



NEWS

UP FRONT

April Administrative Leadership Team (ALT) Report

I read a meditation this week that reminded me again, that the work of our church, the work that the ALT is shepherding, is so much more than just “stuff to be done.”

We are Easter people, and we are supposed to be different.

Easter people are believers. We believe not only in the possible, we believe also in the impossible. We believe that the lame were made to walk, and the mute made to speak, that lepers were cleansed and the blind received their sight.....

Easter grabs us by the throat and shouts, “Live.” The radiant Jesus who leaves the tomb challenges our complacency with the forces of death, be they hopelessness, fear, discouragement, or lack of will. Don’t let death have the last word in your story, Jesus urges. Even if there is no angel to help you, grab the door of the tomb that holds you back and rip its seal. There’s too much goodness in you that still needs to rise, and there’s too much work in the world that still needs to be done.

This is our fourth report to the congregation on the work of the ALT (administrative leadership team). We seek to identify the “work in our community that needs to be done” and find our part in that.

You will remember we identified four values from which we will direct our activities and efforts. We’ve talking about Embracing Humanity, and being an Open Canopy, and being a church known for its generosity. Today, we are going to focus on Downtown Orientation.

But before we dive into that, I want to just update you on a few of the Teams that are working in our midst. Phyllis Hudspeth leads a team that is focusing on building intentional activities to care for the elderly and shut ins. She has talked to our list of shut ins who have given her good feedback on what they want: interaction with people, they just “want to know that someone cares.” Considering their feedback, Phyllis has a couple of things on the drawing board that will she be rolling out shortly. She will be initiating in home Communion, working with our retired pastors in the congregation to minister to the needs of our shut ins. Additionally the team will work with Carys Fritz and others to bring music alongside these in home visits.

One of the things that is wonderful is to be getting new ideas from members of our community AND people stepping up to volunteer to work on these ideas. Rebecca Allen has spontaneously volunteered to direct a children’s pageant at Christmas time! She will be working with Sheila and Ruth on making this a reality. One of our Sunday school classes recently asked what we would do if ICE stepped inside our church targeting a particular congregant. Bruce Hays took the lead on talking to Westminster Church to get their protocols with the assistance of Jennie Alt. We are planning for some training from Westminster, so that we can solidify our protocol. As that rolls out shortly, you will either be a part of the training or there will be a time when we share the protocol with the congregation.

COMING UP

5/3 Men’s Breakfast, 8 a.m.,
Merriam Hall

5/7 Connecting Women, 10
a.m, Weber Lounge

5/17 Men’s Breakfast, 8 a.m.,
Merriam Hall

Church Office

8-2:30 T-F

*The Church office is closed
on Mondays.

UP FRONT (Cont)

Levitt Amp season is coming soon and our involvement with them reminds us that we are a church which is downtown and given the opportunity to shine a light into our city. Being downtown oriented is one of our four values.

We want to be a church focused on serving the heart of Springfield. We want to embrace those who are directly around us and to build relationships in the downtown community. The mission field for Central will be the downtown or the central area of the city. The ALT has identified several action steps to help carry out this new downtown focus and has created several different leadership teams to help carry out and accomplish these goals. We were a church with two locations- one in downtown Springfield and one in New Berlin. We have a leadership team working actively to sell the church and its property in New Berlin. We are hoping that this sale can take place soon so the focus and resources of our church can be just on downtown area of Springfield and not split between two cities. The congregation will be informed if we are able to complete a negotiation for the sale of the New Berlin property by the ALT and pending a church vote on the matter by the congregation to approve such sale. We have active relationships with the different missions downtown. We support missions like Washington Street Mission and agencies such as Helping Hands. Our children have been doing food drives to help support the Kumler Food Pantry. We continue to support the Levitt Amp concert series next to our church. We are looking for volunteers to help in the green room in Weber Lounge for the concert performers. We are also looking for people to help in providing hot dogs and water to the people attending the concerts. We want to be intentional through our presence interacting with each one that we meet so that we can start to form connections with them and Central. We continue to work with volunteers across the city to provide meals at Thanksgiving through our annual Feast of Plenty. It is through the Feast of Plenty leadership team and these volunteers from the community that our church can provide and serve to all those who may need a meal or may be seeking a time of fellowship or connection during the holidays which can be a lonely time for many. It takes a big team of volunteers to serve the hundreds of meals we provide at Thanksgiving and we are thankful we can connect with the Springfield community through this outreach and mission. We still continue with our relationship with Graham school and its teachers, students and families. We have a team working in the school library and reading books to children. At Christmas, we do the Graham Christmas Mart where we work together with the school and the teachers to allow the families at Graham to come to Merriam hall at Central to shop and get needed gifts for their children for Christmas. We are always looking for volunteers to help serve in this outreach to the community. I hope you are willing to use your various gifts and talents to help serve in these various outreaches that I just talked about. If you are interested to help serve in any of these downtown mission areas, you can talk to me or any member of the ALT and we can connect you to the appropriate leadership team so you can be involved with the ongoing mission of the church.

Leigh Steiner and John Martin

BIRTHDAYS

5/1 Gideon Smith

5/3 Corren Watson

5/4 Maybelle Hall

5/5 Cristy Saint

5/8 Ray Reynolds

5/9 Nora Ficke

5/11 Don Vlach

5/18 Glen Smith

5/21 Kallen Watson

5/22 Greg Seifert

5/29 Jennie Alt

5/31 Suzanne Stericker

ANNIVERSARIES

5/12 Reg and Judi Mills

5/29 Gregg and Paula Harwood

If we missed anyone, let us know at rachael@cbcchurchfamily.org

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Kumler Food Pantry

It doesn't take a lot of effort to help the hungry in Springfield. Pick up some extra nonperishable food such as peanut butter, fruit, soup, etc or hygiene products and bring them to Serve the World Center and it will be taken to Kumler Food Pantry. It's the right thing to do-reaching out to others in need.

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

5/3 Men's Breakfast meets at 8 a.m. in Merriam Hall.

5/6 Connecting Women meets at 10 a.m. in Weber Lounge.

5/17 Men's Breakfast meets at 8 a.m. in Merriam Hall.

NEWS AND NOTES

HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL AID FORM

Are you a high school senior planning to continue your education at a college or university or a career workforce center? Or are you currently enrolled and planning to continue pursuing your degree? Central does have a higher education fund for qualifying students. Applicants must be an active member of Central Baptist Church at the time of application.

The amount of each scholarship shall be decided by the amount of funding in the account each year and by the number of applicants there are each year.

In order to receive an application, please contact Rachael Manion at the church office at (217) 523-3639 or by emailing her at rachael@cbcchurchfamily.org. Please return the application to the Church office by June 1, 2025.

Congratulations to Tessa Richards on the birth of her baby boy, Parker, weighing 8lb 5oz. Mom and baby are both doing great.



Connected Pairs

Emotional Intelligence in Relationships

In this Gottman Institute article, Justin Pere describes what emotional intelligence is, why it matters in a relationship, and how to develop it in your relationship. Some points Pere makes in the article are:

1. Emotional intelligence is the ability to recognize, understand, and manage your own emotions and to attune to your partner's emotions.
2. Conflict becomes easier to manage when you are attuned to each other's emotions.
3. One of the ways to strengthen emotional intelligence is to listen to understand, not to defend. Often, we think of our response rather than actually listen to what is said by our partner.

To learn more about emotional intelligence and how to develop it in your relationship, click [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, call, or email the counseling office.

