

THE CENTRAL ISSUE

CENTRAL UMC SHELBY IS A SAFE SANCTUARIES CHURCH

Our MISSION: To make disciples of Christ who WORSHIP God,
GROW in their faith, and SERVE in the church and world.

December 13, 2017
Volume 26, No. 50

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Mark L. Barden, Senior Pastor
Fawn Mikel, Director of Discipleship & Outreach
Danny Buckner, Director of Music Ministries
Nick Richart, Director of Youth Ministries
Libby Alexander, Organist
Gina Blanton, Director of Communications
Dianne Whisnant, Financial Secretary
Shelley Rempson, Kid's Place Preschool Director
Alan Hughes, Facilities Manager
Dan Treharne, Director of Worship Media
Stacy Watkins Griffith, Pastoral Counselor

ALERT!



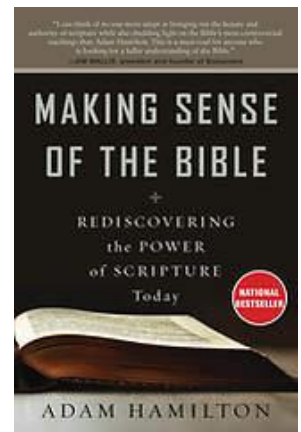
Sometimes God leads us in a different direction. This time---from ham to chili. Christmas Day Dinner has received a total of 3 contributions and no volunteers for our Christmas Day dinner for those who have no one with whom to share this special day. So---CUMC's Hot Lunch Program will serve chili, cornbread, and pie ala mode at noon on Christmas Day. We still need volunteers to help us serve that day and others on Saturday, the 23rd at 2 p.m. to help us fill Goodie Bags to hand out that day (Aldersgate has provided socks and gloves for each bag!). Please search your hearts, your values, and your love of Central and call 704-480-6082 (Barbara/Dick) to volunteer. Thank you.

The world's bestselling, most-read, and most-loved book, the Bible, is also one of the most confusing. Questions frequently arise regarding the origin, interpretation, and application of this important part of our faith journey. With so many questions, how do we faithfully make sense of it all? In *Making Sense of the Bible: Rediscovering the Power of Scripture Today*, Adam Hamilton, one of the country's leading pastors and Christian authors, addresses the hot-button issues that plague the church and cultural debate, and answers many of the questions frequently asked by Christians and non-Christians alike. Pastor Mark Barden will facilitate this seven session study on Tuesday nights at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room beginning on Jan. 9.

"This is the best study I've encountered that helps those with and without previous study of the Bible use and understand it. I highly recommend it." said Mark.

If you would like to sign up, please call the office or go online at

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084ea9ad2fa4f85-adam> please signify if you want us to order your book (for \$12 each) or if you will be purchasing it yourself (they are available at Amazon and other online retailers). Deadline for registration is Thursday, Jan. 4.



Dear Church Family

My favorite task as Staff Parish Chair has been the opportunity to speak on behalf of our awesome church staff. Those of you who regularly interact with them already know how loving and special they are. Those of you getting to know them no doubt recognize their commitment to God and to the Church. How fortunate we are that in such a short time we have assembled a team that not only demonstrates great enthusiasm and a spirit of collegiality but is spreading those traits throughout our congregation. Good things are happening at Central. In this season of new beginnings, let's show them our appreciation by providing a special Christmas offering. Your love gift may be placed in the offering plate or delivered to Dianne in the office any time between now and December 20th. Please mark your envelope Staff Christmas.

I thank you in advance for your generosity and wish you all the most Blessed Christmas season.

Beverly Putnam
Staff Parish Chair



**December 17-23, 2017
Calendar of Events**

Sunday (Second Sunday in Advent)
8:30am Praise Ensemble
9:00am TRIBES
9:00am Sunday School for all Ages
10:00am Go Sing It On the Mountain Christmas Cantata
11:00am Wesley Class (All Adults Welcome)
5:30pm UMYF Party (at the Talbert's)
6:00pm Advent Bible Study (Conference Room)

Monday
9:00am Church Office opens
11:00am Prayer Team
6:00pm Word and Wine Bible Study (at Dragonfly Wine Market)

Tuesday
Counseling Center open (by appointment)
9:00am Church Office opens
11:30am Hot Lunch Program (PAC)
7:15pm Central Ringers Practice

Wednesday
9:00am Church Office opens
10:30am Staff Meeting
6:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7:15pm Praise Ensemble Rehearsal

Thursday
Counseling Center open (by appointment)
9:00am Church Office opens
7:00am Service of Light and Darkness (Fellowship Hall)

Friday
9:00am Church Office closed

Saturday
11:30am Hot Lunch Program (PAC)

End of Year Tithes and Offerings

Due to the Holiday schedule this year, all financial giving must be **IN THE OFFICE** by December 27th to ensure it is included in 2017. If you are mailing it in, please be sure it is postmarked by December 21st to ensure it reaches the office in time. Any monies received after 12/27 will be recorded for 2018.



The **Advent Wreath** honors the joyous celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ and is in loving memory of Mae and Fred Blair and Evelyn and Earl Jack, the parents of Marilyn and Bill Jack.

Serving Sunday, December 17, 2017



The Guppies
Sunday School and Worship:
Diana Mullinax

Nursery Volunteer
Anne Wray

The Stars
Sunday School and Worship:
Linda Zachary

Collection Counters:
Chris Mabry and Jim Morgan

Collection Counters for 12/24/2017:
Beverly Putnam and Jim Morgan

Collection Counters for 12/31/2017:
Beverly Putnam and Brad Richardson

Sunday School Assistant:
Bill Henshaw

Sunday School Assistant for 12/24/2017:
Janet Edwards

Sunday School Assistant for 12/31/2017:
Jim Lutz

Children's Sermon for 12/24/2017:
Rev. Fawn Mikel

Children's Sermon for 12/31/2017:
Caroline Laney

2017 Stewardship

10:00am Worship (December 10).....199
Sunday School (December 10).....89
2017 Operating Budget.....\$762,448.60
2017 Monthly Budget Needs.....\$63,537.38
Total Receipts for Month of December.....\$9,841.00
Total Receipts for 12/3/17-12/6/17.....\$9,841.00



December 17 Emily Morgan
December 18 Tom Camp
December 19 Holli Goforth
December 19 Jackson Lundquist
December 20 Jack Secrest
December 20 Jill Mabry
December 21 Mary Hunter
December 23 Kyla Mann

We hope that you and your family will spend

Christmas at Central

December 15th, 6-8 pm – Sing Christmas carols on the square and discover the Chrismon tree in the Sanctuary.

December 17th, 10 am – Third Sunday of Advent: Christmas Cantata

December 21st, 7pm - Service of Light and Darkness in the Fellowship Hall

December 23rd, 4-7pm - Parsonage Open House

December 24th, 10am - Fourth Sunday of Advent Service

December 24th, 5pm – Christmas Eve Family Service

December 24th, 11pm – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 31st, 10 am – Lessons and Carols will be shared as we celebrate Christmas!

January 7th, 9-9:45 am – Worship Workshop celebrating Epiphany!

January 7th, 10 am – Epiphany Service

January 10th, noon -- Kid's Place Epiphany Service in the Sanctuary. Everyone is invited.

www.PageBorders.net

Advent Quiz

How much do you know about the season of Advent? Try your hand at the following questions.

1. According to tradition, approximately how far did Mary travel to visit Elizabeth?
 - A. 10 miles
 - B. 50 miles
 - C. 100 miles
 - D. 500 miles
2. Why are the Advent candles arranged in the shape of a circle?
 - A. They make a wreath, and wreaths are Christmassy.
 - B. It is the easiest way to see all four candles.
 - C. It takes up the least space.
 - D. Circles symbolize eternity.
 - E. None of the above.
3. What is a Jesse Tree?
 - A. Another name for a Christmas tree
 - B. The tree decorated with Chrismons
 - C. A tree that blossoms at Christmastime
 - D. A representation of Jesus' family tree

Answers on back page—no cheating! More quiz questions will be in next week's newsletter.



Attention Seniors!

OWLS will meet Monday, December 18th at 12 noon, at Toscano's Bistro located on the square on Marion

Street. All seniors are invited to join us for good food and fellowship.

CENTRAL UMC STUDENTS Weekly Update

Sunday

Sunday Morning Tribes 9-10 am

UMYF 5:30-7 pm

Tuesday

NO High School Breakfast 7:15 am @ Chick-fil-A

NO Middle School or High School Bible Studies until January. Have a Happy Holiday!

Christmas Party!

December 17, 5:30-7:30pm



Wear your best Christmas sweater and bring a \$5 (or lower!) gift for our gift exchange!



200 East Marion St
Shelby, NC 28150



Good Night Ministry

After having given out 40 bed kits this calendar year, we are all out of kits and all out of money!

Unfortunately, school social workers are still calling but we've had to turn them away. You can help by donating to the Goodnight Ministry and ensuring that not another child in Cleveland County goes to sleep without a bed. Each kit costs \$80 and includes the following: a single air mattress, pump, sheets, blanket, pillow, prayer card, stuffed animal and plastic tote for storage. Please be generous, the need is so great.



Well, it's getting to be that time of year again! In the event of future bad weather, the following notifications will take place in

regards to Sunday services, events, meetings and church office hours.

****WCNC TV will be the TV station to check for church updates.**

****Our website Cumcshelby.org and Facebook page, www.facebook.com/cumcshelby/, will also have updated information.**

****Those that get the newsletter by email will receive an email.**

****If you have questions or need to contact the staff during such weather please email centralumc12@gmail.com**

We encourage you to contact anyone who may not have access to the above resources and notify them of any updates.

Advent Quiz Answers

1. C 2. D 3. D



cost is \$12 per person

You are invited to join the Hoey Bible Class and staff for lunch at the Golden Corral on Thursday, December 21st at 11:30 am. The

Parsonage Open House

Rev. Mark Barden will host a Christmas Open House at the Parsonage on Saturday, December 23rd, from 4-7 pm. All are invited to drop in and visit.

Congratulations!

We'd like to say hello to little Thomas Gray Lefcoski who was born December 8th to Laura and Joseph Lefcoski. Proud grandparents are Caroline and Rob Laney.



Church Office Holiday Schedule

Please note the following changes to the church office schedule for the upcoming weeks:

December 19 at 4 pm—deadline for our last 2017 newsletter

December 22, 25 and 26—closed for Christmas Holiday

December 27—there will be NO newsletter.

January 1—closed for New Year's Holiday.

Thank you for your understanding. Happy Holidays!



Central UMC offers it's deepest sympathies to Gene Clark on the death of his wife, Beth on Wednesday, December 6th.

Memorials and Honorariums

Operating:

- In Memory of Ruby Jenkins by John & Jeannie Hamrick
- In Memory of Dick Kelly by John & Jeannie Hamrick
- In Memory of Elsie Peeler by John & Jeannie Hamrick
- In Memory of Garland Johnson by John & Jeannie Hamrick