



Reaching Wider & Growing Deeper

**MAY, 2025
NEWSLETTER**

May Theme: Fake News

May Fighter Verse—Proverbs 29:25

Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe.

OUR WORSHIP IN-PERSON

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



May 11, 2025



To Moms Who Are

by Hannah Kardon

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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To the Moms who are struggling,
to those filled with incandescent joy.

To the Moms who are remembering children who have died, and pregnancies that miscarried.

To the Moms who decided other parents were the best choice for their babies, to the Moms who adopted those kids and loved them fierce.

To those experiencing frustration or desperation in infertility.

To those who knew they never wanted kids, and the ways they have contributed to our shared world.

To those who mothered colleagues, mentees, neighborhood kids, and anyone who needed it.

To those remembering Moms no longer with us.

To those moving forward from Moms who did not show love, or hurt those they should have cared for.

Today is a day to honor the unyielding love and care for others we call 'Motherhood,' wherever we have found it and in whatever ways we have found to cultivate it within ourselves.

Accessed 4/17/2025: <https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer-index/mothers-day-prayers>

MAY DEVOTIONAL

A Listening Heart

By Debby Holland Diaz MA ThM

Very truly I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run away from him because they do not know the voice of strangers. (John 10: 1-6, NRSV-New Revised Standard Version.)

The last place I lived in Spain was mostly rural then; springtime filled the countryside with white almond trees blossoming and white woolly sheep grazing in the green grass, with their little lambs beside them. Being an urbanite, I had never even touched a sheep, but I determined that, somehow, I would hold a baby lamb in my arms! I rode until I saw a shepherd; then I got off my moped and called to him. I climbed over the fence and slowly approached the shepherd with my request. He came right over, carrying a lamb, and he put it into my arms!

I was surprised and moved by how quickly the baby lamb cuddled against me, like a puppy or a kitten—but with very long legs! The shepherd and I were talking when, suddenly, I heard an odd sound, a sort of angry snarl! The mother sheep, standing not too far from the shepherd, snorted, stamped her feet and shook her head at me!

“Oh, I’ve made her mad. I’m sorry,” I said. I handed the lamb back to the shepherd, and the mother sheep immediately calmed down. The shepherd smiled at me.

“She just doesn’t know your voice,” he explained. We said our polite goodbyes. As the shepherd walked away, the mother sheep followed right behind him, and the lamb followed its mother. I felt God bring this scripture passage to my mind...

How much easier would our lives be if we could follow our Shepherd Jesus so simply and so trustingly? But we have to know His Voice!

With so many strange voices and strangers’ voices crashing in our ears, off of our screens, from all the crowds of strangers, how can we recognize the Voice of Jesus Christ? We study the scriptures, we worship the Lord, we pray. We do all these good things and then what happens? Does “a bandit” distract us? Does “a robber” try to steal our joy? Have we asked Jesus to help us discern *His Voice*? Have we ever mistaken the voice of a stranger for that of Our

Risen Lord? I confess I have even pretended I knew *that* voice just *had to* be Jesus telling me to do something I wanted to do! I hadn’t taken enough time to reflect on God’s Word, to be still and *listen* for Jesus Christ’s voice. Let us be like that mother sheep, passionately protecting the innocent and trustingly following the shepherd whose voice she knows by heart.



<https://utahvalley.church/john-10-1-21-knowing-the-shepherds-voice/>



LIKE MOTHER, LIKE DAUGHTER

A Mother’s Legacy of Service at Central Baptist Church

Barbara Antoinette Phillips

1940 - 2002

by Paulette Forbes-Igharo



Barbara Antoinette Benn was born and educated in Guyana but later moved to New York City with her sister Tessa where she attended and graduated from Hunter College of The City University of New York. She became a research scientist specializing in Molecular Biology. Barbara first served in this capacity at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and later at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Research Center.

She married David Phillips and together they had two daughters, Michelle and Alana, but David passed away from cancer when their daughters were quite young. In order to meet the challenges of providing for her two young daughters while working full-time, her parents assisted her by helping with Michelle’s upbringing. Therefore, Michelle went to live with her grandparents, George and Aileen in

Ontario, Canada from 1985-1997, and came to New York City during school holidays to visit her mother and her sister. Michelle stated that during this time the family lived at 70 West 95th Street so the family started attending Central Baptist Church because her mother liked the church and it was close to home.



Barbara Graduating from Hunter College

Barbara's dedication was not limited to her professional endeavors. She was also a dedicated Christian. The records at Central Baptist Church do not show that she was a member of the church; however, she diligently supported the work of the church. For example, in 1996 she was an integral member of the Missions Committee, and 1997 she served as the treasurer.

Michelle said that she also loved being at Central and was always excited to attend church whenever she visited her mom from Canada. She said that she especially loved the fellowship, so in addition to attending church services, she also started to serve and joined the Missions Committee with her mother because she wanted to know what it was about.



Barbara in the lab 1967

At the age when many young adults have the tendency to stop attending church, Michelle's attendance has been steadfast. When I asked her why she not only continues to come to church but spends such a large amount of her time there, she replied, "That's because of my excitement for the Lord." She added that when she lived with her grandparents being involved in church activities was an essential part of their lives, "Not going to church on Sundays" was not something they thought about.

Michelle accepted the Lord at Central in April 1990 and received the Right Hand of Fellowship in May 1990. She started serving as an Assistant Sunday School Teacher with Miss Ann and, like her mother, she continued on the missions committee. Presently, she is the chair of this committee. In 1993 and 1994, she served on the Christian Education and Youth Committees. and she has been serving in many capacities with the Spanish Congregation.

Though she does not speak Spanish, Michelle started serving the with the Spanish congregation in 2023 helping to serve the migrants who were among those sent from down south. She says that she and the members of that congregation have learned to communicate with each other and she "tries to be a servant wherever they need her." She likes to see their

happiness, their strength and their faith regardless of the trials in their lives. She is inspired by the gratitude they display even when they don't have much and that she gets pleasure from seeing the young ones grow in their faith.



Missions Committee circa 1997

1st Row: Barbara Phillips, Michelle Phillips, Winsome Samuels

2nd Row: Evelyn B. Grant, Pressoy Beauge, Judith Guerrier, Daniella Beauge

Michelle has participated in women's discipleship groups and in URBACAD classes. She graduated from URBACAD in 1999. She said she missed only one class, the last class, and it was at the time that she gave birth to her first daughter. She is also a member of the Building and Grounds Committee.

Also, she said that she tries to bring her daughters to church as much as she can. She took them both along with her to the women's retreat last year.

Michelle, like her mother and grandmother, and many other women at Central Baptist Church, in addition to their responsibilities at home and at work, have been steadfast soldiers in the army of Christ. They quietly assume responsibilities wherever their service is needed.

Thanks to Michelle and Barbara for their service to Central Baptist Church. Central Baptist Church welcomes all attendees to serve in all aspects church life; however, heading ministries is reserved for church members.

Upon hearing Michelle's walk in faith that was passed to her from the grandmother Aileen and her mother Barbara, I am reminded of Timothy's walk in faith that Paul said was passed down to him from his mother Lois and his grandmother Eunice - II Timothy 2. At the time of her passing, Barbara had two children- Michelle and Alana and three grandchildren, Alexis and Mikeya, who are Michelle's children and Christina who is Alana's daughter.



Aileen and Barbara



Happy Mother's Day to all mothers - biological and surrogate - and a special shout out to all Mothers of Central Baptist Church of New York City.

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

May 7—Nursery

May 14—Miss Ann's Room

May 21—Miss Ann's Room

May 28—Miss Ann's 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

7 PM on Zoom

**TALK
BACK**

Tuesday

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.

WEDNESDAY IN THE WORD

7:00—8:00PM

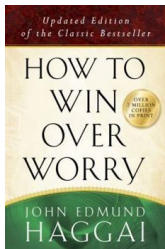
Wednesday Night Bible study is a great way to keep your heart and mind on God! Join us for an interactive, in-depth reflection on the scriptures and how they can be applied to your life.

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

Enter the meeting ID 683 160 1413 when prompted.

Join Zoom by Phone: 646-558-8656

Senior Ministry Events



Senior Book Club

Saturday, June 7, 2025

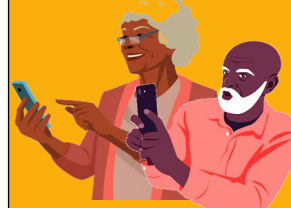
2:00pm to 4:00pm

Miss Ann's Room

How Can I Win Over Worry

by John Haggi

Senior Technology



"Basic Cell Phone Usage"

Wednesdays

11:00am to 12 Noon

May 7 - Nursery

May 14 - Miss Ann's Room

May 21 - Miss Ann's Room

May 28 - Miss Ann's Room



Senior Ministry. Exercise Program

Time: 11:00am to 11:45am

Location: Chapel

Saturday, May 3

Saturday, May 10

Saturday, May 24

Saturday, May 31

SENIOR MINISTRY MONTHLY MEETING

Saturday, May 17, 2025

2pm to 4pm - Chapel



Central Baptist Church Senior's Ministry

Invites you to: "NOAH"

Sight & Sound Theatre Lancaster, PA

Saturday, July 19, 2025

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

See **Otis Coleman** for trip details and payment plan.

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, May 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 Charles Callaway
Deacon Kimberly Casteline
Deacon Otis Coleman
Deacon Sharrata Hunt
Deacon Michelle Newkirk
Deacon Joyce Powell
Deacon Sherry Reid
Deacon Esther Romero



May 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
  				1 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	2 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	3 9:30A-12:00P-Pickleball 11:00-11:45A-Senior Exercise—Chapel
4 9:45A ---Adult Sunday School 11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP 11:15-Sunday Youth Group	5 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	6 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 7PM-Tuesday Talk Back	7 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 11A-12P—Senior Technology Class 12P Senior Bible Study 7P-Wednesday Night Bible Study	8 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	9 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	10 10A-RIVERSIDE REHAB 9:30A-12:00P-Pickleball 11:00-11:45A-Senior Exercise—Chapel
11 MOTHER'S DAY 9:45A ---Adult Sunday School 11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP 11:15-Sunday Youth Group 	12 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	13 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 7PM-Tuesday Talk Back	14 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 11A-12P—Senior Technology Class 12P Senior Bible Study 7P-Wed Nite Bible Study—ZOOM	15 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	16 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	17 9:30A-12:00P-Pickleball 2P-Senior Ministry Meeting—Chapel
18 9:45A ---Adult Sunday School 11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP 11:15-Sunday Youth Group	19 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	20 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 7PM-Tuesday Talk Back	21 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 11A-12P—Senior Technology Class 12P Senior Bible Study 7P-Wed Nite Bible Study—ZOOM	22 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	23 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 7P-Evening Prayer Via Zoom	24 9:30A-12:00P-Pickleball 11:00-11:45A-Senior Exercise—Ms. Ann's
25 9:45A ---Adult Sunday School 11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP 11:15-Sunday Youth Group	26 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	27 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 7PM-Tuesday Talk Back	28 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 11A-12P—Senior Technology Class 12P Senior Bible Study 7P-Wed Nite Bible Study—ZOOM	29 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	30 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 7P-Evening Prayer Via Zoom	31 9:30A-12:00P-Pickleball 11:00-11:45A-Senior Exercise—Ms. Ann'

Missionary of the Month

Edwin & Liz Colon
Missions Door/Brooklyn, NY



Edwin and Liz Colon are long time missionaries with Missions Door. He is the senior pastor of Next Step Community Church in Brooklyn, N.Y. Central has supported their ministry for many years. Pastor Colon has visited and preached on numerous occasions at Central Baptist.

PRAYER REQUESTS

For Soul and Revival

Please pray that more people would come to Christ and live for him sharing boldly with others.

For Housing

Pray for their family 's needs. They are trying to buy a home in the Rockaways that makes financial sense and accommodates their needs. Pastor Colon is asking for wisdom, clarity, obedience to follow God's leading.

For Missionary Care Ministry

Pastor Colon has stepped into a new role at Missions Door. He is the head of Missionary Care. Please pray that God will give him clear vision to help the missionaries be as spiritually, emotionally and relationally healthy as possible. Pray for financial provision for this new role.

Edwin Colon can be reached at:
pastoredwin@nextstepcc.org



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

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

Quarterly Report

February \$275.00

March \$639.62

April \$208.00

Grand Total \$42,432.50

MAY BIRTHDAYS



May God bless you and grant you long life, prosperity, and happiness for all your days!"

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

Shelley Fortune	5/1
Natasha Robinson	5/1
Katherine Smith	5/3
Benjamin Johnson	5/4
Evelyn Grant	5/4
Robert Casteline	5/5
Sydney Jones	5/7
Otis Coleman	5/8
Cameron Keitt	5/11
Fatima Graham	5/13
John Fils-Aime	5/15
Malik Winn	5/16
Lauren Jones	5/16
Isaiah Tejeda	5/17
Marcia Awobuluyi	5/17
Kaleb McFarlin	5/18
Jermaine Bolden	5/19
Raquel Lachman	5/19
Patricia Young	5/22
Matthew Planas	5/25
Deryck Tonge	5/27
Hayden Chung	5/28
Melanie Fleming	5/30
Georgianna Spann	5/31



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.

May 10

June 14

July 12



Saturdays

9:00-12 noon in Lower Gym

Open to the public.

All levels. Equipment available.



Annual Church Picnic
August 9, 2025



The price of \$120 per person (4 yo and up) is all-inclusive:

—Round-trip transportation from Central Baptist Church—
Amusement Park Rides — Water Park Activities—Food
throughout the day—Gospel performances— Reserved
sheltered area

Payment due dates:

Sunday, May 11 - \$40 deposit to hold your space.

Sunday, June 15 - \$40 payment due.

Sunday, July 13 - \$40 payment due; Last day to cancel for a
full refund.

Make payments by check or cash in the foyer after church.
Make checks payable to Central Baptist Church and put
"Church Picnic" in the memo.

Email CBCatQuassy@gmail.com to let us know if you make
an electronic payment.

**To register and pay online: [https://
cbcofnyc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2888636](https://cbcofnyc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2888636)**

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

A Father, Like a Mother

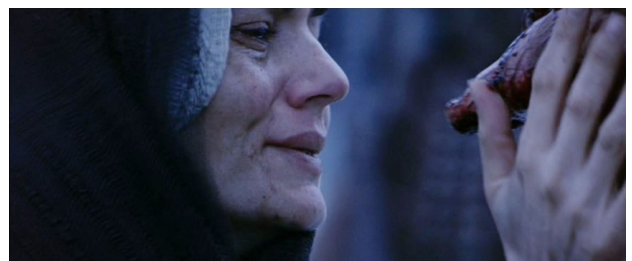
by Nadja Hicks

*As a mother comforts her son, so I will comfort you, and
you will be comforted in Jerusalem.* Isaiah 66:13 (HCSB)

A very moving scene in the film *The Passion of the Christ* is when Jesus' mother rushes to Him when He falls carrying the Cross. At first, she is unable to do so, the pain is too much for her to bear. But memory catapults her into action upon remembering when he fell as a child. She'd raced with outstretched arms to little Jesus, overturning every obstacle to reach Him. The scene then alternates between Mary running to little boy Jesus and Mary running to Jesus fallen on His way to Calvary. Mary sweeps her little boy up into her arms, gently rocking and soothing Him, tenderly whispering, *I'm here. I'm here.* Then Mary is at His side repeating those same reassuring words, *I'm here. I'm here.* But taking up His cross Jesus instead offers consolation to Mary with the words, *See, I make all things new.*

Throughout scripture there are many examples of God's tripart being as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Yet here in Isaiah 66:13, an attribute of God is likened to a mother. When such references are rare, they draw attention where they appear. And it is a verse that speaks of comfort. A particular nurturing kind. Moms often have that *kiss and make it better* panacea for a wide range of their child's ills. This consolation exceeds Band-Aids and bacitracin. A mother's good comfort eases the experience of encountering pain itself. It's the Band-Aid with the hug; it's holding us close while washing the wound. While God is Father, He can express that gentleness just as well. With God, there is a Father who comforts like a mother, a Father who hugs us through the sting of what ails us, who holds us close while binding up our wounds.

This Mother's Day, as we celebrate and honor the Moms in our lives, let us also remember the Father who comforts us like a good mother comforts her child. Like Mary scooping up her little boy. No matter the degree we experience pain, a simple booboo or something far deeper, the Father is there to comfort as if gathering us in His arms whispering, *I'm here. I'm here.*



Accessed 4/22/25—https://thecatholicstalks.com/articles_post.asp?id=17