



NEWS

UP FRONT - A SABBATICAL

¹ The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
² He makes me lie down in green pastures,
 he leads me beside quiet waters,
³ he refreshes my soul.

These opening verses to a well loved Psalm remind us of our dependence on God for everything we need. But sometimes we don't recognize and allow him to be our provider and need seasons to connect to him in deeper ways. Increasingly I have found myself in one of those seasons.

I have been on staff full time at Central Baptist Church since January 1, 2001. During that time I have stepped into many roles as ministry staff changes have taken place and the needs of the church have changed. During the past 17 years I have experienced the staff transitions of at least 5 ministry staff members. During each of those transitions my duties changed to cover different needs. Sometimes the change was temporary and at other times I continued with those responsibilities. In addition to this I have officiated many funerals of people who have, in many cases become like family to me.

I have found joy and fulfillment in all of the different roles I have assumed as the Associate Pastor at Central and still feel I have life left to give to this body of Christ. However, I confess in recent months, I am finding myself somewhat depleted. For this reason after conversations with Josh Sabo and leadership of the church I proposed and the church graciously granted a sabbatical leave, I will be taking later this year.

These words of Dallas Willard fill out a little of why a Sabbatical is a good thing for pastors and what I hope to accomplish in taking one.

I can state without wavering that the single greatest need of the church today is the restoration of ministers. What is required is a quite different approach to their life and work. It is a matter of leading them into a massive shift of the dynamics of their personality under God, and one that cannot be done by more books and conferences. They need to be taken out of the circulation for a sufficiently long time to re-vision and re-structure their lives in communion with Jesus and his kingdom.

COMING UP

3/3 Men's Breakfast
 3/4 Downtown Youth
 3/7 Wednesday Night Dinner
 3/21 Generous Justice Study
 3/11 Daylight Savings Time
 3/11 New Berlin Youth
 3/12 Hegarty Circle
 3/12 LCT Meeting
 3/17 Youth Pancake Breakfast
 3/17 Men's Breakfast
 3/18 Downtown Youth
 3/21 Wednesday Night Dinner
 3/21 Generous Justice Study
 3/25 New Berlin Youth
 3/29 Maundy Thursday
 4/1 Easter Sunday

Therefore, my greatest goal is to invest in Spiritual renewal. This will include the following things: practicing spiritual disciplines, reading, journaling, attending conferences, using the resources of the Chiara Center. I want to Invest in my marriage and family life by being widely available with and to my family. I want to be more present in our neighborhood by pursuing more quality time with neighbors. I especially would like to nurture a relationship with the mothers of a couple of black families in our neighborhood. I am anxious to find a way to better understand the challenges and joys they experience and to be a blessing to them as I am blessed by them. This would be an action step in response to the things I have learned through Sacred Conversations on Race and other learnings related to these issues.

I will be on Sabbatical from May 1 through July 31. This timeframe was selected to be least disruptive to the church schedule. It is past Easter and most of the Wednesday Night Dinner schedule, but before the work of the budget and fall activities begins. We are putting in place some pieces to cover my more urgent duties while I am away.

I continue to be grateful for the opportunity to serve together with you all and especially grateful for a church family that values its pastors and demonstrates that meaningfully by caring for them well.

Grace and peace, Mary Ellen

WELCOME OUR NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT!

We are very pleased to announce that Ann Webb has joined our team! You can connect with her through email at ann@cbcchurchfamily.org

I am so excited to become part of the Central Baptist Church family! Some of you I've met already and others I look forward to meeting. I recently moved back from seven years in the United Kingdom, which was a cultural and personal shock to the system. I am glad to be back in the United States and seeing old friends and my family again. I have three grown children who all live in Illinois and one grandchild, who lives in Kansas. I love to read, watch films, play video games, and talk about reading, films, and playing video games. I consider my newfound role at CBC my ministry opportunity, to free staff to better serve the CBC church family. Blessings for the days ahead. Ann Webb

A NOTE FROM CONNECTED PAIRS

Think back to the day you got married. Who was the most important person in your life that day? Most of us would say our spouse. One of the keys to having a great marriage is continuing to see your spouse as an important person in your life. It is common for spouses to think that stating their love for one another is enough to carry them through and that it is acceptable to slack off every now and then when it comes to your relationship. However, this occasional slacking off is what leads couples to drift apart. In the article "You Can Start Today," the author discusses the pitfalls of having good intentions in your relationship versus making intentional decisions about your relationship. The author believes that most "average" marriages are just a few intentional choices away from becoming great marriages. The article goes on to list several ways that you can turn your good intentions into actions and make your marriage great. Read the rest of the article at www.refineus.org/you-can-start-2day.

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

All Month

- Through the **America For Christ Offering** we can support ministries & resources that vitalize congregations and communities across the US and Puerto Rico.
- Construction is underway in New Berlin thanks to your Miracle Sunday gifts!
- Winter gloves are still needed at **Washington Street Mission** and donated in our Serve the World center.
- Please consider picking up an extra can or two of fruit or vegetables and bring it to the Serve the World Center where it will be taken to the **Kumler Food Pantry** (Downtown) & **Loami Food Pantry** (New Berlin). Any nonperishable food is welcome.

3/3 & 3/17 - Men's Breakfast Downtown from 8 to 9 AM, a time of fellowship, Bible Study, and breakfast.

3/4 & 3/18 - Downtown Youth will meet immediately following worship until 2 PM

3/7 & 3/21 - Wednesday Night Dinner Downtown from 4:45 to 5:45 PM

3/7 & 3/21 - Generous Justice Book Study Downtown from 5:45 to 6:30 in Zimmerman Classroom

3/11 - Spring Forward: Daylight Savings Time, don't forget to move your clocks forward an hour!

3/11 & 3/25 - New Berlin Youth will meet from 5 to 7 PM at the Timber Lodge at the Sangamon Co Fairgrounds

3/12 - Hegarty Circle meets at 9 AM. A time for women to gather to support missions and enjoy a time of fellowship and programming.

3/12 - Leadership Coordination Team at 6:30 PM

3/17 - Youth Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser: Join us Downtown from 9-11 AM. Cost: \$7 adults/\$3 kids.

3/24 - Our Palm Sunday worship service will be a special walk through the final week of Jesus' life in preparation for Easter.

3/29 - Maundy Thursday Service at 7 PM Downtown

4/1 - Easter Sunday: We will worship on this special day at our regular worship times.

BIRTHDAYS

- 3/2 Syl Grisham
- 3/5 Phyllis Hudspeth
- 3/6 Lowanda Medley
- 3/6 Brady Zeiger
- 3/10 Paige Martin
- 3/12 Mark Foutch
- 3/15 Madisyn Hanson
- 3/16 Judy Vlach
- 3/17 Jim Walker
- 3/21 Sharon Smith
- 3/22 Ann Webb
- 3/28 Nita Crews
- 3/29 Bill Smith
- 3/29 Jim Stolleis
- 3/30 Margaret Kirschner
- 3/31 Emily Aldag

ANNIVERSARIES

- 3/6 Ted & Elaine Turkcan
- 3/7 David Decker & Leigh Steiner
- 3/16 Prentice & Heather Southwell
- 3/17 Rodney & Gretchen Gruber
- 3/20 Tex & Lisa Morrow
- 3/21 George & Anne Tankersley
- 3/31 John & Jennie Alt

*Are we missing someone? Email ann@cbcchurchfamily.org to let us know

THANK YOU

Brett Miles and Jim Stolleis have volunteered a combined 15 weeks during the months of January and February repairing and painting the first floor hallway, the third floor stair lobby, the third floor elevator lobby and the men's and women's restrooms. The building looks fresh and clean because of the efforts of Brett and Jim. They have done a fine job and we owe them a huge thanks for their service. *submitted by Dave Law

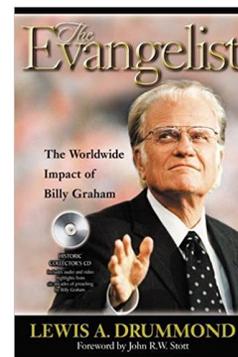
The Preacher and the Presidents: Billy Graham in the White House

by Nancy Gibbs and Michael Duffy

Over the course of seven decades, the Rev. Billy Graham befriended every occupant of the White House, from Harry Truman to George W. Bush. This expansive text draws on Graham's autobiographies, other biographies, presidential diaries and memoirs, and historical texts and documents to examine each of those relationships.

***The Evangelist* by Lewis A. Drummond**

How much can one man do to influence the world for Christ? How do we begin to measure the worth of his work? In this documentary, evangelism scholar Lewis Drummond examines the Billy Graham ministry phenomenon of the last half of the 20th Century-spiritually, culturally, and historically.



These books may be found on the New Book Rack in the Library.

For More Books by Billy Graham

See “Off the Shelf” November 2017 CBN article <http://bit.ly/November2017CBN1>

Two DVD's Related to Billy Graham

Billy Graham: God's Ambassador (see October 2017 CBN) and ***Billy: The Early Years***.

Jim Filler, on behalf of the Volunteer Library Team

A NOTE FROM CHILDREN'S HOUSE



Spring officially begins on the 20th and we are very excited. Hopefully nice weather will be on it's way soon. Everyone is ready to get outside and enjoy the Sunshine. Work on the new playground project is in motion. We have been working on a new design and moving forward on a time frame for breaking ground.

Children's House will be closed on the 5th for Professional development day. Teachers will be attending a training, team planning, and be given resource time in the classroom. This month on-call sub, Miss Diane celebrates her tenth year at Children's House. We are very blessed to have her as part of our team.

Calendar of Events

- 3/2** - Dr. Seuss's birthday (classrooms celebrate reading and rhyming)
- 3/5** - Center Closed for Professional Development Day
- 3/11** - Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 3/17** - St. Patrick's Day (classroom celebrations)
- 3/20** - Spring Begins
- 3/30** - Good Friday - classroom Easter party 3:00