



# Reaching Wider & Growing Deeper

## Central Baptist Church Newsletter

### NOVEMBER THEME: How the Church Moves

#### Fighter Verse: Philippians 4:8

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

#### OUR WORSHIP IN-PERSON

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

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

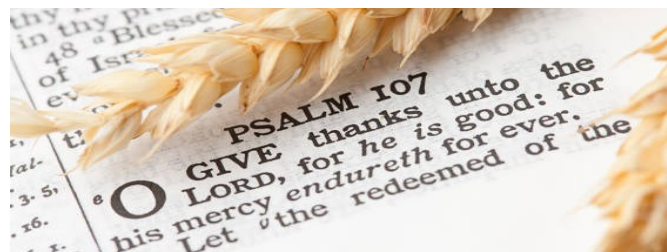
#### SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

#### IN THIS ISSUE

Happy Thanksgiving	Page 1
November Devotional	Page 2
Member Profile: Otis Coleman	Page 3
Announcements-Bible Studies & Senior Events	Page 4
Praying Together — Praying for Elders, Deacons and Trustees	Page 6
November Calendar	Page 7
Missionary of the Month and November Birthdays	Page 8
Church-Wide Events & Otis's Glazed Carrots	Page 9
More Church Wide Events and The Last Word	Page 10

*Wishing you a Blessed  
and  
Joyful Thanksgiving*



You are Invited to  
**FRIENDSGIVING**  
 Saturday, November 22  
 3PM  
 Please RSVP by November 8



## NOVEMBER DEVOTIONAL

## THANKSGIVING

By Debby Holland Diaz MA ThM

**Thanks be unto God for His Unspeakable Gift!  
(II Corinthians 9:15 KJV)**

That is my favorite thanksgiving scripture verse. What is (or are) yours? By the time you receive this newsletter, it will nearly be Thanksgiving Day!

What does the New Testament tell us about thanksgiving? According to the *Mercer Dictionary of the Bible*, the Greek word that customarily meant “grace” also connoted “with thanks,” “thanksgiving” and “thanks to God.” In Spanish, “grace” is *gracia* and “Thank You” or “Thanks” are *Gracias*.

Both Jesus and Paul used the customary Jewish Prayer of Thanksgiving, called The *Berekah* in Hebrew. For example, “Jesus took the seven loaves and when he had given thanks,”...he worked a mighty miracle, feeding 4,000 men, plus women and children! (Matthew 15: 36-38 NIV) Paul “took some bread and gave thanks in front of them all” and God saved them all from a shipwreck! (Acts 27:35 NIV) All scripture references that follow are also from the NIV, The New International Version (Translation) of The Bible.

Paul included a thanksgiving section in every one of his letters to the churches, except Galatians and 2 Corinthians.

- ◆encouraging The Believers in faith (Romans 1:8,)
- ◆spiritual enrichment (I Corinthians 1:5,)
- ◆love (Ephesians 1:4,)
- ◆joy (Philippians 1:3,)
- ◆endurance (I Thessalonians 1:3)
- ◆and perseverance (II Thessalonians 1:4.)

May we also be so encouraged! Furthermore, with the Colossians, may we offer prayers and sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with thanksgiving in our hearts! (Colossians 3:16b) In fact, Paul gives thanks in every chapter of Colossians, and so should we! Colossians thanksgiving chapters and verses include:

- ◆ 1:3- Grace and Peace to you from God Our Father.
- ◆ 2: 7 (May you be) overflowing with thankfulness.

- ◆ 3:7- And be thankful.
- ◆ 4:2- Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, I invite you to meditate on these and other verses of your choice this Thanksgiving! May we celebrate this entire holiday season thanking God for Jesus Christ, God’s most “unspeakable” Gift to us – too wonderful for words! So let us ask The Holy Spirit to help us somehow put into words our own experiences with our Savior and Lord – so we can share The Good News with those who don’t know Him yet!



Photo by [Sincerely Media](#) on [Unsplash](#)



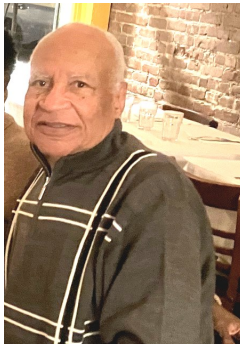
*Make a list of what you are thankful for, then take a few minutes to pray, thanking God and giving Him praise.*



*I will give thanks to the Lord because of his righteousness; I will sing the praises of the name of the Lord Most High. Psalm 7:17*

## The Ordered Steps of Otis Coleman

by Sharrata Hunt



*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to (acknowledge) him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6*

I asked Otis, "What is your Life Verse and why?" "Proverbs 3:5 and 6. Because it encompasses whatever in life I may encounter, especially throughout my mother's death. Those verses gave me comfort the strength to endure.

He was brought up in the Presbyterian church, surrounded at home with Bibles, Bible stories and pictures, and confirmed at the age of 13. But "the most profound spiritual influence in my life was my grandmother. She possessed spirituality and wisdom. My mother had a lot of knowledge she passed on to us, but my grandmother had wisdom.

Otis was born in New York on Roosevelt Island. The family lived in Harlem and then moved to the Lower East Side when he was 7 where he attended elementary school and junior high school. He was the first black president of the Junior High student body. His campaign slogan was, "Here's your notice, vote for Otis." He graduated from Seward Park High School and attended Brooklyn College majoring in Biology. He was planning on becoming a doctor.

I asked, "So, how did you go from graduating with a degree in Biology to working for IBM?"

"I was working for the American Sociological Association and they were moving their offices from NYC to Washington DC. I was on staff purchasing typewriters and furniture for the new location in Washington and I had set up an appointment with the sales Rep from IBM. He came and demonstrated the new Selectric typewriter to me and before we decided to make the purchases, I set up a future date with the staff for him to demonstrate it to them. On the day of the demonstration he got tied up and was late. Since I had the staff sitting there, I just took the typewriter, and I did the demonstration myself.

When he arrived, he said, 'Keep going, you're doing an excellent job.' After the demonstration he asked if I was going to Washington when the staff moves. I said 'No.'

'What are you going to do?' he asked.

I replied, "I have absolutely no idea."

"IBM is looking for marketing reps," he said. "And, I'm gonna tell you, they are looking for black marketing reps. This was *before* the 1965 Civil Rights Bill."

When the Sociological Association offices closed, Otis secured a

position working at The New School for Social Research working in the Registrar's office where he was in charge of all the class registrations.

Then IBM called. "They set up an interview for me. I took all the tests and everything and they hired me. I was supposed to go to Dallas, Texas to the training school, and the day before I was supposed to go out, I decided I didn't want to go. I didn't want to be a marketing rep. That was a big mistake; but that was God's plan. I told Personnel, 'I don't want to go to Texas, and I don't want to be a marketing Rep.'" And they said, "Okay, we don't want to lose you. What else would you like to do?"

He responded, "Well, I have an administrative background. I'd better go to administration." And it mushroomed from there with one promotion after another."

His first job in administration was processing all the salesmen's orders from the Selectric typewriter. He saw how the new machines were selling themselves. The job got more complicated. Not only were they processing the salesmen's orders but now the mail orders were coming in and they had to figure out what salesman gets what credit. The salesmen were making very good money from the commissions. "And that's when I realized that I made a mistake."

Otis became somewhat reflective thinking back on that time in his life. He made, this observation. "To be very honest with you, in those days people sort of looked down upon the salesman; and it was not so much that I was looking down, but you have to have a certain type of personality to be a salesperson. You really do. In hindsight, I do have that personality, but I don't like to be in any position where I'm asking people for something. When it comes down to it, I just don't feel comfortable. And that was that. I went on into administration and after two and half years I won the highest award at IBM you could win in administration. As a result of that, I received job offers from within the company. Throughout my working life, God was ordering my steps."

Otis was promoted to a staff position at headquarters on 57th Street and Madison Avenue. A position that came with increasingly more responsibilities from managing a staff of 11 to managing managers. After a few years he was promoted to the International Division as a domestic assignee, a two year position he held from 1978 to 1981. During that time, "I travelled all over the world. I was responsible for Australia, Canada, Japan, South America, and the Far East. And I just loved that job." They wanted to increase his appointment to three years. But with cutbacks he had to return to his original division. He worked in finance at HQ doing budgets with increased managerial responsibilities for a bit, then moved into business shows.

He loved his last position. "That and International were the best years of my life. I was doing business shows in major convention cities until retirement in 1994." He met so many celebrities from Ted Turner to Hulk Hogan and Carl Lewis whom he recently discovered is a distant relative. After he retired from IBM, he continued working for them for two years as a contractor doing

# CHURCH WIDE EVENTS & 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

**I**f 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

7 PM on Zoom



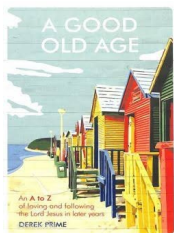
Join us as we explore and diagnose our spiritual health.

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, November 1, 2025

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

"A Good Old Age"

by Derek Prime

### Senior Technology

"Basic Cell Phone Usage"

Wednesdays

11:00am to 12 Noon

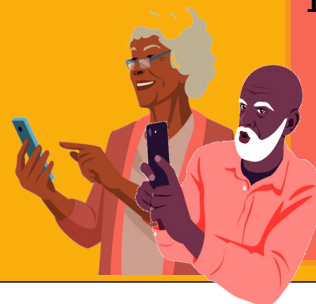
Miss Ann's Room

NO CLASS November 5

NO CLASS November 12

November 19

November 26



### SENIOR MINISTRY MONTHLY MEETING

Saturday, November 15, 2025

2pm to 4pm - Chapel



### Senior Ministry Exercise Program

Time: 11:00am to 11:45am

Location: Chapel

Saturday, November 8

Saturday, November 22

Saturday, November 29

that same job--working the business shows. After a long and successful career at IBM, Otis did not stop. He got a job working for The Committee for Biological Research as the Associate Director, which, in a way, made a bridge to his final career. He went back to school to enter the medical field. "When I was a little boy my younger sister and I used to play, and she always wanted to be a nurse, a dream that she realized; and I was going to be a doctor." Otis attended Lehman College and learned medical billing and coding. He had two words, "Hated it!" But he found an area in the field where he excelled. He trained to be an ultrasound technician.

After listening to Otis talk about those years, we hear his strengths, his values and his heart which he displays with characteristic energy in his service to Central – organization, support, hospitality and generosity of spirit. He talked about the importance of completing a job. He did not like working in finance and budgets because he never felt the task was completed. "That's why I love cooking. I don't use recipes; I just do what I feel at the moment. For instance, I love basil. I put basil on things probably no one else would." See the recipe for *Otis's Carrots* on Page 9. Along with cooking, Otis's other hobbies include an appreciation of the arts in all forms including theater and dance; and he made an outside roof garden with flowers and plants.

Otis has been attending Central since about 2000. He has served as Deacon and Trustee; and most notably as the leader of the Senior Ministry which celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary last year. The ministry was formed after Otis had a conversation with Pastor Bobby Lewis, an associate Pastor at the time, who recognized there were a number of Seniors in the congregation and no ministry where those who were 55 years and older could gather and support one another.

Otis mapped out a plan, formed a team of eight, and with the help of a survey, assessed the needs and interests of the Seniors. Since that time the ministry activities have been Wednesday afternoon Bible study, trips, line dancing, a Senior gospel group that didn't get off the ground, and sewing and knitting and crocheting. There are two additional activities recently added to the ministry: The Technology Class for using the cellphone and the Senior Exercise program.

Otis emphasized the most important aspect of the monthly meeting. "The Monthly Meeting is deeper than just a luncheon. It's the importance of making relationships that extend beyond Central. It's the gospel by example. Despite the losses we've had, the ministry is still growing. I am so humbled by this ministry. I have a stronger relationship with the members of the Senior Ministry than I do with some family members.



September Senior Meeting "Happy Birthday"

Speaking of family, Otis has one son, 6 grandchildren, and 7 great grandchildren, the oldest of which is nine years old. And like all families, they're scattered all over the country. He said, "Though technology is wonderful, it's not the same as when the family gets together in person."

I asked, "So, what's next for the Senior Ministry?"

Otis said, "I'm looking to be a liaison with Goddard Riverside to create more opportunities for community."

My last question was, "What's your prayer for the congregation at Central Baptist Church?"

Without taking a beat, Otis said, "Isaiah 55:8 and 9."

*"For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways,"  
declares the Lord.*

*"As the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts."*

How does that become a prayer?

"Translating that as a prayer for the members of Central, there's so many things that we may not understand because God's ways and thoughts are not like ours; but we need to continue to trust in His will for our lives and He will make our paths straight. He will order our steps." Amen.

Thank you Otis.

**THE END**

**TO REFLECT AND PRAY**

A few passages for reflection and prayer.

**Psalm 119:133:** "Order my steps in your word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me". This is the most direct and frequently cited verse.

**Proverbs 16:9:** "We can make our plans, but the LORD determines our steps". This verse emphasizes that while we plan, ultimately God is in control of our path.

**Psalm 37:23:** "The steps of a good person are ordered by the LORD; he delights in every detail of their lives". This verse highlights that God directs the lives of the righteous.

**Psalm 17:5:** "Hold up my goings in thy paths, that my footsteps slip not". This is another variation on asking for God's strength to guide and secure one's path.

## 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.

<b>CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH</b>	<b>CITY, STATE, COUNTRY &amp; PERSONAL</b>
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	<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>
Ministries	
Missionaries	
Members and Friends of Central	
Sick and Shut-in	

### 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 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](mailto: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



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<h1>November 2025</h1>						<b>NOVEMBER 1</b> 9A-12P- Pickleball  11:00-11:45A-Senior Exercise—Chapel  Senior Book Club 2-4PM, Miss Ann’s Room
<b>2</b> 9:45A ---Adult Sunday School  11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP  11:15-Sunday Youth Group	<b>3</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>4</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call  7PM-Tuesday Talk Back RESUMES via ZOOM	<b>5</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call  12P Senior Bible Study-Miss Ann’s  7P-Wednesday Night Bible Study-via ZOOM	<b>6</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>7</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>8</b> 10A-RIVERSIDE REHAB  9:00A-12:00P- Pickleball  11:00-11:45A-Senior Exercise—WALK  <b>RSVP for FRIENDSGIVING DUE.</b>
<b>9</b> 9:45A ---Adult Sunday School  11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP  11:15-Sunday Youth Group	<b>10</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>11</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call  7PM-Tuesday Talk Back	<b>12</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call  12P Senior Bible Study-Miss Ann’s  7P-Wednesday Nig Bible Study /Zoom	<b>13</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>14</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>15</b> 9:00A-12:00P- Pickleball  2P-Senior Ministry Monthly Meeting—Chapel
<b>16</b> 9:45A ---Adult Sunday School  9:30A-Abundant Life - Nursery  11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP  11:15-Sunday Youth Group  <b>POST-SERVICE SIP &amp; CHAT, Chapel</b>	<b>17</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>18</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call  7PM-Tuesday Talk Back	<b>19</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call  11A-12P—Senior Technology Class-Miss Ann’s  12P Senior Bible Study-Miss Ann’s	<b>20</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>21</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>22</b> 9A-12P- Pickleball  11:00-11:45A-Senior Exercise—Chapel  <b>3PM-FRIENDSGIVING—Chapel</b> <b>Invite your family and friends. RSVP by November 8</b>
<b>23</b> 9:45A ---Adult Sunday School  9:30A-Abundant Life - Nursery  11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP  11:15-Sunday Youth Group	<b>24</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>25</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call  7PM-Tuesday Talk Back	<b>26</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call  11A-12P—Senior Technology Class-Miss Ann’s  12P Senior Bible Study-Miss Ann’s	<b>27</b> <b>THANKSGIVING DAY</b>	<b>28</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call  7P-Evening Prayer Via Zoom	<b>29</b> 9A-12P- Pickleball  11:00-11:45A-Senior Exercise—Chapel
<b>30</b> 9:45A ---Adult Sunday School  9:30A-Abundant Life - Nursery  11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP  11:15-Sunday Youth Group	<b>DECEMBER 1</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>DECEMBER 2</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call  7PM-Tuesday Talk Back	<b>DECEMBER 3</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call  11A-12P—Senior Technology Class-Miss Ann’s  12P Senior Bible Study-Miss Ann’s	<b>DECEMBER 4</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>DECEMBER 5</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>DECEMBER 6</b> 9A-12P- Pickleball  11:00-11:45A-Senior Exercise—Chapel

## Missionary of the Month

### Dale Belli

Urban Life Source Connection



**D**ale Belli is a longtime missionary with Urban Life Source Connection, and is dedicated to serving the needs of the PWA members that attend her weekly Bible study classes in Brooklyn, Manhattan, Staten Island, New Jersey, and The Bronx.

Dale does all of her Bible study classes in nursing homes, hospitals, and hospices, which she visits every week.

In Dale's last newsletter she mentions in the summer months, the Bible study classes have grown in attendance. They have the option to sit outside to enjoy the warm weather and to enjoy listening to the word of God.

It's this time of year when Dale starts preparing for the various Christmas parties. She will distribute gifts to all of the members that attend her classes all year long.

Since the beginning of this year, four additional churches have added to her support. She's praying that they will continue to support her on a regular basis.

Dale has added a new feature that allows people to donate online through her new QR code. If you decide to donate to Dale online, you can mail all gifts to the following address.

The Urban Life Source Connection  
P.O. Box 2732  
Clifton, New Jersey 07015-2732

The last day Dale is accepting gifts is December 19, 2025



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

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



***Wishing you a birthday filled with the joy of the Lord. May His presence guide and comfort you in all the days ahead.***

*"The joy of the Lord is your strength."  
Nehemiah 8:10*

<https://www.shutterstock.com/ideas/religious-birthday-wishes/#Friend>

Jeremiah Robinson	11/3
Cameron Davis	11/5
Leroy Chisholm	11/7
Guerline Marcelin	11/9
BJ McDonald	11/10
Mahlik Favors	11/11
Jackson Gee	11/13
Lisa Copeland	11/14
Kai Kelsey	11/15
Tianna Newkirk	11/18
Athena Stapleman	11/18
Destiny Jean-Michel	11/20
M. Esther Romero	11/23
Maya Newkirk	11/24
Sharae Moultrie	11/24
Farah Blaise	11/25
Savannah Eaddy	11/27
Dorothy Lambiris	11/30



<https://artofcakesbakery.com/>

**Church Wide Event—Celebrating Community**



**Central Baptist Church Senior's Ministry**

Invites you to: "JOSHUA"

Sight & Sound Theatre Lancaster, PA

**Saturday, July 18, 2026**

Cost: **\$245.00** Per Person

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**.

**OTIS'S FAMOUS GLAZED CARROTS**

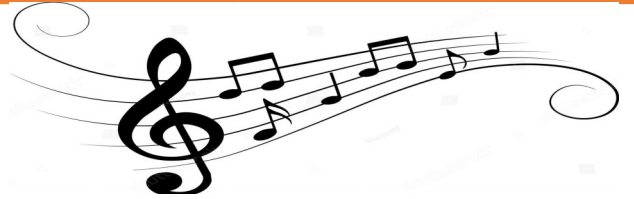
*Remember, Otis does not really measure. So use your best judgment based on your personal preferences.*

**INGREDIENTS**

- 1lb of Carrots. Peel and Slice
- 1 cup of water
- 1 cup of orange juice
- Sugar
- Ground cinnamon to taste
- Ground nutmeg to taste
- Vanilla extract to taste
- 2TBS of Maple Syrup
- Golden raisins
- ½ of a quarter stick of butter
- Dash of salt

**WHAT TO DO**

Peel and slice the carrots. Place carrots in a pot. Add the remaining ingredients.  
Add the water and orange juice to cover. Bring to a boil and cook to your preferred degree of tenderness (Otis prefers them slightly crunchy). If the liquid boils down add, equal parts water and orange juice.



**GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS**

Great is thy faithfulness, O God, my Father;  
There is no shadow of turning with thee.  
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
As thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

**Refrain:**

**Great is thy faithfulness,  
Great is thy faithfulness,  
Morning by morning new mercies I see.  
All I have needed thy hand hast provided;  
Great is thy faithfulness,  
Lord unto me.**

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

**[Refrain]**

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine and ten thousand beside.

**[Refrain]**

**MORE Church Wide  
and Community Events**



**THE RIVERSIDE**  
PREMIER REHABILITATION & HEALING CENTER

**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.

<b>November 8</b>	<b>December 13</b>	<b>January 10</b>
-------------------	--------------------	-------------------

**PICKLEBALL**

**Saturdays — 9:30-12 noon**  
**Lower Gym**  
**Open to the public.**  
**All levels. Equipment available.**

**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!**

**CBC Capital Campaign Building Facade**

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

**Newsletter Staff:** Pastor Robert Casteline, Oversight; Paulette Forbes-Igharo and Sharrata Hunt. Regular Contributors: Debby Diaz and Nadja Hicks. **Special thanks** to Guest Contributor Christopher Phillips and Tanya Glenn.

**The Last Word**

**LOVE ONE ANOTHER**

by Nadja Hicks

*"I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you must also love one another."*

- **John 13:34 (HCSB)**

**M**aybe you've heard this joke: A mother was making breakfast for her two sons, ages 8 and 6. While she mixed the pancake batter, the boys started bickering over who'd get the first one. "Boys," she said, "if Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake. I can wait.'" Then she asked them shouldn't they do likewise. Both boys enthusiastically agreed. The mom smiled, glad for the teaching moment. As she brought over the first pancake both boys quickly turned to the other and said, "You be Jesus!"



The joke is certainly a funny one. The ideals stand out with gleaming precision—patience, humility, putting others first—and children seeing the point but missing the heart. What gives us a chuckle is how true it is regardless of age. Even grownups can still squabble over some version of a *pancake*. There is no shortage of situations where disagreements can erupt, goals clash, or opinions be in dispute. Adults might still look to someone else to "be Jesus" while slipping into wanting that first pancake in whatever form it might take. Having the quiet hope that our brother puts us first. And, like these two little boys, may overlook how we ought to be more like Him ourselves.

Yet those times of conflict—in politics, relationships, workplaces, and so forth—are opportunities. The love John 13:34 puts forth is not the sort to merely be admired, like some inspiring phrase. In the very words of Jesus, this verse is love embodied, emboldened to action. Love that steps from selfishness into love at its most potent because it is the kind of sacrificial Love that saved us.

During this season of Thanksgiving, as we enjoy family gatherings and savor sumptuous holiday meals, may we also be grateful that He who is in us is greater than he who is in the world. And when those moments come prompting us to love one another as He loved us, let these verses reverberate through the soul like a heavenly whisper. Beckoning us higher than being conformed to this world, but to a place where the everlasting love of God can show up grandly even in the small sacrifice of a pancake.