bible and rediscover The Wonder of Christmas.

May The Blessings of Christmas be yours,  
Melba Huddlestun, CCC librarian

Underscored portions are titles in the Christmas collection of our church library. Please come in and check them out.

## *Prayer Concerns*

### Members

|                         |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Dorothy Besch           | Jane Ratterman  |
| Dorothy Bobst           | Joel Reeve      |
| Chuck Gruber            | Barb Ryan       |
| Dorothy Kay             | Craig Schertzer |
| Roger & Esther Kingsley | Earl Smith      |
| Betty Leib              | Barb West       |
| Gene & Charlotte Miller |                 |

### Non-members

|                                      |                                   |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Joe Acker (Acker)                    | Michael Noland (Kay)              |
| Ben Adkins (Reeve)                   | Beth Nowlin (Besch)               |
| Mable Evans (Schmalz)                | Hope Phillips (Middaugh)          |
| Marge Gorman (Sizemore)              | Will Renken (Reeve)               |
| Sue Hoover (Middaugh)                | Marcia Riggleman (Davis)          |
|                                      | Pat Saad (Middaugh)               |
| Monica Jones (Sizemore)              | Scott Family (Schmalz)            |
| Thelma Knapp (Middaugh)              | Ally Sisler-Dinwiddle (Schertzer) |
| Brandy McDermott & Family (Kingsley) | Jon Sisler (Schertzer)            |
| Debbie Melvin (Reish)                | Dave Smith (Middaugh)             |
| Gregg Miller (Acker)                 | John & Lois Stine (Lusch)         |
| Steph/Massey Moore (Sizemore)        | Helen Swinehart (Frye)            |
| Theresa Moran (Brady)                | Taylor Wilhite (Gilmore)          |
| Melissa Morehart (Green)             |                                   |
| Elizabeth Newton (Reeve)             | Mark Young (Seckel)               |
| Kevin Nishiyama Family (Brady)       | Pete Zimmerman (Besch)            |
|                                      | Simeon Hill (Hill)                |

**Military:** Erin Kirk, Kevin Kirk, Jason Knotts and Sarah Sipe

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**OUR SYMPATHY TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF . . .**

**Bob Holliday**

who passed away Thursday, October 27, 2011

**CCC CELEBRATES  
DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

*Happy Birthday!*

|    |                  |           |                      |
|----|------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| 1  | Dorsel Denney    | 13        | Marlene Temple       |
| 2  | Fred Evans       | 15        | Kyson Bailey         |
|    | Pat Schertzer    |           | George Deickert, Jr. |
| 4  | Rosella Fulton   | 19        | Carolyn Files        |
|    | Olivia Niles     |           | Jeff Schmalz         |
|    | Jodi Obenour     | 21        | Haley Palm           |
| 6  | Caden Obenour    | 22        | Frank Middaugh       |
| 10 | Joe Burns        | <b>25</b> | <b>Jesus</b>         |
|    | Taylor Hecker    | 26        | Jody Schertzer       |
| 11 | Brian Braumiller | 28        | Bill Vance           |
|    | Janice Middaugh  | 29        | Sue Kofsky           |
| 12 | Brayden Volk     | 31        | Michelle Baughman    |
|    | Mason Stitt      |           |                      |

*Happy Anniversary!*

|    |                        |
|----|------------------------|
| 11 | Jerome & Ann Borders   |
| 19 | Ron & Linda Shafer     |
| 28 | Corey & Jodi Obenour   |
| 30 | Vern & Kathie Sizemore |
| 31 | Paul & Bonnie Obenour  |

*If you or someone you know in the congregation has a December anniversary and/or birthday that does not appear in this list, please contact the church office immediately so it appears in the future. Thanks for your help in keeping these lists as accurate and up-to-date as possible.*

**CHRISTMAS 2011 - HOMEBOUND MEMBERS**

**Marion Addresses:**

Genevieve Beers  
Kingston, Apartment 105  
464 James Way

Earl Smith  
Partners of Marion  
Room 103  
524 James Way

Sylvia Crall  
Partners of Marion  
Room 135B  
524 James Way

Betty Leib  
408 Normandy Drive

Dora Hudson  
408 Normandy Drive

Barb West  
835 Loire Valley Circle

Sally Roush  
498 Uhler Avenue

Dorothy Besch  
561 Hane Avenue

Kay Whitehead  
616 Hane Avenue

Dorothy Bobst  
390 Reed Avenue

Don Creviston  
707 Blaine Avenue

Verna Gilmore  
793 Woodrow Avenue

Betty Denney  
513 Tyler Street

Gene & Charlotte Miller  
Kingston - Room 120

**Out of Town Addresses:**

Doris Spicer  
% Hilton Murray  
3246 Clarendon Road  
Cleveland Hgts. OH 44118

Wanda Jarvis, Room 100  
Brethren Care Village  
2000 Center Street  
Ashland, OH 44805

