

# They will know us by our Love

## John 13:35

### NOVEMBER, 2024 NEWSLETTER

#### November Fighter Verse: Romans 14:17

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

#### OUR WORSHIP

##### IN-PERSON

LIVESTREAM, FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE @ 11:00AM  
[www.centralbaptistnyc.org](http://www.centralbaptistnyc.org)

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adult Sunday School 9:45AM In Person and via Zoom  
Youth Sunday School 11:15AM  
Kindergarten to 12th Grade  
—2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays.



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#### In Retrospect—Tea Time, Hats and Fellowship & Weekend of Worship

TEA TIME, HATS AND FELLOWSHIP  
September 8, 2024

by Jill Fortune



On a beautiful late summer afternoon, members and friends of Central Baptist Church gathered for an afternoon of tea and fellowship in Central Baptist Church's Garden of Love. The garden was bursting with vibrant color from the plantings and the space was full of natural beauty. As the guests arrived, they were accompanied with music from a live violinist and invited to stroll through the garden area.

The event began with an opening prayer, followed by a welcome and a brief description of the garden and its relationship with nursing home residents. One of the

*continued on page 4*

## NOVEMBER DEVOTIONAL

# WHY ARE YOU A CHRISTIAN?

by Debby Holland Diaz

Why am I a Christian? My answer is in this passage of The New Testament:

*Now it came to pass as they went that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary which also sat at Jesus' feet and heard his word. But Martha was cumbered about much serving and came to him and said, "Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? Bid her therefore that she help me." And Jesus answered and said unto her, "Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things; but one thing is needful and Mary hath chosen that good part which shall not be taken away from her." Luke 10:38-42 (KJV) King James Version.*

I have heard several sermons on this text and they usually emphasize how much Sister Martha was stressing out in the kitchen while Sister Mary was sitting at Jesus' feet, listening to Him and how we should all "sit at Jesus' feet," that is, make Him a priority. That's fine as far as it goes, but it misses the main point, which is the reason I remain a Christian, loyal to Jesus forever!

The (KJV) King James translation of Luke 10 verse 39 says "Martha had a sister Mary *which* (in today's English *who*) also sat at Jesus' feet." The key word here is **also**. It implies that Mary was not sitting there alone! In fact, from what we learn in the New Testament about these three **Disciples of Christ**, Lazarus, the brother of Mary and Martha, was surely sitting there, too!

The Greek verb can be translated "sitting together," so Sister Mary, Brother Lazarus and perhaps other males were sitting at the feet of Jesus, being taught by Him. Jesus sometimes takes on the role of *rabbi* or teacher in The New Testament.

In the Hebrew tradition, only men sat at the feet of the *rabbi*; only men were taught by the *rabbi*. Here in this part of the New Testament, Martha represents tradition. Tradition is what Sister Martha is most upset about—not so much pots and pans and food preparation, but the fact that her own sister is defying a tradition which says only men can be students and women have to serve men!

Martha tries to get Jesus to make Mary conform to the Old Way and do women's work. Jesus tells Martha to stop it! In

the King James Version Jesus tells Martha that she is "troubled about many things, but one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part which shall not be taken away from her." (Luke 10:41b-42, KJV)

"Mary has chosen the better part which will not be taken away from her." (Luke 10:42 NRSV, New Revised Standard Version.) The (NIV) New International Version is quite similar: "Mary has chosen what is better and it will not be taken away from her!" Personally, I prefer the Spanish translation: "*Nadie se la quitara!* Nobody will take it away from her!"

Other scholarly translations concur, i.e., agree: Phillips Luke 10:42: "Mary has chosen the best part and you must not take it away from her!" Williams translation: "...it must not be taken away from her!" Let's accept it, folks: **Jesus wants Mary to sit with her brother so he can teach both of them together! Jesus does not want this equality to be taken away! Ever!**

And this is why I remain a Christian. This is why I want to write and preach and teach about Jesus Christ! Jesus gave a clear command that, just like that Mary, women must be able to study with men, to sit in class with men, to teach equally, to preach equally, to serve Jesus equally!

I happily cling to Luke 10:38-42. With it, my Jesus assures me that I proudly serve The Christ who uplifts **everyone**, including women and men equally! I serve our Risen Savior Jesus Christ! Thank you, Jesus!

Why are YOU a Christian?

Write your answer for this wonderful newsletter! Forward your response to [newsletter@centralbaptistnyc.org](mailto:newsletter@centralbaptistnyc.org).



Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld (1794–1872). *Jesus in the House of Martha*.

Accessed 10-23-24. <https://victorianweb.org/art/illustration/german/schnorr/85.html>

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Opportunities to come together to learn, pray and fellowship.

## BIBLE STUDY

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

#### Adult

9:45AM— In person and via Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/6831601413>

Enter the meeting ID 683 160 1413 when prompted.

Phone: 646-558-8656

#### Sunday Youth Group

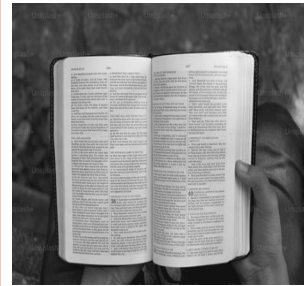
11:15AM—2nd, 3rd & 4th Sundays

In-Person OR

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/6831601413>

Enter the meeting ID 683 160 1413 when prompted.

Phone: 646-558-8656



**Senior Bible Study**  
**Wednesdays**  
**12 Noon to 1:00pm**  
**Miss Ann's Room**

### WEDNESDAY IN THE WORD

7:00—8:00PM

Wednesday Night Bible study is a great way to keep your heart and mind on God! Join us for an interactive, in-depth reflection on the scriptures and how they can be applied to your life.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/6831601413>

Enter the meeting ID 683 160 1413 when prompted.

Join Zoom by Phone: 646-558-8656



Join us as we explore and diagnose our spiritual health.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/6831601413>

Or dial in on your phone:  
(646) 558-8656

Enter the meeting ID 683 160 1413 when prompted.

## Church Wide Events — Celebrating Community



150 Riverside Drive &  
West 87th Street, New  
York, NY 10024

Each 2nd Saturday Central goes to The Riverside center to bring the residents a worship service. Come and bring a willing heart to serve. We meet at the church at 10:00AM, Walk over to the center as a group. Ministry ends around 12 noon. See the upcoming dates.

November 9

December 14

January 11, 2025



If you are a part of the CBC community and you are in need of support for a Thanksgiving meal, please speak with your Deacon or contact the church office at (212)724-4004 or email [info@centralbaptistnyc.org](mailto:info@centralbaptistnyc.org) with "Thanksgiving Support" in the Subject line.



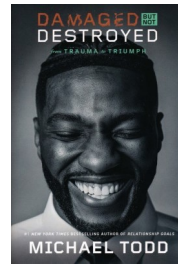


Friendsgiving is a casual meal shared with friends during the Thanksgiving season. It is a time to be thankful for God's gifts and to spend time with loved ones. We are excited to fellowship with you. Please RSVP via email at [tglenn@centralbaptistnyc.org](mailto:tglenn@centralbaptistnyc.org), phone at 212.724.4004, signup sheet in sanctuary foyer, or at the below link: <https://cbcofnyc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2546393>

### Senior Technology Class

**"Basic Cell Phone Usage"**  
**Wednesdays**  
**11:00am to 12 Noon**  
**Miss Ann's Room**

## Senior Ministry Events



### SENIOR BOOK CLUB

Saturday, November 2, 2024

2:00pm to 4:00pm

Miss Ann's Room

"Damaged but not Destroyed"  
 by Michael Todd

## Senior Ministry. Exercise Program

Saturday, November 9—Chapel  
 Saturday, November 23—Miss Ann's  
 Saturday, November 30—Chapel

### In Retrospect — continued

#### Tea Time and Fellowship --- continued

attendees educated the guests on the physical and emotional benefits of nature. She captured the true essence of the Garden of Love: Take the love of God to others by visiting nursing home residents and providing a nature space for all to enjoy. A very talented singer, who had kept his gift a secret until now, serenaded the group with a beautiful song, to the delight of everyone.

The event included a fashion show, showcasing hat wear for men and women. It was a blessing to have models, male and female of all ages, modeling to Christian music. The youngest models were adorable 7 year old little girls.

Tea time, served in the adjacent rooms of the garden, was decorated in colors of yellow, green and shades of purple and adorned with enormous sunflower bouquets. An assortment of teas, selected cakes, tea sandwiches and fruit were the food offerings.

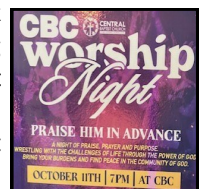
The event concluded with special words from Pastor John. Afterwards, the guests remained to fellowship and enjoy one another.

*"Celebrate the beauty of nature God has provided while enjoying the fellowship of others."*

## WEEKEND OF WORSHIP

by Sharrata Hunt

**CBC** Worship Night took place on Friday evening October 11<sup>th</sup> at 7PM. It was a wonderful time of praise and fellowship. It reminded me of something I had not expected.



Worship if more than singing, clapping, shouting and raised hands. It's reflection and sharing with one another. As salt enhances the flavor of the food we eat, so too does the vulnerability of our sisters and brothers who open themselves to the Lord enhances our worship.

On that night, the Music Ministry set up in the Chapel. They created an intimate environment. They strung lights and set up a half circle of four rows of chairs. Although we would have preferred the room be filled to overflowing, being in a smaller space still fostered closeness.

Willana had given each member of the team an assignment to come with a scripture and share its personal meaning, any insights and/or a testimony. For instance, one of the members read Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you,

## Praying Together

**W**ith so many opportunities to pray corporately with one another, here is some information that will help you remember the various requests and praise reports to create your own prayer journal.

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH	CITY, STATE & COUNTRY
Pastor Fils-Aime	New York City
Pastor Robert Casteline	Leadership of NYC, State and Country
Willana Mack Hudson	The World and personal circumstances
Deacons & Elders	
Ministries	<i>Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16</i>
Missionaries	
Members and Friends of Central	
Sick and Shut-in	

**The sanctuary is open during the week Monday-Thursday between 10:00A and 6:00P to anyone who desires a quiet place to pray.**

### **DAILY PRAYER MEETING BY CONFERENCE PHONE**

Led by Elder Deryck and Sonya Tonge  
(609) 746-1164  
Access Code: 667293#  
Monday — Friday  
6-6:30 AM

### **EVENING PRAYER**

Friday, November 29, 2024  
At 7:00PM  
Via Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/6831601413>

Enter the meeting ID 683 160 1413 when prompted.  
Phone: 646-558-8656

***L***et us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16

## Praying for our Leadership

**B**elow are the names of our Elders, Trustees and Deacons. Please pray for them and their families. As members of our congregation, we each have a Deacon who will reach out to you periodically to see how you're doing and if you have any needs or prayer requests. If you don't know who your Deacon is, email [deaconsasmarch2024@groups.outlook.com](mailto:deaconsasmarch2024@groups.outlook.com) or call the church office and leave a message for the Deacons requesting a call from your Deacon.



### ELDERS

Rev. John Fils-Aime  
Rev. Robert Casteline\*  
Vincent Clark\*

\*Interim for 1 year



### TRUSTEES


Yulando McMullen, Trustee  
Myrna Phillips Gibson, Trustee  
Taji Phillips, Trustee



### DEACONS

Deacon AnnDenise Brown  
Deacon Kimberly Casteline  
Deacon Otis Coleman  
Deacon Sharrata Hunt  
Deacon/Trustee Yulando McMullen  
Deacon Michelle Newkirk  
Deacon Joyce Powell  
Deacon Sherry Reid  
Deacon Esther Romero  
Deacon Jean Thelusme



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>MONDAY-FRIDAY</b> <b>6-6:30A Prayer on</b> <b>Conference call</b>			<b>1</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>2</b> 10:00-11:30A- Pickleball  2-4P- Senior Book Club
<b>3</b> 9:45A ---Adult Sun- day School  9:45A ---Abundant Life---Nursery  11A-SUNDAY WOR- SHIP  11:15-Sunday Youth Group	<b>4</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>5</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call  7PM-Tuesday Talk Back	<b>6</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Confer- ence call  12P-Midweek Prayer- Phone;  11A-12P---Senior Technol- ogy Class  12P Senior Bible Study- Chapel  7P-Wed Nite Bible Study--- ZOOM	<b>7</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Con- ference call	<b>8</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>9</b> 10A-RIVERSIDE RE- HAB (Meet at Cen- tral)  10:00-11:30A- Pickleball  11:00-11:45A-Senior Exercise---Chapel
<b>10</b> 9:45A ---Adult Sun- day School  9:45A ---Abundant Life---Nursery  11A-SUNDAY WOR- SHIP  11:15-Sunday Youth Group	<b>11</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>12</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call  7PM-Tuesday Talk Back	<b>13</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Confer- ence call  12P-Midweek Prayer- Phone;  11A-12P---Senior Technol- ogy Class  12P Senior Bible Study- Chapel  7P-Wed Nite Bible Study--- ZOOM	<b>14</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Con- ference call	<b>15</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>16</b> 10:00-11:30A- Pickleball  <b>2P-Senior Thanks- giving Luncheon- Chapel</b>
<b>17</b> 9:45A ---Adult Sun- day School  9:45A ---Abundant Life---Nursery  11A-SUNDAY WOR- SHIP  11:15-Sunday Youth Group	<b>18</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>19</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call  7PM-Tuesday Talk Back	<b>20</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Confer- ence call  12P-Midweek Prayer- Phone;  11A-12P---Senior Technol- ogy Class  12P Senior Bible Study- Chapel  7P-Wed Nite Bible Study--- ZOOM	<b>21</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Con- ference call	<b>22</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>23</b> 10:00-11:30A- Pickleball  11:00-11:45A-Senior Exercise---Ms. Ann's  <b>3:00P- FRIENDSGIV- ING---Chapel</b>
<b>24</b> 9:45A ---Adult Sun- day School  9:45A ---Abundant Life---Nursery  11A-SUNDAY WOR- SHIP  11:15-Sunday Youth Group	<b>25</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>26</b> -6:30A Prayer on Conference call  7PM-Tuesday Talk Back	<b>27</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Confer- ence call  12P-Midweek Prayer- Phone;  11A-12P---Senior Technol- ogy Class  12P Senior Bible Study- Chapel  7P-Wed Nite Bible Study--- ZOOM	<b>28</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Con- ference call  <b>THANKSGIVING DAY</b> 	<b>29</b> <b>7P-Evening Prayer</b> <b>via Zoom</b>	<b>30</b> 10:00-11:30A- Pickleball  11:00-11:45A-Senior Exercise---Chapel

**R**emember this: *Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.*  
**2 Corinthians 9:6-8**

**Keep  
Central's  
finances in  
prayer!**

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



**CBC**  
**Capital Campaign**  
**Building Facade**

**T**o help offset the costs  
of the repairs, we  
kindly request that EACH  
MEMBER contribute.  
Campaign Goal: 100,000.00.

**Amount  
collected as of  
10/30/24  
\$38,810.18**

## MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH

10% of Central's tithes and offerings go to support our missionaries.

### DALE BELLI

The Urban Life Source Connection



**D**ale is one of our local missionaries who CBC supports. On September 28, 2024 we had our Missions Conference. It was an honor to finally meet Dale in person.

Dale continues to have her weekly Bible studies in all five boroughs. The people attending her classes and receiving God's word are people with AIDS. (PWA)

Every year during the month of December. Dale visits at least 8 Nursing homes. She shares the gospel through giving Christmas parties and presents.

#### Prayer Requests:

- A mini van for the ministry and enough gifts to receive during the Christmas season.
- Please pray for those that accept Christ, to find a local church to attend.

Contributions can be sent to The Urban Life Source Connection  
P.O. Box 2732  
Clifton, NJ 07015

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



### November Birthdays

*Another year older is also another year of learning to pray, to love, and to feel God's grace. Here's to many more!*

Cameron Davis	11/5
Leroy Chisholm	11/7
Guerline Marcelin	11/9
BJ McDonald	11/10
Jackson Gee	11/13
Lisa Copeland	11/14
Tianna Newkirk	11/18
Destiny Jean-Michel	11/20
M. Esther Romero	11/23
Maya Newkirk	11/24
Sharaé Moultrie	11/24
Savannah Eaddy	11/27
Dorothy Lambiri	11/30



**Newsletter Staff:** Pastor Robert Casteline, Oversight; Paulette Forbes-Igharo and Sharrata Hunt. Special thanks to Jill Fortune, Nadja Hicks, Debby Diaz, and Tanya Glenn.



plans to give you hope and a future.” (NIV) This team member was willing to openly share a thought many of us have had at one time or another – What is my purpose? In seeking an answer, she honed in on God which changed the way she prayed.



Sharrata Hunt. *Praise on Fire.*  
Acrylic on canvas.

Another member shared from Psalm 30:5: *For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.* We should hold on to God even in difficult times because joy is coming. This was followed by a time prayer in small groups. What a blessing it is when a teenager asks, “How can I pray for you?”

Just before the benediction, Pastor Robert urged us to leave with “an unceasing attitude of worship.”

The next day, Saturday the 12th, a few of us went to bring the Baptist worship service to the residents of Riverside Rehabilitation. After a time of visiting with the residents, the started. We sang three songs one of which was “Holy, Holy, Holy,” we prayed for the residents’ prayer requests and Pastor Robert brought a short homily.

His text was from Psalm 29:1-2. *Ascribe to the Lord, you heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.* He opened with an illustration of being at a school dance, middle school I think, and a girl he had a crush on asked him to dance. He was delighted. Pastor’s point—God is inviting us to the dance. Let’s be delighted to come and worship.

Worship is always new again. We sing Holy, Holy, Holy. How often have we sung that song! It never gets old. God is good and wonderful. There is no end to Him or our worship.

Robert referenced Isaiah 6:3 where we hear the angels “calling to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.” (NIV)

Worship is about God. Songs and words are the vehicle to get us to God. Worship is a communal experience even if we don’t personally feel it at the time. It’s a chance to be with each other and experience that dynamic and take joy in each other’s worship.

And then on Sunday, October 13th, we came full circle repeating songs from Friday evening. It was a weekend of worship; and, a weekend I pray, will be repeated soon so that more and more of us at Central can take part together in the holy, joyful worship of the God of the universe and Savior of our souls, and live inspired lives with an unceasing attitude of worship.



## The Last Word

by Nadja Hicks

*Come to me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28 (HCSB)*

**E**ach morning before daybreak, I’d put sweats and a parka on over my pajamas and go pray at the Catholic church across the street from my house. Since they were open at that hour, many homeless slept there, especially in winter.

During the freezing predawn there was something holy about a church providing shelter from the bitter cold of the outside world. When I searched for a free pew, careful not to disturb anyone, more than once someone hurried to move as though they were in the way. They were always respectful, almost apologetic about needing safe harbor. As I declined their offers gratefully, how could I explain that we had more in common than they knew? That God’s invitation extends beyond the cold darkness outdoors and applies to more than weather and a building? All of us were there in some way seeking shelter in the open arms of a loving God.

I didn’t see homeless men in pews, I saw the broken embraced, the weary given rest. In their quiet slumber, the Father’s heart amplified to a strong steady beat as loud as a drum. Seldom had I felt the sweet weight of God’s Spirit more heavily than on those mornings.



First Corinthians 3:16 reads, “Don’t you yourselves know that you are God’s sanctuary and that the Spirit of God lives in you?”

A true but staggering declaration. Since we are earthen vessels containing inestimable treasure, perhaps the sanctuary of those mornings is not limited to a place, but found in a people. Could it be that wherever we are, we have an opportunity to not only receive rest, but offer it? Perhaps we bring the Lord’s refreshing rest anyplace we go. Living shelters from the darkness and cold, sanctuaries at the grocery store, the bank, the office, and in as many places and forms as there are believers willing to give it? Perhaps in ways we never anticipated?

Rest may be a cup of cold water, or hot coffee, a listening ear, a kind word spoken, a hand extended in silent welcome...

Doors that are always open, not of a building but of our surrendered hearts.