



# CONNECTIONS

A PUBLICATION OF CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - VOLUME 2 - No. 1

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# *KAIROS*



# *CHRONOS*

# CONNECTIONS

Volume 2, No. 1

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## CENTRAL HAPPENINGS

*A COMPLETE LISTING OF MONTHLY NEWS AND EVENTS IS PUBLISHED ON THE LAST OF EACH SUNDAY MONTH.  
FOR UPDATES, PLEASE CHECK THE CALENDAR ON OUR WEBSITE: [CPCWACO.ORG](http://CPCWACO.ORG)*

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WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

JANUARY 8 - 10:45AM

FEBRUARY 5 - 10:45AM

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ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

JANUARY 29, 2012 - AFTER WORSHIP

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ANNUAL ASH WEDNESDAY FISH FRY

FEBRUARY 22 - 5-6:30PM

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE - 7PM

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2012 ALL-CHURCH RETREAT AT MO RANCH

JUNE 7-10, 2012

2012 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 23 - 27, 2012

# A TIME FOR EVERYTHING

By Reverend Charles Packard, Pastor

When in high school in the 1960's, music was at perhaps its all-time high in popularity. Affordable, stereophonic, high fidelity sound systems began emerging everywhere. The newest electronic wonder was the eight track tape deck which allowed us to hear the Beatles not only in our rooms, but repeatedly in our cars and else where. It was a time when every city and town had a Top 40 station on the AM dial and at night if the weather was just right, we could listen to Wolfman Jack. A favorite group of the time was the Byrds, who recorded a popular song *Turn, Turn, Turn*. The lyrics went like this:

*To everything - turn, turn, turn  
There is a season - turn, turn, turn  
And a time for every  
purpose under heaven*

*A time to be born, a time to die  
A time to plant, a time to reap  
A time to kill, a time to heal  
A time to laugh, a time to weep*

*A time to build up,  
a time to break down  
A time to dance, a time to mourn  
A time to cast away stones  
A time to gather stones together*

*A time of war, a time of peace  
A time of love, a time of hate  
A time you may embrace  
A time to refrain from embracing*

*A time to gain, a time to lose  
A time to rend, a time to sew  
A time to love, a time to hate  
A time of peace, I swear it's not too late!*

With others, I was fascinated by the lyrics and was amazed when someone said that they were actually from the Bible. After research, I found the passage in the book of Ecclesiastes. With that reading, "time" itself began to take on a whole different meaning for me. Time became a mystery to me. Years later in seminary, I learned of the great theologian Paul Tillich and his sensitivity to the "mystery of time." Time still fascinates me and remains a big question for my "God Box", that proverbial satchel of questions that I plan to ask when meeting the Almighty.

Our primary sense of time is how we mark time with our twelve month calendar. Our Gregorian

Calendar has as a marking point the birth of Jesus Christ of BC (*Before Christ*) and AD (*Anno Domini – Latin for Year of our Lord*). The world recognizes the coming year as 2012, but there are other calendars which mark time. For instance, in the Jewish faith, the year is 5772. Then there is the school calendar which traditionally begins each September. And as David Rodgers explains in his article on page 5, the church marks time in a yearly liturgical cycle.

Often as we approach the New Year, time may be on our minds. We may look back over the past year or we may look forward to the future. This time of year especially we are sensitive to what Tillich called "the mystery of time." This caused me to wonder, "What does scripture have to say about time? And what awareness of time might we bring to the New Year?"

Just what does the Bible say about time? Ancient Greek, the language of the New Testament, is in some ways more precise than English. For example, in English we have only one word for time: "time." The Greeks had at least two: *Chronos* and *Kairos*.

*Chronos* was quantitative time, time that can be measured, chronological hours, minutes, and seconds. *Chronos* is the time the clock ticks off; like passing from 11:59pm to Midnight, or from the first to the second month.

*Kairos*, on the other hand, was the way the Greeks understood qualitative time. *Kairos* was used about 85 times in the Bible. It means "quality time" or "the right time" or "the opportune moment." *Kairos* moments are the time to act, to "seize the day," "strike while the iron is hot," "grab the brass ring," or "go for the gold," to use common English expressions. God willing, we will have both *chronos* time and *kairos* time in the year ahead.

As we enter into a New Year, can we keep in mind these two aspects of time?

...continued on page 4



# A TIME FOR EVERYTHING

Continued from previous page.

One way to do so is spend some *kairos* time each **day in chronos time: quality time quantified.** I've included a sampling of daily devotionals from the book *Disciplines*, published by Upper Room Ministries. This devotional book will serve as the basis for a new gathering which will meet each Wednesday at 7pm in the Parlor. The gathering, *Kairos: Journeying in Time with Christ*, will be an hour long discussion based upon the readings of the week. I believe it promises to be a meaningful experience as each session is not dependent upon the previous session. So, if you are unable to make one week, you can still come the following

week and participate and be filled in the Spirit while in conversation and fellowship with others. The *2012 Disciplines* devotional book is available in the Narthex or at the gathering on Wednesdays for \$10.

I am a strong believer of daily devotional time with the Holy. Quality time with the Holy is time that is spiritually comforting. Whether you start each day or end each day with such time, **it doesn't matter, after all, like the song from Scriptures says, "there is a time."**



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## A TIME TO FEAST

Our new all-church curriculum, *Feasting on the Word*, heads into the New Year with studies from the Gospel of Luke and Mark as well as the Old Testament. *Feasting* is based upon the Revised Standard Lectionary. The RCL was adopted in 1992 by many denominations follows the calendar of the church's year. The selected text for preaching each Sunday worship complements the weekly study.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TEXT</u>	<u>PREACHER</u>
January 1	Luke 2:2-20	Rev. Packard
January 8	Genesis 1:1-5	Rev. Packard
January 15	Genesis 1:1-5	Rev. Packard
January 22	Mark 1: 14-20	Rev. Rodgers
January 29	Psalms 111	Rev. Packard
February 5	Mark 1:21-39	Rev. Packard
February 12	2 Kings 5:1-14	Rev. Packard
February 19	Mark 9: 2-9	Rev. Packard
February 26	Genesis 9:8-17	Rev. Packard

# A SAMPLING OF 2012 DISCIPLINES

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## After the Birth

JANUARY 1, 2012 • NATALIE A. HANSON

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1 ~ *Read Isaiah 60:1-6*

**W**e begin the year with a love song from God to the family in exile. "Arise," God says. "Shine."  
As a college student I spent two summers leading work teams at a cooperative parish in West Virginia. I first visited the parish as a high school volunteer and then as a young adult counselor. On the second visit, the director of the parish looked me up and down, took me aside, handed me a tool box and a pencil drawing, and said, "I want you to take these kids over to that trailer and build Mrs. Love a new set of steps." I protested that I had no idea how to build steps. He looked at me again and finally said, "It's high time you began to see in yourself what others see in you. I see something like a carpenter, something like a leader. You'd best get out there and see for yourself." Riding his confidence, I figured out how to read his pencil sketch and build those steps. I learned how to work concrete and to organize a team. I learned how to sit down and appreciate the folks for whom and with whom I was working. Because he called me out, something in me began to rise and shine. We catch light from one another; God models it. We're given the great privilege of helping ignite other lives. We catch light from each other—or darkness. That's the way it works. With Joseph and Mary, with Boaz and Naomi, with a wise old nurse and a courageous old couple, with Simeon and Anna, with Thomas Merton and Dorothy Day, we are all invited by God-in-Christ to help one another rise and shine, redeemed to be redeemers.

*Love made flesh, be truly born in and among us, that love may be borne by and through us for all the world. Amen.*

Senior Pastor, Christ First United Methodist Church, Jamestown, New York

# MARKING TIME

By Reverend David Rodgers,

As we enter the New Year, the church's "new year" has already begun. The season of Advent marked the beginning of the church's liturgical year. The four weeks which led up to Christmas, were observed as a time of preparation and expectation. During Advent, we *prepare* for the celebration of Christmas, and we *live in expectation* of the coming of Christ again to reign over his kingdom.

The liturgical wheel shown here marks the special days of celebration which are based on historical events in the life of Jesus Christ and in the early church:

## CHRISTMAS

The Incarnation; the coming of Christ into the world.

## EPIPHANY

The revealing of Christ as Light of the world.

## BAPTISM OF THE LORD

The beginning of Christ's earthly ministry.

## TRANSFIGURATION

The transition point in Christ's ministry when he "set his face to go to Jerusalem" (Luke 9:51)

## HOLY WEEK

The events leading to and including the Crucifixion of Jesus.

## EASTER

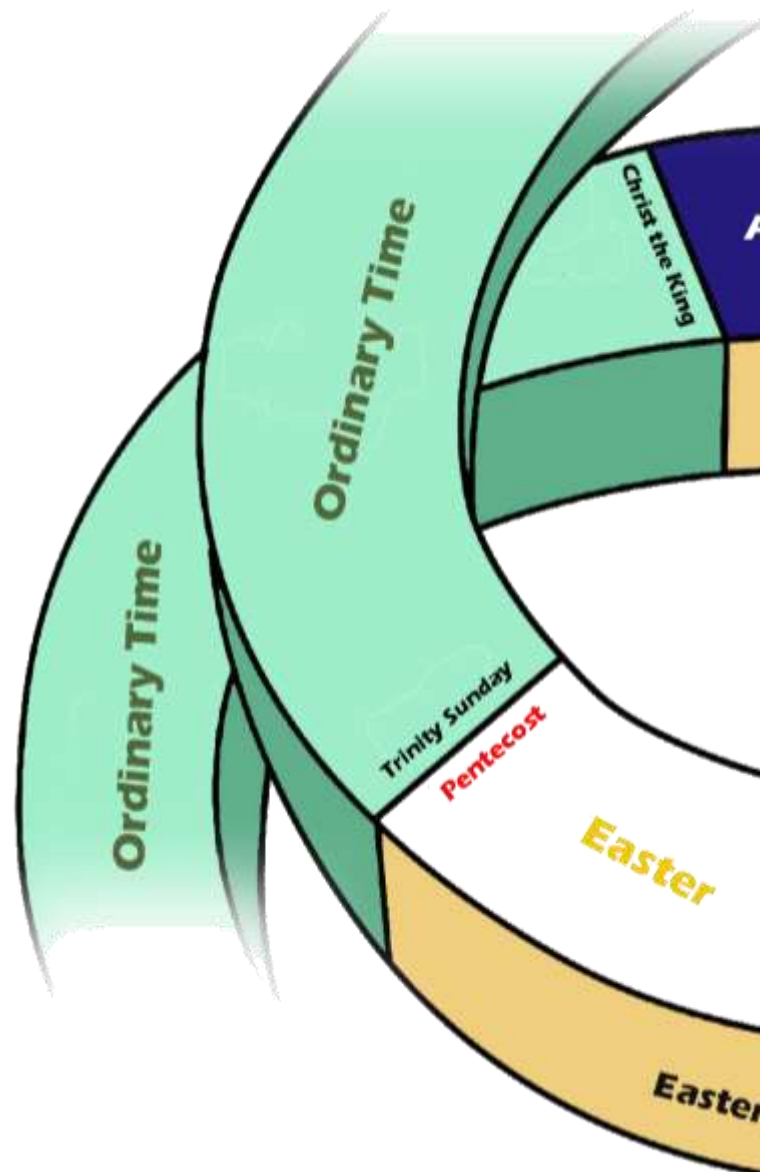
The Resurrection of Jesus.

## PENTECOST

God's gift of the Holy Spirit to empower the church.

These historic events formed the early church and they continue to shape the church today.

The seasons that are not directly related to these special days are designated as *Ordinary Time*. I think a better label, though, would be *Standard Time*. The resurrection of Jesus is the dawning of a new era, a new way of life based on a new standard. In this new, standard time we live our lives in light of Easter and in the power of the Holy Spirit.



# ME IN CHURCH

Director of Internal Ministries

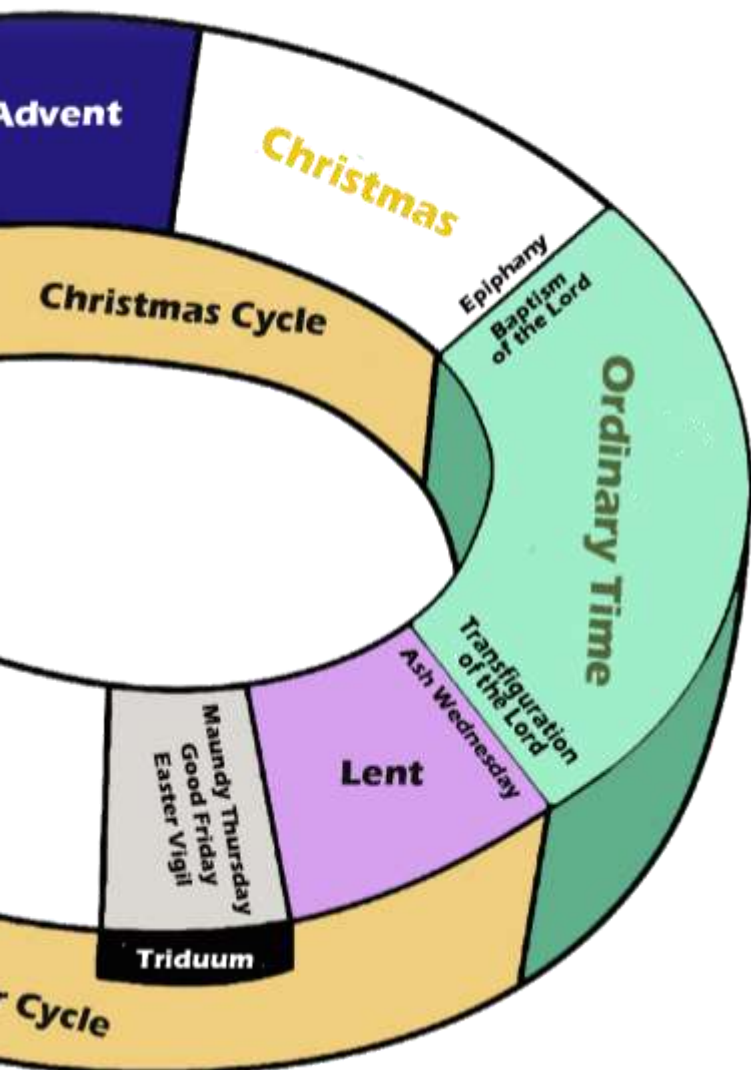
The liturgical year is a cyclical, but it is not a closed circle. The illustration below shows the cycle as a spiral, with movement upward and forward.

The movement is toward the Day when God's kingdom is established and God's will is done on earth as it is in heaven.

During our liturgical celebrations we are not

simply re-telling a Story or re-enacting an Event. As we commemorate the historical life of Jesus **we are also participating in God's continuing** story of salvation and are experiencing new life with the Risen Christ.

The historic events are important because **"the Word became flesh and dwelt among us"** (John 1:14). While God's work of redemption is revealed and embodied in real-life events, both past and present, it is not bound by time or space. During the church year **we celebrate God's saving acts in history** and we participate in the mystery of salvation that continues to transcend time and place.



## IMPORTANT LITURGICAL DATES IN 2012

EPIPHANY	FRIDAY, JANUARY 6
BAPTISM OF THE LORD	SUNDAY, JANUARY 8
TRANSFIGURATION	SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19
ASH WEDNESDAY	WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22
PALM SUNDAY	SUNDAY, APRIL 1
MAUNDY THURSDAY	THURSDAY, APRIL 5
GOOD FRIDAY	FRIDAY, APRIL 6
EASTER VIGIL	SATURDAY, APRIL 7
EASTER	SUNDAY, APRIL 8
PENTECOST	SUNDAY, MAY 27
TRINITY SUNDAY	SUNDAY, JUNE 3
CHRIST THE KING	SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25
ADVENT	SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2
CHRISTMAS EVE	MONDAY, DECEMBER 24
CHRISTMAS	TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25

# TIME AND TALENTS FOR OTHERS

Since our charter in 1869, Central Presbyterian Church has always shared time and talents with others. We do so in service and gifts to those within the community, region, the country and the world. **We give because we are called to give, quietly, without fanfare, all in response to God's love.**

**There are so many ways to respond to Christ's call to serve within the church and outside the walls.** Many members serve in various ministries not listed here. Presbyterian Women, the Berean Sunday School class, Youth Groups, Mission Crafters, and others in the church give their time, talents, and financial resources. Although not outlined here in this article, they give as Christ commands: quietly!

Additionally, there are the many times the congregation gives quietly, like the monthly collection of food for Caritas on Communion Sundays, or the annual Souper Bowl of Caring. And then there are **those events that aren't so quiet like the donation of toys at the annual Biker Toy Run or hammering nails for a new home with Habitat for Humanity, or the collecting of change for change on the fifth Sunday of each month.**

The following represents where we respond with our time and talents with others in sharing over \$40,000 in financial resources. Thank you to everyone for your continued generosity.



## Presbyterian Church (USA)

Total Benevolences - \$17,595

A significant portion of our gifts are designated to the denomination for mission in our region, nation, and in the world. Grace Presbytery receives the majority of our gifts and are apportioned for youth programs, scholarships, education, church development, and church support. Synod of the Sun and the PC(USA) General Assembly also receive funds for shared mission. Central also supports two annual PCUSA offerings. Each Christmas Eve we contribute to the Christmas Joy Offering which supports racial ethnic schools of the PC(USA) and assistance programs of the Board of Pensions. One Great Hour of Sharing, received during Lent, supports the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Self Development of People.

To Learn More:

Grace Presbytery	<a href="http://www.gracepresbytery.org">www.gracepresbytery.org</a>
Synod of the Sun	<a href="http://www.synodsun.com">www.synodsun.com</a>
PC(USA)	<a href="http://www.pcusa.org">www.pcusa.org</a>
Christmas Joy Offering	<a href="http://www.pcusa.org/cjoffering">www.pcusa.org/cjoffering</a>
One Great Hour of Sharing	<a href="http://www.pcusa.org/oghs">www.pcusa.org/oghs</a>



## Mo Ranch

Total Benevolences - \$1,200

For years our congregation has enjoyed the beauty and tranquility of Mo Ranch. Today camps such as Mo Ranch are threatened with rising costs. In response, we appropriate this gift to help sustain a significant resource in our spiritual and fellowship nurturing. Meg Bierwirth is a board member.



## Meals & Wheels

Total Benevolences - \$3,240

Meals & Wheels Delivers! The senior ministries agency delivers meals, delivers people to locations, delivers fellowship and fun in their activities centers, and delivers support hundreds of senior citizens in Central Texas.

To Learn More: [www.seniorministry.org](http://www.seniorministry.org)



## Greater Waco Interfaith Conference

Total Benevolences - \$100

Formerly the Waco Conference of Christians and Jews, this agency was founded to promote justice, understanding and cooperation among all faiths in the Greater Waco area.

Pastor Charlie serves on the board.

To Learn More: [www.wacointerfaith.org](http://www.wacointerfaith.org)



## Caritas

Total Benevolences - \$1,560

The mission of Caritas is to provide emergency support to people in need in the Waco community. Caritas offers assistance through two programs: Emergency Assistance-providing assistance with food, prescription drugs, clothing, household items, utilities, rent/mortgage assistance, emergency lodging and transportation, and three thrift stores. In addition to the annual financial gift, worshippers bring non-perishable food items on the 1st Sunday of every month to be donated to the agency.

Pastor Charlie serves on the board.

To Learn More: [www.caritas-waco.org](http://www.caritas-waco.org)



## Habitat for Humanity

Total Benevolences - \$3,240

Habitat for Humanity International is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry that seeks to provide a decent house in a decent community for all of God's people in need. Waco Habitat for Humanity has built over 120 homes. Each month many of our members provide lunch at the sites. Jay Bryngelson is on the board.

To Learn More: [www.wacohabitat.org](http://www.wacohabitat.org)



## Mission Waco

Total Benevolences - \$3,600

Through its entire history, Mission Waco provides Christian-based holistic, relationship-based programs that empower the poor and marginalized. Central Presbyterian and Mission Waco have a longstanding and very special bond. In January, 2005, **Mission Waco opened the "Meyer Center for Urban Ministries,"** our former church home in downtown Waco which provides assistance and social services for the poor and marginalized in the community. Central participates in many of **Mission Waco's annual events including the Bikers' Toy Run** and Back-to-School Supplies drive.



## Compassion Ministries

Total Benevolences - \$3,000

Compassion Ministries is a non-profit organization based in Judeo-Christian principles which believes that each of us has the ability to give a helping hand to those individuals who by whatever circumstance have become or are on the verge of becoming homeless.

Central wears many hats at the transitional homeless shelter. We have many volunteers serving as mentors. Central also continues to sponsor an apartment at Hope House by restocking it with basic food and household items each time a new resident moves in.

Laura Clifton serves on the board.

To Learn More: [www.compassion.com](http://www.compassion.com)



## Deacon's Fund

& Undesignated Mission

Total Benevolences - Varies

Monies from an endowment fund and member offerings are distributed throughout the year to individuals and organizations which express an unusual need. Prior to its closing in **2011, Potter's Vessel received \$7,200** each year. In 2011, El Calvario Presbyterian Church received funds for air conditioning units which were vandalized. There are two permanent endowments which members may contribute and sustain. Central Also sets aside an annual budget of \$1,000 for undesignated mission.



## Change for Change

Total Benevolences - \$573

**When there is a "Fifth Sunday" in a month, the children of the church collect pocket change to make a change in someone's life. In 2011 \$573 was collected to buy toys for Mission Waco's Toy Drive.**

# TIME TOGETHER AT CENTRAL



PREPARING FOR ALL SAINTS SUNDAY ARE LITURGISTS DENYSE RODGERS, ANDREW BRYNGELSON, ELAINE SMITH AND LYNDA PACKARD AS THE UNFURL THE BAPTISMAL SCROLL WHILE WALT YANTIS PRACTICES HIS SERMON.



NEW MEMBERS BEING INTRODUCED TO THE CONGREGATION ARE FROM LEFT, STEPHANIE PLATA, CHRIS AND TODD CAMPLIN WITH THEIR DAUGHTER SARAH AND SON BEN, AND DORIS AND PAUL FUGATE.



JAYCI EDWARDS LIGHTS A CANDLE ON THE ADVENT WREATH DURING THIS YEAR'S ADVENT GROUPS.



OVER TWENTY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS GATHERED ON DECEMBER 18 TO VISIT MEMBERS WHO ARE HOMEBOUND OR RESIDING IN RETIREMENT AND NURSING HOMES. AFTER THE CAROLING, THE CAROLERS GATHERED FOR CHILI AT THE CHURCH.



AT THE BETHLEHEM BREAKFAST, TIMOTHY AND MATTHEW BIERWIRTH PREPARE BREAD TO BE GIVEN TO CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIPERS.

## TIME TO BREAK HOLY GROUND



OUR CHURCH HOME WAS PREVIOUSLY THAT OF WOODWAY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH WHICH BROKE GROUND IN 1959. SEEN IN THE CENTER OF THIS HISTORIC PHOTO IS ONE OF OUR NEW MEMBERS OF CENTRAL, PAUL FUGATE WHO JOINED WITH HIS WIFE, DORIS ON DECEMBER 11.



PASTOR CHARLIE BAPTIZING KATELYN MARY MCCHESENEY DURING WORSHIP ON CHRISTMAS MORN.

# TIME FOR MINISTRY



AN ACTIVE FELLOWSHIP AT CENTRAL IS MISSION CRAFTERS WHO MEET TWICE EACH MONTH AT A MEMBER'S HOME. MANY ALSO MEET ONCE A MONTH WITH OTHER CRAFTERS FROM LAKE SHORE BAPTIST CHURCH. THE CRAFTERS ARE SHOWN PRESENTING HANDMADE SCARVES, HATS, GLOVES, AND SHAWLS TO COMPASSION MINISTRIES (LEFT) AND MISSION WACO (RIGHT).



Laura Clifton (R) was named Volunteer of the Year for Compassion Ministries. She is seen here with Director of Compassion, Jill McCall (L).



THROUGHOUT 2011, THE CHILDREN OF THE CHURCH COLLECTED POCKET CHANGE AT THE FOUR "FIFTH SUNDAY" SERVICES. THE COLLECTION, *CHANGE FOR CHANGE*, WAS DESIGNATED TO BUY TOYS FOR MISSION WACO'S BIKER TOY RUN WHICH CENTRAL HAS TRADITIONALLY SUPPORTED. WITH OVER \$600 DOLLARS, THE CHILDREN WENT ON A FUN-FILLED AND HEARTWARMING SHOPPING SPREE. THE YOUTH OF THE CHURCH AND PARENT HELPED OUT. THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR DONATING AND HELPING.

## 2012: *TIME TO EXPAND MINISTRY*

Whether it's singing in the choir, serving as a liturgist, ushering, teaching, knitting scarves and hats, building wheel chair ramps for Habitat, serving with Presbytery, or volunteering with one or more agencies in Waco, there are a host of ways one can expand our ministry in response to God's grace. If you would like to learn more about the many ways to serve, please contact either Pastor Charlie or David Rodgers and make 2012 a missional year!

## CENTRAL BUILDS COMMUNITY BY:

- WELCOMING DIVERSITY WITHIN OUR CHURCH FAMILY,
- TEACHING THE GOSPEL'S UNFOLDING STORY,
- NURTURING SPIRITUAL GROWTH,
- SHARING JOYOUS WORSHIP,  
AND
- FOSTERING AN ETHIC OF SERVICE

*ALL IN RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE.*



*Since 1869, Central Presbyterian Church  
has faithfully served the Waco area.  
We are one of over 10,000 congregations  
which make up the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).*



## CONNECTIONS

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