

CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Stephen Jones	Pastor
Bill Coward	Music Director
Sherrie Finnicum	Preschool Director
Cathy Kendall	Office Manager
Diane Paulino	Office/Membership Secretary
Bill Coward	Custodian
Billy Marigny	Youth Director

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study—9:15AM

Morning Worship—10:30AM

Evening Worship—6:30PM

Wednesday

Prayer Meeting—6:30PM

W.A.C.—6:30PM

(for all Middle & High Schoolers)

(510) 523-7858

www.CentralAlameda.org

celebrate~believe~connect

Central Baptist Church
2133 Central Avenue
Alameda, CA 94501

Return Service Requested

Birthdays

Apr 25—Colin Seth Thomas
 May 1—Matt Zolnieriek
 May 12—Dorothy Shell
 May 13—Chase Wilson
 May 15—Carmencita Poe
 May 17—Burgie Burgess
 May 22—Jennifer Cully, Monell Lack
 May 23—Sarah Vitucci
 May 24—Tanya Alexieff
 May 25—Sylvia White
 May 27—David Mwangi
 May 29—Amanda Robles, Jeanette Adejobi
 May 31—Rudy Paulino
 Jun 1—Sarah Jones
 Jun 5—Dave Schlack



Anniversaries

May 2—Dave & Rose Schlack
 May 8—Clarence & Debbie Carter
 May 21—Royce & Betty Gladden



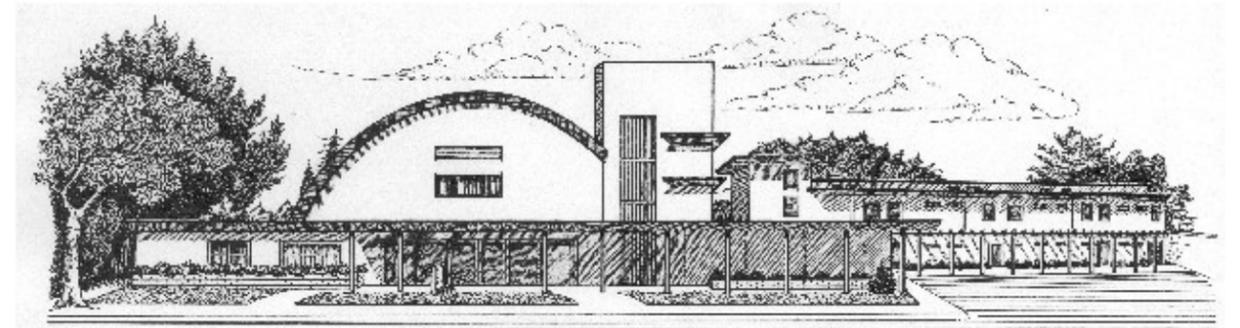
Staff Anniversary

Nakisha Sutton—Wee Care Teacher, 2 years



He has showed you, O man, what is good.
 And what does the LORD require of you?
 To act justly and to love mercy
 and to walk humbly with your God.
 Micah 6:8 (NIV)

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Central Baptist Church

May 2012



**KEYNOTES FROM
PASTOR STEPHEN**

Changing Lives – one soldier at a time

Last month you read of the many local outreach and ministry projects that our *40 Days in the Word* small groups did. Some of those will be on-going ministries. There are many other outreach activities that we do – both local and around the world. In addition to our giving and prayer participation in world missions through the Southern Baptist Convention, we also are very active in sending gifts to children through *Operation Christmas Child*. Could you help with another important need? Central's Administrative Committee has approved the promotion of an offering for **Military BibleSticks**.

A BibleStick is a small, personal listening device pre-loaded with the Audio New Testament. Specifically designed for combat situations, the non-reflective finish and low-light device fits perfectly with military camouflage, making it possible for soldiers to listen even on patrol.

We are partnering with *Faith Comes by Hearing* to reach troops with the Word of God in audio. Already over 200,000 BibleSticks have been provided to U.S. military chaplains in every branch of our armed forces. The chaplains give them to troops. Often these troops, who have courageously volunteered to serve our country, are on the front lines.

Chaplains are currently requesting up to 3,000 each week. There are three holidays in May: Mother's Day, Armed Forces Day, and Memorial Day. That seems an appropriate time for us to promote this offering. Each gift will also impact a soldier's family, as each BibleStick includes a card offering a free MP3 Bible for spouses and children.

According to Morgan Jackson, International Director of *Faith Comes by Hearing*, God's Word in this unique format could change the life of a soldier forever!

military biblestick

Supporting our troops at home and abroad with God's Word in Audio

- Includes the entire Audio Drama New Testament
- Military tough – withstands bad weather
- Low-light for safety in the field
- Pocket-sized
- Each BibleStick includes a response card offering FREE Audio Drama Bibles to loved ones at home!

Actual size

• \$25 sponsors one soldier and their family

• \$2,500 impacts an entire company of 100 soldiers and their families

Want to know about:

Educational Ministry?

Teaching Methods?

Creative Communication?

Learning Styles?

Multisensory Communication?

Come refresh your knowledge & learn something new in a 90 minute teacher training class. This class is for anyone interested in teaching or who is already teaching.

**Sunday, May 20
3:00 to 4:30pm
2nd floor Ed. Building**

**Taught by
Billy Marigny**

See you there!

Honour...Thy Mother Exodus 20:12

When I was growing up, my mom made the best peanut butter and jelly sandwiches in the neighborhood. In fact, those sandwiches were so good that I never wanted to eat anyone else's but hers.

Now that I'm all grown up, I am willing to eat anyone's peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. And I'll usually eat them gladly, for it means that I don't have to do any cooking myself. I realized, after many years, that what made those sandwiches so good was the love that went into them. Because if you think about it, when you get down to it, sandwiches are all just good stuff between two slices of bread.

And so it is with mothers....

As I reflect upon Mother's Day this year, like you, I am sure there are many different favorite memories I could share about my mom, but the important stuff is all the same. My mom loves me beyond reason or comfort. She always put my needs before hers. She wasn't perfect, but she learned from her mistakes. She makes me laugh. She dries my tears. And when I was little, she filled me with peanut butter and jelly sandwiches that were so good and a perfect example of a mother's love – my mother's love.



Sherrie Finnicum and the Preschool Ministry Team

Happy Mother's Day

**Conventional Thinking:
Text without ceasing?**

By Brian Hobbs, Editor of The Baptist Messenger

One hundred and fifty times. That is how often the average American looks at his cell phone each day, according to new studies.

The Apostle Paul, in his first epistle to the Thesalonians, instructs them to "pray without ceasing." Biblical commentators and pastors throughout the ages have pondered how often he meant by this.

I have often wondered as well. Should I pray three times a day, like Daniel did? Should I pray more often? Does he refer to an attitude of prayer, or just a high enough frequency as though it is without ceasing?

It was not until the last year or two, with the avalanche of cell phone use and text messaging, that I understood what Paul may have meant. I think he calls us to pray much in the way we text and use our phone without ceasing.

Hance Dilbeck, pastor of Quail Springs Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, encourages people to set boundaries with phone use. While I am all for technology I am inclined to heed his advice. I would add only three more pieces of advice I have heard elsewhere (that I aspire to live up to myself).

The first is this: whenever I feel an impulse to check my phone (and this happens even when I do not have a text or call), use that as a signal to pray. Imagine if Christians throughout America prayed 150 times a day on average? The spiritual benefits and potential for revival would be potent according to Greg Frizzell, Prayer and Spiritual Awakening specialist, author, and speaker.

The second piece of advice is to set the phone down. Popular blogger Jon Acuff encourages his readers to hang up on their call before they walk into the door of their house. "One of the greatest ways to destroy a little kid who is waiting for you is to come home and still be on your cell phone," he says. I have found this to be true.

Before I offer one last piece of advice, I need to admit up front that my children are not old enough to want cell phones. I often ask people what is the "right" age for getting a child a phone. Some say

7th grade. Others say when they are old enough to drive. For me, I am inclined to think we ought to get them a phone when they are old enough to pay for it themselves.

I, for one, was fortunate to grow up before the advent of the mobile phone. Teens and youth today, however, have never known a time without it. With the prevalence of the smart phones, the devices are becoming a gateway for distraction and temptation for young people like never before.

Christianity Today magazine once discussed the powerful idea that parents should, at the close of each day before bed, collect their teen's phones. I think that is a good word, and some days, I wish someone would take mine.

I sometimes fear that I am setting a bad example with my phone use to my children. The *Baptist Faith & Message* says, "Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage." If that is the case, perhaps we are to demonstrate behavior of all kinds to our children and grandchildren.

Studies have shown that while calls and emails may get ignored, 96 percent of text messages are answered within 15 minutes. This all adds up to one thing. People often view a text message more urgently and give it greater attention than the people and tasks in front of them.

Sometimes that task is prayer itself. While our society continues to find its new morals and manners related to the age of the smart phone, may we look for ways to channel our bad habits into good ones. May the Lord teach us to text less and pray more!

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