



*Central
Connection*

February 1, 2012

Dear Friends,

I am about to make a confession which may get me into a bit of hot water with Maggie given that we are less than two weeks away from February 14. I really don't like Valentine's Day! I find it to be an artificial, saccharine sweet day hijacked by the greeting card companies and florists in an attempt to make the average Joe feel guilty about not showing his significant other the proper amount of romance.

It's not that I don't like giving Maggie flowers and chocolates on occasion, I just don't like to be told when to do it. It may be cynicism on my part but I am put off by the marketing of love by pelting the general public with "Be Mine" candy hearts and images of chubby cupids firing arrows. As a Christian I believe there are better ways of expressing love than a Whitman's sampler in the shape of a heart or a new mobile phone in some shade of red that has "My Funny Little Valentine" as its ring tone. I have a hard time seeing Jesus passing out little pieces of cardstock with pictures of Sponge Bob Square Pants saying, "Be My Valentine." I do see him sitting with people who are on the fringes of society and having a meal. I see him taking five loaves and two fish to feed a multitude. I see him being raised on a rugged cross as an atonement for the sin of all humanity. That is an expression of true love being willing to lay down one's life for another.

The ironic thing about our modern celebration of Valentine's Day is that originally it had nothing to do with romantic love. Scholars believe the association of Valentine's Day with romantic love is the creation of a group of late fourteenth century English writers led by Geoffrey Chaucer. The original feast day of St. Valentine was in fact a celebration of the martyrdom of two early church leaders named Valentine. Valentine's Day has from its inception been about love, love for Jesus Christ and the faith that grows from that. Another interesting tidbit of trivia about Valentine's Day is that until 1969 the Roman Catholic Church recognized eleven different days as the official St. Valentine's Day. It seems to me that we can't be reminded enough about true expressions of faith.

Therefore, I want to challenge all of you this year to forgo trivial expressions of love like cards and flowers and show forth true love, which is concern for the other. Instead of buying chocolate and jewelry how about making a donation to a battered women's shelter in honor of the one you love. Smile at the person walking down the street who would otherwise be ignored. Invite the new kid to play with you and your friends. If we do this, maybe just maybe, we will be showing forth the love of the cross, not the love of Madison Avenue advertizing firms.

Grace and Peace,

Brian

FAMILY SKATE NIGHT

For All Ages!

Sunday, March 4th from 4 to 6 p.m.

Hosted by the Youth Committee

Skate Wheels can be locked for the really young.

"Walkers" available for young non-skaters.

Bring friends!

No charge for Skaters or Watchers.

A light sandwich supper will be served.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Kevin Lea	02/07	Richard Perkins	02/15
Vernon Collins	02/09	Roger Dale	02/17
Ashley Al-Hakeem.	02/12	Jerry Ratzlaff.	02/17
Kathy Al-Hakeem	02/12		
Scotty Scott	02/12	Tom & Amanda Dicken.	02/07
Eric Magill	02/13	John & Jeannie Peters	02/14

Prayer Concerns List

A special prayer that you'll be blessed with tender care and needed rest, warm thoughts of friends that mean so much and most of all, God's healing touch.

Madie & Jim Westbrook	Paula Reid	Jean Oates
Rexann Oller	Todd Wetzell	Jean Turner
Jane Boudra	Donna Przybys	Cheryl Coffman
Jim & Jean Robbins	Milton Howell	Jim Aikman
Dorothy Trigg		

Jackie Weir (Carol Wilkins)	Gladys Scott (Cheryl Coffman)
Mona Berry (Lissa Teal)	Virginia Hays (Jan & Connie Schutt)
Beth Gray (Jan & Connie Schutt)	Jane Casto (Susan Wetzell's Mother)
Suzanne Gatewood (Carol Wilkins)	Carrie Scheffers & Daughter (George & Paula Reid)
Kay Dodson (Scotty & Gretchen Douthit)	Patsy Kimzey (Roy & Beth Monroe)
Sally Jones (Gretchen & Scotty Douthit)	Lorene Evans (George & Paula Reid)
Dawnisa York (Kris Griffin)	Patricia Nix (Jim Clark)
Lisa Nufer (Kris Griffin's Sister)	David McDaniel & Family (Jim Clark)
Susan Ward (Ken Coker)	Ashley Taylor (Paige Griffin's Friend)
James Stevens (Susan Wetzell's Father)	Kingston Kahr (George & Paula Reid)
Michelle (Donna Przybys)	

All military personnel including: Charles Smith (Afghanistan), Will Porter, Riley Whittenburg, Timothy Dann, Callie Latimer, David Gordon, Brandon Gortemiller, Stephanie Williams, Will Holland, Mark Hendron, Jay Jackson, Dustin Clark, Joshua Johnson, Andrew Bellocchio, Adam Fuller, and Jacob Randle.

Go Green

Go green with fashion and beauty. 1. Commit to buying green fashions – think organic cotton, bamboo, hemp and other sustainable, natural fibers, as well as recycled fabrics. 2. Switch to all natural cosmetics. A good rule: If the ingredients list looks like a lesson in chemistry, steer clear; if you're stumbling over Latin, you're looking at the names of plants. 3. Switch to a nail polish brand that is made without toluene, DBP, and formaldehyde. (Piggy Paint, London, and American Apparel Nail Lacquer are a few options.) 4. Shop at secondhand and charity shops before hitting the mall or your favorite boutiques. You can usually find some great gems. See more at <http://planetgreen.discovery.com>.

Session Digest

- Authorized congregation to participate in donation to support Royal Family Kids Camp Birthday Party for abused and neglected children
- Pastor Brian will be a Chaplin for one session of summer camp at Ferncliff
- Annual Clerk of Session Report submitted
- Approved Annual Statistical Report
- Reviewed insurance coverage for Central Presbyterian Church
- Approved Communion dates and Communion homebound servers
- Vacation Bible School will again be held with All Saints Episcopal at their facility
- Updating the web page
- Approved collection by the youth on February 5, 2012 after worship for the Souper Bowl of Caring
- Approved Sunday, February 19, 2012, as the Annual Stated Congregational Meeting to receive annual report and review Pastor's Terms of Call
- Elected Kellie Coker, one of two commissioners to Presbytery meeting in February at Batesville
- Approved Linda Carnahan, Moderator of the Nominating Committee and Toni Bachman, Vice Moderator

Thanks

Thank you to Carol Wilkins, Ann Chronister and Lee & Elizabeth Hopkins for helping fold the *Central Connection* this month.

Thank you so much for your generous gift to Heifer International, where it has already been put to work toward igniting transformation in families and projects all over the world. – *Pierre U. Ferrari, President and CEO*

Congregational Care

Hasn't the Lord blessed us! We have a congregation so willing to step up when needed and a leader who is wise beyond his years. We on the Congregational Care committee appreciate the phone calls and really good food you have provided our members on our prayer list. Also, you have done a great job of keeping us informed by contacting Dana or myself if a member is in need. Several members have mentioned some ideas for us to think about including some short day trips to starting an exercise program at the church for our "mature" adults. Please let us know if you like these ideas or have any suggestions. – *Ann Chronister, Moderator*

Fellowship

Hi, I'm Audrey Olson, the new moderator of the Fellowship Committee. We have several fun events planned for 2012 including the Easter Brunch on April 8, Mt. Nebo Youth Service, Senior Reception, Ice Cream Social, Hamburger Cookout, and the Christmas Brunch. Please make plans to join us!

There are still several openings for the After Church Coffee Hostess. Please check the list on the refrigerator in the kitchen and sign up where you can.

If you have any suggestions or comments please call me at 857-5831 or contact any of our committee members: Judi Baker, Linda Griffin, JoAnn Hutchinson, Garrie Kellam, Doug Martin, Jane Martin or Theresa Magill. – *Thank you, Audrey Olson*

Presbyterian Women

An invitation is extended from Presbyterian Women inviting everyone to attend the *potluck luncheon February 7*, in Knox Hall. There will be great food, good fellowship, and an informative update on the new things happening at Vera Lloyd Home in Monticello, Arkansas.



Save the date -- Vera Lloyd Home's 11th Annual Pink Hat Day, April 21. Tours will begin at 10:00 a.m.; registration at 11:00 a.m. Inviting all Presbyterian Women and Friends to adorn your pink hats and join us for a day of fun, food and fellowship. Lunch provided. May the best hat win! Reserve your seat at a table today! RSVP by April 1, 2012 at 877-353-6430 or email Reneedickins@veralloyd.org.

Notes of Interest

Can you imagine being a child and never experiencing a birthday party? Sadly, many victims of child abuse and neglect have never had this joy. **Royal Family Kid's Camp** provides a summer camp for these children in Pope County where they get to experience many such wonderful experiences. During the week-long camp each child is given what may be their first ever birthday party. The cost of the party is \$40 per child with 40 children attending the camp. We have been given the blessing of joining Royal Family Kid's Camp to make these birthday parties a reality for these children through our donations. There will be a table in Knox Hall you can visit for more information or you can call Ken Coker at 968-4487 if you have further questions.

The Royal Family Kid's Camp's 8th Annual Celebration Banquet, "Chosen" is March 15th, at 6:30 p.m. at Pottsville Assembly of God. Make plans to join us for a wonderful meal and an evening of celebration of what God has done through Royal Family Kid's Camp for the past seven years. Please RSVP to Ken Coker at 968-4487 if you are interested in attending. Everyone is invited!

Summer Staff Needed at Monroe Camp & Retreat Center! We're looking for outstanding, dedicated, hard-working, Lord-loving college-aged people to work as our summer resident staff for 2012! If you're looking for a summer job that makes a difference, consider applying at our camp at www.monroecamp.org/summer/summer-staff.



The Annual Stated Congregational Meeting is called for Sunday, February 19, immediately following worship for the purpose of receiving the annual report and review Pastor's Terms of Call. The Annual Report is available online at www.cpcusa72801.org. Hard copies of the report are available in the connecting hallway.

Serving Others Through YOU ... CPC Service Committee

Reflections: During Brian's sermon last Sunday, a picture in my mind was set into motion. Indeed what would the person who was possessed of a demon look like? What would he say to provoke Jesus to invoke His authority for the first time? The scene and that power God gave Christ, gave me goose bumps. I think it's more the unquestioned power and authority Jesus has, and the love for us, His people that gives me that awed and sometimes overpowering thankful feeling. That same feeling has come over me when we have said The Lord's Prayer, ".....for Thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory, forever and ever. Amen". And just a little bit of that power through the Holy Spirit can enable his people to do great things for Him. "How beautiful.....is the Body of Christ", our song last Sunday.

What a pleasure this beautiful week and comfortable temperatures, has been. The sunshine is such a great energizer. Your Service Committee hopes those of you who attended the Pot Luck on Wednesday evening were energized by a little Valentine fun and fellowship.

The next project your Service Committee will be working on is our Easter Basket Outreach to the Head Start program. We will be doing an inventory of what we have and letting you know what our final needs will be in March. Below are a couple of other "Thank You" notes sent in for donations from the Service Committee, made possible through you. "How Beautiful is the Body of Christ"!

Loving God, Serving Others, Sharing Our Faith
GOD BE WITH YOU

Your Service Committee: Marian Barr, Cheryl Coleman, Cheryl Coffman, Pat Hagemeyer, Joy Morrow, Joe Morrow, Beth Monroe, Mikel Fuller, Lynn Wade, Phillip Rowley, Sally Ramey, and Barbara Fuller, Chairman.

Thank you for your part in making 2011 the best year Help Network has ever had. We set records in every category in 2011. Here are a few of the figures: Client Requests: 2,229 (That is a 20% increase over our previous high in 2009) --Total number of people served: 5,793 (our previous high was 4,934) – Percentage of requests assisted: 84% (our previous high was 76% in 2010)—Total financial assistance: \$73,097.80 (our previous high was \$59,600 in 2010)

Without your support, these numbers would not have been achieved. Unfortunately, there is still a great need. In 2011, we had an average increase of 30-40 requests per month over 2010. We were forced to close early several months due to the overwhelming need for assistance. We have estimated that we need an additional \$3000 per month to provide for the potential number of requests we may have. I encourage you to share why you support Help Network with your friends and colleagues so that we may get closer to that number in 2012.

Thank you for your generous support. I look forward to partnering with you in 2012. – *Regards, Ed Seay, Executive Director*

The year 2011 was another busy year, but also a very blessed year. I have had the opportunity to share the love of God one-on-one with hundreds of people. I have had the privilege of praying with scores of individuals who have committed their lives to Christ. We have handed out thousands of Scripture portions and Gospel tracts. The Lord has allowed us to minister to folks in emergencies of every description as well as in those quiet times when He would direct us to those who just need a word of encouragement.

We have responded to scores of weather related disasters this past year. We have delivered thousands of dollars' worth of food, water and other emergency supplies in Arkansas and surrounding states. Of course the tornado that destroyed much of Joplin, Missouri was the most publicized. But, hundreds of Arkansans also suffered tragic losses. And as is often the case, the smaller communities do not get the attention of the big cities. That has really been an opportunity for the Chaplains of Cross & Shield to step in and help in significant ways. As you know our motto is: "Taking God's love Into The Crisis". 2011 has been a year that allowed us to do just that here in the River Valley and throughout the region.

We want to thank you for helping to make it possible for us to be used by God in so many ways. What does 2012 hold? He knows, and with your continued support, we'll be ready. Keep us in your prayers and may the Lord, Jesus Christ, bless and use you for His glory. – *Your fellow servant, Chaplain Paul Northcut, Cross & Shield Ministry*



Central Welcomes Visitors

January 22: Rolf Jacksch, Mark Hagemeyer, Jacqueline Herring, Gary & Laurie Gold

January 29: Dean Davidson, Bob & Leigh Ann Veach, Jacqueline Herring, Mark & Darlene Myers, Geneva Day, Judy & J. J. Thornton, Rolf Jacksch, Bob & Norma Haulmark

Looking to Sunday

February 5:

Scripture..... Isa. 40:21-31; Ps. 147:1-11, 20c
 1 Cor. 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39
 Worship Assistant. Susan Jordan
 Children's Sermon..... Pastor Brian
 Children's Church. Julie Peters
 Ushers. Chuck & Audrey Olson
 Lee Hopkins, Robert Howell
 Nursery Volunteer. Kathryn Rowley
 Bus Ministry..... Doug Martin
 Acolytes. Natalie & David Aikman
 Coffee Host. Joe & Joy Morrow
 Youth Meal. Youth Committee

February 12:

Scripture..... 2 Kings 5:1-14; Ps. 30
 1 Cor. 9:24-27; Mark 1:40-45
 Worship Assistant. Steve Zimmer
 Children's Sermon..... Julia Granger
 Children's Church. Kellie Coker
 Ushers. Phillip & Kathryn Rowley
 Dean & Pat Hagemeyer
 Nursery Volunteer. Kris Griffin
 Bus Ministry..... Jay Peters
 Acolytes. Andy & Wyn Brock
 Coffee Host. Jan & Nancy Shaw
 Youth Meal. Judy & Liz Scott

Upcoming Events

Sunday, February 5	Following Worship Afternoon 5:15 p.m.	Souper Bowl of Caring Communion to Shut-Ins Youth Super Bowl Party
Tuesday, February 7	12:00 p.m. 1-7 p.m. 1:30 p.m.	PW Potluck Luncheon Meal Mission Central Prays, Jessie Qualls' Home
Wednesday, February 8	5:15 p.m. 5:45 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Handbell Choir Rehearsal Administrative Council Committees Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, February 9	10:00 a.m.	Central Prays, Church Library
Friday, February 10	9:00 a.m.	Quilters
Sunday, February 12	5:30 p.m.	Youth
Tuesday, February 14	10:00 a.m. 1-7 p.m. 1:30 p.m.	Newsletter Deadline Meal Mission Central Prays, Jessie Qualls' Home
Wednesday, February 15	5:15 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Handbell Choir Rehearsal Deacons Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, February 16	9:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	River Valley Quilters Central Prays, Church Library
Friday, February 17	9:00 a.m.	Quilters
Saturday, February 18	Presbytery Meeting, Lyon College, Batesville	
Sunday, February 19	Presbytery Meeting, Lyon College, Batesville Following Worship 5:30 p.m.	Congregational Meeting Youth

General Fund Revenue & Expenditures

December 31, 2011

December Revenue	\$ 24,739.69	Year to Date Revenue	\$237,433.80
December Expenditures	<u>27,245.93</u>	Year to Date Expenditures	<u>247,208.65</u>
	(\$ 2,506.24)		(\$ 9,774.85)
	General Fund Ending Balance		\$ 3,568.38

Central Presbyterian Church
400 West Main Street, Russellville, AR 72801
E-Mail: cpcoffice@cpcusa72801.org
Web Address: <http://cpcusa72801.org>
Brian Brock, Pastor 968.1238
Dana Costley, Secretary, 968.1238 (Office)
Jon Clements, Director of Music
Vicky Kiehl, Ann Shields, Organists
Robin Howell, Page Griffin

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