

The Weekly News

January 25, 2023

Farewell Reception for Rev. Semmes



Please join us **this Sunday, January 29** after worship in Tull Hall as we bid a fond and grateful farewell to our interim pastor, Rev. John M. Semmes and wife, Cindy.

If you would like to tell a story or raise a toast to Rev. Semmes at the reception, please contact Kathy Harben at kharben@mindspring.com.

Additionally, there will be a keepsake box on a table in Tull Hall during the reception. We will have note cards and pens available for you to write words of encouragement or gratitude to Rev. Semmes. You are also free to bring your own notecard to sign and place in the keepsake box.

A Note From Rev. Semmes

If there is an accurate description for interim pastors, it is that we are just “passing through,” itinerants hired to steady some ecclesial ship, take stock of a church’s workings, recommend adjustments with the next installed pastor in mind, and then move on. As the nomads of our trade, we are not unlike carnival people – travelers with few possessions, few close friends in the places we find ourselves, and few distractions to interrupt the tasks at hand. On the surface, it can appear to be lonely and unrewarding work.

It is neither.

An interim season for a church is holy. It allows a congregation to take stock of themselves and think about what God might be doing next in their midst. It renders a flock vulnerable, but also draws it together toward a new and deeper commonwealth of community and relationship. A transition season gives a congregation the bandwidth it needs to hear the Word of God in a different voice and context that helps keep hope alive. It restores balance

and alleviates tension; it pushes believers to lean far more upon the ancient track record of a loving God and far less upon flawed idols of human design. Perhaps most importantly, it exposes the unyielding specter of change so inherent to God's economy...and then stretches the people's capacity to imagine boundless, extraordinary possibilities when they accept change rather than try to stare it down.

In the middle of it all stands the interim pastor, who encounters an often stunned faith community in the wake of some crisis, coaxes them to breathe, and then rejoices when they begin to dance again toward light with a newly-acquired confidence and purpose. In that moment, all at once, every minute of his odd and wondrous calling, every hour of his wandering in worn-down sandals, becomes worth the beautiful, exhausting, life-changing journey that it is.

It is with deep gratitude for every kindness you have shown Cindy and me that I thank you for the privilege of walking with Central Presbyterian Church these past eighteen months. I could never have hoped for a better place to conclude parish ministry than with you and your amazing staff. Though our formal relationship will soon end, know I will always pray for you and for the countless souls gathered outside your doors at the corner of Powerful and Powerless. There is still so much to do, and Christ has no hands but yours.

Keep the faith, Central. Dream big. Stay strong.

And "may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Rom 15:13)

An Update from the Stewardship Committee

"The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world and those who live in it." Psalm 24:1

The Stewardship Committee expresses thanks and gratitude to all who have made their 2023 financial commitment to God through your support of Central's ministry and mission.



Thus far, we have received 139 pledges for \$904,526. **This is \$179,405 short of 2022 pledges, a sizable deficit which could significantly impact our 2023 budget.** If you are able, please consider increasing your pledge or making a one time gift.

For those of you who have faithfully pledged in previous years, those who have given generously but not pledged, and those of you who are new to the idea of pledging, we ask you to prayerfully consider the stewardship of resources you have received from God and how you might share God's love

in return, through your 2023 pledge of financial support. Every gift counts and each exemplifies faithful discipleship. Thanks be to God!

To make or increase your pledge, use [this link](#) to Realm or contact Kristie Johns, Central's Business Manager, via email at kjohns@cpcatlanta.org or phone at **770-888- 9292**.

February 5 2 p.m. Central Presbyterian Church



An Afternoon with
CALLIE DAY

TICKETS ARE \$20 \$5 FOR STUDENTS
Purchase your tickets at Eventbrite, scan
the QR code or purchase at the door



FEATURING FOUR ATLANTA CHOIRS AND PIANIST DR. TONY MCNEILL



www.cpcatlanta.org 201 Washington St. Atlanta, 30303

Acclaimed singer and 'America's Got Talent' favorite Callie Day is bringing her talents to Central Presbyterian Church during a special concert on **Sunday, February 5 at 2 p.m.**

She will be accompanied by four metro choirs, including Central Presbyterian's Chancel Choir, Georgia State University Choral Union, the Shrine Music Ministry Choir from the Catholic Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, and the choir from Columbia Theological Seminary.

Dr. Tony McNeill will accompany her on piano. McNeill is an acclaimed music director and former Director of Worship and the Arts at Historic

Ebenezer Baptist Church.

In celebration of Black History Month, a portion of the proceeds will benefit Central's mission partner, the Atlanta nonprofit ***Close Ties Leadership Program***. Close Ties Leadership Program believes in Black boys' inherent genius and unlocks their potential through exposure to college and career opportunities, in-school mentorship, and social-emotional support.

Day achieved national recognition from her performances on 'America's Got Talent.' She has also developed a reputation in choral circles throughout the country performing with the Miami University Opera, the Cincinnati Opera, the Bowling Green State Opera, and in recent years, as a touring member of the American Spiritual Ensemble. Her music is available on iTunes, Google Play and Amazon.

The suggested ticket price is \$20 for the general public, \$5 for students, and \$5 for those whom the suggested \$20 ticket price may be cost prohibitive. Central seeks to make this event accessible for all members of our community. You may purchase advance tickets via ***Eventbrite here*** or the link below. Tickets will also be available for purchase at the door.

Mid-Winter Congregational Lunch Sunday, February 5

On **Sunday, February 5 from 12:15 - 1:30 p.m.**, join your Central friends in Tull Hall for a time of food and fellowship immediately following worship. After lunch, plan to stay for the Callie Day concert at 2 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Please register using the link below and let us know your preference for lunch, which will be provided by Jason's Deli.



<https://onrealm.org/cpcatlanta/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=ZDE3NDE2NWItMDM0Ni00YjFiLWFiYjctYWY5NDAwZmExYzVm>

If you have any questions, please contact ***Janet Abercrombie*** or ***Jasiel Hernandez***.

Maternal Health Day Hosted at Central



Central enjoyed hosting Maternal Health Day by Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies, Georgia on Monday, February 23 in Tull Hall. The organization met and mobilized at Central before meeting with representatives at the Capitol. Susan Landrum gave them a warm welcome!

Serve

Children's and Youth Choirs News

All children, ages 4 through grade 5 are welcome to join children's choirs at any time! The two choirs, Bethlehem and Nazareth, are still rehearsing together and will likely do so through the end of this semester. Parents meet in Tull Hall on Sundays at 9 a.m. to sign in, then children go with Ms. Vicki and Dennis to the third floor Bethlehem Choir room for rehearsal. Youth in grades 6-12, join Thom Dixon and Karen Brown in the former Nazareth Choir room on the third floor on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. Following rehearsal, the children will be escorted to the second floor Sunday School rooms and youth may go to the youth wing for Sunday School. The children will sing in worship on Sunday, February 12, so come join us this week! Youth parents, please check Thom's schedule for when they will sing in worship.

Housing Day at the Capitol with Georgia ACT

On Wednesday, February 23, Central will join **Georgia ACT** at Atlanta City Hall for a day of advocacy, training, and networking. During this free event, you'll hear updates from federal, state, and local representatives, and have the opportunity to interact with legislators. Housing Day is from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. and breakfast and lunch are provided free of charge.

Please make plans to attend Housing Day to demonstrate your advocacy and care for our unhoused neighbors. As a **Matthew 25 congregation**, we are called to serve Jesus by contributing to the well-being of the most vulnerable in all societies. **This is an opportunity for our Central family to**

put that calling into action.

Register for Housing Day using [this link](#). If you are unable to attend in person, there is a virtual option. If you have any questions, please contact Jasiel Garcia at jhernandez@cpcatlanta.org or Gary Cornell at gary.cornell01@gmail.com

Housing Day with Georgia ACT

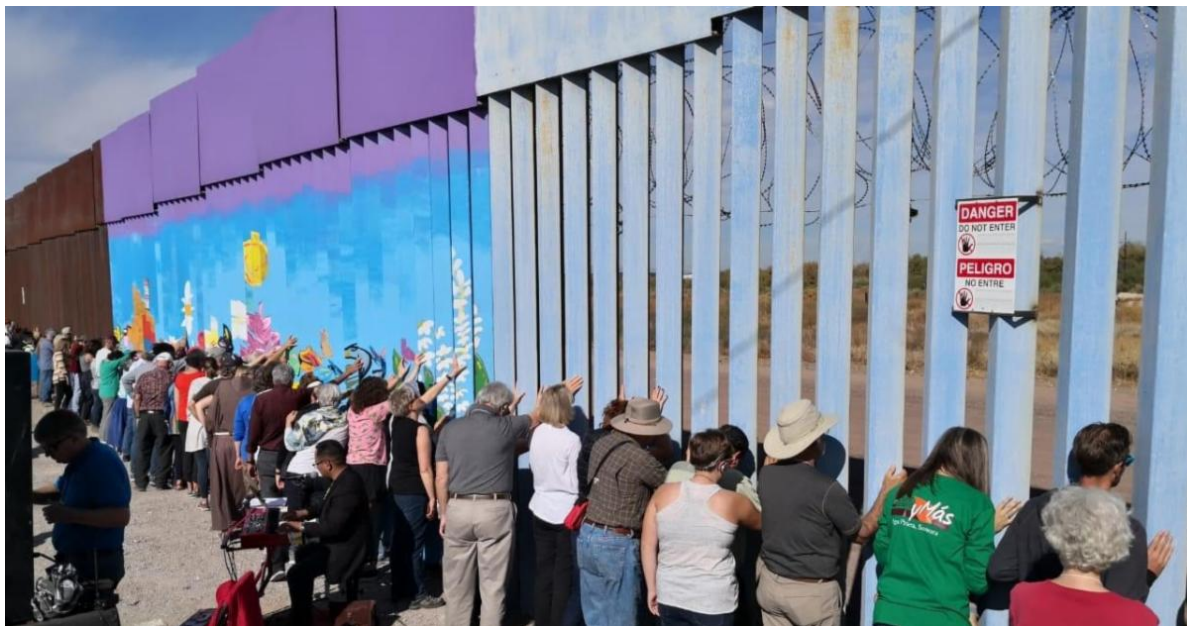
February 22, 2023

8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Atlanta City Hall in the Old Council Chamber

68 Mitchell Street, 2nd Floor

Mission Partner Frontera de Cristo Visiting Central February 25-26



Central is thrilled to welcome Mark Adams and Miriam Maldonado, who will be visiting us on February 25 and 26. The PC(USA) Mission Co-Workers serve with Frontera de Cristo at the U.S.-Mexico border. Please save the date so you can plan to attend!

Our congregation has been a long-standing partner with Frontera de Cristo, a Presbyterian ministry located in the sister cities of Agua Prieta, Mexico and Douglas, Arizona. Central has taken several mission trips over the years to serve alongside Mark and Miriam, and sales of coffee, tea, chocolate, and olive oil at our Global Marketplace support our Frontera partners.

Plans are in the works for a gathering on Saturday night, and Mark will be preaching during worship on Sunday morning, February 26. There will also be an opportunity for Central members to visit with Mark and Miriam after worship. If you would like to be involved, please contact Bede Campbell at bedebikes@gmail.com.

In addition, there will be a Global Marketplace table selling coffee and fair trade items before and after worship on February 26. If you participated in one of the mission trips to the border and have photos that can be shared on February 25 or 26, please bring them with you, or email them to Bede. To learn more about Frontera de Cristo, please visit their website: (<http://fronteradecristo.org/>).

Become a Patron of the Arts at Central

What does it mean to be a Patron of the Arts? It means that you support the arts in its many forms, thanks to the Arts of the Spirit initiative that began more than ten years ago.



What do you see and hear when you step through the doors of Central? As a church family, we enjoy the rotating art exhibits in Tull Hall; workshops and seminars featuring various art forms such as lantern making, liturgical dance, and flower arranging; congregational musical events; and Concerts with a Cause. These events and liturgical art enhancements are funded by your generous donations and are not part of Central's normal operating budget.

We have an event coming up that you won't want to miss! Acclaimed Gospel singer Callie Day will join on Sunday, February 5, for the 11 a.m. worship service, and in concert at 2 p.m. She will be accompanied by pianist and former Atlantan Tony McNeill as well as a bass player and a drummer. In celebration of Black History Month, a portion of the proceeds from this "Concert with a Cause" will benefit Central's mission partner, the Atlanta nonprofit ***Close Ties Leadership Program***. See the above Callie Day concert info to find out more about this mission partner.

Your donation to the Arts of the Spirit will assist in funding this program – you may donate through Realm at this [link](#). Please be sure to choose "Arts of the Spirit" in the drop-down menu. Thank you in advance!

Courtyard Ministry Seeks Volunteers

In the coming weeks, the Courtyard Ministry will continue to be held in Tull Hall. Please come by between 9 and 10 a.m. to say hello to our guests. It is a wonderful opportunity to spend time together. There is plenty of coffee for everyone!

One week out of each month, the Central Presbyterian Congregation is responsible for hosting the Courtyard Ministry. Various groups within Central, such as the Choir, Bookworms, Parishes, and Committees, have volunteered. Please consider signing up to serve in this way. The SignUp Genius link is below. We need volunteers to host beginning January 15.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DA5A82AAB9-sunday1>

If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Miller at debbietimmiller@gmail.com or Denise de La Rue at denise@denisedelarue.com

Serve as a Tower Bell Ringer

Thanks to all of you, we have tower bell ringers signed up through the end of February! If you think you're able to ring in March, please go ahead and sign up now. You can always trade with another person if you need to.

Thanks to Anne Sciarrone for creating the Sign-Up Genius and for adding to it as needed!

Click here to sign up!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B4FAFA72AA64-bell>



Sunday School teachers still needed!



We still need volunteers to step up to be a part of Sunday School. If teaching is not your gift, you can also sign up for the "Second Adult" spot on our sign up genius. It is imperative that we have two adults for Sunday School in order to maintain the guidelines for our Policy for the Protection of Children and Youth.

Please sign up and reach out to [Samuel Phillips](#) for any questions.

Link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E45A9A72CA0F9CF8-childrens>

Volunteer at the Bashor Men's Shelter

The Bashor Men's Night Shelter needs your help this season.

Volunteers are still needed for meals and overnight shifts.

Volunteers provide meals, takeaway lunches, and breakfasts and serve as overnight volunteer hosts to our guests. Our most immediate need is for Overnight Volunteer Hosts. These volunteers arrive at the shelter around 6:00 pm to eat dinner and receive training and instruction on their job for the

night. Overnight Volunteers are done by around 6:00 am.

For more information about the Bashor Homeless Men's Night Shelter, and to volunteer, visit their [website](#). Please contact the shelter directors or volunteer coordinators with questions.

Cathal Doyle and **Jessie Bashor**, Shelter Directors
doylecathal2@gmail.com, jessie.bashor@gmail.com

Sue Briss, Overnight Volunteer Coordinator - suebriss@gmail.com
Kathy Masters, Food Coordinator - kat@studio208.com

REMINDER:

Central continues to provide meals for the shelter on a monthly basis. Please sign up using this link.

SignUp Genius link to prepare meals for the shelter:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040a4caeab2fa02-bashor>

Guidelines and procedures for preparing meals:

<https://centralnightshelter.org/volunteer-procedures/meals>

Central's Mission Committee thanks you for your ongoing support! We continue to pray for the day when the shelter is no longer needed because all who live in Atlanta have a safe place to lay their heads.

Worship

Sunday, January 29, 2023

11 a.m.

Micah 6:1-8 + Colossians 3:12-17

"One Last Thing"

The Rev. John M. Semmes preaching

Learn

Meet and Greet

Central's New Mission Partner in Mexico

Tonight, Wednesday, January 25

7 p.m. via Zoom

The Mission Committee invites you to meet and greet our newest mission partner, Iglesia Presbiteriana Jesucristo Salvador de Oriente, from Tapachula, Chiapas, on the Guatemala-Mexico border.

We will have the opportunity to hear from Pastor Neri Rivera about how his ministry serving immigrants has made a difference. This ministry provides legal assistance, document storage, food, and overnight shelter to those traveling from South America. They keep families together and connect them with the right entities as they discern their next steps.

Join us using this [link](#)

Meeting ID: 868 2731 5669

Passcode: 732787

2023 Central Winter Studies

Sunday, January 29

9:45 a.m.

Oglesby Atrium

The 2023 Central Winter Studies program continues **this Sunday morning, January 29**. The study will focus on Jesus' words in Matthew 25:35, "*I was a stranger and you welcomed me,*" and will discuss housing justice in Atlanta.

The third meeting will pose the question, "*What does the Bible say about housing Justice?*" Dr. Ryan Bonfiglio, Old Testament Professor at Candler School of Theology, Emory University, will lead the discussion.

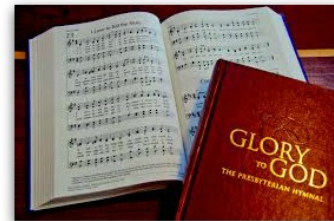
Please plan to join us for this important session!

Hymn Fun

Saturday, January 21

10 a.m.

Steve Fey will lead two more Hymn Fun classes before Vicki's retirement. Join via Zoom at 10:00 a.m. on Saturdays through February 4.



Meeting ID: 755 3107 4580 Passcode: 226787

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4 Ways to Give



Mobile Giving



Online Giving



Text Giving

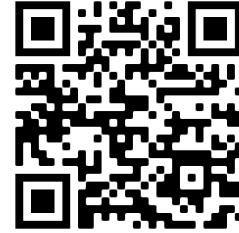


Cash/Check

There are four easy ways you can make your contribution to the mission and ministry of Central Church.

Give through REALM Connect mobile app

Give through the Realm Connect mobile app; download from your device's store.



2023 Pledge: You may pledge through this [link](#)

Give online

Visit the [CPC website](#) to securely make your contribution.

Text to give

Text **CPCATLANTA** to **73256** followed by your gift amount.

Mail a check to our address

201 Washington St SW, Atlanta, GA 30303

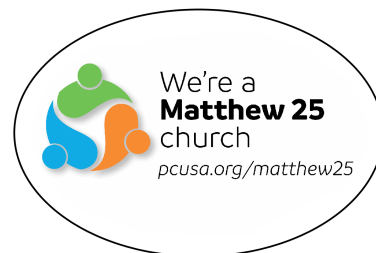
Please give generously, and thank you!

If you have any difficulty logging in to your profile or making your online gift within Realm, please contact Linda Massengill by [email](#).

Questions about your giving statement? Please contact Kristie Johns at kjohns@cpcatlanta.org

Acting boldly and compassionately to serve people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned or poor.

Click here to learn more.



www.cpcatlanta.org