

Central

Advent Magazine 2021



Something Wonderful is about to happen

A conversation with the artist

The anticipation of the Advent season with its regal wreaths, flickering candles, and resounding hymns played a major role in the inspiration of the painting, “Something Wonderful is about to happen,” by Central’s Lucy Baum.

“The theme put me in mind of the excitement I felt every year as a child when the Advent wreath appeared in the sanctuary of our church. Lighting the candles each week filled me with such anticipation as we counted down the weeks to Christmas—I knew in my whole body that something wonderful was about to happen!” She said.

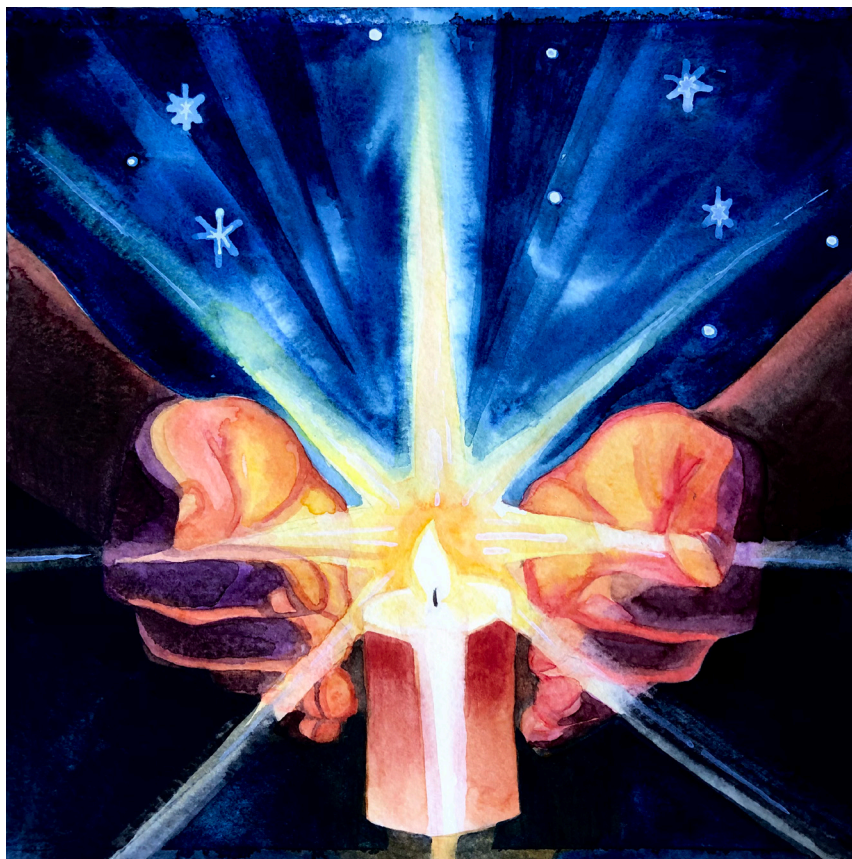
Lucy created the painting on the cover of this magazine with an array of vibrant watercolors. Each aspect of the painting holds a special meaning.



“The image of a candle glowing in the darkness is also a reference to one of my favorite Advent texts, from John 1: ‘In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . What has come into being in him was life,

and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it,’” she said.

“The candle in this painting shines with rays in the shape of a star, because the star of Bethlehem is another one of my favorite Advent images. It is also a reference to the



star of David, as a reminder that the coming of Christ is woven into the ancient story of God’s faithfulness to Israel. Advent brings fresh excitement every year, but it also brings the memory and hope of our ancestors in faith. Something wonderful is about to happen because God has already been doing wonderful things all along the way.”

Central is very grateful for Lucy lending her talents this year. You will see her painting throughout our communications as we celebrate this special season.

Lucy and her husband, Matt, joined Central in 2011. They are involved in the church in multiple roles including, choir members, children’s choir directors, and youth advisors. Lucy also currently serves as an Elder.

“Central has been a huge part of our lives for a decade now, and we’re so grateful to be a part of it,” she said.

All I really want for Christmas

By Rev. John M. Semmes

The older I get, the more I want things on Christmas morning that stores just don't sell, things that stockings just don't hold. More than any tech toy or trip:

I want each person to first be seen by the rest of us as an equally beloved child of God rather than as someone who is somehow less because of means or color or identity;

I want the homeless and hungry to find in the rich fabric of our national resources the help they need in order to reclaim their dignity and self-worth;

I want common sense laws against gun violence, the best training for law enforcement officers, and equal justice in every courtroom for prince and pauper alike;

I want guaranteed voting rights for all Americans, and a woman's right to choose left alone;

I want the malevolent divisiveness that threatens the very survival of our republic to be rejected by a nation that finally comes to understand we are far better together than we'll ever be apart;

I want simplicity, the kind from my childhood that probably never actually existed, but which seems so wistfully real



right now;

I want peace in places where peace has never had a home;

I want our children to always know that, deep down, most people are good, and that basic character traits like trust, honesty and compassion have no substitutes;

I want cures for cancer and Alzheimer's, for Parkinson's and Lou Gehrig's Disease, and for every other catastrophic illness that robs both mind and body;

I want an economy sustained by fair wages and where everyone – not just the privileged – can experience and enjoy the good life God desires for each of us;

I want an end to domestic abuse so that every woman and child can know how it feels to be safe;

I want us Christians to become

better disciples for Jesus, focused far less upon the many particulars of faith that don't matter and far more upon the few that really do;

I want to hope more and worry less;

Now vaccinated, I want to be in more vibrant relationships than ever before...losing them to a raging pandemic was nothing short of a living hell.

None of this, of course, is available at Amazon.com or to be found under some tree at Lenox Mall. But all of it still finds its way in my prayers to the feet of a Savior who, by his providence, mercy, and grace, makes all things possible for you and me.

Merry Christmas, Central. It is an absolute privilege to serve for a season as your pastor.

“Congratulations!
Today is your day.
You’re off to Great Places!
You’re off and away...!”

...And when things start to
happen,
don’t worry. Don’t stew.
Just go right along.
You’ll start happening too.”

Dr. Seuss

By Rev. Jasiel H. Garcia

Christmas is once again upon us. And perhaps for the first time in a long time, you will have the opportunity to spend these precious holidays in person with loved ones you have only seen through Zoom for the past 19 months. Congratulations, my friend! This is no minor success. I am delighted to know that you will be off and away celebrating and enjoying the important things in life.

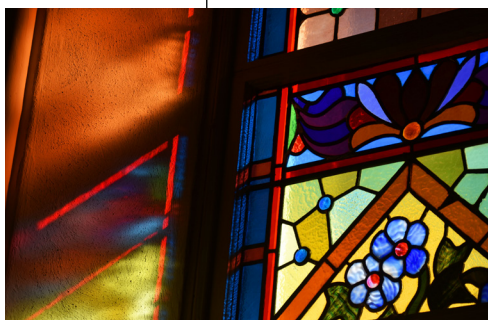
But there is also the possibility that you will find yourself in Atlanta. And if that is the case, know that Central is waiting for you. Perhaps you have not yet returned to our church campus. That is okay. Changes are hard and there is still a veil of uncertainty covering us. Do not think too much about this. Hold on to what is good, but take heart. Listen to how the Holy Spirit is calling you back. Come and sit in your regular pew or try a new one. Come and hear how the music fills every inch of this space. Come and see how the warmth of sunshine breaks through the colorful stained-glass, illuminating our lives with hope.



Come, take a deep breath, and truly feel how this place remains familiar deep within your bones.

Think of all the places you will go, in both memory and within your heart, once you return to Central, especially during Christmastime. It is true that Central has changed. But we, both individually and collectively, have also changed. And remember that there is the strong possibility that all these changes will bring an unexpected harmony, guiding us faithfully towards those Great Places that God has already envisioned for us.

If there is hesitancy in your heart, do not worry, don't stew... you'll start happening too. You just have to take the first step. Come and join us this Christmas!



As someone who will celebrate Christmas at Central for the first time, I am excited to witness tradition and hope colliding into a beautiful celebration. I am excited

to sing Silent Night and share communion in the same space as you. I am excited to serve meals, clothes, and gifts with you on Christmas morning. I am excited to proclaim alongside you that Jesus Christ is born and remind this weary world that we have a reason to be joyful!

Just imagine, all the places you'll go, in both memory and within your heart, once you return to Central. Yes! Imagine all the places we'll go... together.

But for now, I think of you my friend - wherever you may be - and wish you a merry Christmas. Know that you are loved.



By Kimberly Parker

For as long as I can remember, we have held an annual holiday party for our guests at Central Outreach and Advocacy Center. It started as a pretty informal time. Church members baked homemade sweets and we served hot apple cider. We would serve homemade treats and apple cider until we ran out.

One year someone decided that it would be nice to provide pigs in a blanket to add some protein to the menu. The food options grew. We eventually also began trying to have a couple of items that we could give to the guests as a present. Socks, gloves, hats, hygiene items have all been given. It wasn't so much what was given as it was being able to give a gift to our guests.

Over the years, the food and gifts have changed, but there was always one part that was consistent.

Betty Bolander, a longtime Tuesday morning volunteer at Central OAC, would show up at the holiday party to play the piano for a Christmas carol sing along. Year after year, Betty showed up to play. Even after she stopped volunteering on Tuesday mornings, she came for the party.

When she could no longer drive or take MARTA, other church members made sure she had a ride. This became a very important part of my personal holiday traditions. Betty was so excited to be a part of this party. She arrived with bells to ring and song

sheets to sing from. She came dressed for the occasion and she loved leading our guests in singing Christmas carols.

I typically walked room to room, throughout the party, making sure all was going smoothly. I always stopped for a little while to sing along with everyone else. Every year, without fail, once I stopped and looked around the room, tears began to flow. It was such a moving experience to be in a room with people experiencing homelessness, singing together, as if we were all in someone's living room at Christmas. I guess in some ways, we were in a living room; it just looked a little different than most.

Last year was hard. We managed to have a holiday party, despite COVID. We used the upper courtyard area of the church and set up tables so that we could still pass out food, drinks, sweets, and a gift. We couldn't have people linger or hang out due to the pandemic, but we made it happen. That wasn't what was hard. The hard part was that because of COVID, Betty B couldn't be with us. It was the first Christmas party without her and it hurt my heart.

And now it's the memories that will live on. I am going to make sure I pull out pictures of Betty B every year so that I can hold on to these memories of such a special time with her. Thanks Betty B! I will sing one and play some bells for you this year!

12 Days of Giving

Sponsored by your Ministry of Missions

You will have the opportunity to learn more about these ministries and mission partners during our Alternative Christmas Market on December 12 following worship.

We encourage you to bring checks, cash, or we can show you how to give through Realm. If you make a gift before then, let the Global Mission committee so that we may follow-up with you. We look forward to celebrating with you!

DECEMBER 13

Central Stewardship: Sharing Our Blessings

As you consider your year-end giving and hopefully participate in the 12 Days of Giving initiative, please remember to include your pledge in the mix! Your faithful giving to Central will allow us to move forward with confidence, continuing our worship and mission into the new year and finding new ways to serve.

As of Commitment Sunday, we have received 108 pledges totaling approximately \$820,000. We are so grateful to those who have already made their pledges. But we are only halfway through. You can make a difference in our ministries as we continue to pray and dream about who Central will become in the upcoming year.



Stewardship 2021

If you have any questions about your pledge, please reach out to Dave Wooten (dwooten@cpcatlanta.org). And if you would like to know more about how your pledge makes a difference, please reach out to Rev. John Semmes (jsemmes@cpcatlanta.org).

Information: <https://cpcatlanta.org/give/>
We are grateful for your support!

DECEMBER 14

Central OAC

Central OAC is currently open on Monday through Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. On the days the OAC is open, the following services are provided: birth certificates, GA state ID, Social Security cards, medical referrals, homeless verification letters, food stamps, and reading glasses.

As we move toward cooler weather, the guests at Central OAC are in need of quite a few items. Especially over the past

year and a half, our guests' needs have grown and changed. Our current greatest needs are:

- snacks (non-perishable, no canned items)
- bottled water
- hygiene kits (all travel size): deodorant, soap, hand sanitizer, wipes, toothbrush and toothpaste
- Clothing: face masks, hats, socks, blankets



You can also donate to us financially. A gift of only \$5 buys a Georgia ID for one guest! Donate here or visit our wishlist for more details on giving! (Any in-kind donations can be ordered straight to our door from our wishlist or left outside of the church office or sanctuary. Label them to ensure they get to the right place!) To learn more about

the OAC, please reach out to Kimberly Parker during our Christmas Market Fair.

New Hope House

New Hope House has been offering support and hospitality for Georgia's death row prisoners and their families since 1988.

For over 30 years, Murphy Davis made sure that every prisoner on Georgia's death row received a box of Christmas gifts that included essentials. In previous years, a small group from Central has partnered with NHH to deliver these Christmas packets. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions, only staff at NHH will be making the deliveries on December 20 for this year.

But you can still participate! You can sponsor a Christmas box by donating \$75, which is the approximate cost of all supplies - holiday snacks, clothing items, and writing supplies. You may write a check or provide cash and bring it during our Christmas Market



on December 12. We will then distribute these donations to them on December 14. For more information, please contact Lee Carroll.

You may also visit <http://www.newhopehousega.org/>

Lunches for Students in Trou Jacques

Our friends on the island of La Gonave are not faced with the unrest that is present on the Haiti mainland, but because of the unrest, daily life has become more difficult for them. The island relies a great deal on the mainland for food and, as a consequence, food insecurity has become a larger problem - prices are higher and the diesel fuel to get to other areas for food is in short supply. With this situation, the school lunch program becomes even more critical. In many instances, it may be the only meal they have. Each day, women in the community prepare a hot lunch for the children at school.

Because of our generosity along with that of Fernandina and McDonough Presbyterian churches, they have a wonderful new kitchen for preparation and serving, rain or shine!

Just \$30 will provide lunch for a day for the approximately 100 children in Trou Jacques. You may donate by check to Central Presbyterian



Church or online through Realm, making a notation for Haiti.

For more information, you may contact Bede Campbell.

DECEMBER 17

Bashor Night Shelter

Bashor Men's Night Shelter is a non-profit organization started in 1980 by an ecumenical group concerned about the growing problem of homelessness in Atlanta. Due to COVID-19, BMNS has shifted its ministry to providing meal packets (which include a warm dinner, breakfast and lunch), clothing items, blankets, and other immediate resources. Central has committed to provide 50 meals (either dinners or sack lunches/breakfasts). The remaining dates are:

December 13	50 sack breakfast/lunches
January 24	50 dinners



Please sign-up using the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0948a4a628abf85-december2>

Please volunteer by using the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d-4da8aa22abfec07-meals>

DECEMBER 18

Foot Clinic



People experiencing homelessness spend a lot of time on their feet. Since they are so frequently shooed away from places where they seek safe haven, they walk as much as ten miles a day. In collaboration with the Night Shelter, on Wednesday nights, a faithful group of volunteers hosts a Foot Clinic.

During the clinic, guests are given warm, soapy water in which to soak their feet, their calluses are scraped, their toenails are trimmed, and their foot injuries are treated. Best of all, the time it takes to care for each guest's

feet gives us time to get to know them. The conversations in the foot clinic are among the most holy during the shelter season.

If you would like to join us, we would love to welcome you. We will offer the Foot Clinic on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. If you would like to help but are uncertain about washing someone's feet (we know it is not for everyone!), you are welcome to donate to this ministry to cover the cost of supplies.

For more information, please contact Beth Johnson or Martha Crenshaw.

AMIS hosts Christmas party Dec. 19

AMIS (Atlanta Ministry with International Students) is the French word for "friends." We welcome and connect international students with local American friends through our many programs and events. Our Amigo Friendship Program matches an international student with an American individual or family for friendship and sharing of cultures. Jasiel and Jessie have been an AMIGO to Jacky (an Emory graduate student from Germany) and they have really enjoyed this friendship!

This year, Central will resume its Christmas Celebra-



tion with AMIS on Sunday, December 19 from 1 to 3 p.m. We will have games, food, and opportunities for welcoming international students at Central.

You are encouraged to donate through Central. Your gift will provide resources for this celebration and support AMIS through our annual contributions.

To learn more about AMIS and how you can participate, please visit the following link:

www.amis-inc.org/donate

Memorial Drive Ministries

Memorial Drive Ministries was incorporated in December of 2017 as a church-based nonprofit that manages the Memorial Drive campus with the mission of fostering diverse Christian worship, innovative community services and transformative relationships.

MDM's mission is to provide a safe, welcoming and affordable space where organizations that serve the refugees and diverse community in the greater Clarkston and Stone Mountain area can meet, collaborate, thrive and build community. Donations to MDM benefit groups such as Inspire (after-school initiative), Just Bakery, Amani Women's Center, Shalom International Worship, Family Literacy, and Global Growers.

You may donate by check to Central Presbyterian Church or online through Realm, making a notation for MDM. For more information, contact [Bede Campbell](#).



DECEMBER 21

Fair Trade Market

Come shop with us on Sunday, December 12 after worship. We are back with our favorite coffees, chocolate, teas, and olive oil from Equal Exchange and Café Justo. We will provide an opportunity to buy for yourself or for others. As always, we accept money, checks and credit cards.

Café Justo coffee is a grower- owned coffee cooperative in Southern Chiapas formed to address poverty and migration from Mexico to the U.S. Equal Exchange's mission is to build long term trade partnerships that are economically just and environmentally sound. All Fair Trade.

We will have refreshments for you to enjoy while you shop on December 12!



DECEMBER 22

Churches for Middle East Peace

Through events, resources, and trips to the region, Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) provides opportunities to learn about the Middle East and a holistic approach to advocate for peace. CMEP also serves to elevate diverse voices who are advocating for equality, security, & human rights for all people in the Middle East.

Central is the only CMEP church partner in the state of Georgia. We support this organization through our operating budget on a yearly basis.

You may make a donation to support this partnership with CMEP. Your gift will enable us to participate more faithfully in educational and advocacy efforts.

For more information, please visit: <https://cmepe.org/about/>



DECEMBER 23

The Olive Tree Campaign

The Olive Tree Campaign is an opportunity to show solidarity with the Palestinian people and help keep hope alive for a peaceful future in Palestine. Palestinian women, men and children are committed to rebuilding their society and structures without the use of violence. The Olive Tree Campaign aims to plant trees in places where they have been uprooted and destroyed, or in areas where the fields are threatened by land confiscation.

Ibrahim Hannoun, OTC's Media Officer, shared with us the following words just a few

weeks ago: "The Olive Tree Campaign is running very well and actually flourishing year after year, where we are reaching more and more threatened villages in new areas across the West Bank."

The amount of \$20 covers all the costs related to planting a young olive tree - the cost of the tree, preparation of the field, and the irrigation system. You may donate by check or online to Central via Realm with a notation for the Olive Tree Campaign.

Read more about the campaign at www.jai-pal.org or reach out directly to Ann Hunter.

DECEMBER 24

Christmas Joy Offering

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. The Joy Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage.

Central will be collecting this special offering during worship on December 12. You may continue to donate through Realm until Christmas.

To learn more, please visit the [Special Offerings Page](#).



Christmas Morning Breakfast

Central has the annual tradition of offering a warm breakfast on Christmas morning to the guests who stay at the night shelter. This year, while we will not have guests staying with us at the shelter, we still hope to provide this meaningful meal for at least 100 people.

We will follow the guidelines we currently have for our Courtyard Ministry - social distancing and masks. For this special occasion, we will be serving a warm breakfast, coffee,

DECEMBER 25

various holiday snacks, and winter clothing. We will set up stations where guests can sit and have fellowship for a brief moment. And we will have Christmas music, of course. We will begin at 9 a.m. and hope to conclude by noon at the latest.

You can participate by donating items - socks, jackets, hats, and gloves. You may also provide a financial contribution to help supplement the cost of the meal and supplies. Most importantly, you are welcome to volunteer with us on Christmas morning. Bring your household with you!

If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Jasiel Hernandez Garcia.



By Vicki Fey

For church musicians, the Advent/Christmas season is filled with lots of “busyness,” so pausing to reflect during the season takes some effort.

After more than 50 years as a church musician, there are too many meaningful moments to put into one reflection, but there are a few that stand above the rest.

Our older son was born two weeks after Christmas, so Christmas Eve 1984 in Vero Beach, Florida took on a whole new meaning for me as I contemplated the birth of my own baby in addition to celebrating the birth of Christ.

We had three Christmas Eve services, but it wasn’t until the last one, at 11 p.m., that I finally could breathe and reflect as the candles were lit for “Silent Night.” (I wasn’t playing the organ at that point – Steve played and I conducted!) In both Kingwood, Texas and Bristol, Tennessee, we continued the tradition of a children’s Christmas pageant originally put together by our Vero Beach Director of Christian Education. Of the 17 years directing the pageant in Bristol, only one of those years, when the flu ran rampant, did we not have a live baby

Jesus! FPC Bristol has a long center aisle, and Mary (always a sixth-grade girl), carried the baby down the long aisle and up the steps, where she sat on a stool for the rest of the pageant. As I sat down front, I would always turn and watch Mary, Joseph, and the baby come down the aisle, and it never ceased to move me.

I would think of the young mother Mary as she contemplated the birth of her own son, who was no less than the son of God. Some “Silent Night” moments – I love watching the sea of candles as they are gradually lit in the dark sanctuary.

Whether from the balcony in Bristol or the organ bench at Central, the view and the singing bring home for me the meaning of Christmas. Not being able to experience that as a congregation in 2020 was more emotional than I thought possible, so I am grateful that we are singing as a congregation and we will get to sing “Silent Night” as well as “O Come, All Ye Faithful” together this year!



Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing

By Dr. Jennifer Sengin

While much can be said about the challenges that we have all faced these past two years, there has also been an incredible amount of ingenuity and creativity that has sprung out of these times.

One of the things I am most grateful for is the way in which we have engaged together in a virtual space. For example, the Music and Arts Committee has been diligently working to put together our virtual advent calendar. Many of you have written devotionals, submitted artwork, and provided music that helps to illustrate the provided scripture. We are excited to share this year's online advent calendar with everyone!

As we move into the Advent and Christmas season, I have been reflecting on how wonderful it is to be able to spend this season together this year. From the choir's first Sunday back in August, it has been such a pleasure to be able to be

in community with each other. For me, I find the act of singing together to be an incredibly powerful and moving experience.

For each Sunday in Advent, we have planned music that illuminates the four advent themes: Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy. We are excited to have a string quartet join us on Christmas Eve as the choir sings Elaine Hagenberg's, "To Thee My Heart I Offer" – a beautiful piece about Jesus' birth. I hope you will find it as moving as we do!

One of my favorite Christmas Eve memories at Central is the singing of Silent Night by candlelight. My first year at Central, the choir surrounded the congregation singing. To be in that gorgeous sanctuary filled with the glow of candlelight and to hear all of the beautiful singing was just overwhelming.

Whether you are joining us in-person or virtually, we hope this advent and Christmas season will offering a meaningful way to share in the joy that is the birth of Christ.





The Session of Central Presbyterian Church

CLASS OF 2022

Lucy Baum
David Enniss
Karen Gravel
David Hunter
Emily Hilimire
Jerry Miller
Keith Pascoe
Bob Riordan
Betsy Smalley

CLASS OF 2023

Bessie Green
Kathy Harben
Khaliah Johnson
Susan Landrum
Amy Mast
Matt Parrish
Mike Sizemore
Beth Webb-Woods
Charles Yorke

CLASS OF 2024

Janet Abercrombie
Lewis Amos
Julie Boggs
Kelly Bray
Sarah Cook
Mary Sidney Harbert
Tom Holcomb
Ximena Leroux
Shelley Parnes

The Diaconate of Central Presbyterian Church Parish Care Teams 2021-2022

Decatur: Ed Carwile, Eleanor Dake, and Rob Forbes.

Northern Lights: Vicki Collier, Ginger Heidbreder, Zac Hilimire, and Brian Bishop.

In-Town South: Linda Lehfeldt, Ben Sutton, Sandy Hoke, and Amy Covin.

In-Town North: Jan DeLong and Tom Leslie.

Brookwood: Ben Evans and Vicki Norman.

Down Yonder: Anne Watkins, Kathy McCloud, LaShawn Green, and Emmalee Hackshaw.

Central Presbyterian Church Staff

The Rev. John M. Semmes, Interim Pastor and Head of Staff

The Rev. Jasiel Hernandez Garcia,

Associate Pastor for Engagement and Mission

Christian Antwi,

Director, Ministries to Children, Youth, and Families

Dr. Jennifer Sengin, Interim Choral Director

Vicki Fey, CCM, Organist, Bethlehem Choir Director,

Geneva Handbell Director

Mark Wallace Maguire, Director of Communications

David Wooten, Business Administrator

Dean Hammond, Volunteer Technology Director

John White, Facilities Manager

R. Michelle Christian, Bookkeeper

Linda Massengill, Part Time Assistant

Michael Morgan, Organist Emeritus

The Rev. P. C. (Buddy) Enniss, Pastor Emeritus



Thomas Dixon, Music Intern

Dennis Lau, Music Intern

John McCrosky, Pastoral Intern



A group of Angels: From left, Virginia Knight, Kate Lewis, Ellen Thompson's daughter, and Kurt Vogel with friends.

By Gayle Knight

My early memories of Advent at Central are as a parent of young children – a wreath in a pie plate brought home from the Advent event, families lighting the Advent wreath in worship each week, little angels in the Christmas pageant tangled up in their wire coat hanger wings, and the happy bustle of friends in Tull Hall exchanging warm greetings.

When our kids were old enough for us to attend an “adult” Christmas Eve service, I was thrilled to hear those familiar lines from scripture and beloved carols. Watching candlelight pass from one person to the next down each pew until the whole sanctuary is glowing and singing “Silent Night” has become one of the most anticipated moments of the season for me. In that moment, I feel like our little band of believers on Washington Street is joining with Christians around the city and across the globe to welcome Jesus into the world. I hold onto that moment when the season gets crazy and I get overwhelmed.

Now that our children are grown, I find that I experience church in a more personal way. This past year,

I have spent more time in worship, in gatherings with members, and in meetings than I ever have. Some days I have to wonder why being a church family can be so difficult, but then I remember that caring a great deal for someone or something means the relationship is worth a struggle.

Most days, I find that getting more involved with the Central church community is a blessing in my life. I see members doing incredible things for others. It humbles and inspires me. I learn about God and the relationship I want with God from watching how people in our church community live and hearing stories of those who were at Central before us.

Central members are tough, and we are resilient.

I have deep and abiding faith that God is guiding this community from a place of uncertainty to a place of clarity. I know that we are meant to share God’s love in downtown Atlanta and to find joy in doing that. This Advent season, I plan to soak up hope, peace, joy, and love for the road ahead. Let’s get ready to do new things.

Advent Activities at Central

November 28

First Sunday of Advent (Hope), Christian Antwi preaching

December 5

Second Sunday of Advent (Peace), Rev. John Semmes preaching
Congregational Meeting
4 p.m. via Zoom

December 7

An Advent Service of Lament and Healing
The service will be in the Sanctuary and also livestreamed
7 p.m.

December 12

Third Sunday of Advent (Joy), Rev. Jasiel Hernandez Garcia preaching
Carols in the Courtyard hosted by Central's choir and The Shrine's choir
In Central's Courtyard during the Courtyard Ministry
9:30 a.m.

Alternative Christmas Market hosted by the Global Mission Committee
Tull Hall
12:30 p.m.

December 19

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Love), Rev. John Semmes preaching

International Christmas Celebration with AMIS hosted by the Global Mission Committee
Tull Hall
1 to 3 p.m.

Christmas Eve

Children's Christmas Pageant
This service will be virtual only and livestreamed
12 p.m.

Christmas Eve Worship

In the Sanctuary and livestreamed
5 p.m.

Christmas Day

Christmas Morning Breakfast Celebration
In the Courtyard
9 to 11:30 a.m.

December 26

First Sunday after Christmas, Susan Landrum preaching