



**CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

Weekly Newsletter

January 28, 2018

This Sunday @ Central

- 9:00 a.m. Children's Choirs
Courtyard Fellowship
- 9:45 a.m. Church School for all ages (see article below for Adult Winter Studies topics/dates)
- 11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
David Cozad Preaching

Lectionary texts for this week:

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalms 111

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

- 12:00 Noon [Click here](#) to RSVP.

Lunch is \$8 for adults and \$3 for children, and it is a wonderful time of fellowship.

This week's menu:

Fresh Fruit and Salad Bar
Southern Fried Pork Chops
Lima Beans
Creamy Mac n Cheese
Apple Cobbler
Corn Bread Muffins

Change is Coming to Sunday Lunch!

Weekly Sunday lunch is an important part of congregational life at Central, and the church is taking steps to make Sunday lunch more financially sustainable for years to come.

Background: At the direction of the session, a Food Service Task Force began work in August 2017 to explore ways to make food service at Central more financially sustainable. The group conducted interviews and surveys, researched cost models, bench-marked costs with other churches, and received proposals from catering companies. At the recommendation of the

task force and with the approval of the session, Central is moving from a full-time chef model to a catering model. We expect the change to save the church upwards of \$20,000 per year, while still serving a delicious lunch and fostering community at Central.

What's New: In order to make Sunday lunch more financially responsible, our Sunday lunch process will change in two main ways:

1. The price will increase to \$10 per adult and \$5 per child, with a family cap of \$35. This price will go into effect on February 18, our catering kickoff Sunday.
2. RSVPs: Each week in the Weekly Newsletter, there is a link to RSVP for lunch. Please make every effort to RSVP on Wednesdays. When diners do not RSVP, we risk running out of food. Thank you for your help!

[Click here](#) to read answers to frequently asked questions.

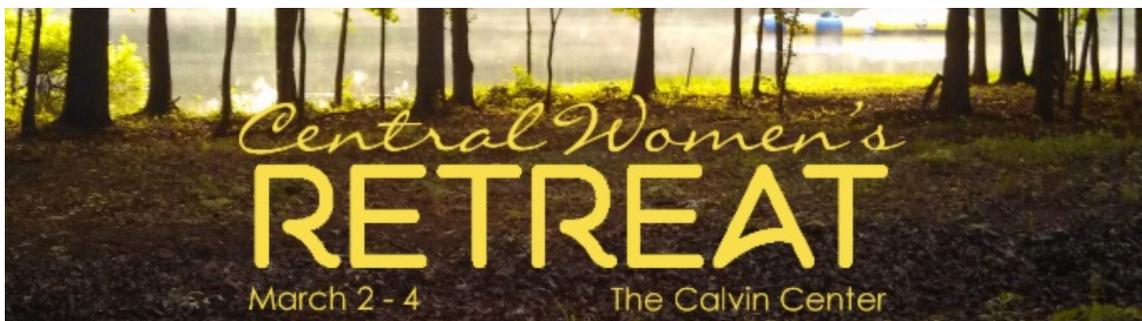
Food Service Task Force Members: Anna George Traynham (staff), Wills Moore (coordinator), Ann Hunter, Becky Battle, Tom Leslie, Dean Hammond (Administration Committee Chair), Gary Cornell (Operations Ministry Coordinator), Luis Suazo (Cashier Coordinator) and Trudy Loper (CDC Board Chair).

UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Place these important dates on your calendar and watch upcoming editions of the newsletter for information on each.

January 28	Town Forum (topics: 2018 Budget and News from the PNC)
February 4	Children's Sabbath
February 6	Prayer Labyrinth and Taizé
February 11	Celebrate Central's 160th Birthday Congregational Meeting to Elect Nominating Committee
February 14	Ash Wednesday (services: 12:15 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel)

EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE



Central Women! It's that time of the year again-our annual retreat weekend. We will gather at the Calvin Center on Friday, **March 2**, at 5:00 p.m. Our retreat will conclude on Sunday, March 4 at noon.

This year our leader is Beth Johnson. Beth will lead us in exploring The Household of God: Sex, Celibacy, and Siblings. We will examine the multiple ways early Christians talk about families and family values, the ways they use kinship language to talk about God and themselves, and how these texts contribute to contemporary debates about families and family values.

We have secured lodging for the same prices as last year.

Register now by clicking [this link](#). If you have not set up your account within MyCPC, registering for this event is the perfect time to do so; just [click here](#). Starting this Sunday, you may also register in Tull Hall before and after worship.



Comedy of Errors

Friends - On January 7, Jeff Watkins from The Atlanta Shakespeare Tavern

Playhouse (www.shakespearetavern.com) opened our Adult Education Sunday School Class discussing ways Central could connect with the arts in Atlanta.

The Atlanta Shakespeare Tavern is currently performing 'Comedy of Errors' and several Centralities have planned to see 'Comedy' on **Thursday January 25 at 7:30 p.m.**

The ticket price is \$22 (\$3 less for seniors). There are other discounts for educators and members of the military. The Tavern opens at 6:15 p.m. to begin serving dinner ([Menu](#)).

People begin lining up to enter the tavern around 5:45pm as

seating is first-come, first-serve.

Several of us will get there early to reserve table(s) needed for our group. If you want to eat, you should get there at least by 7 to get food before the show starts. For more info about location, parking and food, [click here](#) or call the Tavern at 404-874-5299.

The play is 2 Acts:

Act 1 - 50 minutes

15-minute intermission (can still get desserts)

Act 2 - 45 minutes

The play will end around 9:30 p.m. Contact Peggy Hendrix if you have questions. If you buy tickets, please let Peggy know so we will know how many tables we will need.

Peggyhendrix2000@yahoo.com

404-378-6995

Cell: 404-771-8940

January Congregational Forum

The January Congregational Forum, sponsored by the Transition Team, will occur after lunch on **Sunday, January 28**. This month's program will be a "State of the Union" report by Interim Pastor David, followed by Q&A. It will include the results of the stewardship campaign, status of the budget, and a progress report on Project 2018 (the Session's effort to develop a budget, program and staffing plan that will be sustainable for several years). In addition, the food service team and the Pastoral Nominating Committee will both provide brief updates.



Super Bowl Sunday is February 4th

Every year our youth collect funds for charities on the day of the Big Game. This year our donations will go to CEDEPCA, the faith based organization, which hosted our youth during the summer in Guatemala. These funds will be matched by a private donor through CEDEPCA and will go toward education and ministry for the people of Guatemala.

Pollard and Covenant Grants

Looking for a way to make a difference?
How about a "crash course" on small but effective nonprofits?
Want to know more about how Central's resources are used here in our immediate community?



@ATLWatershed

www.atlantawatershed.org

Come join us in giving away some money! Sounds like fun, right? It may not be as easy as you think.

The Local Mission Committee is charged with allocating funds from the Pollard and Covenant Funds but the decision process is not limited to committee members. On **Sunday, Feb. 18, 12:30- 2:30 pm** we will meet to review applications from a variety of nonprofit programs whose work aligns strongly with the Mission of Central.

For more information please contact David Ennis at (404) 964-1767 or dpenniss@gmail.com

For more information on the Pollard and Covenant Funds, please visit our [website](#).

Mexico Border Mission Trip

The Global Mission committee is leading a trip to Frontera de Cristo in Agua Prieta, Mexico. The dates are **June 23 - 29**. We will experience traveling through the desert to the border wall, meet people that work with and help those living in a border town, and learn about the realities of living in a border town. Central has taken this trip many times before, and we have always come home enlightened, convicted, and warmed by the hospitality of our partners at the border.



If you are interested in going, please email Jo McMurtrie at jo.mcmurtrie@gmail.com. **To reserve your place, please pay a \$200 deposit by February 25.** You can make a check payable to Central, with "Mexico mission trip" in the memo line.



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Pastor Nominating Committee

It's time for us to start the process to elect our next class of Elders and Deacons, and the first step is to select and elect the Nominating Committee.

*Would you like to serve on the Nominating Committee?
Do you know someone you think would be a great member?*

The Committee does the very important work of selecting a slate of Elders and Deacons who represent the Congregation and will help lead us into the future we are being called to here at Central.

The Committee will be chaired by Tricia Downing, who was Vice Chair last year; a Vice Chair will be elected from the 2019 or 2020 class of Elders, along with a Deacon representative.

4-6 additional members are needed who are not currently serving as Elders or Deacons. The Committee will present its recommended slate of Elders and Deacons to the Congregation on March 29, 2018.

If you are interested in serving on the Committee or know someone you want to recommend, please submit those names, contact information, and reasons you think they (or you) would be a great

member to Tricia Downing no later than **February 1, 2018**.

Tricia Downing
patriciadowning@bellsouth.net
404.944.2920

David Cozad, Interim Pastor
Tricia Downing, Chair, 2018 Nominating Committee



Provide a Meal for College Ministry

Central is glad to partner with other Presbyterian churches in supporting Ukirk Atlanta, a Presbyterian campus ministry at Agnes Scott, Emory, and growing. Ukirk is in need of meals for their weekly campus ministry

gatherings! [Please click here](#) to sign up to provide one meal on a Sunday or Thursday night this semester.

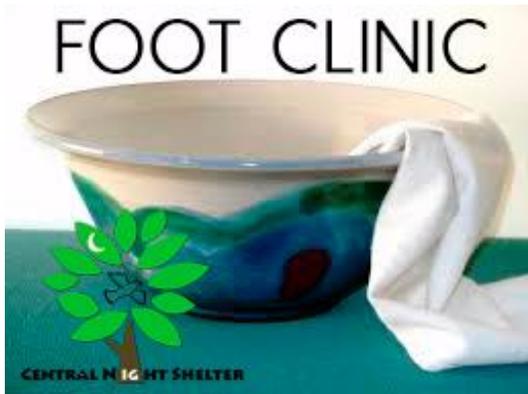
Just Bakery Cancellation

Central's Global Mission Committee has loved sponsoring a monthly Just Bakery sale for the last several months. You may have noticed that the advertised sale on Sunday did not happen! Unfortunately, Just Bakery had to make a very last minute cancellation last week, and they let us know that they would no longer be able to sell delicious baked goods at Central on Sundays. We are disappointed, but we wish them the best and hope to partner with them in other ways. Thank you for wholeheartedly supporting Just Bakery while they were here!



Join a Choir in 2018!

Have you considered joining one of our choirs? Well, now is the time to do so in 2018! We have choirs for children, youth, and adults as well as Handbell Choirs, and Visual Artists. All are welcome! Contact Dave VanderMeer, Minister of Music and Fine Arts for more information: dvandermeer@cpcatlanta.org



The Foot Clinic needs your help!

Every Wednesday night during Shelter season (November 1 - March 31), volunteers wash the feet of guests who request it, trim their toenails, smooth their callouses, massage their feet, and give them new socks.

We are in need of **flip flops** (which prevent the spread of athlete's foot in the showers) and **shoe insoles** (which can prolong the usefulness of old shoes). There is a basket in the narthex marked "Gifts for the Foot Clinic."

We are also in need of more volunteers. If you are interested in serving, please contact Beth Paulsen (johnsonb@ctsnet.edu) or Ellen Logan (elogan@gsu.edu).

Lenten Small Groups



Have you ever found yourself amid Lent, a significant season in the worship life of the Church, and wished you had some help cutting through the noise of life so that you could more closely attend - to scriptures, to intuitions, to questions, to the voices of others, or to you own voice? Do you wish you had an opportunity to get to know a group of people at Central on a

deeper level?

If so, here is some really good news!

Central is hosting Lenten Small groups: groups of up to 12 people, meeting in the homes of Central members around the city, weekly throughout the 6 weeks of Lent (February 11 - March 18). To sign up for a group, visit the table in Tull Hall on Sunday after worship or email Central member Steve McKinney at smckinney.0601@gmail.com.

These are the small group choices:

Group #1: At Central Presbyterian

Host/Leader: Anne Sciarrone

Day/Time: Sunday 6:00-7:30pm

Group #2: Emory Area in Decatur

Host/Leader: Mary Jane Cornell

Day/Time: Mondays at 7:30pm

Group #3: Buckhead

Host: Sherry Wright Leader: Kip Ladd

Day/Time: Mondays at 7:30pm

Group #4: Morningside

Host: Debbie Miller Leader: Steve McKinney

Day/Time: Tuesdays at 7:30pm

Group #5: In Midtown

Host: Steve Wade Leader: Katie Leware

Day/Time: Tuesdays at 7:00pm

Group #6: Decatur/Emory

Host: Doris Beachy Leader: Anna George Traynham

Day/Time: Thursdays at 10:00am

Group #7: Buckhead

Host/Leader: Dave Vandermeer

Day/Time: Thursdays at 7:00pm

Group #8: South Atlanta

Host/Leader: Linda and Martin Lehfelddt

Day/Time: Thursdays 3:00-4:30pm

Group #9: College Park or East Point

Hosts/Leaders: Anne Watkins and Hannah Palmer

Day/Time: Mondays at 6:30pm

When a Snack Matters

Throughout downtown Atlanta, many places offer daily meals to those experiencing homelessness. Central OAC is not one of those places, but we do offer snacks to our guests-but not to anyone who simply asks.

Why not? At the OAC, we believe that people who are hanging out in our lobby and not receiving services have ample opportunity to get to one of the many soup kitchens. However, guests who come to us for services



might have to miss a meal in order to get the help they need from us. We don't want our guests to go hungry because they were waiting to apply for their birth certificate or getting assessed for the Main Frame Job Readiness program. So, we offer snacks to these individuals (and their kids, too!).

In order for these guests to receive the nourishment they might need, **we'd like your help!** A great way to contribute to our work is to provide healthy snacks like granola bars, peanut butter or cheese crackers, packs of peanuts, small cans of fruit or apple sauce, etc. If you're interested in donating snacks, please leave them in the large bins at Central or in the church office marked "Central OAC." You may also visit our "Wish List" on our website and order them online to be shipped directly to the OAC. The link is:

<http://centraloac.org/get-involved/wish-list/>

We are grateful for your contributions that will help our guests stay strong and healthy as they work to overcome homelessness!

A Few Thoughts from Kimberly Parker

I have recently been asked by various people at Central Presbyterian, "Is it okay to give money to someone experiencing homelessness?" I certainly cannot tell people they are wrong if they do this. However, if I am pressed on the matter, I will lean towards an answer of "I believe it's better to not give money directly to a person, but instead to an organization that is working with those experiencing homelessness." I know this sounds like a plug to donate to Central Outreach & Advocacy Center, but that is not at the heart of this message.



The issue of homelessness is complicated. Many barriers exist. There is no easy fix. It takes time. It takes relationship building. It takes navigating through difficult processes and systems. It takes resources.

A little bit of money going directly into the hands of someone who is experiencing homelessness is not going to lead them out of the situation. Through our experience of working directly with guests experiencing homelessness every day, the OAC staff and Central church staff have come to believe that it is better to give money to organizations that are providing the programs and services that are designed to assist people in overcoming all of the barriers.

I recently wrote a [blog post](#) for Central OAC that may tell you more about the OAC as an organization, the reasons we do not give money directly to people experiencing homelessness, and the work we do with that money to help open doors out of homelessness, instead. If you want to talk afterwards, I am always open to conversation.

People at Central Presbyterian truly care about others and that includes our brothers and sisters who are "outside." I simply hope we can all work together to best serve them!



Winter Studies Program Begins Sunday January 7th

Please note program changes on Jan. 7th and 14th

Program title: Recommitting to Community

Program sub-title: Revitalization of Atlanta communities, and what that can mean for Central Presbyterian Church

Program abstract:

Community revitalization is evident in multiple parts of the Atlanta area, with Beltline-fueled development being but one example. Recent announcements and activities indicate that the community revitalization wave will soon reach Atlanta city-center areas that are practically next door to Central Presbyterian Church. The 2018 Winter Studies program is focused on commitment to community - on engaging to help ensure the presence of actual communities of people in the city, as opposed to just redevelopment in a commercial sense. We will hear about revitalization of Atlanta communities from experts in the public and private sector, how the arts can be a vital part of building and enriching real communities, and what all this can mean for Central Presbyterian Church.

Program schedule (all sessions will be from 9:45 - 10:45 AM in the Oglesby atrium):

- Sunday, January 7 - How the arts can enrich community, and how Central can help - Jeff Watkins, Artistic Director of Atlanta's Shakespeare Tavern Playhouse, will lead a discussion on how the arts can enrich community, how some of Central's spaces could help in-town artists and arts groups thrive, and how art can help tell Central's story to visitors.
- Sunday, January 14 - A vision for a master plan for Atlanta's city center - Audrey Leous, Project Manager, Planning and Urban Design with Central Atlanta Progress, will discuss CAP's "master plan" vision for Atlanta's city center.
- Sunday, January 21 - Community revitalization in Atlanta: the view from City Hall - Tim Keane, Commissioner, Department of City Planning at the City of Atlanta, will provide the perspective from City Hall on Atlanta community revitalization.
- Sunday, January 28 - Central issues for our changing region - urbanization, displacement, and the suburbanization of poverty - Central member Ryan Gravel will put his vision for the Atlanta Beltline in the context of regional dynamics that are reshaping where and how we live. He will cover an array of challenges from housing affordability to transportation technology and discuss ways Central can advocate for an inclusive and equitable future for all Atlantans.