

Central Baptist Church,

I want to thank each and every one of you who prayed for my mother during her illness, those of you who sent me cards and especially the donations to Hospice and to Central Baptist Church in memory of my mother. She is deeply missed and we hope to have a memorial for her at the church as soon as we are allowed to do so. Continue to pray for me in this most difficult time, it does not get any easier.

Peggy Kerr

Church Family,

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, all the beautiful cards and much appreciated phone calls during my recent surgery. Linda Mattingly

Average Giving Report through June 26th

Year to Date Budget Giving \$203,604.00 Year to Date Budget Required \$242,382.50 Budget Shortfall \$38,778.50

> July - Associational Missions Julia Woodward Offering Central Baptist Goal \$600

*Benefits our Central Kentucky Network of Baptists Association

Tithes and Offerings can be mailed to the church office at 829 High Street. Also, online giving is set up on the church website and it can be found on our Facebook Page



Friday, July 3rd the Church Office will be closed

Ministerial Staff

Find us on Facebook,

www.facebook.com/centralbaptistparis www.facebook.com/centralbaptistparisyouth

US Postage Paid Non-Profit Org Permit No. 111 Paris, KY 40361

Return Service Requested

Central Baptist Church 829 High Street Paris, Kentucky 40361 Central BAPTIST CHURCH

Messenger

829 High St. • Paris, KY 40361

859-987-3951 or 859-987-5638

www.centralbaptistparis.com

Volume XLVIII

July 1, 2020

Number 7



TJ's Take

As a church, we have certainly not been immune to the effects of COVID-19. In obedience to the words of Romans 13, we complied with the requests of governing authorities to close our doors on Sunday mornings for an extended time. Even as we have reopened, we have followed the suggestions of the government in enforcing all health and safety protocols, including temperature checks, face masks, social distancing, and significant cleaning measures.

But not all the effects of the pandemic have been negative. As a result of having to close our doors, we took significant steps in the world of technology in order to stream services each and every Sunday. We began to broadcast our services on Facebook live and simulcasted on the radio. In this way, we began to minister to and reach a group of our church family that had previously had no access to the weekly services. We were also able to stay connected as a church body even when we were unable to physically gather together as in times past.

We have continued to make great progress technologically and see the potential for tremendous long-term benefits. Because of our technology advancements, we have been able to continue with our weekly services. We have been able to worship through singing and have been able to progressively work our way verse by verse through the book of Philippians. We have also seen and heard stories of many who continue to observe our services online from outside our community. Many have heard the gospel because of our services being online and on the radio. Without this technology in place, we would not have had these opportunities.

Despite these encouraging developments, an unfortunate byproduct is the arrival of the "stay at home" option for Sunday morning. Being able to stay at home and "check the box" on Sunday is a real temptation. As the busyness of life returns, the appeal to just stay home or to just watch or listen to the service later becomes stronger.

But while I have been thankful for technology and while we will continue to provide the service for those who do not have the ability to physically gather as the church, we need to realize that the stay at home option is not a viable substitute. Certainly, for those who are providentially hindered from coming to the gathering, technology allows us to continue to provide a real means of connection. But for those

who have the ability to come to the organized meeting of other believers, listening online from home isn't just another choice on the menu of service options.

Gathering with other believers has been prescribed by God's Word in Hebrews 10:24–25, where the Bible says, "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

During the season of this pandemic, health concerns have hindered us from physically meeting together. But as these concerns begin to wane and as we begin to return back to functioning normally in society again, let us not neglect to meet together. Because there's no substitute for being in the presence of the saints.

The physical gathering of believers allows for a corporate (rather than individual) mindset for worship. It provides an opportunity for using your spiritual gifts to serve the body. It presents the ordinary means for spiritual growth and mutual encouragement. And, just as importantly, the regular physical gathering together of believers in one place helps remind us of the age to come. The corporate gathering offers a glimpse of a future time, where believers of every tribe and nation and people and tongue will gather around the throne and worship the Almighty God forever and ever.

Remember, the church isn't a building. It's a group of believers. And the pattern we see over and over again in Scripture is that believers meet together in an organized fashion. That's what the local church is. I'm thankful for technology. I'm thankful that it has provided a way for us to stay connected. And I'm thankful for how we will be able to use it in the future. But I know it's no substitute. And I long for us to all physically gather together in the same place again.

Because there's nothing else like it.

In Christ, Pastor TJ



MICKEY'S MUSINGS

At the June 10, 2020 business meeting, I presented a proposal to the church on behalf of the Technology Committee. Please read the following information and prayerfully seek the Father's guidance in this matter.

The coronavirus pandemic has caused us to prayerfully seek ways to minister to the body and to the community when we could not gather in the sanctuary for worship. We worked diligently to create video and audio accessibility for all via Facebook Live and simulcast on the radio at 100.9 FM and 1440 AM. With virtually nobody in the sanctuary, the home experience became the primary focus of the media team which, in turn, proved to be the birth of a ministry to our homebound and nursing home residents who are so appreciative of the ability to stay connected to and worship with their church family. We have pulled equipment from other areas of the church, run cables through doorways, and utilized space that would otherwise be used for other ministry opportunities. When the church returns to a fully operational state, those items will no longer be available to support the broadcast ministry.

Now that we have opened our doors for in-person worship, the question is this, do we continue providing this ministry? TJ, Jonny, and I believe that we should. We have discussed with Chris Jones and Karl Kilburn as Deacon and Trustees Chair respectively and they also agree that we should. And now, the technology committee is coming to you for your approval. The catch – there is always a catch – is that for the church to continue this ministry, it will require start-up costs totaling \$29,030 based on the best of 6 quotes received. The quote was provided by the company that installed our audio system and screens several years ago and covers the cost of the equipment; administrative and labor costs in the areas of shipping, installation, system integration, and fine tuning; and one full weekend of service operation and support.

Having received direction to pursue this possibility at the June 10 business meeting which was left open to enable us to secure multiple bids, we invited companies to provide quotes based on our current vision for the ministry with an eye to the future and are asking the moderator to continue the business meeting for further discussion and ultimately a vote on Wednesday, July 1.

In the meantime, please feel free to address any questions or concerns to me at mickey@centralbaptistparis.com

Blessings,

Mickey Ballard Associate Pastor Music and Worship



Hello Church Family,

I pray the everyone is staying safe in these frustrating times. Through all the chaos that is going on in the world and in our nation, it is easy to get discouraged. Understand that God is still in control; there is nothing out of His grasp. As individuals and as a church, we must keep faith and seek God's wisdom in everything that we do.

I am excited that nursery, children, and student ministries are moving forward and making plans on re-opening, hopefully in the near future. But before we are able to open these ministries, we must make sure everyone and everything is in place and workers are comfortable being around people again. Things will look a little different when everything opens up, but that also brings me to my point.

With the changes that are being made to these ministries, trying to be obedient to the CDC guidelines, and making sure these ministries are safe to function on a normal basis, we need more adult leaders for each of these ministries. Yes, I am

recruiting adult leaders to give time to each of these ministries. Not everyone will be comfortable coming back to church when these ministries re-open, and some stepping away from these ministries to help in others, we are in need of more active participation from adult members.

If you are interested in becoming an adult leader in these ministries, please contact me or the church office. There is, and will be, a need for adult leadership for our children and students in our church. If you are not already helping in any of these ministries, please be in prayer on how you can help.

Our student ministries opened up for the first time since March, on June 28. While we are unable to use the youth room, we are able to use the church property while trying to meet guidelines to the best of our ability. Right now, students will be meeting on Sunday evenings at the church property only, weather permitting.

Along the same lines, we are making plans to have some family ministry activities in the near future. This will be at the church property and will allow fellowship with our church family. More information will be sent out as soon as it is available.

I am excited for our church and that activities could be opening up in the near future. There are still several things that need to be discussed with planning and when other ministry activities will open up. Please be patient as we are trying to get things planned and make them as safe as possible for all church family.

God Bless, Jonny

July 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Julia *Cent	Julia Woodward Offering *Central Baptist Goal \$600	ring \$600	_	2	3 Church Office Closed for Independence Day	4 Independence Day
			6:30 PM Prayer Meeting			
5 10:45 AM Combined Worship Service/Live Stream	6	7 ID AM Staff Meeting	Da	9 II:30 AM Pastor Chat	=	=
			6:30 PM Prayer Meeting			
	2 2	14 IO AM Staff Meeting	FE.	16 11:30 AM Pastor Chat	17	88
7:30 PM Deacon's Meeting		-	6:30 PM Prayer Meeting	X		
	20	21 ID AM Staff Meeting	22	23 II:30 AM Pastor Chat	24	22
			6:30 PM Prayer Meeting			
55	27	28 IO AM Staff Meeting	29	30 II:30 AM Pastor Chat	123	-
		Newsterson	6:30 PM Prayer Meeting			•



Mark Williams and his wife, Penny, serve as church planters on the Navajo Indian Reservation in Arizona, where they have lived since 2014. Before moving to Arizona, Mark owned a remodeling business. He visited the reservation shortly before moving there and was asked to remodel the dilapidated home of a woman named Loretta and her five children.

"There were holes in exterior walls that medium-sized dogs could easily pass through," says Mark, who serves with the North American Mission Board. "Five of the seven windows were broken out. One electrical outlet worked in the entire house; no functioning tub, toilet, or sink in the bathroom; the woodstove had fallen through the living room floor years ago; and there was a quarter inch of dirt on the floors.

"As I drove up to her house, the Spirit of the Lord spoke to me and told me that He was going to bless this woman." Mark told Loretta he would return in two months to do the repairs. Though she didn't have faith Mark would be able to help much, she eventually cleaned out the home to make it ready for repairs. Mark returned with helpers and, in three days, was able to renovate Loretta's home.

days, was able to renovate Loretta's home.

Loretta eventually visited Mark's church on the reservation and was at every service for several months. Mark shared the gospel with her, and she has never looked back.

Pray for the leaders being trained and mentored at Mark's church plant, Cornfields Community Baptist Church.

*Submitted on behalf of the WMU by Edna Stanley