



NEWS

UP FRONT

I had the privilege of joining Paul Gibson and a group of Great Rivers Region pastors last week for Q Conference in Nashville, TN. We shared a rich few days of learning at this “convening of Christian leaders intent on learning and collaborating toward what the Church’s future role in society ought to be.” There were many incredible presentations but one especially stood out to me.

We have talked often as a church about the ongoing cultural changes and shifts that we find ourselves caught up in. Over the past few years, many of you have read books like *This Present Future* by Reggie McNeal, *For a New Generation* by Lee Kricher, *Who Stole My Church* by Gordon MacDonald, *Toxic Charity* by Robert Lupton, and *Generous Justice* by Tim Keller in effort to think deeply about the ongoing change required of the church to do effective ministry in our day. These books have been incredibly helpful but the information within them doesn’t impact the reality that change is hard.

The experience of change often takes us on a journey through loss in order to make space for something new to emerge. Ongoing change is a reality for the church in America in these days. Often, our natural inclination in light of change is to respond negatively. This is certainly one of the responses I’ve had myself and seen in others in light of changes required for churches to continue following God’s lead into the future.

The negative experience of changes caused by the fact that church participation is in decline in our culture is why I was incredibly encouraged by the presentation given by Joshua Crossman of the Pinetops Foundation. He shared the results of a study their foundation did in search of ways to help empower churches to make an ongoing impact in our changing world.

The report issued in response to the study names the real challenge we face saying, “the bottom line: the next 30 years will represent the largest missions opportunity in the history of America. It is the largest and fastest numerical shift in religious affiliation in the history of this country. Even in the most optimistic scenarios, Christian affiliation in the U.S. shrinks dramatically, and in our base case, over 1 million youth at least nominally in the church today will choose to leave each year for the next three decades. 35 million youth raised in families that call themselves Christians will say that they are not by 2050...At this moment in time we are privileged to have the tools and resources to understand the state of Christianity in our country. We are given the ability to discern the probable departure of tens of millions of our children and grandchildren away from a life with Jesus. And if the trends hold, it will be a large and lasting portion of our country who will not know Christ. If we are willing to read the data, the hints in our cities and churches, it is apparent.”

I’m struck and saddened by what the data says and what we already know as we look around our church, families, and city. What Crossman reminded me of in a powerful way is the power of God to work.

COMING UP

5/1 Quarterly Business Meeting
 5/1 Wednesday Night Dinner
 5/4 Men’s Breakfast
 5/11 Springfield Choral Society
 5/12 Undie Sunday
 5/14 Leadership Coordination Team
 5/15 Wednesday Night Dinner
 5/18 Men’s Breakfast
 5/19 NB Youth End of Year Party
 5/26 Downtown Youth end of year Party
 5/27 Memorial Day - Church Office Closed

Continued....

WHAT'S HAPPENING

UpFront Continued

We may be inclined to shrink back in fear in light of the changes we face but God is giving us an opportunity and inviting us to go on a great adventure. If we are willing to go on an adventure, God can use Central to be a missional hub of God's love, grace, and light permeating our community.

The adventure will require much of us, ahead of us lies all kinds of difficult terrain and it is possible that "the scale of the project in front of us is so large that it could paralyze us. Particularly those who are not ready for the work ahead. It is a large task. It means change. It means great sacrifice, tiring effort, and it will not be familiar or comfortable. We will need to do some things differently, and different is very, very hard. We will need, in some cases, new wineskins. It will mean working together in ways and places that we have not historically. Left unchanged, the work of the American church could continue into greater decline because what we face is too much."

My great hope and prayer is that we would not be paralyzed and instead that we would unite as a church family in mission and vision in ways that make us incredibly useful to God in our changing world. I believe God is willing, able, and waiting. I believe our children, grandchildren, and neighbors need us to be who God is calling us to be. Are you willing to invest yourself in an adventure? I am.

Your Partner in Mission,
Josh

*quotes from The Great Opportunity report found at www.thegreatopportunity.org

KUMLER & LOAMI FOOD PANTRIES

For the month of May we are focusing on donating soup, chili, stew, and other similar items to the Kumler and Loami food pantries. Jesus calls upon his followers to feed the hungry and this is one way in which we can do this. When you are at the store, please pick up an extra can or two or more of nonperishable food items and bring them to church to help the hungry members of our communities.

5/1 - The Quarterly Business Meeting takes place at 6:00 p.m. in Merriam Hall.

5/1 & 5/15 – Wednesday Night Dinners take place in Merriam Hall. Email your reservations to ann@cbcchurchfamily.org or call the church office at 523-3639.

5/4 & 5/18 - Men's Breakfast takes place in Merriam Hall from 8 to 9:30 a.m.

5/5, 5/19 - Springfield Youth Group meets after worship from 12 - 2 p.m. The end of year party for Youth Group is May 26.

5/11 - The Springfield Choral Society, directed by Marion Van Der Loo, will present music by Haydn at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 at the door or at the Choral Society website. Please direct all questions to the Choral Society.

5/12 - Undie Sunday (see note above)

5/5 & 5/12 - New Berlin Youth Group meet at 5 p.m. The end of year party is May 19.

5/14 - The Finance Team meets at 5:30 p.m.

5/14 - The Leadership Coordination Team meets at 6:30 p.m. in Weber Lounge.

5/27 - The Church Office will be closed for Memorial Day.

BIRTHDAYS

- 5/1 Gideon Smith
- 5/3 Corren Watson
- 5/8 Ray Reynolds
- 5/9 Nora Ficke
- 5/16 Dallas Tankersley
- 5/18 Glen Smith
- 5/18 Helen Whitlock
- 5/21 Kallen Watson
- 5/22 Greg Seifert
- 5/27 Alexis Berry
- 5/27 John Black
- 5/29 Jennie Alt
- 5/31 Suzanne Stericker
- 5/31 Dixie Dalbey

ANNIVERSARIES

- 5/4 Jerry & Sheila Fite
- 5/6 David & Theresa Law
- 5/12 Reg & Judi Mills
- 5/20 Dave & Lin Glomski
- 5/21 Jason & Rachel Crain
- 5/22 Josh & Emily Sabo
- 5/28 Tony & Nancy Crain
- 5/29 Gregg & Paula Harwood

Did we miss someone? Please let me know at ann@cbcchurchfamily.org

The James Project and Undie Sunday

Sunday, May 12 is Undie Sunday. That day is Mother's Day as well, a good day to reach out to a child in need. **The James Project** is a nonprofit, Christian organization whose mission is to support foster care children and their foster parents. It is usually very sudden and traumatic when a child is placed in foster care or when a child is moved from one home to another. Closet 127, a part of the James Project, offers the social worker in Sangamon County a place to go to get clothing, bedding, and at times even a bed for the child while the foster parents focus on the child's emotional needs. Children suddenly removed from their home often have only the clothing or pajamas they are wearing. This year we are again asking you to consider purchasing new underwear in any size, for boys or girls, for Closet 127. If you wish to make a monetary donation, just send it to the church office with a notation that it is for the James Project/Closet 127. Please put your donation of underwear or a gift card from Walmart or Kohl's in the box in the Serve the World Center. *(Note: The James Project does not take donations of adult clothing).*

NOTES

Outreach is Everyone's Responsibility

Each Christian has a responsibility to share their faith and their church. Here are two easy ways to do that. First, if you have a Facebook account, share church activities and events, talk about your church, your small group, your friends, and what Central means to you. Also invite your Facebook friends to Central. Second, pick up a supply of the CBC promotional "business cards" at the church and share a card with family, friends, and even strangers. I challenge you to walk up to a stranger at the grocery store, give them a card, and ask them if they have a church home. Then, invite them to visit Central. I would love to hear their response and God will be very proud of you for making the effort! Yes, it takes a little courage, but you can do it! ~Larry Aldag, Outreach Committee

Girl Scout Troop 6385

Girl Scout Troop 6385 would like to thank Central Baptist Church for use of its facilities this year. We have really enjoyed our meetings. We do have a limited amount of Girl Scout Cookies still available for purchase, so if you are interested, please contact Heather Southwell at 217-891-2111. Help a Girl Scout go to camp! ~Heather Southwell

Graham School Children's Notes

In the April CBN you read a note from Steve Miller, principle of Graham Elementary School. He explained the testing the students in grade 3-5 had gone through. Steve thanked Central for their support of the Graham Students during this time. In addition, Central received thank you notes from Mrs. Miller's 3rd grade class. The follow are some excerpts from those notes:

"Thank you for all of the snacks and all of the cheering on. Your guys are very sweet people and kind people..... Thank you for believing in me."

"Thank you for the notes. We are thankful for everything you did for Graham School."

"Thank you for the notes of encouragement. It made me do better on the test."

"Thank you for all the support..... Thank you for coming to the library."

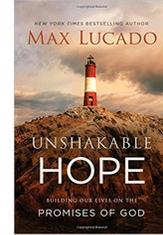
I want to especially thank all of you who helped write the notes and package up the snack.

~Barbara McKean, a supporter of Graham Elementary School

OFF THE SHELF

Unshakable Hope by Max Lucado

What feels shaky in your world? Are you overwhelmed by the problems you’re facing or the pain you’re feeling? Maybe you feel hurt by the past. Disappointed by the present. Worried about the future. If so, you are not alone, but there is hope. You can live with security and purpose.



In Unshakable Hope, Max Lucado unpacks 12 of the Bible’s most significant promises, equipping you to overcome difficult circumstances by keeping your focus on the hope found in the promises of Scripture rather than dwelling on the problems in front of you. For every problem in life, God has given you a promise. Hope is hard to come by these days. Whether it’s heart disease or cancer, job failure or addiction, natural disasters or family disasters, mass murders or mental illness, there are so many reasons to be overwhelmed. In a world full of instability, we do not need more opinions or hunches; we need the definitive declarations of our mighty and loving God.

What is your life built on—the circumstances of life or the promises of God? The answer to that question changes everything. Join Max as he takes a closer look at Scripture’s unbreakable promises and shows you how to live with unshakable hope. This book may be found on the New Book Rack in the Library after. (240 pages, 2018, 4.8 out of 5 Amazon Rating)

Jim Filler, On behalf of the Volunteer Library Team

A NOTE FROM CHILDREN’S HOUSE

Last month we had such a great time celebrating the Week of the Young Child. A big thank you to all the families who were able to join us for the ice cream social. It was great time by all.

During the week of May 6th, we will be celebrating our amazing teachers! Please join us as we honor these special ladies and gentleman for the care they provide each day. It is truly a blessing to work with such a talented and dedicated group of teachers. It is easy to see and feel the love and learning they each provide when you walk into the door. I personally feel blessed to have each one of there here. We thank each staff member for their years of service in Early Education and at our Center.



Teacher	Years ECE	Years at CH	Teacher	Years ECE	Years at CH
Ms. Loretta	20 y	4 y	Ms. Diane	11 y	10 y
Ms. Jo Jo	12 y	2 y	Ms. Sandy	16 y	16 y
Ms. Tondrie	22 y	8 months	Ms. Chris	3 y	3 y
Ms. Alison	15 y	7 y	Ms. Karlene	30 y	6 y
Ms. Erica	14 y	2 y	Ms. Judy	24 y	22 y
Mr. Zach	7 y	2 months.			
Ms. Amanda	19 y	16 y			
Ms. Tami	29 y	7 y			
Ms. Rachael	19 y	19 y			
Ms. Kayla	4 y	4 y			
Ms. Annie	48 y	18 y			

Judy Vlach, Director Children’s House

A NOTE FROM CONNECTED PAIRS

Couples Article

Happy Mother's Day! What are some things you can't live without? Ashley Willis of Marriage Today offers Ten Must-Haves Your Marriage Can't Live Without, and they don't cost a penny: Love, Respect, Mutual Submission, Kindness, Daily Communication, Sexual Intimacy, Non-Sexual Physical Touch, Trust, Forgiveness, and a Foundation of Faith.

To read the full article, <https://marriagetoday.com/marriagehelp/10-must-haves-marriage-cant-live-without/>.

Parenting Article

Happy Mother's Day! Do you post about your children on social media? The folks at Jellies offer these five reasons you might want to rethink what you post, or if you post at all:

1. Posting on Social Media Can Invade Your Child's Privacy
2. Your Social Media Posts Might Be Used for Bullying
3. Social Media Messaging Could Impact Your Child's Future
4. Sharing Puts Your Child at Risk for Digital Kidnapping
5. Your Social Media Posts Might Attract Dangerous People

To read the full article, <https://jelliesapp.com/blog/5-reasons-not-to-post-about-your-child-on-social-media>

Blessings,

Stephani Cave, LCPC

ConnectEdPAIRS

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For monthly couples, individual, and family tips, please sign up for our e-newsletter. For daily relationship tips, follow us on facebook. For more information about any ConnectEdPAIRS service, please visit our website at www.connectedpairs.com, stop by, call, or email me in the counseling office. I look forward to talking with you soon.

Higher Education Scholarships

The Higher Education Fund of Central Baptist Church was created to assist students pursuing a college degree. The application form for 2019-2020 will be available in the Welcome Center or contact the church office for an email copy.

The application form should be completely filled out and submitted to the church office no later than June 1, for consideration for the 2019-2020 school year. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Mary Ellen Sharp (523-3639 or maryellen@CBCchurchfamily.org).