

the

Central Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)



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VISITOR

Vol. 39 No. 1

January 31, 2015

Soup for the Soul
Lenten Season

We will once again have a weekly gathering on each Wednesday evening of Lent at 6:00 p.m. Each week, we will consider a portion of a book (to be determined), as well as, share in a light soup supper. (Donations for the soup will be accepted).



Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 18th. That evening, we will gather at 6:00 p.m. for soup and an introduction to our book and at 7:00 p.m. an Ash Wednesday Service will be held in the sanctuary with the imposition of ashes included. **Chancel Choir Rehearsal will follow Worship Service.**

Meeting Dates:

- Wednesday, Feb. 18 at 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, Feb. 25 at 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 4 at 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 11 at 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 18 at 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 25 at 6:00 p.m.



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
Wednesday, February 18, 2015
7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary



**DISCIPLES
WOMEN'S
MINISTRIES
NEWS**

NEARLY NEW SHOP

January Sale: \$1,082.55

Expenses:

Newspaper Ad \$42.00

Outreach:

Goodwill: 2 bogs clothing, box of Christmas decor.

Salvation Army: 1 bag adult clothing, 2 bags children's clothing & toys

Helping Hands: 7 bags clothing & bedspread & toys

Grace House: 1 box misc. household goods & dishes

Nursing Home: sweaters & lap robes

Pinellas Hope: 3 bags women's & men's clothing & linens

Homeless: 10 sweaters

We can always use more help sorting and delivering goods to the appropriate places. Please come and help!! **Next sales will be Friday and Saturday, February 6th and 7th. (8:30 - 1:30).** Please call Hilda Hamilton (726-3449) for the times they will be working.

MIRIAM STUDY AND SERVICE GROUP

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, February 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the church parlor. Cheerie Wolf will be the hostess. We will be making Valentine snack packs for a nursing home; and continuing our study: "Women of the Bible: Seeking Justice". Read Judges 11:1-11, 29-40 (The story of Jephthah's daughter).

All women of the church are invited to join us for study, service and fellowship.

Next newsletter deadline is noon, Fri., February 20th to be issued February 27th.



**FLORIDA DISCIPLES
WOMEN'S MINISTRY**

Spring Enrichment Conference

April 18th

at Ocoee Christian Church

Watch for more information!



**FEBRUARY
FELLOWSHIP LUNCH**

Come and join in our Chili Fellowship Lunch. Don't worry about competing, just share your favorite chili recipe with your church family. Bring your chili in a crock pot into fellowship hall before worship, plug it in and then, following worship, enjoy the variety of wonderful chili's offered. We will have tasting cups available so you can try before you commit to a whole bowl full. Cornbread and other condiments will be provided. And, dessert is being provided by our Deacons. A donation to support the needed supplies will be accepted.

There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex to let us know you plan to bring chili. And, next Sunday, we will ask all those planning to attend to sign-up in the Red Book. That way we will be prepared for a great time on February 15th !!

**BIBLE STUDY
THURSDAY MORNINGS**

...meets every Thursday, 10:30 a.m. in the Parlor. Pastor Donna is leading us through a study on the book of Romans. Members go out for lunch together on the 1st Thursday of each month. Won't you join us?





YOUTH MINISTRY COMMITTEE

The Region of Florida Youth Ministry Committee is made up of youth leaders from throughout our Regional Church. With Adult sponsors, the YMC helps to plan and implement youth activities such as Jigsaw and CYF Assembly. It is one way that the church grows and develops young leadership. Central Christian is happy to announce that **Emma Graham**, one of our very own youth will be serving on this year's, YMC. Congratulations Emma!

CARE NOTES

You will find a little *Care Note* in the pew racks in the Sanctuary. You may use these little notes to jot a "thinking of you" / "thank you" / or "note of encouragement" to a member or friend at Central Christian Church. Place your *Care Note* in the offering tray. They will be collected and mailed out on Monday mornings.

GREAT OPPORTUNITY

Be a Worship Leader in Sunday Morning Service! It's easy and a rewarding experience. You'll get Guidelines to assist you and if you need help or support, you may contact David Wertel, Ann Robbins or Pastor Donna. Sign up now!! Dates are available on the sign-up sheet on bulletin board in the Narthex ~ or call the church office and pick a date you like!



EYES FOR MISSION

"Let your eyes look straight ahead, fix your gaze directly before you. Make level paths for your feet and take only ways that are firm." Proverbs 4:25-26

We are collecting eyeglasses and sunglasses to send to those in need. If you have any to donate, please leave them in the pink bag in the narthex. These eyeglasses are in great need in many places throughout America and Central America. Imagine what a thrill it is to see a clear world for the first time!

THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

Central Christian Church continues *The Journey* of transformation with the 2nd weekend experience, scheduled for Saturday, January 31st - Sunday, February 1st. Please pray for those involved.



A PICTORIAL DIRECTORY IS IN THE WORKS!

Our Membership Ministry Team is working to create a new pictorial directory. We are doing this year's "in-house". Lyle Oberkreser and Jim Colvin have agreed to photograph family groups following worship on February 15th and February 22nd. The nice thing about doing this directory ourselves is that we can add to it and print additional copies as we need. There will be a slight charge for the printing since these directories will not be subsidized by a photo company like Olan Mills. We hope that all of you will want to be part of this new directory!



KIDS CONNECTION PRESCHOOL

Our preschool is well under-way with the new session. The school is open Monday thru Friday from 9:00 a.m. until Noon, with the *Lunch Bunch* group staying until 2:00 p.m.

Pony pictures were taken January 28th and 29th! And Spring Break will be March 30th - April 3rd.

COME TO THE NEARLY NEW SALE

Friday and Saturday
February 6th and 7th
You don't want to miss this sale. New Treasures! New Bargains!! Great Prices!!!

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS...

Sojourners' Class (Adults)
9:00 a.m. in Room #9
Led by Barry Blood



OPPORTUNITIES

Feeding Our Neighbors

on the 4th Saturday of the month has been really a blessing to over 300 needy people a month. If you would like to help distribute the food, or be a prayer warrior for those who come in and need prayer, please be at church by 9:45 Saturday morning.

Pinellas Hope appreciates the sack lunches and dinners we serve them the 2nd Sunday of each month. Our chief cooks, George Bridgeman and Jim Hamilton, have the food ready to be loaded into our vans at 4:00 p.m. We leave the church at 4:00 and feed at 5:00 p.m. If you can spend a couple of hours, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m., helping those living in tents trying to get their lives back together, please volunteer.

Remember to clip coupons for the military. This saves our military so much money and only takes a few minutes to clip them out. See Beverly Tyler if you have any questions.

We are still serving our military by sending them goody boxes. If you would like to donate something for those boxes, please see Tracey Lilly.

Our little church is a mighty force in helping our community. Join the fun and get to know each other better by working on any of these missions. Barb Bridgeman, Outreach Chair

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Please schedule the use of any Church facility (parlor, conference room, fellowship hall, etc.) through the Church office. This will help to minimize scheduling conflicts! Thanks!

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7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, February 18th
This marks the beginning
of the Season of Lent

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER
FOR THE RECORD...**



	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>Yr. To Date</u>
Budget	\$ 25,234.78	\$302,809.00
Expenses	\$ 34,064.55	\$272,274.38
Income	\$ 31,756.27	\$278,937.61
Balance	\$ 2,308.28-	\$ 6,663.23+
Average Attendance - December		
10:15 Worship	113	
Nursery		
Sunday School	6	
Children's Church		
Christmas Eve Worship	146	

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Outreach for the month of December 2014

World Outreach Budget:

Church Finance Council	\$ 291.63
Christian Church Disciples/FL Region	291.63
Christian Church in FL/Conf Center	200.00

Church in Society Budget:

RCS Administrative	200.00
Outreach Disc. (assist for needy)	459.01

Special Offerings

Thanksgiving	335.00
Christmas	70.00

Designated Funds

Admin. Disc. (assist for needy)	266.84
Misc. Designated Funds (Angel Tree)	82.56
Admin. Disc. (Feeding/Neighbors)	500.00
Total	\$2,696.67

A NOTE FOR YOU

The Worship Ministry Team would like to remind you to take advantage of *The Upper Room* and *The Secret Place* devotional booklets available in the narthex. There is a canister for donations to help with the cost.



A Story from the National Benevolent Association

I had a lot of expectations about what was going to happen this year. I have begun to realize that everything I thought was going to happen was my plan. But everything that has happened is God's plan. I know that I am right where I am meant to be.
Kim Guy, XPLOR Resident 2014-15

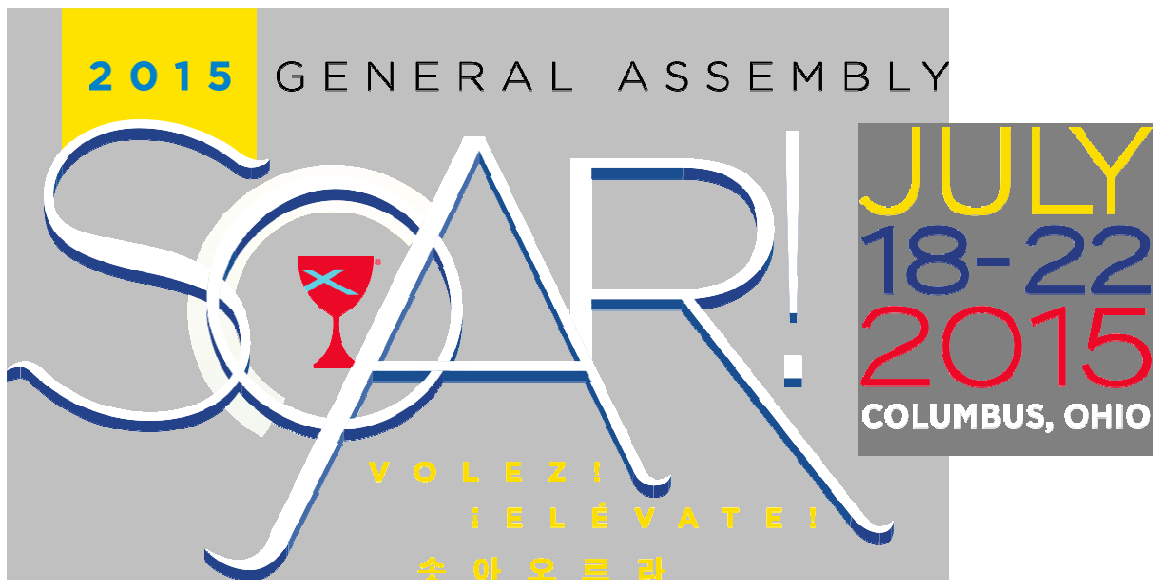
The NBA XPLOR Project is a ten-month residential service opportunity for young adults, ages 21-30, who want to explore lives of faith and service. We provide opportunities to serve in cities across the United States, while offering Residents housing, a small living stipend, vocational support, career development, travel opportunities, and more.

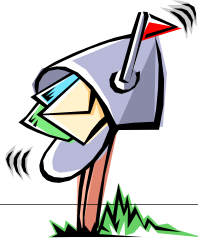
The Four Cornerstones of the XPLOR Project are:

- ◆ **Hands-on Service/Justice Work:** Working in and among neighborhoods to empower local mission efforts while gaining awareness of systems of injustice.
- ◆ **Simple Living in Community:** Learning and practicing faithful intentionally simple and culturally competent communal living.
- ◆ **Spiritual Discernment on Vocation:** Striving through spiritual disciplines to discern the purpose for which one's soul is made.
- ◆ **Disciples Leadership Development:** Living out one's Disciples identity and unleashing one's leadership capacity.

Without naming all the natures of diversity, XPLOR is committed to the cultivation of a widely diverse population living in all XPLOR Houses.

Prayer: God of Growth and Goodness, You call us to have hearts of care for your Creation, and you dazzle us with your heart of care for all the you have created and called good. Yet we know well the realities of want for compassion and justice and mercy and truth - in our own experience and among those in our communities. Help me to be your Disciple, and to follow where you lead me to serve. Amen.





IN THE CHURCH MAIL

"My Dear Mr. Latham and Friends at Central Christian -

It was so nice of you to write and tell us of the good use the church family has made of our parents' bequest. Dora and Jim (Skip) Turner loved that church and believed in its mission. Our Father would be particularly please with the purchase of a good tractor/mower; he and mother spent many good, and we think, happy hours doing lawn work at Central Christian. They even roped us into helping out with weeding when we came to visit.

We hope the equipment continues to serve well for many years."

Fondly, Mary Weeks, for "the Turner Girls"



*Accessible quality healthcare for the low-income
uninsured residents of upper Pinellas County*

707 N. FT. HARRISON AVE. • CLEARWATER, FL 33755 • (727) 447-3041

"Dear Friends,

Today was a great day at the Clearwater Free Clinic...and a typical day! We had seven volunteer physicians, a cardiologist, two gastroenterologist, three internists, a family practice physician and a chiropractor. In addition, our full-time CFC nurse practitioner and our Behavioral Health Nurse practitioner were seeing patients. Families who needed help and volunteers eager to help them were everywhere. During the course of the day, I received two thank you messages from grateful patients, a voicemail from a patient who said, *"It's the holiday season and I just want you to know how grateful I am that you have helped me stay healthy this year,"* and a letter in the mail from a patient thanking us for providing the medical care she required over the past two years while unemployed and experiencing financial difficulties. She will no longer need our services because she now has a job that offers health insurance. In the envelope along with her thank you, she enclosed a small donation. There was a spirit of generosity that prevailed at the Clinic today and it was felt by all. The best part is...it happens every day.

As stated by a staff member, *"While working here I have seen the lives of so many people changed for the better. I've met those who have lost their jobs and with the unemployment have also lost their insurance. I've encountered sick children and those who were unable to go to school because they couldn't get a physical. I've met seriously ill people with cancer, diabetes, high blood pressure and other chronic illnesses, who were frightened because they could not find care. People's lives change when they come to the CFC and received great medical care. I love what we do here. I love being able to help people that really need it. I'm constantly amazed by the dedication of the volunteers who have made a difference in so many lives because of their service. It has been such a rewarding experience. I love my job and all this is possible because of the support of our donors and our community partners.*

As the year comes to an end, we thank you for your past generosity and ask you to please consider a charitable donation to support the efforts of the Clearwater Free Clinic. Together with your financial assistance, the volunteer hours of many and the generosity of our community partnerships, we will continue to provide compassionate health care.

Every day that we are able to improve the health of families living in our community is a great day."

Best in health, Jeannie Shapiro, Executive Director

**The 26th Annual Senior Adult Retreat
March 10-12, 2015
"SAVORING LIFE:
LIVING TO THE FULLEST"**

You are invited to attend the 26th Annual Senior Adult Retreat beginning at 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 10, 2015, and closing at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 12, 2015.

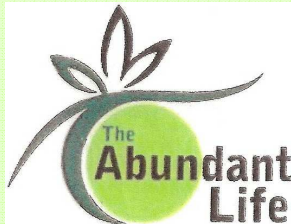
Location: The Retreat @ Silver Springs (aka The Christian Church Conference Center)
Keynote: Rev. Glenn Turner, Arlington Christian Church, Jacksonville
Preaching: Rev. Juan Rodriguez, Florida Regional Pastor

Learn about Senior Adult mission and work trips. Offering received to send youth to summer church camp and provide senior retreat scholarships.

Great singing ... campfire fun ... worship ... conversations ... prayer walk in the labyrinth ... special craft project ... board games and jigsaw puzzles ... coffee and morning walk ... meet old friends and make new ones.

Mark your calendar ... Don't miss out!!

Registration forms available in the church office.



Come and See



CLIPPING COUPONS FOR TROOPS

Clipping coupons to send to U.S. military bases overseas is one way that we can help support our troops. Military families are able to redeem manufacturer's coupons and save money on groceries for up to six months past the coupon's expiration date.

Only "Manufacturer's Coupons" can be used. They can be from the newspaper, dispensers in grocery stores, tear-pads and elsewhere as long as they state "Manufacturer's Coupons" on them. Most families prefer: 1st - food coupons; 2nd - baby supplies; 3rd - common household goods.

There is a container in the narthex to receive your coupon donations. Thanks!

(So far, in 2014 we have sent a total of \$36,418.26 in coupons!!!)

MEETINGS SCHEDULES



There is an **Executive Committee meeting** scheduled for **Thursday, February 19th at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor**. The Executive Committee is made up of: the President and Vice President of the Congregation, Board Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Chairperson of the Elders, the Chairperson of the Deacons, and the immediate past President of the Congregation. A Trustee, to be named by the Chairperson of the Trustees, shall be an ex-officio member.

There is a **General Board* meeting** scheduled for **Thursday, February 19th at 7:30 p.m.** The General Board shall consist of the following: The elected members shall be the Elders, Deacons, Executive Committee and the Trustees. The non-elected members shall be the Church Clerk, The President or representative of the Disciples Men, Disciples Women, Youth Fellowship and the Chairperson, or representative, of each ministry team.

This General Board meeting is the regular quarterly meeting of the Board and **all Ministry Team Chairs are asked to submit their written reports to the office by February 16th. The reports will be copied and distributed to save time during the meeting. **Mark your calendars now!***

the
VISITOR

**CENTRAL CHRISTIAN
CHURCH**
(Disciples of Christ)
1200 Keene Road South
Clearwater, FL 33756



Our Mission Statement: The mission of Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is to be an active, caring community centered on Jesus Christ; sharing God's love and salvation through worship, Word and works.

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

Our Vision Statement: To be a spiritually growing, diverse community that is active and visible in society nurturing and equipping others to share the good news of Jesus through exciting ministries.

CAMP & CONFERENCE DATES 2015

CYF Conference	June 14 - 20	Grades 9 - 12
Equestrian Camp I	June 14 - 19	Grades 3 - 5
Canoe Camp I	June 29 - July 5	Grades 9 - 12
Midway Camp	June 21 - 26	Grades 6 - 8
Primitive Canoe Camp	June 28 - July 4	Grades 9 - 12
Junior Camp	June 28 - July 3	Grades 3 - 5
Power Up Camp	July 5 - 10	Grades 8 - 12
Middle School Canoe	July 12 - 17	Grade 6 - 8
Middle School Equestrian	July 12 - 17	Grades 6 - 8
Camp Uno	July 24 - 26	Grades K - 2 (w/Adult)
South Florida Midway	July 26 - 31	Grades 6 - 8
Family Camp	July 31 - Aug. 2	The Whole Family
Young Adult Canoe Camp	July 31 - Aug. 5	HS Grads - Age 25

2015 Camps will focus on **Living in the Spirit** with the theme: →

***Scholarships are available for members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), who are in financial need. Please call the church office for applications. The applications **must be** postmarked or faxed by April 15, 2015 to be considered by the Scholarship Committee!!!



Watch the newsletter and/or bulletin for more information!!!! ←



FOR THE MONTH February 2015



February Birthdays

- 1 Ann Robbins
- 4 Brooke Page
- 6 Amber Sermons
- 6 Chelsea Sermons
- 7 Ivan Fuller
- 7 Wanda Kirby
- 9 Mike Baker
- 11 Wendy Peterson
- 15 Hannah Gandoff
- 17 Sue Eiring
- 17 Chad Whetstone
- 17 Wilma Wilhelm
- 21 Lynn Harris
- 21 Bob Haynes

February Anniversaries

- 2 Jim and Elaine Keifer
- 4 Paul and Linda Edwards

Worship Leaders

- 1 - Cindy Peterson
- 8 - Terri Peterson
- 15 - Ivan Fuller
- 22 - John Smit

SERVING IN FEBRUARY

ELDERS

Jim Colvin and Wilma Wilhelm

Next Elders' Meeting
TBA

DEACONS

Captain:
Tim and Annette Ballard

Serving:

Taylor Ballard	Bill Carpenter
Kay Carpenter	Bobbie Decaire
Larry Decaire	

Noon Social Servers

February 1, 8, 22
Sojourners Sunday
School Class
02/01 - Dolores & Cheerie
02/08 - Barry & Chris
02/22 - Jan & Wilma

Nursery Helpers

February 1
- 10:15 - Kim Daniel

-- Babies:

February 8
- 10:15 - Kim Daniel

--- Babies:

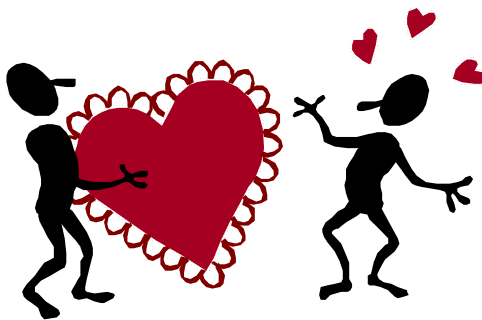
February 15
- 10:15 - Kim Daniel

--- Babies:

February 22
- 10:15 - Kim Daniel

--- Babies:

Communion Preparation
Assigned by Captains



Happy Valentine's Day



Presidents' Day