



NEWS

UP FRONT

Dear church family,

As we enter this joyful Christmas season, our hearts are full of gratitude for all God is doing in and through our church family. I am so proud of our church!

Christmas Fellowship – December 5

Join us as we gather as God’s people for a time of fellowship and rejoicing—just as the angels rejoiced at the birth of Jesus! We look forward to celebrating together.

Graham Mart – December 13

We are grateful for the opportunity to bless under-resourced families once again through Graham Mart. This event allows us to help families secure quality gifts for their loved ones and to share the love of Christ in practical ways.

Christmas Eve Service

Our Christmas Eve service time will be announced later this week. We hope you’ll make plans to join us for this special time of worship as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

A Praise Report: Feast of Plenty

We rejoice in what God has done through the Feast of Plenty! A total of 1,658 meals were served, and we were blessed to host 175 volunteers. More importantly, we were able to be the hands and feet of Jesus to our community. Thank you to everyone who prayed, served, and gave.

Here’s to a wonderful and Christ-centered December! May His love and joy fill your homes and hearts. And, hopefully, these snow days will not fall on Sunday this winter.

God bless,
Pastor Tony

COMING UP

12/5 Christmas Fellowship,
6:00 - 7:00 p.m, Merriam Hall

12/6 Men’s Breakfast, 8 a.m,
Merriam Hall

12/13 Graham Mart, Merriam
Hall

12/20 Men’s Breakfast, 8 a.m,
Merriam Hall

12/24 Christmas Eve Service

**Central Baptist Church will
be closed the following dates
for the Holiday season: 12/24,
12/25, 12/31, 1/1**

Church Office Hours

8-2:30 T-F

*The Church office is closed
on Mondays.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Kumler Food Pantry

It's a busy, busy holiday season with lots of family gatherings, events and decorating but please take a moment or two to remember the food insecure of our community. There are many in our community including children who have no idea where their next meal will come from. Please help out and bring some non-perishable food items to the Serve the World Center and it will be taken to the Kumler Food Pantry.

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.

NEWS AND NOTES

A Note from Jennie Alt

We wanted to thank our CBC family for the Camp Barnabas Scholarship given to Ethan each year. We appreciate all who donates to the Benevolence fund, which makes this scholarship happen. At Camp Barnabas, "there are no disabilities.....only abilities!" The campers are celebrated for who they are and their quirks. Life doesn't bend to Autism, it isn't always kind, positive, or uplifting, it's hard on the person and on the families, so supporting Ethan for this amazing week is beyond generous and kind.

A Note from Jeanne and Jim Newbanks

HI TO OUR GREAT CHURCH FAMILY...

Our family was so grateful for the kindness and help we received at the lunch after Molly's service.

Phyllis Hudspeth and 7 other church angels provided us a way to share our love for Molly.

This included George Tankersley, Bruce Hays, Cristy Saint, Joleen Welch, Carol Matheson and Jennifer Logan. You are all so deeply appreciated. All of our family members remarked how incredibly kind and caring the CBC members were and how welcome they made the family feel! Phyllis even filled a "special salad order, with a chuckle", for our Great Granddaughter, Lilly.

In deepest gratitude and blessings to all,
Jim and Jeanne Newbanks on behalf of the family of Molly Horio.

BIRTHDAYS

12/9 Ann Tankersley

12/16 Helen Richardson

12/23 Jim Nelson

12/29 Gregg Harwood

ANNIVERSARIES

12/27 Mike and Kiersten Large

12/24 Fred and Suzanne
Stericker

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

NEWS AND NOTES (Cont)

The Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering (RMMO)

Friends in Christ:

I am writing to encourage your giving to our last Annual Offering of the year, the Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering of our American Baptist Churches, USA.

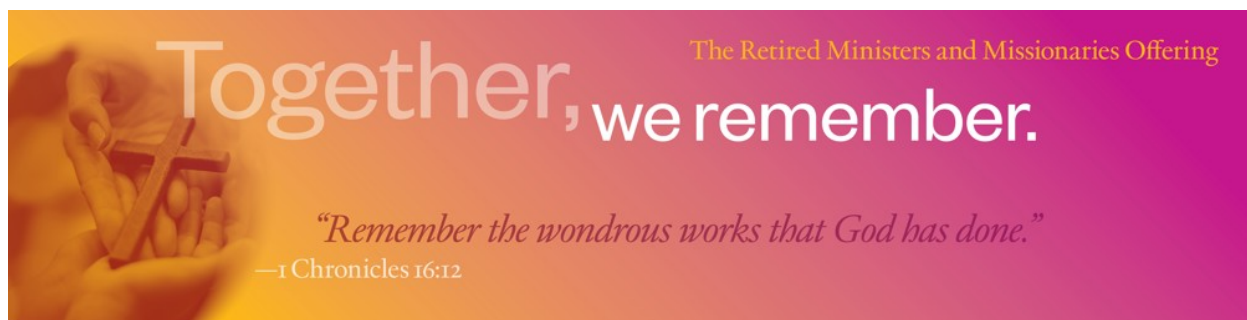
The Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering, RMMO, as you know, supports MMBB's effort to support retirees or their surviving spouses with emergency assistance when needs outdistance resources. Each retiree or surviving spouse also receives a "Thank you" check each November. Mine arrives each year just in time to meet expenses in the latter half of each November. So, thank you very much for your gifts to this offering last year.

I mentioned above the support this Offering assists in providing emergency assistance when needed outdistance resources. Here is an example: About 15-16 years ago, MMBB member retirees who were able and interested were given the opportunity to visit, either by telephone, or, preferable, if possible, in person. My wife, Maebeth, and I made these visits in Central and Southern Illinois, as well as several members who lived across the whole of Missouri. In our travels, I recall one person who spoke with us about the stresses on their income that year. The person was very concerned about how eerie ability to cover their expenses would be impacted by the annual adjustment to the monthly annuity payout they would receive the following year. Our gifts to RMMO each year help provide help for those in circumstances like this. This is the significance our gifts to "RMMO 2025" will have for many.

So, again, thank you for your past support and your consideration of the gift you can make this year. Thank you all for your thoughtfulness in this matter.

In the peace of Christ,

Rev. David R. Nicholson, M.Div., BCC, retired Senior Staff Chaplain, Springfield Memorial Hospital (Formerly Memorial Medical Center), Springfield, Illinois and member of Central Baptist Church.



CONNECTED PAIRS

Balancing Joy and Grief During the Holidays

In this Psychology Today article, Stacey R. Pinatelli, PsyD discusses ambiguous loss and ways to cope with it during the holidays. This type of loss occurs with dementia, estrangement or distance in a relationship, not death. She lists ways to cope with this:

Some ways to do this are:

1. Acknowledge the reality. Accepting that reconciliation may not happen, or that reconciliation might not be healthy, but can help.
2. Release the “should”. Drop expectations of how the holidays should feel.

To read more of these ways to cope with ambiguous loss during the holidays, click [here](#).

Blessings,

Stephani Cave, LCPC
ConnectEdPAIRS
217-972-4851

Donna Givens, RN LCPC
618-973-5072

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