

Founded
1850



Central Journal

Informing Members and Friends – Encouraging Fellowship and Spiritual Growth

A monthly publication of Central United Methodist Church, Lansing, Michigan

September 2010

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LABOR DAY

September 6

Church-wide Campaign Begins September 12th

Have you ever wondered why it's so difficult to be the person you want to be? I mean, if God has a perfect vision for our lives, why does spiritual growth seem so difficult? We

are going to take five weeks beginning on September 12th to explore this very question. Pastor and bestselling author John Ortberg has some intriguing answers to that question, and, in *The Me I Want to Be*, has organized his thoughts and God's words into a straightforward and timely guide for living our best life. Each week we will look at one aspect of our walk with God and then, in small groups held around the city and throughout the week, we will have a chance to share thoughts and fellowship with one another.



Be looking on September 5th for a complete list of meeting locations and times!

Getting everyone in our church together for a spiritual journey is powerful: It has impact, brings unity, and delivers growth. As we study *The Me I Want to Be* together, our prayer is that we will:

- ◆ Sense a deeper connection with God
- ◆ Find a growing sense of joy
- ◆ Discover an honest recognition of our brokenness and need for grace
- ◆ Fear less and trust more

You will not need to read John Ortberg's book to benefit from the worship and small group experiences but if you would like to purchase the book all you need to do is go to our website: www.lansingcentralumc.org and check-out our virtual bookstore where we have arranged a 20% discount on all purchases.

Plan now to attend both worship and a small group each week during the campaign. I can't wait to see how God uses this new initiative to grow us into the "heart of Christ in the heart of Lansing" together.

Blessings, **Pastor Ron**

Trustees

Larry Beckon, Chair, Board of Trustees

Building Funds: The Board of Trustees is responsible for administering several funds involving our buildings. In the August trustee meeting, the trustees reviewed these funds which have various restrictions:

- ◆ Building Foundation (often called Partners for Preservation, planned to be a million dollar fund);
- ◆ Renaissance Fund (fund raising started in 2005 for restoration of Central's buildings);
- ◆ Termite Fund (funds gained in a legal settlement from the building damage caused by termites); and
- ◆ Scott Temple House Fund.

Based on decisions at the August trustee meeting, recommendations may have been developed or actions taken. Please contact members of the Endowment/Investment Committee (Peter Hudy, Mike McLaren or Larry Beckon) if you would like more information or if you have suggestions about the funds. An update will be provided in the October Central Journal and also will be provided by electronic mail.

Restoration of Wood Floors: As reported to you earlier, the restoration of wood floors has been a restoration priority for Central since 2005. The main floor in Fellowship Hall, the steps up to the rooms surrounding the main floor, the room in the southwest corner of Fellowship Hall, and the first floor lounge have all been restored. The work was done by Beckner Floors. Dick Bates is related to the Beckners, but we did not hire Beckner Floors because of this.

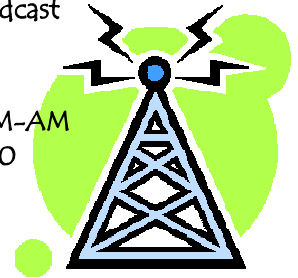
An August 11 message to the Central e-mail List from Pat Mort contained these comments: "The floor in the Lounge looks amazing ... Fellowship Hall ... magnificent." We appreciate everyone for resisting the temptation to walk on the floors until the final coat and sealer dried and all the surfaces were cleaned. As with the restoration projects completed in 2008 and 2009, this is a continuation of the effort to help make Central more welcoming to all. Improvements usually require some accommodation by us, but the results are wonderful.

As we continue to restore, we need to remember that restoration is not just for today, it is part of the foundation for the future of Central.



Consider sponsoring a radio broadcast In 2010

WJIM-AM
1240



Church Directory

- Rev. Ron Brooks, Senior Minister**
Rev. Bill Amundsen, Ret.,
Minister of Spiritual Formation
Joi Tennant, Director, Christian Education
Jamie Young, Director, Youth Ministry
Cris Bobier, Executive Director, Open Door Ministry
Caryn Welter, Director, Music Ministries and Worship Arts; Organist
Derrick Fox, Director, Chancel Choir
Leigh Goyings, Director, Youth Fine Arts, Wesley Choristers, and Pre-school Music Program
Leigh Goyings, Melissa Eisensmith, Mike Woodward, Brandon Manson, Chancel Choir Section Leaders
Patricia Mort, Administrative Secretary
Kathleen Johnson, Financial Secretary
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Scott Mize, Building Attendant
Chris Pruett, Building Attendant

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Sunday Worship – 9:30 AM
 Fellowship Hour – 10:30 AM
 Sunday School - All Ages—11:10 AM
 (September - May)

The worship service is broadcast live at 9:30 AM on WJIM-AM (1240) radio and telecast Tuesday at 9 PM on Comcast channel 16.

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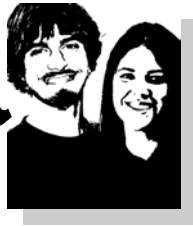
Copy deadline: 5 p.m. Friday
 October issue - September 17
 November issue - October 15



Trustees continued on page 7>>

Education

Joi Tennant - Christian Education Ministries



Back to Church Homecoming Sept. 12, 10:30 AM. Fellowship Hall

Remember what a great time we had last year at our "Welcome Back Party?" It was truly lots of fun for everyone. We all laughed a lot, got better acquainted and enjoyed being together. Caryn and Joi have cooked up another similar event for this

year. We hope you will make a point to be there so we all can once again feel the energy and love that flows when we come together to celebrate our Central UMC Family. *See our ad on page 6.*

Pictures requested, please!

Last year at our Homecoming Event we played a game with church pictures. This year we will have a different photo game, and we need pictures of YOU when you were somewhere *between age 5 and 15*. No school pictures, just ordinary casual photos of you, preferably alone, doing something kids do. Photos can be left at the church office in a sealed envelope with Joi's name on it, or you may mail to: Joi Tennant, 1009 S. Swegles, St. Johns, MI, 48879. I will need these pictures by Wed., Sept. 8. Be sure your name is on the back of the picture and I will return them to you.

Sept. 19 Sunday School Kick-Off . . . Ready, set, launch!

If you're in Fellowship Hall on the 19th at 11:00 you will witness the launching of a new "Music Explosion" plan on the stage for all the children of the church! Penny Brooks and Kathy MacLaren will be taking turns leading these 15-minute up-beat music sessions, complete with actions and choreography. If you find yourself swinging with the beat, wishing you were a kid too, just stand by the stage or go on up and join in learning the songs. This music time will also act as a reminder that it's time for the adult classes to begin their studies and discussions.



Our New Idea for Kids' Sunday School has Sprouted

We're gathering forces to create an expectant excitement for our Kids' Sunday School experience each week. The children will be introduced to the week's main teaching theme during



Education continued on page 6>>

Only today

There are two days in every week about which we needn't worry.

One is yesterday, with its mistakes and cares, its aches and pains. Yesterday has passed forever beyond our control.

The other day is tomorrow, with its possible adversities and blunders. Until its sun rises, we have no stake in tomorrow, for it is yet unborn.

That leaves only one day – today. Anyone can fight the battle of just one day. It is only when we add the burden of those *two eternities* – yesterday and tomorrow – that contentment will escape us.

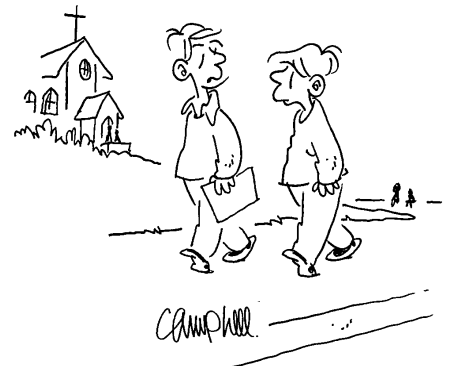
* Interpreting the bulletin asterisks

gives people some flexibility. "Stand as you are able" is being changed to "Stand as you are comfortable". This allows you control over how long you need to be on your feet. Under the earlier statement and with three praise hymns at the beginning of worship, it's possible for folks to be standing for several successive minutes. Be kind to yourself in a way that most enhances worship for you. The choice of whether to stand when an asterisk is indicated is yours.

Caryn Welter, Director of Music Ministries and Worship Arts

"Faith working by love is the length and breadth and depth and height of Christian perfection."

—John Wesley



"He Googles you ... that's how God knows all about you."

Worship and

Caryn Welter, *Directr of Music Ministries and Worship Arts*

Watch to see whether you are one of the individuals in a church-wide survey who will be invited to give confidential feedback about worship at Central.

The idea was developed by the Worship Commission / Committee / Team, and will allow the group and staff to see what things we're doing well in worship, what things might benefit from change, and what new ideas might be considered. Further, it will allow for people to say how strongly they feel about a given item and how satisfied they are with it. A random sample is one in which everyone has an equal possibility of being selected. About 35 people will be selected and the results, statistically, will be representative of the whole congregation, but only if everyone who is asked to respond to this survey responds. *Please, if you find one in your October Central Journal, do respond and turn it in to the sealed box that will be set outside the church office for that purpose. Again, your response is important.*

Come, make a joyful noise unto the Lord! These are options you might explore, many of which begin *September 9:*

Join the **Spirit Singers**, who typically sing about two Sundays per month. They do a wide range of music, especially jazz, spirituals, blues, gospel, and praise. They sing in worship, but also lead the congregation in the learning of newer praise hymns. The group meets on *Thursday nights at 6:30 p.m., in the third floor rehearsal room. All are welcome!* In addition to music-making, the group provides fellowship and mutual nurturance as members move forward in their faith journeys.

Join the **Chancel Choir**, which sings all but one Sunday per month. This group also sings a rich variety of music, ranging from classical through spiritual, gospel, and jazz literature. The primary leaders of congregational singing, the group has four talented section leaders (Leigh Goyings, Melissa Eisensmith, Mike Woodward, and Brandon Manson) who undergird the other voices and facilitate the singing of even difficult music.

The group meets on Thursday nights at 7:30 p.m., in the third floor rehearsal room. All are welcome!

Fellowship, good humor, and concern for one another are benchmarks of this faithful group.

"I will sing to the LORD, I will sing: I will make music to the LORD..."



Volunteer:

Sing solos or in ensembles.

Serve as a song leader.

Play your instrument, serving either as a soloist or as part of an ensemble.

Join the Central Bell

Ringers for this program year. Ability to read music and mature hand-eye coordination are the only requisites.

Please join us, beginning Thursday, October 28, at 5:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

This group might be an especially good fit with someone with limited availability. The year's schedule follows:



Rehearsals on Thursday at 5:30 pm

#1 October 28

#2 November 4

#3 November 11

#4 November 18

Sunday, November 21, rehearsal time TBA - Play in Worship

Rehearsals on Thursday at 5:30 pm

#1 December 2

#2 December 9

#3 December 16

#4 December 23

Friday December 24 11:00

Play in worship pm

Time for run-through TBA

Rehearsals on Thursday at 5:30 pm

#1 March 31

#2 April 7

#3 April 14

Rehearsal on Wednesday at 5:30 pm

#4 April 20

Sunday, April 24, - rehearsal time TBA - Play in Worship

Rehearsals on Thursday at 5:30 pm

#1 April 28

#2 May 5

#3 May 12

#4 May 19

Sunday, May 22, rehearsal time TBA - Play in Worship

Among Friends

Remember...

At press time...

Audrey Holly - Hospice

Jean Fitch - Wynwood of Meridian

Norma Hanson - Ingham Regional Assisted Living



Transitions...

Marcia Thomas - died August 21, 2010

Thank You...

My heartfelt thanks for the showers of blessings by mail and in person on my 93rd birthday. Some one said they hoped I lived to be a 100 like Don Picard. I told them that like Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., longevity is a thing to be desired. But I too have seen the Promised Land through the eyes of faith and while I may not get there in the flesh, I will through the eyes of faith, get to the Promised Land.

Peace and love, **Wes Yard**

I ask for prayers for Aaron and Rebecca.

Aaron, our son who is in the Army, is due to deploy for a year-long tour to Iraq soon, which is his *first* deployment since joining the service. Aaron's job for the Army is dealing with the IEDs and other types of explosive devices. Please keep him and his platoon in your prayers for their safe return home next year. The links below describe the Casing Ceremony held prior to his regiment's deployment.

Even though the shift of the mission has changed from combat to a more peaceful mission, there are some aspects of the deployment that will remain the same. You still have a family separation that you have to deal with, and all the associated things with that. That is why I ask for prayers for Rebecca, his new bride, too. It's going to be very rough on her, as well. Please keep them both in your thoughts and prayers. God bless our troops! **Penny Brooks**

Messages from his wife, Rebecca:

There was a Casing Ceremony held on base for Aaron's unit. Aaron was one of the chosen soldiers that represented his platoon and participated in the ceremony. Here is the article that was published in the Killeen Daily Harold. http://www.news8austin.com/content/top_stories/273485/fort-hood-soldiers-prepare-for-iraq-as-mission-changes Each Thursday the newspaper comes out and you may want to check the website periodically for updates on Aaron's unit. <http://www.forthoodsentinel.com/> **Rebecca A. Brooks**

Ralph Goodell Memorial Library

Reverse the Trend of Boredom

By Rev. Frank Anderson

Preaching the New Millennium

by John Killinger, 1999, paperback, 158pp, Abingdon Press.



This book was written by a preacher and for a preacher just before the turn of the last Century, i.e., when it became 2000. Like so much in American society or culture, even we preachers can go dry and the bottom of the barrel is of no use. This preaching book takes a good look at our Sunday morning services and tries to reverse the trend of boredom. Not for ministers only, but for we the congregation, also.

In the Introduction he reflects that tragedies and chaos seem to urge the preacher to perform in his or her best style. He cites famous preachers of the past. Sad but true, we all do better under pressure or a challenge. I can speak for myself to that point. "To be fair, there probably were some people in the year 1000, who were concerned about the millennium and expected that Christ might return at the stroke of midnight..." (Page 18). For this kind of thing created great chaos as people settled their estates and prepared for the End. It did seem to me that we had our own fanatics who tried to outdo one another. I recall a blockage on my computer in 1999 as the new Century was born and I had to forgo using one of my software programs. This spontaneous excitement is not unlike that of former times, but Killinger gets serious about today and rises to his feet to say that we have lots to preach and think about as we enter the next 1000 years of history. What does indeed lie ahead for us all?

Centralneters Potluck Lunch

Saturday September 18, a pot luck lunch will be held at 12 noon at Mary and Dave Jessup's home. 9151 Windsor Dr., Dimondale. Bring your own table service and a dish to pass. Beverages will be provided. RSVP 646-6729 or djessup.m@gmail.com.



ENERGIZE!

Youth Ministry

Jamie Young, Youth



Youth Recharged!

As the fall program season begins we will be launching a brand new youth program that will serve Central, Grace and Mt. Hope UMC Churches! **ENERGIZE!** Youth Ministry program has been designed and will exist to provide young people with the strength and power to be examples of Christ - so that throughout their lives they might impact the world within their realm of influence.

Our core values reveal what is important to our ministry - here are the values we desire our ministry to reflect:

- ▶ Relationships... with *Christ* & Each other
- ▶ Authenticity... Being Real
- ▶ Service... Giving Back
- ▶ Respect... For Ourselves & One another
- ▶ Excellence... Doing Our Best

We will offer two Program Tracks to meet the needs of all our youth. The *'Life Skills'* track will be held at Mt. Hope UMC from 12 — 1:15 pm each Sunday - and will focus on learning a real life skill and a spiritual life skill each week. The *'Journey'* track will meet at Grace UMC from 5 — 7 pm each Sunday and will focus on each person's faith journey - using opportunities for service and studies of the Bible as growing tools. And, each month we will host an event that brings the youth from all three churches together.



A little about Jamie...

My name is Jamie Young. I have been working with youth for about 12 years and specifically as Youth Director in the Lansing area for just over 8 years. My favorite thing about youth ministry is watching the students grow in their relationship with Christ and one another. A few totally random facts about me: My favorite color is red, I like ketchup on my Mac & Cheese, I love to travel, and you may catch me singing songs from the Little Mermaid at any given moment. If you have any questions, comments, concerns or would like to help, please feel free to call, 882-0179 or email, jyoung@lansingcentralumc.org. Doing His Will, **Jamie Young**

Hey, Everyone!
Come to Central's All-Church
Fall Homecoming Party

Sept. 12

In Fellowship Hall

Immediately after Worship
Have Cookies & Coffee with
people who share your
Birthday Month!

Play our fun version of
"Apples to Apples!"

Kids' Scavenger Hunt
with prizes for all

Fun Music Montage!

Mystery Photo Challenge
with team prizes

Hot Dogs & Finger Food
at noon

Enjoy the company of old and
new friends!

*"Winter is an etching, spring a watercolor,
summer an oil painting and autumn a mosaic of
them all."* —Stanley Horowitz

Education >>continued from page 3

Children's Church. Then after Fellowship time and the "Music Explosion", the children will head to one of three possible "enrichment" centers for the week: Adventure Club, Narnia, or Creation Station. On a rotating basis, parents and teachers will be sharing the leadership of the activities in these centers, with Joi assisting in the direction of the lesson plans. From time to time we may invite others of you to lend your expertise to our week's plan.



Trustees >>continued from pg 2

Restoration of Windows: As reported to you earlier, a plan to restore the windows of the Temple House was started this year. It was planned to restore 30 windows on the south side of the Temple House this summer. Be-



cause of the condition of the windows, only 12 windows have been restored.

Removing 8 to 10 coats of paint, applying caulk, stabilizing the wood where needed, and applying primer and two coats of latex finish is neither an easy, nor a quick job, but the results are impressive. Work on additional windows is continuing.

Endowment/Investment

Committee: This newly formed committee continues the process of gathering information. Meetings have been held with the two firms that manage the investments of our endowment funds.

Another Reminder: Keys to Central's Doors:

As noted in the last Central Journal, Central needs to have a record of who has what keys to what part(s) of the building(s). If you have a key or keys for any part of the buildings, please call the church office (485-9477) and let Pat Mort know what key(s) you have and why you have them. If you have any key(s) that you are not using now, please return them to Pat. Thanks to those who have responded to Pat. For those who have keys and have not yet taken action, please do so soon. Thank you.



Stained glass window system requires restoration

Larry Beckon,
Chair, Board of Trustees

While work was being done on the restoration of the windows on the south side of Fellowship Hall, damage was discovered on the very large stained glass window system on the west side of the sanctuary. The stained glass has sagged into the wood frame at some places.

There are 18 separate stained glass windows, held together by frames and referred to as the stained glass system. Working with Swanson Design Studios, several potential contractors to restore the system have been located. Some of these contractors specialize in stained glass and others are carpenters. Other contractors have experience in handling all of the work needed to restore a stained glass system. As this is being written, several contractors have looked at the damage and suggested how we might proceed. All have concluded that the damage is significant and needs corrective action.

The one good piece of news is that all the firms which specialize in stained glass windows have commented on the good condition of the windows. It is the system that holds the windows together that is the major problem though some of the stained glass may also need repair.

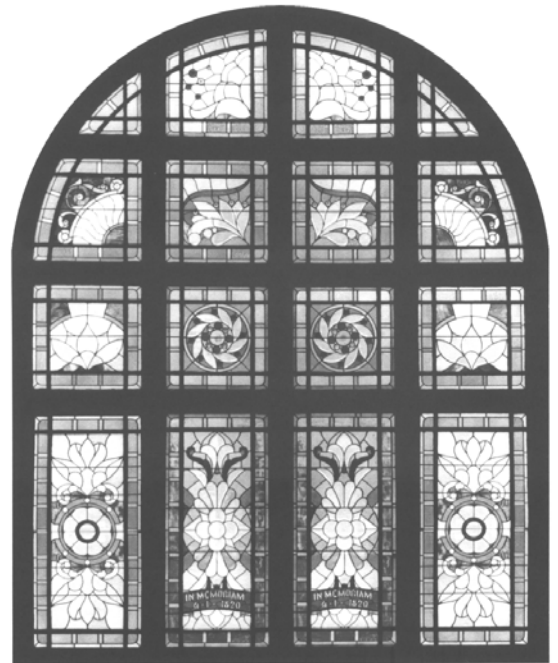
We have learned that it is possible to effectively and efficiently remove one damaged stained glass pane and replace it with another. It may be advisable to include steel as part of the frames. Epoxy type material may be used to strengthen some of the damaged wood. Some contractors have said we may need to remove the entire window system from the sanctuary wall. It may be necessary to remove some pews to allow repairs to be made safely and efficiently. Additional contractors will visit the church to assess the damage and to offer suggestions on how best to proceed.

In all cases, the focus is both on repairing the damage and taking steps so that additional damage will not occur in the future.

Some of the questions yet to be completely answered are:

- ✦ Who will do the restoration (what company or companies?)
- ✦ When will the work be started – and completed?
- ✦ What will be the cost for the restoration?
- ✦ How will Central pay for the restoration?

We will continue to keep you posted on progress.



Banquet and Auction for Open Door

Joi Tennant, *Open Door*

Make plans to attend our Open Door Banquet and Auction **Saturday, October 9, 5–8 pm.**

Call Open Door at Central United Methodist Church, 485-9477, to



make reservations. Suggested Donation: \$20/ Person.

Open Door Ministry was originally established as a 501c3 and is completely supported by donations from individuals, churches, and organizations in the surrounding Greater Lansing area, including grants from the West Michigan Conference. Central has graciously provided most of the basement level of our church for the weekly operation of Open Door, but Open Door pays for all operating expenses and receives no budgeted money from Central.

We are currently requesting donations of goods or services for our silent auction. If you have something to offer to help us have a successful fund-raising event, please call the church and ask to be connected to Cris or Marcy at Open Door, or you may call Joi Tennant, 989-224-8159. We deeply appreciate your participation in this vital ministry.



Help us create our “Narnia” Room

Joi Tennant, *Volunteer Education Director*

“Narnia” will be the room where we do activities that encourage imagination, acting, pretending, etc. We are borrowing ideas from C.S.Lewis’ book, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, to create an atmosphere that will hopefully open up the minds of our children to begin to receive new understandings of God. We would like to request some props that we might use as we begin the year. This room will change from time to time, so if you have any ideas for us, please let me know. Here’s my list so far:

Old artificial Christmas trees, foliage, vines, flowers, etc.

Leafless dead tree branches.

Wardrobe doors (or something like that).

Costumes – bathrobes, capes, animals, velvet coats, crown, fur coats, hats, and similar items.

Large pieces of plywood

Old Wall Paper

Brass-type Candle stick holders

Old kettles

Large Lion stuffed toy

Old dark drapery

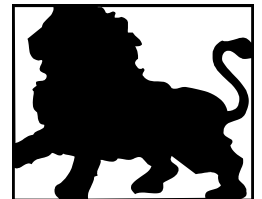
Any metal “coins”

Curtain Rods

Lamp post

Snow

Interesting containers, treasure boxes, chests



GODISNOWHERE

Did you read it as “God is nowhere”?

Or are you an optimist who read it as “God is now here”?



TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Summer “Build a Better World” Children’s Church Volunteers

Because of these volunteers we were able to continue our weekly Children’s Church for 15 summer Sundays: Kathy Hicks, JoAnn Klein, Julie Welch, Lorraine Fata, Jan Keen, and Joi Tennant. Some Sundays we had 10 or more children attending! Thank you very much, each of you, for making it possible for us to provide this opportunity for our children.



September

2010



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

o/s=off site



- 1 Wednesday**
- 2 Thursday**
9:30 am-Sewing Group
9:30 am-Celebrating Recovery Small Group
11:30 am-Fellowship Lunch
6:30 pm-Mission Commission
- 3 Friday**
- 4 Saturday**
- 5 Sunday**
9:30 am-Worship Service
10:30 am-Fellowship Coffee Hour
- 6 Monday Labor Day**
Building Closed
- 7 Tuesday**
9:00 am-Food Bank
9:00 am-Men's Bible Study
- 8 Wednesday**
7:00 pm-Administrative Council
- 9 Thursday**
9:30 am-Sewing Group
9:30 am-Celebrating Recovery Small Group
11:30 am-Fellowship Lunch
6:30 pm-Spirit Singers' Rehearsal
7:30 pm-Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 10 Friday**
- 11 Saturday Patriot Day**

- 12 Sunday Grandparents Day**
8:30 am-Chancel Choir Rehearsal
9:30 am-Worship Service
10:30 am-Homecoming Party for All with Lunch
- 13 Monday**
7:00 pm-Judy Grove Circle
- 14 Tuesday**
9:00 am-Food Bank
5:30 pm-Church & Society
6:00 pm-Education
- 15 Wednesday**
- 16 Thursday**
9:30 am-Sewing Group
9:30 am-Celebrating Recovery Small Group
11:30 am-Fellowship Lunch
6:30 pm-Spirit Singers' Rehearsal
7:30 pm-Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 17 Friday**
- 18 Saturday**
12:00 pm-Centralnitters Picnic -o/s
- 19 Sunday Kick Off**
8:30 am-Chancel Choir Rehearsal
9:30 am-Worship Service
10:30 am-Fellowship Coffee Hour
11:00 am-Sunday School For All Ages
- 20 Monday**
7:00 pm-Shalom GLANAWII

- 21 Tuesday**
9:00 am-Food Bank
9:00 am-Men's Bible Study
9:30 am-Friendship Circle
6:00 pm-Shalom Guiding Committee
- 22 Wednesday**
6:15 pm-Trustees
- 23 Thursday-1st Day Of Autumn**
9:30 am-Sewing Group
9:30 am-Celebrating Recovery Small Group
11:30 am-Fellowship Lunch
6:30 pm-Spirit Singers' Rehearsal
7:30 pm-Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 24 Friday**
9:00 am-Food Bank
10:30 am-Shalom Keep Making Peace
- 25 Saturday**
- 26 Sunday**
8:30 am-Chancel Choir Rehearsal
9:30 am-Worship Service
10:30 am-Fellowship Coffee Hour
11:00 AM-Sunday School For All Ages
- 27 Monday**
1:00 pm-Guy's Lunch Out o/s
- 28 Tuesday**
9:00 am-Food Bank
6:00 pm-Finance
- 29 Wednesday**
- 30 Thursday**
9:30 am-Sewing Group
9:30 am-Celebrating Recovery Small Group
11:30 am-Fellowship Lunch
6:30 pm-Spirit Singers' Rehearsal
7:30 pm-Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Central United Methodist Church
215 North Capitol Avenue
Lansing, Michigan, 48933

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Please deliver: September 1—4 Thank you

Return Service Requested

Taste the Lord

As Penny and I have been hosting these summer grill-outs a couple of scripture passages have run through my mind. The Psalmist writes, "Taste the Lord and know that He is good." Then in 1 Peter 2.2-3 we read: "Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good."

I love summer. I love the cook-outs, the foods of summer like burgers and brats and watermelon and potato salad and sharing these foods with the folks at Central has made it that much better. Why? Because when we fellowship together we get a taste of the Lord...and we learn just how good our God is through interacting with one another.

Taste gets our attention. It raises awareness of more goodness to be enjoyed. The burst of flavor in summer foods in my mouth creates a craving for more. Our time together this summer likewise has hopefully wet your appetites for more fellowship with one another.

This fall you are going to be given the opportunity to do precisely that, not just in church but through small groups being held across the community. The small groups will be gathering to expand on the Sunday messages focusing on our walk with God. It will be a time of both fellowship and growth and I am so grateful for the small group hosts/hostesses that have stepped forward to open their homes for this study.

The first worship experience happens September 12th. Please plan to be involved. — Blessings, **Ron**





Building Blocks of Faith Service Commitment 2010

Central United Methodist Church
215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing, MI 48933
Phone 485-9477 - Fax 4859772

Yes, I am/we are ready to dive in! I/we want to connect more with others, act as God's hands and feet on earth, and serve enthusiastically. Therefore, I/we commit to serve in the following areas in the coming year.

Welcoming (Evangelism)

M F

- 1 () () Outreach Team (monthly)
- 2 () () Greeter (_____ Service time)
- 3 () () Usher (_____ Service time)
- 4 () () Follow up with visitors
- 5 () () Adopt a new member
- 6 () () Assemble New Member packs
- 7 () () Other _____

Learning

- 8 () () Attend _____ class
- 9 () () **Participate in Walk to Emmaus**
- 10 () () **Attend Sunday school**
- 11 () () Attend Bible study
- 12 () () Attend Lay Shepherd Group
- 13 () () Attend new members' class
- 4 () () Other _____

Discipleship

- 15 () () Invite a friend to church
- 16 () () Learn to share my faith
- 17 () () Lead a small group study
- 18 () () Lead where needed, if qualified
- 19 () () Other _____

Administrative

- 20 () () Help in office
- 21 () () Maintain bulletin boards
- 22 () () Assist in library
- 23 () () Work on history committee
- 24 () () Other _____

Nursery Ministry

- 25 () () Nursery helper (Sunday school)
- 26 () () Nursery helper (Worship)
- 27 () () Week Night service volunteer
- 28 () () Parent's Day Out
- 29 () () Other _____

Student Ministry

- 30 () () Teach K-1st grade
- 31 () () Teach 2nd - 3rd grade
- 32 () () Teach 4th -5th grade
- 33 () () Assist in elementary grades
- 34 () () Teach middle school

M F

- 35 () () Teach high school
- 36 () () Assist in middle/high school classes
- 37 () () Teach/help with Summer Children's Church
- 38 () () Assist with activities for K-5
- 39 () () I have a special skill or interest I'd like to share with children: _____
- 40 () () Other _____

Youth

- 41 () () Assist w/Sunday youth meeting
- 42 () () Volunteer for youth program
- 43 () () Chaperone mission trip
- 44 () () Chaperone youth trip
- 45 () () Work with youth regularly
- 46 () () Other _____

Adult Ministry

- 47 () () Teach an adult class
- 48 () () Establish/lead new adult class
- 49 () () Participate in small group
- 50 () () Lead small group
- 51 () () Participate in women's ministry
- 52 () () Participate in men's ministries
- 53 () () Other _____

Worship

- 54 () () Operate Sound System
- 55 () () Operate Video Camera
- 56 () () Write Weekly Thank You
- 57 () () Participate in Drama Group
- 58 () () Work on Artistic Elements
- 59 () () Develop Signage
- 60 () () Serve as Worship Leader
- 61 () () Coordination of altarscapes
- 62 () () Prepare Sanctuary for Sundays
- 63 () () Restock Pew supplies
- 64 () () Communion preparation
- 65 () () Communion Servers
- 66 () () Special and Seasonal decorations
- 67 () () Assist w/Acolytes/ Crucifers/ etc
- 68 () () Operate sound System
- 69 () () Deliver Children's Moment

Music/Arts Ministries

- 70 () () Sing w/Chancel Choir
- 71 () () Sing w/Spirit Singers
- 72 () () Help w/Youth Fine Arts Group
- 73 () () Sing w/Wesley Choristers
- 74 () () Ring w/Central Bell Ringers
- 75 () () Attend Preschool Music Program
- 76 () () Serve as Accompanist
- 77 () () Solo as vocalist
- 78 () () Solo as instrumentalist
- 79 () () Play special musical instruments: _____

- 80 () () Assist Dir. Of Children's Choirs
over >>



Building Blocks of Faith Service Commitment 2010 *cont.*

Music/Arts Ministries *cont.*

M F

- 81 () () Help maintain music library
- 82 () () Participate in drama group
- 83 () () Maintain choir robes
- 84 () () Other _____

Congregational Care

- 85 () () Visit homebound members
- 86 () () Visit hospital patients
- 87 () () Write/send cards
- 88 () () Organize meals for families experiencing childbirth, illness, etc.
- 89 () () Shepherd a Small Flock (10-12 couples)
- 90 () () Drive for those needing transportation
- 91 () () Do light home maintenance for seniors
- 92 () () Other _____

Prayer Ministry

- 93 () () Participate in prayer tree
- 94 () () Maintain prayer tree
- 95 () () Participate in prayer vigils
- 96 () () Coordinate prayer requests
- 96 () () Pray for Pastor and family daily

Fellowship Activities

- 97 () () Movie Club
- 98 () () Work with senior adults
- 99 () () Churchwide retreat
- 100 () () Work with young adults
- 101 () () Other _____

Outreach

- 102 () () Clothing ministry
- 103 () () Food pantry
- 104 () () Volunteers in Missions participant
- 105 () () Open Door ministry

Outreach *cont.*

M F

- 106 () () Local missions
- 107 () () After-school Volunteer
- 108 () () Organize After-school program
- 109 () () Community outreach
- 110 () () Other _____
- 111 () () Disaster relief
- 112 () () Multicultural awareness team
- 113 () () Other _____

Communications

- 114 () () Assist with Web site
- 115 () () Write newsletter or Web articles
- 116 () () Photography/video
- 117 () () Newspaper communications
- 118 () () Change sign messages
- 119 () () Radio Technician/ Announcer
- 120 () () Other _____

Church Building and Grounds Care

- 120 () () Unlock and lock building Sunday mornings (1x per/month)
- 121 () () Adopt a flower bed
- 122 () () Rake leaves
- 123 () () Prune shrubs
- 124 () () Pick up lawn litter
- 125 () () Water/maintain indoor plants
- 126 () () Dust and clean building interior
- 127 () () Participate in clean up day
- 128 () () Redecorate/paint building interior
- 129 () () Organize & Maintain Supply Room
- 130 () () Maintain "Kidland" Area
- 131 () () "Tech" person—computers, DVD players, all things electronic

Miscellaneous

- 132 () () Wherever the church needs me
- 133 () () Other _____



Building Blocks of Faith Service Commitment

Name: _____ Name: _____

E-mail Address: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Cell Number: _____ Cell Number: _____

Home Address: _____

Home Phone Number: _____

Signed _____ Signed _____