

Reaching Wide & Growing Deeper



December Theme: Come Lord, Come!

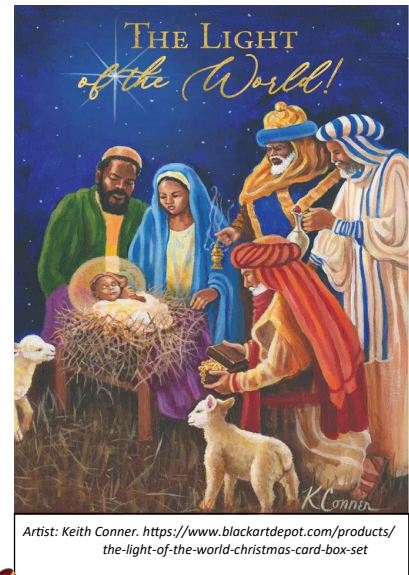
December Fighter Verse: Isaiah 40:9-10

You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power, and He rules with a mighty arm. See, His reward is with Him, and His recompense accompanies Him.

OUR WORSHIP IN-PERSON

LIVESTREAM, FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE @ 11:00AM
www.centralbaptistnyc.org

CONGREGATIONAL BUSINESS MEETING
December 18, 7PM
In Person and Zoom



Nursery available at 10:45a — Infant to 5 years old

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— Friendsgiving Dinner

On Saturday, November 23, 2024, Central Baptist Church hosted its first annual Friendsgiving Dinner in the chapel.



Special thanks to Tanya Glenn who spearheaded a wonderful event.

The chapel decorations were creative and festive. The tables were covered with white tablecloths and gold runners. Each place setting included a beige napkin on clear plastic gold rimmed plates with gold and brown utensils on round crosshatched placemats, and a printed menu. Square vase centerpieces with gray and white feather plumes adorned each table.

continued on page 2

DECEMBER DEVOTIONAL

Comfort and Joy and Why Jesus Was Born in a Stable!

By Debby Holland Diaz MA ThM

*And she brought forth her first-born son and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.
(Luke 2: 7 KJV)*

We can faithfully assume that the manger was in a stable, so why was Jesus born in a stable? From a Devotional Standpoint, the word “comfort” comes to mind: Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus were inside and out of the elements. Don’t we want comfort from Our Savior Jesus Christ, especially at this Season of Comfort and Joy? Wouldn’t we have wished for Him to be born in the most comfortable setting possible in a small city crowded with people there to be taxed, like Jesus’ earthly father was?

As we continue through this Christmas Season, I wish for each of you to find comfort and joy! It is my personal joy to share with you the facts I learned at seminary about why Jesus was born in a stable: according to Jewish law in Leviticus 12:2, a woman who bore a male child became “unclean” for seven days. During a busy season, no innkeeper could allow a woman to give birth in his inn; it would have made the entire place unclean for seven days. I also learned that the most correct translation of the Greek word **topos** is “**proper** place.” A stable was the only proper place available to “The Holy Family.”



Source: https://www.vectorstock.com/royalty-free-vectors/jesus-stable-vectors-page_10

While these facts can help us see in a new light the many Christmas songs and pageants about pregnant Mary and her husband Joseph searching in vain for a vacant room, they in no way diminish the joy of such songs and pageants! Indeed, we can rejoice that a thoughtful innkeeper probably made his stable as comfortable as possible for them!

The Bible doesn’t talk about the animals in the stable that “Holy Night Divine When Christ Was Born,” but, from the many mentions of them in the Scriptures, we know God loves animals, so it is easy to imagine that cows, donkeys

and sheep were there and perhaps doves in the rafters cooing the Holy Infant to sleep. For a real Christmas treat, please google the Christmas song, “The Friendly Beasts.”

Let us take a moment to meditate on Jesus, His earthly parents and the animals in the stable and to thank God for bringing The Savior of the World into the world!

Let us reach out with comfort and joy to each other and to travelers, most especially to strangers who may be lonely this Christmas Season. Together at church, let us come up with and share some specific ways we might bring both comfort and joy into the lives of others. Most importantly, let us remember how much God loves each and every person and animals that Almighty God has created!



In Retrospect— Friendsgiving—continued from page 1

The menu included a variety of appetizers, main courses and desserts accompanied by beverages of punch and water generously donated and prepared by members and friends.



There wasn’t a formal program but, before we ate, Latisha Smith hosted a time where we expressed our gratitude for family, friends, and the church. Later we put our names in a box for the raffle of a gift basket which was won by an invited guest.

Everything was lovely and we enjoyed an afternoon of fellowship and fun. Though the created atmosphere was perfect, the overarching feeling was love for one another and a witness to God’s love for everyone created in His image.

Again, many thanks to Tanya and appreciation to the staff, friends who made donations and the volunteers who helped with set up, serving and clean up.

Let’s pray regularly for this event as we look forward to next year’s Friendsgiving Dinner. Well done.

Sharrata Hunt



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

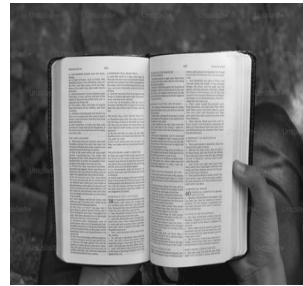
11:15AM—2nd, 3rd & 4th Sundays

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

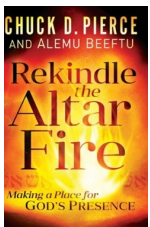


Join us as we explore and diagnose our spiritual health.

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.

Senior Ministry Events



SENIOR BOOK CLUB

Saturday, February 1st

2-4pm, Miss Ann's Room

Rekindle the Altar Fire—Making a place for God's presence

by Chuck D. Pierce & Alumu Beftue

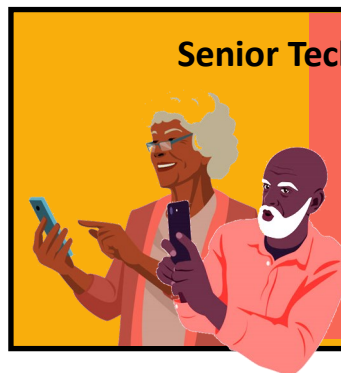
Senior Technology Class

"Basic Cell Phone Usage"

Wednesdays

11:00am to 12 Noon

Miss Ann's Room



Senior Ministry. Exercise Program

Saturday, December 7—Chapel

Saturday, December 14—Miss Ann's

Saturday, December 28—Chapel

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

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.

December 14
Special Christmas
Concert

January 11, 2025

February 8, 2025



November's Riverside volunteers:
Georgia Ana Coates, Pastor Robert,
Aliana Soto, Karen Bobbseple,
Lisa Parson, Chris Phillips, Sharrata
Hunt, Vincent Clark



Saturdays
10-11:30AM in Lower Gym

Open to the public.
All levels.
Equipment available.



WOMEN'S
DISCIPLESHIP
CHRISTMAS PARTY
Secret Santa
Monday, December 16
6:30p in the Chapel
Gift: \$15.00

Prayer Walk

December 21

Meet at Central—10am

Christmas Concert

December 21

7pm

CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Tuesday, December 24
6:30pm



WATCHNIGHT SERVICE
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31

Movie—8pm;
Refreshments—10pm
Service—11pm

Praying Together

With 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, December 27, 2024
At 7:00PM
Via Zoom

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

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

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

Praying for our Leadership

Below 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 or call the church office and leave a message requesting a call from your Deacon.



ELDERS

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

*Interim for 1 year



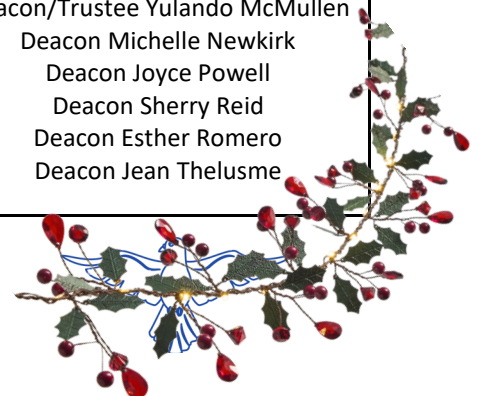
TRUSTEES

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

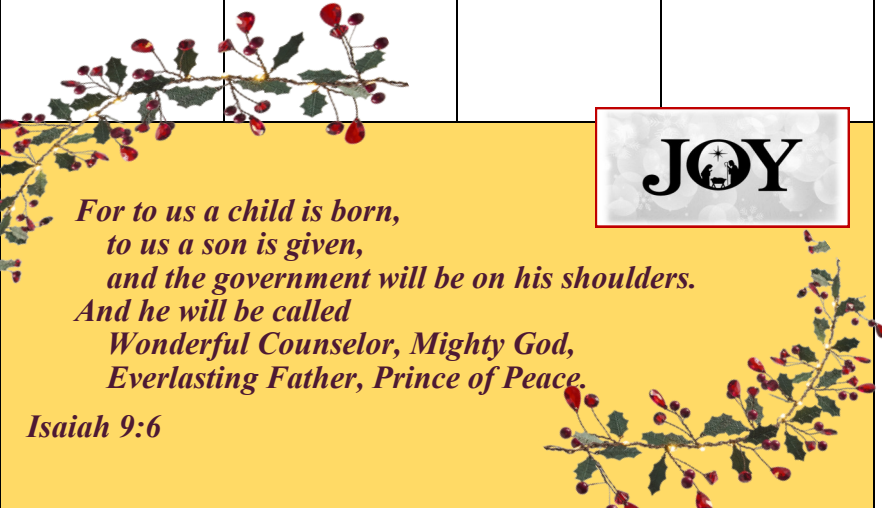


DEACONS

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



December 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:45A —Adult Sunday School 9:45A —Abundant Life—Choir Room 10:45A-Nursery Ministry Available 11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP 11:15-Sunday Youth Group	2 MONDAY-FRIDAY 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	3 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 7PM-Tuesday Talk Back	4 30A Prayer on Conference call 12P-Midweek Prayer-Phone; 11A-12P—Senior Technology Class 12P Senior Bible Study-Chapel 7P-Wed Nite Bible Study—ZOOM	5	6	7 10:00-11:30A-Pickleball 3PM-Family Game Day
8 9:45A —Adult Sunday School 9:45A —Abundant Life—Choir Room 11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP 11:15-Sunday Youth Group	9 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	10 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 7PM-Tuesday Talk Back	11 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 12P-Midweek Prayer-Phone; 11A-12P—Senior Technology Class 12P Senior Bible Study-Chapel 7P-Wed Nite Bible Study—ZOOM	12 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	13 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	14 10A-RIVERSIDE REHAB CONCERT (Meet at Central) 10:00-11:30A-Pickleball 11:00-11:45A-Senior Exercise—Chapel
15 9:45A —Adult Sunday School 9:45A —Abundant Life—Choir Room 11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP 11:15-Sunday Youth Group	16 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 6:30-8:30PM-Women's Discipleship Christmas Party-\$15 Secret Santa	17 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 7PM-Tuesday Talk Back	18 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 12P-Midweek Prayer-Phone; 11A-12P—Senior Technology Class 12P Senior Bible Study-Chapel 7P-CONGREGATIONAL MEETING—In Person & ZOOM	19 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	20 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	21 10AM-Prayer Walk 10:00-11:30A-Pickleball 2P-Senior Christmas Luncheon-Chapel 7PM-Christmas Concert
22 9:45A —Adult Sunday School 9:45A —Abundant Life—Choir Room 10:45A-Christmas Caroling 11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP 11:15-Sunday Youth Group	23 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	24 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 6:30P—CANDLELIGHT SERVICE	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	27 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 7pm-Evening Prayer Zoom	28 10:00-11:30A-Pickleball 11:00-11:45A-Senior Exercise—Ms. Ann's
29 9:45A —Adult Sunday School 9:45A —Abundant Life—Nursery 11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP 11:15-Sunday Youth Group	30 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	31 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call WATCHNIGHT SERVICE 8p-Movie 10pm-Refreshments 11p-Service	 <p> <i>For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.</i> <i>Isaiah 9:6</i> </p> <p>JOY</p>			

MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH

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

Barry and Peggy Owen

NEWS FROM BARRY AND PEGGY OWEN

Asking God how to share the Gospel in a meaningful way has become a regular prayer request. It is critical to know who your audience is. Most of the elderly in DaKangland have never heard of Jesus. They have spent their lives worshipping ancestors and idols and have a completely different worldview. To become a Christian would impact (perhaps rupture) the fabric of their family and community relationships. Last summer when we began preparations for an outreach to the elderly, we had to decide where our focus would be. Would we be a small group Bible study to which the believers in the community could invite friends? Or would we be a pre-evangelism outreach we could build relationships and sometime in the future share Jesus more directly? And so we prayed - how do we share the Gospel in meaningful ways?



Last year, the Fu-le group began an exercise class. We were amazed at the response. Some came out of curiosity and others because a friend invited them. God had provided a wonderful team of co-workers who led exercise, took blood pressure readings, served tea and communicated Jesus' love to the elderly, each week. Exercise is important but we still prayed, "How do we share Jesus in a meaningful way?" Some co-workers have shared testimonies and Bible stories. A few months ago, one of the women expressed a desire for a small Bible study after exercise class. Now we have our own Bible study for anyone interested. We praise God for this next step in sharing Jesus.

PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Bible study group - that women continue to be interested and curious. They will want to learn more about Jesus.
2. Housing- Smooth settling into new home.
3. Exercise class - for the elderly, lonely and isolated, which will continue to bring people together.

We are grateful to God who has made it possible for Missions' approval to buy new housing for our use. Some renovations are necessary and God has placed people in our lives who can get the work done.

Barry and Peggy

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Aaron Foster	12/1
Chima Joseph	21/1
Cometia Banfield	12/2
Theresa Richardson	12/3
Ketty Pierre	12/5
Emperor Van Buren	12/7
Preston Gordon	12/10
Christopher White	12/11
Elijah Winn	12/12
Gwendolyn Myles-Chisholm	12/12
Tyerra Dickerson-Porter	12/13
Lorraine Davis	12/14
Theadora Brown	12/14
Lydia Endale	12/16
Paul Levell	12/19
Edwina Chambers	12/20
Maria Negron	12/20
Toni Barton	12/20
Tara Dickerson-Parker	12/22
Vincent Clark	12/22
Vincent Gerardi	12/22
Dana Wright	12/23
Andrew White	12/26
Sharrata Hunt	12/26
Patresse Phillips	12/28
Zaria Dickerson-Parker	12/29
Guilene Eloi	12/30
Hezekiah Triumph	12/30
Herbert Moore	12/31

December Event Calendar

- Dec. 7th – CBC Family Game Day - 3 PM
- Dec. 14th – Christmas Concert - Riverside - 10 AM
- Dec. 16th – Women's Discipleship Christmas Party - 6:30-8:30 PM. \$15 Secret Santa
- Dec. 18th – Congregational Meeting - 7 PM
- Dec. 21st – Prayer Walk - 10 AM
- Dec. 21st – Christmas Concert - 7 PM
- Dec. 21st – Senior Luncheon - 2-4 PM
- Dec. 22nd – Christmas Caroling - 10:45 AM
- Dec. 24th – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 6:30 PM
- Dec. 31st – Watchnight Service – Movie – 8 PM, Refreshments – 10 PM, Service – 11 PM



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

CBC
Capital Campaign
Building Facade

Campaign Goal: 100,000.00.
Amount collected as
of 12/2/2024
\$39,388.18

Remember 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

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

The Last Word

by Nadja Hicks

Then she gave birth to her firstborn Son, and she wrapped Him snugly in cloth and laid Him in a feeding trough—because there was no room for them at the lodging place.
Luke 2:7 (HCSB)

At Christmastime we put up decorations, sing carols, give and receive presents, prepare to host or look forward to being guests, and enjoy our favorite Christmas traditions. A season full of gingerbread flavored this, candy cane scented that...

As believers in Christ, though we enjoy this “icing” on the holiday “cake”, we know the real substance is that unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given (Isaiah 9:6). The Savior born amidst the mean things of life, among the common aspects of living. In this light, Christmastime uplifts as it humbles; bows our heads and fills our hearts, as it raises us to heaven.

And I think of...onesies.

We can generally agree that newborns require gentle handling. It matters what they touch, and what touches them. Extensive measures are even taken to protect them from the slightest discomfort or irritations. One of the most basic precautions being those wonderfully soft tagless onesies. When I think of newborns, I think of onesies. But at Christmastime I also think of that starlit night in Bethlehem.



The first night of Jesus' human life wasn't spent nestled in a fluffy bassinet. Or even in a onesie. Jesus was in a stable. With a feeding trough for a crib.

Our Savior entered this world in a tiny body not yet bolstered against the elements, subject to perils and pain. What was it like that night taking every care to keep Him warm, safe, comfortable and fed when everything provided originated from Him? How big and small the God of All Creation must have been in Mary's loving arms when He was only minutes old. Newly born Jesus, fully infant yet fully God, He could get hungry and feel cold. Jesus so intimately connected with humanity that the world He created could now touch Him back. *Selah.*

Let us linger awhile beside that simple manger and the cherished newborn asleep there snuggled in cloth. Yes, come let us adore Him. Oh, come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord...

Immanuel, God not at a distance but *with* us, close enough to touch.

