



**CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

Weekly Newsletter

December 24, 2017

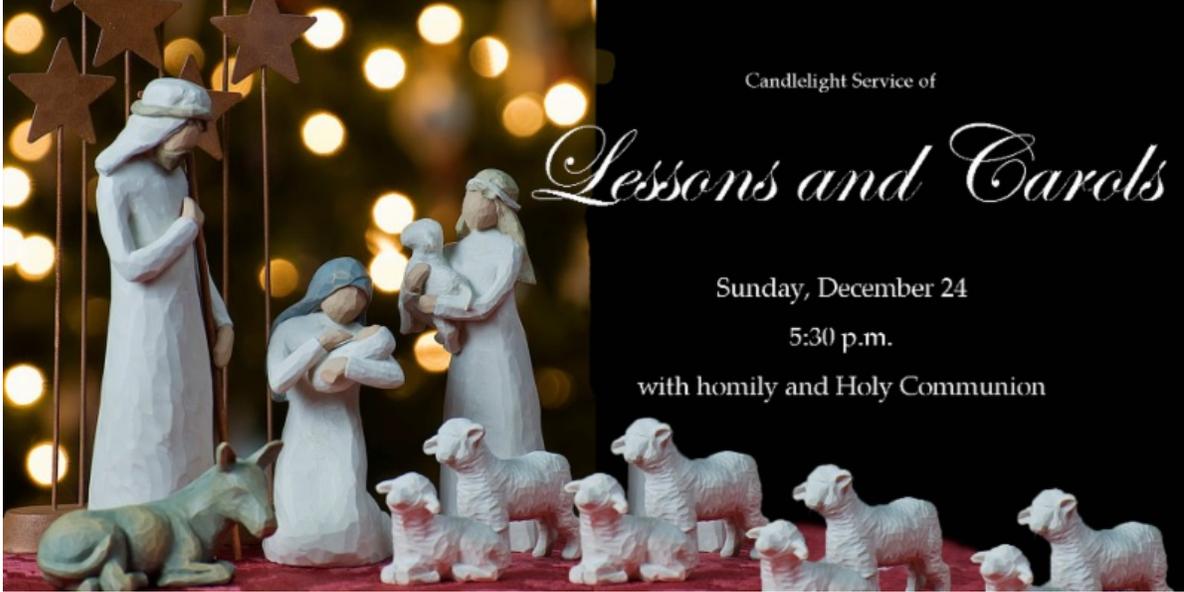
This Sunday @ Central

- 9:00 a.m. Children's Choirs
Youth Handbell Choir
Courtyard Fellowship
- 9:45 a.m. No Church School this week
- 11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
Children's Pageant
Communion
- 12:00 Noon No lunch served. Join us Sunday, January 7, when our Sunday Fellowship Lunch will resume.
- 5:30 p.m. Lessons and Carols
Holy Communion
-

4th Sunday of Advent & Children's Pageant



Sunday, December 24 | 11:00 a.m. | with Holy Communion



Candlelight Service of

Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 24

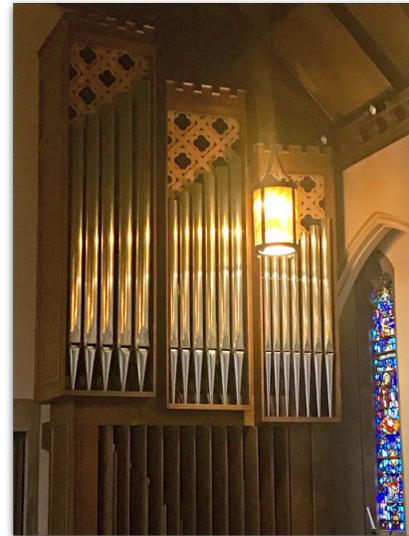
5:30 p.m.

with homily and Holy Communion

From the Organ Bench

The Opening Voluntary for the 11:00 a.m. Christmas Eve (Advent Four) service is based on the first hymn, *People, Look East*, in an organ arrangement by Michael Barker, Director of Music and Organist at Black Mountain Presbyterian Church.

The lively melody, a traditional French carol given the hymn-tune name BESANÇON, appeared previously with the anonymous text, "Shepherds, shake off your drowsy sleep," but with the aforementioned Advent text it has gained popularity over the last forty years and appeared in many modern hymnals. Of the organ arrangement, a spritely piece with changing meter, Barker says "As with much of my music, the exact notes are less important than the joie de vivre in the playing!" The Closing Voluntary will be Wilbur Held's version of *Joy to the World!*, the closing piece in his "Nativity Suite," conceived originally for his students at Ohio State University. Held, a prolific composer of mostly hymn-tune based organ music accessible both to organists and congregations, died March 24, 2015 in Claremont, California, a few months shy of his 101st birthday.



As part of the Opening Voluntary for the 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service, the organ will present a setting of the German carol, *In dulci jubilo*, which is typically sung in English with the text, "Good Christian friends, rejoice." Although attributed to J. S. Bach, scholars doubt this and believe it is probably by his distant cousin (and the father of his first wife), Johann Michael Bach (1648-1694).

Nonetheless, it is a sweet setting in the style of a "pastorale," music that imitates the sounds of a shepherd playing the bagpipes. The melody is presented twice in different keys, each time played over a long sustained note in the pedals not unlike the drone notes of a bagpipe. The original German text is a "macaronic" carol; one that mixes the vernacular with Latin. Just as the original speaks of the joy of the humble birth of Jesus, so this setting has a similar expression of quiet joy. Another setting of *Joy to the World* will be played as the Closing Voluntary (probably my favorite closing Christmas Eve piece!). This setting, by Michael Bedford, features fast notes in the hands while the pedal has the melody. Michael Bedford has served as Organist/Choirmaster and Composer-in-Residence at St. John's Episcopal Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma since 1990. A native of Sherman, Texas, he has held similar positions in Texas and Colorado. He has published choral music for children, youth and adults, as well as organ collections, handbell music, and two extended works for choir, soloists, and chamber orchestra. He also serves as workshop leader and clinician for children's and youth choir festivals, hymn festivals, directors' workshops, and music reading sessions throughout the United States.

GUEST ORGANIST: We are pleased to welcome guest organist and former child of Central Clayton Heidbreder on Sunday, December 31.

Joy Offering Collected Christmas Eve

In worship on Christmas Eve, Central will collect the annual PCUSA Christmas Joy Offering, which provides assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and helps develop the church's future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. Please consider giving generously to this offering.



Christmas Joy Offering Video



Stock Gifts, IRA Transfers, and Year-End Giving

Thank you for your generous giving to Central Presbyterian Church in 2017! Throughout the year--especially at year end--we receive gifts of stock as well as IRA transfers. In order to properly credit your donor account and acknowledge the gift properly, we need to know who has given stock or IRA contributions. A little known fact is that many of these transactions occur without the donor identified.

We need your help. Please send an email to Linda Massengill at lmassengill@cpcatlanta.org or call her at 404.601.3128 to let her know you've given stock, the type of stock and number of shares or a distribution through your IRA.

For contributions to be considered deductible in 2017, the IRS requires that the contribution be **postmarked** or **physically received** by the church prior to midnight on December 31, 2017.

If you are planning to hand-deliver your contribution, **bring it with you to worship on Sunday, December 31**. For stock gifts, the stock must have been received into our brokerage account prior to January 1, 2018.

Contributions (including pre-dated checks) received not meeting the above criteria may be credited toward your 2017 giving; however, the IRS deduction will be for 2018. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Massengill.

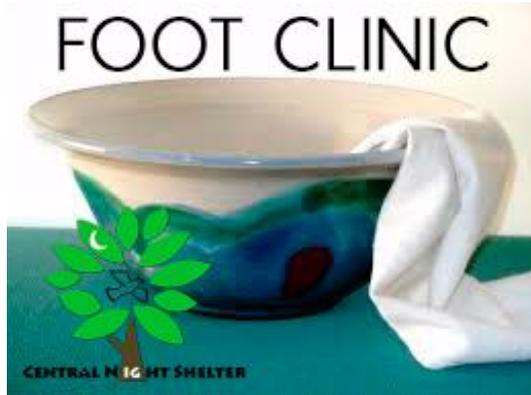
Again, Central is appreciative of all gifts and we wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Bake a Casserole for Central College Students!

On January 2, a group of Central and Metro-Atlanta college students are travelling to Montreat, NC, for the annual Montreat College Conference. Ulrik Atlanta campus minister Sarah Hooker is leading the group, in partnership with Central. We will spend 3 days exploring faith and enjoying fellowship with 1200 college students from around the nation. Click here to learn more about the conference.

We are asking Central members to help offset the cost to our students by providing meals for us. If you are willing to provide a pre-made meal that freezes well for the college conference group, please email Anna at atraynham@cpatlanta.org.



The Foot Clinic needs your help!

Every Wednesday night during Shelter season (November 1 - March 31), volunteers wash the feet of guests who request it, trim their toenails, smooth their callouses, massage their feet, and give them new socks.

We are in need of **flip flops** (which prevent the spread of athlete's foot in the showers) and **shoe insoles** (which can prolong the usefulness of old shoes). There is a basket in the narthex marked "Gifts for the Foot Clinic."

We are also in need of more volunteers. If you are interested in serving, please contact Beth Paulsen (johnsonb@ctsnet.edu) or Ellen Logan (elogan@gsu.edu).



We are coming close to the end of the year and we still have many overnights in the last week that are not filled in both shelters.

If you or anyone you know can help with any of these nights please sign up or let us know.

A great big thank you to the people that responded to the last email!

Central
Tuesday 12/26
Friday 12/29
Saturday 12/30
Sunday 12/31

Shrine
Saturday 12/23
Monday 12/25
Tuesday 12/26
Wednesday 12/27
Saturday 12/30
Sunday 12/31

Also please look for openings for sack lunches and breakfasts. We have all dinners filled for the year!

Overnights:
Heather Hunter
404-276-6910 (text is best unless it's after 6:30)

Sack Lunches/Breakfasts:
Sue Briss



Central Breakfast with the OAC Guests

A Great way to start Christmas Day. Join us for breakfast with our Central Shelter guests on Christmas morning. If you have not attended, just ask anyone who has - great way to start the day. You can contribute casserole (we provide the recipe), fruit, bread, juice or milk. Meet us at 6am on Christmas Day. Contact Bede Campbell 404-873-6227 for more information.



Lenten Small Groups

Have you ever found yourself amid Lent, a significant season in the worship life of the Church, and wished you had some help cutting through the noise of life so that you could more closely attend - to scriptures, to intuitions, to questions, to the voices of others, or to you own voice? Do you wish you had an opportunity to get to know a group of people at Central on a deeper level? If so, here is some really good

news!

Lenten Small Groups will be forming in each of Central's parishes to share a purposeful, informal timeout each week during Lent (February 11 - March 18). These gatherings of 8-10 will focus on the previous Sunday's sermon and lectionary texts in sharing responses to three questions:

- What did you hear?
- What do you wonder?
- What difference does it make?

Ready for some help with Lent? Watch the newsletter for more details. Sign ups will begin on January 7 in Tull Hall.



Winter Studies Program

Program title: Recommitting to Community

Program sub-title: Revitalization of Atlanta communities, and what that can mean for Central Presbyterian Church

Program abstract:

Community revitalization is evident in multiple parts of the Atlanta area, with Beltline-fueled development being but one example. Recent announcements and activities indicate that the community revitalization wave will soon reach Atlanta city-center areas that are practically next door to Central Presbyterian Church. The 2018 Winter Studies program is focused on commitment to community - on engaging to help ensure the presence of actual communities of people in the city, as opposed to just redevelopment in a commercial sense. We will hear about revitalization of Atlanta communities from experts in the public and private sector, how the arts can be a vital part of building and enriching real communities, and what all this can mean for Central Presbyterian Church.

Program schedule (all sessions will be from 9:45 - 10:45 AM in the Oglesby atrium):

- Sunday, January 7 - A vision for a master plan for Atlanta's city center - Audrey Leous, Project Manager, Planning and Urban Design with Central Atlanta Progress, will discuss CAP's "master plan" vision for Atlanta's city center.
- Sunday, January 14 - How the arts can enrich community, and how Central can help - Jeff Watkins, Artistic Director of Atlanta's Shakespeare Tavern Playhouse, will lead a discussion on how the arts can enrich community, how some of Central's spaces could help in-town artists and arts groups thrive, and how art can help tell Central's story to visitors.
- Sunday, January 21 - Community revitalization in Atlanta: the view from City Hall - Tim Keane, Commissioner, Department of City Planning at the City of Atlanta, will provide the perspective from City Hall on Atlanta community revitalization.
- Sunday, January 28 - Central issues for our changing region - urbanization, displacement, and the suburbanization of poverty - Central member Ryan Gravel will put his vision for the Atlanta Beltline in the context of regional dynamics that are reshaping where and how we live. He will cover an array of challenges from housing affordability to transportation technology and discuss ways Central can advocate for an inclusive and equitable future for all Atlantans.



Sunday School Needs Your Help!

Do you enjoy being with children and love their energy? We need your gifts at Sunday school. Our 4th/5th grade class is in need of two teachers. If you are interested or know of someone please email Michelle at mhwang@cpatlanta.org
