



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



Where Christ is Central to All We Do

Serving the Waco Area Since 1869

February, 2010

A SPIRITUAL EPIPHANY: LONGING FOR LENT!

By Charles R. Packard, Pastor

During the month of January, after celebrating the Epiphany, I began a sermon series of spiritual epiphanies which continues through the first half of February. The term "epiphany" comes from a Greek word which means "appearance" or "manifestation." I'm intrigued by epiphanies as I believe they are God's way of entering our lives. As the season of Epiphany comes to an end, we soon begin in February a new season in our church calendar, Lent.

Lent is an English word stemming from an Anglo-Saxon word for "spring" and related to the English word "lengthen". As Christians we know this season as a penitential period preceding Easter. As the days become longer, we lengthen our devotion to God before celebrating Easter. Early Christians felt that the magnitude of the Easter celebration called for special preparation. As early as the second century, many Christians observed several days of fasting as part of that preparation. Over the next few centuries, in remembrance of Jesus' fasting for 40 days in the wilderness (MATT. 4:1-2), 40 days became the accepted length of the Lenten season.

In those early centuries the season before Easter was also the usual period of intense training for new Christians. During this period, the catechumens (those learning what it meant to be Christians) went through the final stages of preparation for baptism, which usually occurred at dawn on Easter Sunday. At Central, we will welcome three new catechumens or communicants into our congregation on Easter, April 4th. Since September I have been privileged to lead our Confirmation Class and each Wednesday I eagerly await the encounter with class. To say there is a spiritual epiphany each Wednesday is an understatement.

Now though, beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 17th, I look forward to spiritual encounters with God that for me personally heighten each spring. This Lenten season is particularly meaningful for me. Over the past months, our church has exhibited incredible generosity. While other congregations face severe budget restraints, our finances are blessed. As your pastor, I can't thank you enough and am humbled beyond words. Sometimes we think of epiphanies only as an initial manifestation, but not this one. As a congregation your generosity made its annual appearance.

As we proceed through Lent I hope your spiritual encounter with God will be heighten with the increased activities at Central. Beginning with Ash Wednesday, we will have at our 7:00PM service both the Lord's Supper and the imposition of ashes. The email devotions which I sent last year to members, friends, and family will again occur. For those who don't have email, a week of devotions will be included in a weekly audio recording of our services. For the past several weeks we have successfully been able to record our services, edit the recording and produce CD recordings. Beginning with our service of February 21, the weekly packet of the recording, bulletin, news, and devotions will be available by the following Wednesday evening. This ministry should become permanent. Lastly, beginning February 21, there will be an added service on Lenten Sundays at 9:00am in the church parlor. The service will last approximately 25 minutes and will consist of prayer, confession, hymns, Scripture readings and the Lord's Supper. I am hopeful many will come to not only this service of prayer, but also to Sunday school and our regular worship.

For me, the spiritual epiphany of the winter is that I long for Lent; a time in the church year for us to come closer to God in meaningful, spiritual ways. Again, I am so humbled to be called as your pastor. God bless you all.

Pastor Charlie

FEBRUARY HAPPENINGS AT CENTRAL

Every Sunday at Central

Sunday School - 9:30 am
Worship Service - 10:45 am

Every Tuesday and Thursday

Stride Central - 9:00 am, Health Shapers - 10:00 am

Every Wednesday Night At Central

5:30 pm Adult Choir
6:00 pm Child Handchimes
6:15 pm Confirmation Class
6:30 pm Adult Handbells
6:30 pm Children's Choir
6:30 pm Space for God
6:45 pm Women Sharing Group
6:45 pm Sr. High Small Group
7:15 pm Jr. High Handbells

Every Wednesday Morning- 10:30 a.m.

Pastor's Book Club

February Dates to Remember

Monday 1st	Church Photos - Activities Center
Tuesday 2nd	Church Photos - Activities Center
Sunday 7th	Communion Sunday Caritas Donation Souper Bowl of Caring
Friday 12th	Mission Crafters - 10:00AM
Monday 15th	Session Meeting
Tuesday 16th	Third Tuesday Group
Wednesday 17th	Ash Wednesday Fish Fry - 5:00 PM Communion Service - 7:00 PM
Sunday 21st	Potluck Brunch
Monday 22nd	Mission Crafters - 7:00PM
Tuesday 23rd	Presbyterian Women

February Birthdays

1 st	Judy Riley
4 th	Carl Wiggins
5 th	Angela Ceccato
5 th	Kappy Edwards
9 th	Leslie Collier
9 th	Jaycie Thornton
10 th	Ryan Boldt
12 th	Ron Wiggins
13 th	Rebecca Garland
14 th	Carl Kuhnle
15 th	Paul Pinto
16 th	West Rhoden
17 th	Earle Guthrie
18 th	Chris Clifton
18 th	Virginia DuPuy
20 th	Jeff Kabat
21 st	Neal Rhoden
25 th	Paul Kemper
28 th	Patrick Tolbert
29 th	Sandi Kemper

February Anniversaries

15th Gerald & Kay Collum

March Dates to Remember

8th - Confirmation/Jr. High Day Excursion
31st - Confirmation Dinner with Elders

MUSICAL NOTES

by David Fleuriet - *Director of Music Ministries*
music@cpcwaco.org

We begin the month of February on Communion Sunday with Gregg Sewell's Always Remember. The words remind us to bring our hope and fears with us to the table. And to always remember that when we drink from the cup and eat the bread, God is here in the moment.

February 14 will be our first **Winter Hymnfest Service**. We thought it would be fun to design a service around the congregation's favorite hymns. Among the hymns scheduled for this service are: How Great Thou Art, I Danced in the Morning, Amazing Grace, Here I Am Lord, and Holy, Holy, Holy. Our anthem for this musical service will be When in Our Music God Is Glorified. We will be joined by a brass quartet for this service. You know that friend you have at work who is always singing? Invite them to this service!

As a part of the music emphasis on February 14, we will also dedicate the two glorious musical instruments that are now a part of our worship services. It is a tremendous testimony to the leadership of this church that has made sure we have a pipe organ and a baby grand piano to lead the music during worship. We are blessed to have them both.

February 21 is the first Sunday in Lent. The choir will present a new anthem from our music library. The Cross Says Come is arranged by Camp Kirkland. This new contemporary anthem is a very sensitive musical portrayal of Calvary. We hope this helps you to make the transition into the season of Lent.

The final Sunday of February brings us Mozart's Ave Verum Corpus (Jesu, Word of God Incarnate). Ave verum corpus is a short Eucharistic hymn that has been set to music by various composers. It dates from the 14th century and has been attributed to Popes Innocent III, Innocent IV and Innocent VI. The poem is a meditation on the Catholic belief in Jesus' real presence in the sacrament of the Eucharist and ties it to Catholic ideas on the redemptive meaning of suffering in the life of all believers. We will print the words for you in the bulletin as we will be singing in Latin.

Keep A Song In Your Heart!
David Fleuriet
Director of Music Ministries

EASTER BREAKFAST - APRIL 4TH

Last year's Easter Breakfast was extremely popular. Make plans to attend this catered event again this Easter prior our worship service. More details will be available in the March issue.

CPC VALENTINE BANQUET

Feb. 13, 6:00 PM

Why fight the crowds and the expense this Valentine's Day when you can come and enjoy a catered dinner at Central's Annual Valentine Banquet, Friday, February 13 at 6:00 PM in the Activities Center. Entertainment will be provided by locally known guests.

Returning this year, the Valentine's treat that the entire CPC family has loved: **Youth Live Valentine**. Our youth will deliver a Valentine to your special someone at the banquet, made to order! Choose from a song, poem or instrumental piece. Suggested donation for the special gift is \$5 and for \$3 more you can add candy or a flower to be included in the delivery. You can sign up for your special CPC Youth Live Valentine at the in the Narthex on January 31 and February 7. All proceeds will benefit the Youth Fund. Event tickets are \$12/donation per person and can be obtained from Denyse Rogers at 420-2363 or Walt Yantis at 733-3444. **Ticket sales end February 7th!**

WOMEN'S RETREAT

February 26-28

Three Mountain Retreat, Clifton

Leader: Judy H. Prather

Theme: Seeking Sabbath

Sign Up Deadline is February 19th

All women of CPC and friends are welcome to attend the annual women's retreat at Three Mountain Retreat in Clifton. Don't miss this opportunity to bond with other women and learn how to find Sabbath in our fast-paced society. Judy Prather, a bi-vocational minister who completed her Doctor of Ministry degree at Baylor's Truett Seminary in 2002 will again head the retreat. Judy also has served as a spiritual formation mentor for Truett students. Sabbath is a gift from God and as Judy points out, "We partially miss the point if we see Sabbath keeping as only a commandment ... God knows that we need to periodically pause to allow God to make a difference in us." Cost of the retreat is \$85 for two nights which includes meals. To sign up, contact the church office by February 19th.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

by TanTiani - dce@cpcwaco.org

Director of Christian Education

KIDQUAKE 2010

April 23-25

Due to limited space, all registration forms must be submitted by Feb. 12.

Ask anyone who has attended in the past, "KidQuake, rocks!" KidQuake is a combination of summer camp and youth programs sponsored by Grace Presbytery's Camps and Conferences Committee. KidQuake events are held over several weekends in the spring at Camp Gilmont at Gilmer, TX and enable 1st-5th graders an opportunity to attend camp other than just in the summer. The cost is \$99/person which includes two nights lodging, four meals, T-shirt, and program expenses. Scholarships are available upon request. For more information and registration, please contact Tan.

2010 YOUTH ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

2/7—Souper Bowl of Caring Party 4:00PM

2/17— WNL Fish Fry Dinner

2/20—Service Morning at "King's Club"

Mission Waco, 9:30am to 12:30pm

MARCH

3/8—Confirmation Class Day Tour Excursion

3/17—WNL Dinner Fund Raising

3/20 —Youth Leadership at Truett Seminary

3/31—Confirmation Dinner with Elders

APRIL

4/4 —Easter Sunday - Confirmation

4/11—Youth Sunday: Stewardship of the Earth

4/21—WNL Dinner Fund Raising

MAY

5/15—Sr. High Exam Night Out

JUNE

6/10-13—CPC Mo-Ranch Church-wide Retreat

6/13-18—Mo Ranch Teen Leadership Conference

6/27-7/2—"Youth Celebration" at Mo Ranch

JULY

7/4-8—Jr. High Jubilee I

7/20-24—Youth Triennium

AUGUST

8/2-6—Vacation Bible School

High Seas Expedition:

Exploring the Mighty Love of God

CPC MISSION CRAFTERS

Come join the fun and fellowship. Meeting twice every month at Char Rood's home on the second Friday in the morning at 10:00am and the fourth Monday in the evening at 7:00pm. Contact Lynda Packard for directions or any questions: 751-1918 or lbpackard@gmail.com

CENTRAL HAPPENINGS



STUDENTS OF TEXAS STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE JOIN LANDSCAPE CHAIR VICKY WOLFE (LEFT) IN A TIMEOUT FROM PLANTING SHRUBS IN NEWLY CRAFTED BEDS ON JANUARY 26TH. AS A CLASS PROJECT LAST FALL, ALL STUDENTS SUBMITTED PLANS FOR THE CHURCH. ON A DAY MADE TO BE OUTDOORS, THE STUDENTS COMPLETED THE FIRST PHASE OF NEW LANDSCAPING FOR THE CHURCH. THE CHURCH PAID FOR ALL MATERIALS AND WERE GIVEN THE GIFTS OF DESIGN AND PLANTING BY THE COLLEGE. VICKI PROMISES MORE PLANTING THIS SPRING! WATCH FOR DETAILS AS TOW WHEN TO GRAB A SHOVEL, A HOE, AND A RAKE FOR PHASE II.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING - FEBRUARY 7TH TO BENEFIT *MEALS & WHEELS*

Central will again participate in the *Souper Bowl of Caring* on Sunday, February 7. Our youth will join others throughout the country in collect canned goods and boxed foods and/or monetary donations before and after worship service for *Meals & Wheels*. The event which coincides on the day of the Super Bowl, also coincides with our normal giving of food on communion Sundays to *Caritas*. This year, please bring a couple of bags of food and give to both of these fine local ministries that Central has supported for years.

HAITI DISASTER RELIEF

One way for you to donate for relief efforts for Haiti is through the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). This ministry of the denomination responds to tragedies around the world. You can make out a check to Central Presbyterian Church and designate it for Haiti relief. The church will forward your contributions to PDA. PDA is a ministry which operates on very low overhead. Our church has for years supported PDA through our *One Great Hour of Sharing* benevolence. To learn more visit PDA's website: pcusa.org/pda



9191 WOODWAY DRIVE
WACO, TEXAS 76712

OFFICE: (254) 754-3544 FAX: (254) 754-0944
WWW.CPCWACO.ORG EMAIL: OFFICE@CPCWACO.ORG

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION AND DENOMINATIONAL MEMBER
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) AND GRACE PRESBYTERY.
MARCH DEADLINE: 2/22 - PUBLISHED FOR WORSHIP ON 2/28

CHURCH STAFF:

REV. CHARLES R. PACKARD, PASTOR
MERRI ANN BAILEY, OFFICE MANAGER
MEG BIERWIRTH, TREASURER
DAVID FLEURIET, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES
EARLE GUTHRIE, ORGANIST
SHELLEY JAMES, CHILDREN'S MUSIC DIRECTOR
WAYNE JONES, CUSTODIAN
TANTIANI, DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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 CALL TO LOVE!

**Make plans to attend Ash Wednesday
Fish Fry and Communion Worship
February 17th**