



# NEWS

## UP FRONT

### February Administrative Leadership Team (ALT) Report

As you remember we are starting a monthly report to the congregation on how the church operates (called polity) as part of our six month trial period of new polity. The ALT (Administrative Leadership Team) is helping to serve the congregation to live into the mission of the church.

We are deep in the process of studying the ways our church works...and how we can make it smoother. There are many “standing teams” .... Teams of you that lead the way on all kinds of activities of the church..... men’s breakfast, the church library, property and grounds, sound, greeters, the Graham Christmas Mart and numerous others. We want to make sure that each of those have a description of what and how they do what they do.....so that if someone isn’t available we know what to do!

We also have initiated a series of Ad Hoc teams.....those are new initiatives, or initiatives that deserve a deep dive and some revision. Those initiatives have been created by asking ourselves the questions, what does it mean to be a church that Embraces, Humanity?, that has an Open Canopy, that is Downtown Oriented, and that is know for its Generosity?

You will remember that during the Sacred Conversations last year those were the 4 values that we identified to guide our work. Randy Wells talked about Open Canopy last month...a description of how we embrace diverse humanity and provide safe harbor and spiritual shelter. Jimmy Carter described this as “different people, different backgrounds, different yearnings, different hopes, different dreams.....not a melting pot but a beautiful mosaic”.

As part of our Ad Hoc team initiatives Paula Harwood is leading us in to host a regular series of events entitled Community Gatherings. A time where we will serve meals, feature topics of interest, have an ice cream .....with our focus on building our fellowship and our relationships.

Tony is leading a team that will host a regular series of events that welcomes members of the community at large to dialogue and discuss critical issues in our faith community. The focus of this initiative is to lead in our community as being a “thinking community of faith.” We believe that this will introduce our church to others in the city who may have no idea who we are and who are looking for a place where they can ask questions and express doubt (remember Tony’s message last week?) We have already dipped our toe in the water with this....when we educated ourselves about white nationalism, and learned from Ryan Burge about the group of our neighbors who claim “no religion”.

## COMING UP

**3/1** Men’s Breakfast, 8 a.m,  
Merriam Hall

**3/5** Connecting Women, 10  
a.m, Weber Lounge

**3/15** Men’s Breakfast, 8 a.m,  
Merriam Hall.

**3/9** Daylight Savings Time  
begins

Church Office  
8-2:30 T-F

\*The Church office is closed  
on Mondays.

## UP FRONT (Cont)

John Martin is leading our work on the security of our church....and how we can maintain an open environment while still providing a secure environment.

It is our fervent hope that each of us will play a part in the work of our church....whether it be a standing team or one of our Ad Hoc adventures. That's part of one of the 4 values we have identified...the Value of Generosity. Jimmy Carter said "I have one life and one chance to make it count for something. My faith demands that I do whatever I can, wherever I am, whenever I can, for as long as I can with whatever I have to try to make a difference.

When we speak of Generosity we mean encouraging and equipping people to use their God given gifts like time, talents and resources for the glory of God.

In Matthew 5 Jesus tells us to not hide our light under a basket, but let it shine before others. Our light is our time, talent and resources. God provides each of us with gifts and talents that, when used as God wants us to, will glorify Him and provide for those in need.

It could be providing assistance at the Feast of Plenty, filling communion cups or baking bread for communion, or it could even be something as significant as assisting with the infants or toddlers during the service. Each of us has at least one gift we can use to glorify our great God.

We have prepared a brief survey that you will see at the end of this newsletter. Please take the time to complete it and, if you haven't already done so, bring it back to church next Sunday (or mail it in). It is designed to identify your spiritual gifts and use them to glorify God and bless others. If you want to go into more detail in identifying your gifts, there is a section explaining how to go online to help you further identify those gifts. It is free and more involved.

There is also a section on your survey to highlight special talents or skills. Don't ignore that area. Maybe you love to bake, or are good at teaching a devotional and you would like to share with a "shut-in", or you enjoy carpentry, technology, play a musical instrument and something needs to be made for a special event. What a great way to honor and glorify God by using your gifts to help the church or people in need.

So please fill out the survey and share the gifts that you have been blessed with. We would like everyone to be involved with at least one area of ministry here at Central. This survey will help us know who is interested in helping in the various ministry areas as openings occur.

At a later date we will talk about leaving a legacy and how you may be able to be involved with something like that aspect of generosity here at Central.

Leigh Steiner and Bruce Hayes

## BIRTHDAYS

3/2 Syl Grisham  
3/5 Phyllis Hudspeth  
3/6 Brady Zeiger  
3/16 Judy Vlach  
3/21 Sharon Smith  
3/22 Timothy Boner  
3/29 Bill Smith  
3/29 Jim Stolleis

## ANNIVERSARIES

3/10 Don and Judy Vlach  
3/21 George and Anne Tankersley  
3/31 John and Jennie Alt

If we missed anyone, let us know at [rachael@cbcchurchfamily.org](mailto:rachael@cbcchurchfamily.org)

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### Kumler Food Pantry

Groceries are expensive! Please help out the hungry in Springfield. If everyone in church on Sunday brought a can of a nonperishable food or a box of mac and cheese or a can of soup we could help those in need. Remember the loaves and fishes? One can or box can help the hungry and our neighbors.

### Wednesday Night Dinner Shelter Meals

We provide meals for Contact Ministries through MealTrain. Instructions are on the MealTrain web site. Type this link into your browser to sign up: <https://mealtrain.com/yoo5gm> or call the church office at (217) 523-3639 and Rachael will sign you up.

### Dates to Remember

**3/1 Men's Breakfast** meets at 8 a.m. in Merriam Hall.

**3/5 Connecting Women** meets at 10 a.m. in Weber Lounge.

**3/9 Daylight Savings Time** Don't forget to set your clocks forward an hour before going to bed on Saturday.

**3/15 Men's Breakfast** meets at 8 a.m. in Merriam Hall.

## NEWS AND NOTES

A big thank you to everyone that came out to help change the light bulbs in the sanctuary chandeliers. It was a team effort and could not have been done without the help of volunteers.

### Connected Pairs

#### 3 Signs That You're the "Parent" in Your Relationship

Most people don't get into a relationship to "parent" their partner, but it happens. In this article, Mark Travers, PhD points out three signs that this is happening to you in your relationship.

Two of these are:

1. You're always in "fix-it mode." You constantly find yourself in problem solving mode. It's a problem when you find yourself constantly trying to steer your partner toward a solution.
2. Your partner feels infantilized or dismissed. This happens when you tend to make all the decisions or are condescending and make your significant other feel like a child.

To read more about these and the final sign, read [here](#).

Blessings,  
Stephani Cave, LCPC  
ConnectEdPAIRS  
217-972-4851

Donna Givens, RN LCPC  
618-973-5072

For more information about relationships, follow ConnectEdPAIRS on FaceBook. For more information about any ConnectEdPAIRS service, please visit the website at [www.connectedpairs.com](http://www.connectedpairs.com), call, or email the counseling office.

How Can I Bless Central Baptist Church?

Matthew 5:14-16 (Jesus said) "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. People do not light a lamp and put it under a bushel basket; rather, they put it on a lamp stand, and it gives light to all the house. In the same way let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

A goal of the Administrative Leadership Team at CBC is to help each person find and use their spiritual gifts to serve people. This self-assessment will be confidential and only be used to provide guidance and insight to leadership and to assist you in determining how you might use your talents to glorify God.

Put an "X" next to the following statements that are true about you,

- ☐ I enjoy serving behind the scenes.
- ☐ I am passionate about managing details.
- ☐ I am good at building things with my hands.
- ☐ I enjoy serving and assisting others.
- ☐ I enjoy reading and helping children learn to read.
- ☐ I am committed to giving financially for others to learn about Jesus.
- ☐ I would consider myself an extrovert (outgoing).
- ☐ I enjoy working with young children.
- ☐ I have compassion for those who have little.
- ☐ I feel blessed when helping those who are hurting
- ☐ I feel comfortable being in charge and/or leading.
- ☐ I would like to help with welcoming new people who come to our church.
- ☐ I would like to help with visiting those who are shut in.
- ☐ I would like to help with creating social events for the congregation.

**Please complete the following statements as they apply to you:**

Who I love to work with most (age and type of people)

\_\_\_\_\_

Special talent/skills that I have  
are : \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

You are encouraged to go to <https://www.freeshapetest.com/> to take a free spiritual gifts survey developed by Saddleback Church. This free survey may help you discover areas of your life that you are shaped for with your skills, personality and heart. You can take the survey and receive a free assessment. If you want to include a copy for Dr. Stang, there is a place to do that. His email is: [tony@cbcchurchfamily.org](mailto:tony@cbcchurchfamily.org)