

Reaching Wider & Growing Deeper

**APRIL, 2025
NEWSLETTER**

April Theme: Fake News

April Fighter Verse—Colossians 2:8

See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.

OUR WORSHIP IN-PERSON

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

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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**Celebrate, Rejoice
He is Risen
He is Risen INDEED!
Sunday, April 20**

DECORATIVE AND COMMEMORATIVE EASTER LILIES ORDER NOW!

If you would like to order an Easter lily to honor a family member or friend and to beautify the sanctuary for worship on Resurrection Sunday, call the church office (212)724-4004 during office hours Monday -Thursday 10am—6pm and speak to Tanya Glenn.



NOTES ON CBC'S THE JOURNEY TO BECOMING FAST

by Sharrata Hunt

In preparation for the Journey to Becoming Fast, Pastor Robert Casteline spent two weeks in Sunday School on the subject of fasting. I will be sharing from some of my notes taken during the classes.

What is Fasting?

Fasting is abstaining for spiritual purposes. Traditionally it is abstaining from food but in our modern times we can abstain from anything we feel might be controlling us; things that in and of themselves are not bad or sinful, but they can take over time that could be spent engaging in what I like to call the "Whatsoevers" in Philippians 4:8.

Finally, [brothers and sisters], whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest [noble], whatsoever things are just [right], whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of

continued on page 3

APRIL DEVOTIONAL

The Harmony of the Gospels on Resurrection Sunday

By Debby Holland Diaz MA ThM

By the time we receive this April Newsletter, we will be in the middle of the Journey to Becoming Fast—giving up some food or activity we love—as we look forward to Holy Week and celebrating the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ!

My Easter prayer is that these delightfully differing details from Mark (said to have been the first Gospel written,) Matthew, Luke and John will enhance your Eastertide! Mark's accounts and Matthew's accounts of the greatest true story every told both supplement and complement each other. Luke and John each give us some unique information!

Because Jesus lived on Earth as a Jew/*Rabi*/Master Teacher, it is fitting to begin our series of Resurrection Day happenings just after the Sabbath ended (around 6:00 PM Saturday,) so that Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome could buy spices with which to anoint Jesus' body.

How Will We Roll?

Mark asks the women's question regarding the big rock blocking the entrance to Jesus' tomb as they approach it "very early on the first day of the week," (Mark 16: 2) and Matthew answers it: Earthquake! "...an angel of The Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it." (Mt. 28: 2-4)



Illustration by David Huth

Matthew 28:3 describes this angel like "lightning," dressed "white as snow." By now the tomb-guards are scared to death, "as dead men" (Mt. 28:4), but only a few verses later (Mt. 28:11-15,) they will run to town, tell the Religious Big Shots everything and be richly bribed by them to say that His disciples stole Jesus' corpse. This lie "was spread abroad among the Jews and *continueth* until this day." (Mt. 28:15d)

Don't you think it's time, Brothers and Sisters in Christ, that we told our Jewish Brothers and Sisters here in New York City The Truth?

Mark's "man in a white robe" (Mk.16:5) is, according to Matthew, the angel who told the women not to be afraid as they entered the empty tomb: "...Ye seek Jesus who has been crucified; he is not here, for he has risen, even as he has said. Come see the place where the Lord lay." (Mt.28: 5-7a) The angel then commissions the women to be among the first evangelists of the Living Christ! (*The Woman at the Well was the very first.* John 4: 1-42) Now "go quickly," says Matthew's angel "and tell his disciples (Mt. 28:7; Mark 16:7 adds "and Peter") he is risen from the dead" and that Jesus will meet them in Galilee!

The women obey, running with joy into The Greatest Joy, Jesus

Himself! "And behold, Jesus met them saying, "All hail. And they came and took hold of his feet and worshipped him." (Mt. 28: 19-10) Jesus then sent them running on to tell his brothers to meet him in Galilee! Women were the first to talk with the Resurrected Jesus Christ!

What a glorious Resurrection Day! Sunday morning Jesus meets the women on the road back from the empty tomb and Sunday afternoon He meets Cleopas and another disciple on The Road to Emmaus! (Luke 24: 13-32)



Artist: He Qi

With Luke we enjoy one of the best writers in the Bible, telling us of two "dazzling" men in the tomb who ask the perplexed women "why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here but is risen: remember how he spake to you when he was yet in Galilee" (that he would be) "crucified and the third day rise again. And they remembered his words." (Luke 24: 5-6)

Luke acknowledges all the women evangelists: They "...returned from the tomb and told all these things to the eleven and to all they met. Now they were Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James *and the other women with them* and they told these things unto the apostles." (Luke 24: 9-11)

Luke gives the male disciples' first reaction to the women's Good News: "they disbelieved them" (Lk. 24:11b) Later on, which disciple was the first man to believe that Jesus was Resurrected? Luke suggests it was Peter (Lk.24:34b-35a,) and John says it was John! (Jn. 20:9) Be that as it may, I believe Luke, author of "the Road to Emmaus," deserves his own Easter Feature in a church newsletter (Luke 24: 13-32) and so does John with Chapters 20 and 21 of his Gospel!

What I find most touching about Resurrection Sunday is how Our Loving Lord appeared first to Mary Magdalene, weeping alone early Sunday morning. She didn't recognize Him until He said her name! (John 20:11-16) Likewise, when Jesus appeared to Cleopas and his companion Sunday afternoon, walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus, they didn't know who He was, not even when, "beginning from Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself." (Luke 24: 27b) Not until that evening, when Jesus blessed the bread, broke it and gave it to them did they recognize the Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! (Lk. 24: 31)

How often have we failed to recognize the Risen Lord Jesus in our midst? Even when He is right there waiting to listen to us, feed us and bless us!

May we, this Resurrection Sunday and from now on, recognize Christ with us, no matter where, no matter when, no matter with whom, and may we witness to the fact that He is Lord and Savior of all! Praise Jesus! He is risen indeed!

The title of this devotional is based on my most precious book from my Dad, Rev. W.T. Holland's pastoral library: Robertson, A.T., A Harmony of The Gospels for Students of The Life of Christ. Chicago: A.P. Blessing Co., 1922

This month's devotional brings to light an important aspect of Bible Study. Comparison. When we look at scripture, the Gospels in particular, we get an enhanced view of Our Savior. How do you experience Jesus? What part of His life and ministry do you tend to focus on? Just as the tables from the *Life Application Bible* below illustrate the different ways the disciples saw Jesus, each of our stories, as we share our walk with Christ, will be diverse perspectives all rendering a picture of the same Savior.

Thank you Debby for bringing this important aspect of study to our attention.

Sharrata Hunt

How the Resurrection is told in the Gospels

Event	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene		16:9-11		20:11-18
Jesus appears to the Women	28:8-10			
Religious leaders bribe guards	28:11-15			
Jesus appears to two believers traveling on the Road		16:12-13	24:13-35	
Jesus appears to the disciples			24:36-43	20:19-23
Jesus appears to the disciples including Thomas		16:14		20:24-31



Fasting—continued from page 1

good report [admirable]; if there be any virtue [excellent], and if there be any praise [or praiseworthy], think on these things. (KJV) [NIV]

This is important because so many of our habits good and bad begin first in our thought life. This can also prompt a couple of questions we can ask ourselves: What's controlling me and what am I like? Fasting reveals what's going on with us that takes us off mission. Our cravings often lead us to enslavement.

Why do we fast?

The answer is simple. But it is not easy. We fast to get closer to God. To center on God. That should be our motivation. As we draw closer by denying ourselves, it surfaces what dominates us. In 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 Paul writes:

*Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. **No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to***

others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

On the prayer guide for the fast it states, "We fast to become more of who God has made us to be. We want to remove distractions and focus on having the spirit of Christ inhabit us. During the Journey to Becoming Fast, we will have an opportunity to grow individually and more importantly, as a covenant community with our eyes on fulfilling the mission of God."

The first week of the fast was shaky of me. I did a reboot starting in the second week and reading the designated scriptures, I was struck by 2 Corinthians 5:21 - God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might **become** the righteousness of God." If we are the righteousness of God, then what adjustments can fasting help us make in order to, in fact, BE God's righteousness?

The fast began on March 17th and continues until April 16th. However you have decided to fast during this time, whether you are fasting from food, social media, TV, sugar/sweets, let this be a time as you get closer to God through prayer and meditating on His word where you start to see how God is shaping you and molding you into becoming the person He wants to be who ready, willing and able to fulfill the Mission – to share Jesus and make disciples.

Episodes and types of Fasts in the Bible

- Matthew 4:1-4—Jesus ate no food for 40 days
- Partial Fast: Daniel 10:3—he ate no choice foods for 3 weeks. Mourned after a vision of war.
- Total Fast: Esther 4:16—no food or water for three days. This fast was for a national emergency.
- Total Fast: Acts 9:9 — Saul aka Paul consumed no food or drink for 3 days after his conversion.

Church Wide Events Celebrating Community



Central Baptist Church Senior's Ministry

Invites you to: "NOAH"

Sight & Sound Theatre Lancaster, PA

Saturday, July 19, 2025

Leave Central at 8:00am – Return at 9:30pm

Tour Includes: Deluxe Motor Coach
Transportation, Buffet Luncheon at Millers Smorgasbord,
Shopping at Tanger's Outlet Discount Center

Cost: **\$240.00** Per Person (Deposit and 2 Payment)

Deposit of **\$40.00** due **ASAP** to Secure Seat.

Make Checks or Money Orders payable to:

Central Baptist Church (Note on check *Senior Trip*)

See Otis Coleman regarding payment plan. All payments are to be given to **Otis Coleman**.

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

APRIL 9—MEET IN CHOIR ROOM

If we're creating disciples properly, discipleship goes beyond personal improvement. We are preparing those who will embrace God's mission and are passionate to continue it.

Robert Casteline

Curious? Confused? Attend Wednesday in the Word.

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.

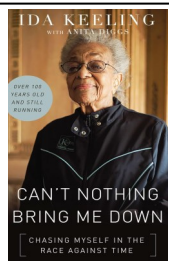
Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/6831601413>

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, April 5, 2025

2:00pm - 4:00pm Miss Ann's Room

"Can't Nothing Bring Me Down—Chasing Myself in the Race Against Time"

By Ida Keeling w/Anita Diggs



Senior Ministry Exercise Program

Time: 11:00am to 11:45am

Location: Chapel

Saturday, April 5

Saturday, April 12

Saturday, April 26

Senior Technology

"Basic Cell Phone Usage"

Wednesdays

11:00am to 12 Noon

NO CLASS APRIL 2

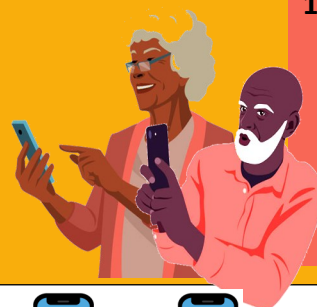
NO CLASS APRIL 9

April 16

April 23

April 30

Miss Ann's Room



SENIOR MINISTRY MONTHLY MEETING

Saturday, April 19, 2025

2pm to 4pm - Chapel

Praying Together

With so many opportunities to pray corporately with one another. Below are the leaders and ministries who need your prayers. Create a prayer journal and keep track of the requests and praise reports.

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH	CITY, STATE, COUNTRY & PERSONAL
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	
Missionaries	
Members and Friends of Central	
Sick and Shut-in	

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

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, April 28, 2025
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

Myrna Phillips Gibson
Taji Phillips



DEACONS

Deacon Kimberly Casteline
Deacon Otis Coleman
Deacon Sharrata Hunt
Deacon Michelle Newkirk
Deacon Joyce Powell
Deacon Sherry Reid
Deacon Esther Romero



April 2025

"The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
RESURRECTION SUNDAY APRIL 20		1 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 7PM-Tuesday Talk Back	2 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 11A-12P—Senior Technology Class 12P Senior Bible Study-Chapel	3 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	4 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	5 9:30A-12:00P-Pickleball 11:00-11:45A-Senior Exercise—Chapel 2p-Senior Book Club
6 9:45A —Adult Sunday School 11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP 11:15-Sunday Youth Group	7 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	8 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 7PM-Tuesday Talk Back	9 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 11A-12P—Senior Technology Class 12P Senior Bible Study-Chapel 7P-Wednesday Night Bible Study	10 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	11 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	12 10A-RIVERSIDE REHAB 9:30A-12:00P-Pickleball 11:00-11:45A-Senior Exercise—Chapel
13 PALM SUNDAY 9:45A —Adult Sunday School 11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP 11:15-Sunday Youth Group	14 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	15 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 7PM-Tuesday Talk Back	16 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 11A-12P—Senior Technology Class 12P Senior Bible Study-Chapel 7P-Wed Nite Bible Study—ZOOM	17 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	18 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	19 9:30A-12:00P-Pickleball 2P-Senior Ministry Meeting—Chapel
20 RESURRECTION SUNDAY 9:45A —Adult Sunday School 11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP 11:15-Sunday Youth Group	21 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	22 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 7PM-Tuesday Talk Back	23 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 11A-12P—Senior Technology Class 12P Senior Bible Study-Chapel 7P-Wed Nite Bible Study—ZOOM	24 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	25 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 7P-Evening Prayer Via Zoom	26 9:30A-12:00P-Pickleball 11:00-11:45A-Senior Exercise—Ms. Ann's
27 9:45A —Adult Sunday School 11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP 11:15-Sunday Youth Group	28 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	29 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 7PM-Tuesday Talk Back	30 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 11A-12P—Senior Technology Class 7P-Wed Nite Bible Study—ZOOM			

Missionary of the Month

Pastor Herode & Edline Guillomettre Haiti

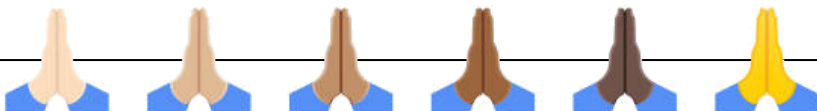


In a country that faces political turmoil, an uprising in Voodoo, and a lack of basic resources, Pastor Herode Guillomettre along with his wife Edline have been a Pillar of Hope in Haiti for over two decades. Pastor G, which he likes to be referred as, is not only an evangelist but a strong advocate for education and social reform.

Pastor G. and Edline have built the Kingdom of God in Haiti by saving lives amid the chaos. Prayers make their Ministry strong and solid in that country despite all the adversities they have encountered. With all the obstacles that the Guillomettres' face, they are determined to never give up and to continue to do their Ministry work with joy and happiness knowing they are serving God. Pastor Guillomettre finds great comfort in Isaiah 43: 1- 5 knowing that God is with him.

Pastor Guillomettre's Prayer requests are:

- Pray for our financial obligation this year to keep our schools open, especially for the schools of Deinlee and Leissa. This year is a challenge for us to pay the school and to meet our daily obligations. (Their monthly operating cost is \$2,500.00 US Dollars).
- Our church members have a lot of needs, please pray for them that God give them strength and courage to not abandon Him in their difficult time.
- Pray for Haiti's political, and security crisis marked by gang violence, economic turmoil, and widespread insecurity. Gang violence has severely impacted public services, including electricity, water, sanitation, health care, education, and transportation.



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

APRIL BIRTHDAYS



Wishing you a blessed birthday filled with laughter, love, and the warmth of God's presence."

<https://www.google.com/search?q=christian+birthday+wishes>

Erica Winn	4/4
Chris Gee	4/4
Eddie Sims	4/4
Jermaine Bolden	4/5
Ronald Pusey	4/6
Elijah Baptise	4/8
Grant Davis	4/9
Evan Triumph	4/9
Caritha Lee	4/11
Roderyck Lee	4/11
Lauren Jones	4/12
Azalee Evans	4/14
Iyanna Rivera	4/18
Eleise Menjivar	4/20
Anne Marie Stone	4/21
V. AnnDenise Brown	4/24
Betty Johnson	4/24
Gwendolyn Barnes	4/27
Aaliyah Yamageo	4/28
Sandra Richardson	4/29
Makayla Hudgins	4/29



MORE Church Wide and Community Events



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 10AM and walk over to the center as a group. Ministry ends around 12 noon. See the upcoming dates.

April 12

May 10

June 7



Saturdays
9:30-12 noon in Lower Gym

Open to the public.
All levels.
Equipment available.

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

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



**Campaign Goal: 100,000.00.
Will report quarterly.**

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

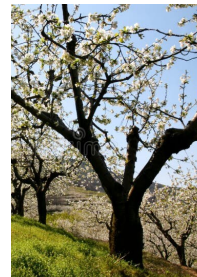
Springtime Renewal

by Nadja Hicks

Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout in triumph, Daughter Jerusalem! Look, your King is coming to you; He is righteous and victorious, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. - Zechariah 9:9 (HCSB)

Each year regardless of the treacherous winter preceding it, cherry trees bloom in Central Park. I try to go see the ones along a beautiful stretch of trail where tall branches crowded with gorgeous pale pink flowers arch halfway across the path. When the breeze is strong, loose petals fall like heavy rain and flood the path with pink. A vision fit for a wedding. More than once I've been blessed to get caught in that tender storm, petals fluttering around in a whirl. Then they seem more like thousands of butterflies overwhelming me with their friendly introductions. I've always left there grinning and breathless.

In the depths of winter those same trees don't look capable of that magnificent display. If anything, it seems the opposite. Like nothing good could come from them. Yet those forlorn- looking trees explode with the prettiest delicate flowers each year. They revive with such astonishing brilliance it's like they spent the whole winter stockpiling flowers, anxious to show them off come spring.



There is something touching and wonderful about Holy Week happening at this time of year, a reminder about death and Resurrection yet also the tumultuous road that led there.

Tornadoes happen most during spring. This season of hope and new beginnings is also when things are wildly stirred up. Yet frigid temperatures give way to warmth, hibernating animals awaken, green shoots sprout from formerly lifeless ground, trees and flowers come to life and they blanket fields and gardens with stunning color. Animals give birth to their young. Lambs and colts are born.

In spring, balmy mornings dawn after wintry nights like a victory. In spring, we commemorate the defeat of death and sin, and celebrate the conquering Savior who rose from the dead in a tomb and stood alive in a garden. In spring, life thrives all around as if arising in honor of the coming King. Springtime, in quiet company, becomes our silent but joyous companion wordlessly reflecting this sacred season and unfolding to celebrate alongside us.

