Christmas @home

Christmas is a sacred time of worship and wonder. For many families, though, it is also a stressful time of hustle and bustle. Join us every Sunday in December as we seek and share ways to have more Hope, Peace, Joy, love and Light in our homes. Sunday worships begin at 10:30 am and will be led by Rev. Brian Coats.

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December 2
![Image of Hope @home]

December 9
![Image of Peace @home]

December 16
![Image of Joy @home]

December 30
![Image of Light @home]

Christmas Eve Service 5pm
Please note the following upcoming church meeting information. Everyone is welcome to attend any of these meetings or contact the chairpersons for information. Becoming active in the life of your church will make a difference.

Worship Department  -  Nanci Williams  836-5121  ngwred@yahoo.com  5:30 pm  Dec 18
Property Department  -  Tom Ragland  753-0233  ibex12@sbcglobal.net  7:00 pm  Dec 4
Christian Ed. Department - Adults, Helen Jones  214-6032  hjoggie@gmail.com  11:00 am
               Youth, Lee Ragland  399-6620  Lee@LMRappraisals.com  11:30 am  TBD
Children, Gretchen Pentzer (812) 583-6950  pentzerg@gmail.com
Finance Department  -  Wallace Capps  772-0898  wgcwacotx@aol.com  6:30 pm  Dec 18
Board Meeting  -  Jim Young (Chair)  756-3059  jdyoung58@aol.com  7:00 pm  Jan 15
Cabinet Meeting  -  Phil McCleery (Vice-chair)  772-4246  pmcclery@simplc.com  7:00 pm  Feb 19
Elder’s Meeting  -  Larry Schifflett  224-8818  lschifflett@mygrande.net  8:30 am  Jan 27
Deacons & Deaconesses  -  Earl Holloway  662-0701
               -  Patricia Reaves  751-0897  pareaves40@hotmail.com
Stephen Ministers  -  Gerret Conover  848-9096  conovemx2@gmail.com
Noah’s Ark Preschool  -  Margaret Gateley  772-2874  mgateley@hotrr.com  6:00 pm  TBD
               -  Michele Ryan  715-7633  kenna5782@yahoo.com
Outreach Department  -  Dayna Roberts  715-6357  wacojewlrylady@yahoo.com  TBD
Evangelism Dept.  -  Tony Powell  495-3776  6:30 pm  TBD
Member Care Dept.  -  Carol Walker  772-7372  twalker1@hot rr.com

► Please remember, if you are in charge of a meeting or any special event being held at the church, please let Justin in the church office know what set up you would like so that it will be ready for your meeting/event.

December Servers

Deacons: Team 3  -  Ila Jean Carothers, Captain,  Brandon Ashley, Ken Carothers, Jake Durbin, Renee Garrett, Shane Horton, Nan Johnson, Janet LeNoir, Sandra Priest, R. J. Putnam, Tyler Putnam, Starla Rosentreter, Mike Smith, Kathy Trimmer, Trudy Woodson, Jennifer Wright, Alice Young

Deaconess: Kathy Trimmer

Open/Close Building:  Tom Ragland

Stewards:  Bill Dyess, Will Hutson, Trey Kizer, Jim Young

December 2, 2012
Elders:  Michele Ryan, Bill Goss
Elders Special Care:
Gay Lynn Hooks, Frank Hughes
Acolyte:  Weston Williams
Mon. AM Stewards:
Dick Belanger, Rick Charlton

December 9, 2012
Elders:  Leland McGraw, Michele Ryan
Acolyte:  Jordyn Arnet
Mon. AM Stewards:
Dick Charlton, Wallace Capps

December 16, 2012
Elders:  Dick Belanger, Jon Carothers
Elders Special Care:
Joe Cook, David Dickson
Acolyte:  Oriana Ashley

December 23, 2012  8:30 am Meeting
Elders:  Carol Reinking, Mary Denman
Acolyte:  Bolton Garrett
Mon. AM Stewards:
Jon Carothers, Dick Belanger

December 24, 2012  5:00 pm Christmas Eve
Mark Parker, Brad Toben

December 30, 2012
Elders:  Mary Denman, Buck Bigham
Elders Special Care:
Frank Hughes, Phil McCleery
Acolyte:  Tessa Garrison
Mon. AM Stewards:
Dick Belanger, Rick Charlton

Attendance & Stewardship

Sunday, Oct 28, 2011
Sunday School:  66
Worship:  156
General Fund:  $ 9,635

Sunday, Nov 4, 2011
Sunday School:  79
Worship:  141
General Fund:  $ 6,878

Sunday, Nov 11, 2012
Sunday School:  102
Worship:  178
General Fund:  $ 6,882

Sunday, Nov 18, 2012
Sunday School:  78
Worship:  126
General Fund:  $ 2,657

Sunday, Nov 25, 2012
Sunday School:  78
Worship:  126
General Fund:  $ 2,657
Central Comments

Rev. Brian Coats, Senior Minister

This Sunday, December 2, begins the Holiest of Christian seasons. Advent is a time of expectation and anticipation. It is a time of worship and wonder. It is easily my favorite time of the year. As the Church, we have the blessing and opportunity to join the angels and proclaim "Glory to God in the highest!"

One of the most beloved Christmas hymns is "O Come All Ye Faithful." The idea of "coming" has spiritual meaning and implications. The Advent narrative is about Christ "coming" to earth - the Word became flesh, and made his dwelling among us, as John writes. The Advent narrative is an important part of the larger Gospel narrative, and that is the story about a Holy God inviting sinful humans to "come" to the throne of grace, and find forgiveness and salvation in Jesus.

During Advent, we are going to "Come near to God" as James 4:8 says. Specifically, we are going to come forward for Communion. There is unique and special meaning in approaching the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation - the faithful are "coming." By faith, we receive the Body of Christ and dip it into the Blood of Christ. The stain of the juice on the broken bread makes the sacrifice and love of Christ visceral, tangible and visible. It is a holy act for a holy season, and our Worship Department put much thought and prayer into creating the opportunity for all of us to experience this holiness.

"Come near to God" is the first half of James 4:8. The second half is "and he will come near to you." Come, friends. Come and experience the hope, joy, peace and love of Jesus Christ this Advent. Come, let us adore him ... Christ the Lord.

Brian recently wrote a blog about his first 90 days at Central Christian Church. To read it online visit: revbc.blogspot.com

Music

Chris Diamond, Music Director

The choir presents the Christmas cantata "Gloria in Excelsis Deo" on December 9. Come join us as we worship the coming of Christ through song.
Have you purchased your raffle tickets? Invited friends to come join you for shopping and lunch in the Market Café? Picked up a stack of postcards to deliver around town? This is a GREAT opportunity to invite the Waco Community to Central for a great day together!

MARKET CAFÉ MENU-Our Market Café will be open for lunch from 11-1:30pm. For $8, you’ll get a LOADED baked potato, Caesar salad, choice of soup (Broccoli Cheddar or Chicken Tortilla), beverage, and choice of dessert (Chocolate Mousse with Peppermint Bark or Cherry Crumble!)

RAFFLE-Tickets are available for $5 each or 3/$10. 1st Prize-Samsung 32" Flatscreen Television, 2nd Prize-Kindle Fire HD, 3rd Prize-Handmade Prize-winning Afghan, 4th Prize-set of 4 Hand painted Ornaments

BAKE SALE-Scrumptious treats of all kinds will be available to purchase! New this year---breakfast on the go! Stop by and grab a muffin or pastry to munch on while you shop!

VENDORS-Yet again, we have the BEST vendors in the Waco area! We’ll have a wide variety of goods! Get ready to support local businesses this Christmas Season.

CENTRAL’S MARKET WORK DAYS
All men and women are invited to help us prepare for this big event!

Tuesday, December 4, 6-8pm
Thursday, December 6, 9am-2pm
Friday, December 7, 10am-7pm
**The “Bestest” Bake Sale Ever!**

Central's Market is Saturday, December 8, just days away! The Bestest Bake Sale Ever helps the Disciples Women raise funds for community outreach (Caritas, Gospel Cafe, & Talitha Koum to name a few) and funds to help with the amazing transformation of the Fireside Room. So, let's fire up those ovens and make some delicious goodies for the Bake Sale & Sweet Shop!

You can sign up to provide items at [www.signupgenius.com](http://www.signupgenius.com). Click on Find a Sign Up, then enter this email address kenna5782@yahoo.com. Click on the icon for Central's Bake Sale & Sweet Shop and follow the instructions! Or, you can call Michele Ryan at 715-7633 and she will do your sign-up for you.

You may deliver your items to the church kitchen beginning Friday morning, December 7. If baking is not your thing, there are plenty of other ways you can help. Join us Saturday, December 1, at 9:00 a.m., in the church kitchen to prepare salsa, or at Noon on Friday, December 7, to package goodies and set up for the Bake Sale.

Thanks for all you do at CCC!

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**Disciples Women**

**Cal Gals/Young Women’s Group** - We'll gather at 6:30pm at the home of Kelly Bogard on Monday, December 10. Please bring a gift wrapped ornament no more than $10 in value as we participate in an Ornament Exchange together.

**Eat-Pray-Love Group** - We'll gather on Tuesday, December 4 at 6pm at CCC to work on setting up for Central's Market.

**Timeless Treasures** - This group will gather at 10am on Thursday, December 6, to prepare for Central's Market. Meet in the kitchen at CCC.

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**Adult Ministries**

*Helen Jones, Chairperson*

Three years ago someone I love dearly told me he had visited a church with one of his friends. When I asked him why he never went to church with me, he replied, ‘You’ve never asked me.’

Has this happened to you? If it has, your family or friends are missing a tremendous blessing by not visiting our church. Central Christian Church not only has leaders who love the Lord, but leaders who also love to study the Word of the Lord.

Our adult Sunday School classes always have something someone needs to hear — whether the study of the Bible and how it relates to our lives (*Family Covenant Class and Bible Cafe Class*), or a study of promises given us (*Bible Discovery Class*). You may love the study of the Bible (*Friendship Class*).

If none of these cover a need you may have, simply ask a leader and that need will be met. Remember what our pastor, Brian, said in his sermon on November 18, *Worship is not an event, it is a lifestyle.*

SEE YOU IN SUNDAY SCHOOL
FOCUS Study: Advent @home

December 5: From Home to homes  6-8PM
Our Advent Series at Central is called Christmas@Home. This series will try to reconnect people to one of the most important things this Christmas season. It’s not the gifts or the food. It’s those relationships we have at home.
Our youth group is going to go try to introduce this theme to people and invite them to come hear about the hope and the joy of Christmas@Home. Rev. Coats will be joining us to go help spread this good news. We’ll end it with a Pizza Buffet.

December 12: Christmas Caroling 6-8:30PM
Bring your mittens and we’ll bring the hot chocolate. Let’s spread joy this Christmas season through song. We’ll meet and eat quickly, then get in the van and go sing for people.

December 19: Christmas party at the Raglands’ (349 Catalina)
The whole family is invited to our annual Family Christmas Party. The Raglands have offered to host this year. We’ll have a full Christmas spread and a great, family-like atmosphere where we come together and celebrate the fact that God loved us so much, that he bottled himself up and decided to dwell among us.

December 26: No FOCUS

Kings Club

December 1: 9:30 am-2:00 pm  Lunch Bunch from 12 pm-1:30 pm at Tony DeMaria’s. Bring about $8 a person for lunch.

December 8: 9:30 am-12:30 pm  No Lunch Bunch

Children’s Ministries

Christmas @ Home with Kid Central
Children and families make plans to be in Sunday School & Worship each and every Sunday in December as we journey through Advent to Christmas. Children will receive a special gift each week that they attend Sunday School and another gift for attending worship! These will be special activities to take home and experience advent together as a family this Christmas! So, kids, make sure your parents get you to church by 9:30 am each week!

Birthday Party for Jesus
Sunday, December 23, during Children’s Church
It’s been an annual tradition for years for the children at Central—a Birthday Party for Jesus! We’ll have cake, sing happy birthday, and participate in other party fun! This will be a GREAT Sunday to invite some friends to be at church with you!
Children, Youth & Adults Purchase Toys for Mission Waco’s Toy Store

Over 30 children, youth, and adults ventured to Toys R Us on Sunday, November 18 for our annual toy shopping trip. It’s always exciting to see the Spirit of Giving and Generosity come to life each year as our children learn the true meaning of the phrase ‘It’s better to give than to receive.’ This year, our tithe from the pumpkin patch was about $1800! When combined with the coins collected with our miles of pennies jugs, that amounts to a lot of toys! Then, on Sunday, November 25, the Riders of the Son’s biker group arrived at CCC with Santa driving a big rig to collect the toys!

Nurseries Getting “Live Video Feed” of Worship

We are very excited about a project in the works to live-stream our worship service so that our children and adults in the nurseries can feel more connected to the rest of our church family on Sunday mornings. This is an exciting step forward with technology for our church! We are able to provide this because of our profit from the Pumpkin Patch! Celebrate!
The Pumpkin Patch @ CCC 2012

Just for fun here are some numbers associated with this year’s Pumpkin Patch

▪ 4 HOURS—time to unload 2 full truckloads of pumpkins
▪ 80,000—pounds of pumpkins on each truck
▪ Over 10,000—Approximate number of pumpkins in the Patch this year
▪ 8—cases of water consumed during unloading days
▪ 75-100—people who helped unload EACH truck
▪ 6 months-80+—age range of people who helped unload pumpkins
▪ 240—Hours worked during Pumpkin patch shifts
▪ 87—Individuals who worked 325 open workshift spots.
▪ 2—Parties in the Pumpkin Patch on Saturdays hosted by CCC
▪ 30—Children who participated in birthday parties in the Patch
▪ 26—School/Daycare groups that came to our Patch for a Story Time Field Trip
▪ Over 400—Children who participated in Story Time Field Trips
▪ 65—Teachers/Chaperones for Story Time Field Trips
▪ 500—Goodie Bags filled with area coupons & CCC info handed out to children/families who came to the Pumpkin Patch
▪ 2—Movies shown under the stars on a beautiful night at Picnic in the Patch
▪ 12’ diagonal—Size of inflatable screen at the Picnic/Movie night
▪ Over 100—People in attendance for Picnic in the Patch on October 27.
▪ 352—People who like our Pumpkin Patch Facebook Website
▪ 331—Check-ins via Facebook of people saying they were in The Pumpkin Patch
▪ 2,301—“hits” on our website, www.cccwaco.org, during the month of October

$8100+—amount of sales via our “square” credit card reader this year

Total Sales: $43,865.02
Our Profit (40%): $17546.01

TOTAL PROFIT: $17546.01

10% tithe for Mission Waco Toy Store: $1,755.01
10% tithe for Caritas Waco Food Bank: $1,755.00
10% saved for 2013 Pumpkin Patch: $1,755.00
35% Youth Ministries: $6,140.50
35% Children’s Ministries: $6,140.50

Thank you for making the Pumpkin Patch such a success!

God Loves You…No Matter What

Our annual Children’s Sabbath worship experience was Sunday, November 11. We were led in worship by nearly 40 children who read, sang, prayed, praised, and shared with us the message that God Loves You, No Matter What! Go to our church website, www.cccwaco.org for a link to the Offertory Video as well as more photos from the day. Thank you, families, for encouraging your children to be leaders of the church. Thank you, Central, for allowing these young children to lead the “grown-ups” in worship. Children, if you have not gotten your poster of photos, make sure to get one in the Narthex this Sunday!
Happy Holidays!

We are grateful for so many blessings this time of year. Here are a few things that are happening down here on the Ark!

**December 7** -- our third annual Christmas Parents’ Night Out. From 6-10 pm, drop your little reindeer off at Noah’s Ark Preschool and take the sleigh out for a joy ride. While we’re enjoying crafts, movies, and hot cocoa, you and your holiday honey can enjoy a quiet dinner, festive party, or maybe just a *silent night*! Our amazing teachers are volunteering their time on that evening to raise money for our school. A minimum donation of $20 for the first child and $10 for each additional child, is so appreciated! Please contact the school office as soon as possible to reserve your spot!

**December 8** -- the Central Market Silent Auction at CCC benefits Noah’s Ark Preschool. Last year this was one of our biggest fundraisers. We are so grateful to the members of Central Christian and the parents of Noah’s Ark for their generosity in donating items for this event. We are looking for anything and everything – Christmas ornaments, gift cards, sports tickets, handmade crafts, and more! Please drop donations downstairs in the school office or upstairs in the church office and then come place your bids at the auction. Stay for some great shopping and yummy eats at the café and bake sale! It’s a great Saturday spent during the holidays.

**December 13** -- Christmas Musikgarten Program begins at 6 pm in the sanctuary with a cookie and punch reception to follow in the Teel Center hosted by the fabulous Steering Committee.

**December 24-January 7** -- Noah’s Ark Preschool and office will be closed! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)

Newsletter Transition

Q: Why are we switching from a once-a-month printed newsletter (“The Central Report”) to a weekly e-newsletter (“Lifted Up”)?

A: To leverage the strength of electronic communication, get information and updates to the congregation in a more consistent and quicker way and to save money.

With online and/or electronic communication, delivery is quick and in many cases instant. Most people are already in the habit of receiving much of their news online. Delivering the news weekly, instead of monthly, will allow us to repeat some news and deliver the most up-to-date and accurate information. Finally, it costs less to maintain a e-newsletter client than to send over 300 printed newsletters via bulk mail.

Q: What if I do not have e-mail or access to the Internet?

A: Call the church office and let us know. We will then mail you a printed copy every week. We will also put 8 copies of the newsletter in the literature rack near the church office each Thursday.

Q: What about information that appears in “The Central Report” but not in “Lifted Up” like the church leadership and meeting schedule, the calendar and attendance and stewardship reports.

A: We are going to still print these documents. Again, contact the office and we will mail you one. We will also put these in the literature racks. We will also put them on the church website and link to them from Lifted Up.

Q: What other benefits are there for e-mailed newsletters?

A: It is simple and convenient to forward the information to friends, neighbors and co-workers. Next, interactivity and connection improves significantly: For instance, if there is an announcement that calls for sign-ups, registrations or volunteers, one can do that right away. Finally, analytics are improved: We can track how many e-newsletters and videos are opened, and which links are being clicked.

Q: What if I have news, information and/or updates that I need to share with the congregation?

A: E-mail the church office, and we will make sure it gets in.

Q: Is there anything else I should be aware of regarding this transition?

A: Yes. Also beginning in 2013, we are going to print a Program Guide for Central Christian Church three times a year. This program guide will list every ministry of the church, along with each ministry’s planned activities and events for that trimester. It will list all of our Bible studies, classes and small groups and what each of those groups are studying. We will print one in December that covers January-May, one in May that covers June-August and one in August that covers September-December. This schedule follows the normal routine and pattern for many families.
Thank you Notes

The Fellowship Committee would like to say a HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who participated in Brian’s installation and the lunch following. To ALL those who showed up early to help in the kitchen, EVERYONE who brought the amazing food we lunched on, and ALL the fantastic folks who stayed around to help clean up...THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU! We were so amazed at the wonderful bounty provided and all the folks wrapped around the corner in line to stay and partake in the great grub! We are definitely growing, and it is an amazing and wonderful sight to behold. Thank you all again for your participation and help!

By the way - You have now all been officially designated honorary members of the Fellowship Committee!

Thank you for all of the cards, phone calls, FB messages, texts and most of all prayers for our family after the loss of my mother and father. Our church family is awesome!

Lisa Hutson

Thanking our church family at Central Christian Church for your support during my mother Rose’s last weeks on this earth. A special thank you for the use of the Teel Center after her graveside service. A special thank you to Eileen, Carol and Viola for the meal and preparation. I would like to also thank all the individuals that expressed sympathy through words of encouragement, support, cards and flowers.

Sincerely,
C.R. Johnson, Jr.

Dear Church family,
Buddy and I would like to thank you for your continued support and your prayers. We are so thankful for each and every one of you. Buddy would appreciate your cards and letters.

Buddy Skeen
TDC 01812225
Dawson State Jail
P.O. Box 650051
Dallas, TX 75265

Lynda Skeen

A quick note to thank you all for your thoughts, prayers, visits, etc. How great it is to be a member of our church. CCC is a very special and caring congregation. We thank you and do appreciate being members.

Bill & Arminda Bewley

Sympathy

Our thoughts and Prayers go out to the following families:

The Hutson and Taylor families with the passing of Lee Taylor, Lisa’s father.

The Watson family with the passing of Bob Watson.

The Fulton family with the passing of Terry Fulton, Tommy Fulton’s brother.

The Johnson family with the passing of Rose Johnson, C.R. Johnson’s mother.

Please Remember in Prayer

Rondy Gray - Surgery - Hillcrest
Salem Mickley - Scott & White
Frank Kieran - Aggressive - Cancer
Denise Gormley - Surgery
Rosann Patterson - Heart Issues
Becky Cleveland - Chemo - Lubbock
Bob Watson - Declining Health
George Mata, Sr. - Heart Attack
Phil Weaver - Biopsy - Tests
Shirley Mackie - Shingles
Autumn Finch - Rare Hepatitis
Dustin Wardell - Hospital - Dallas
Mandy Byas - Harris Hospital - Fort Worth
Kathleen Midkiff - Health Issues
Blair Adams - Heart Concerns
Bill Austin - Lung Problems
Blake Rowe - Headaches
Gracie Mata - Family Concerns
Wendell Family - Family Concerns
Josh Butler - ALS
Cameron Jordan - Brain Disease
Troy Zacharias - Awaiting Kidney Transplant
Shade Smith - Awaiting Heart Transplant
Michael Nicosia - 11 month Mission Trip

Cancer Concerns

Susan Mallory - Steve Spring- Baby Jaxon
Caron Tepe - Joan Gilmore - Lecia Fuchs Tricia
Henry - Greg Pannell - Tim Hood
Karen Jasper - June Putnam Goldsmith
Olen Dreyer - Cheryl Durbin Reece
Jerry Stewart - Bill Schraeder - Mary Austin Charles
Schraeder - Elaine McDonald
Don’t forget! We are on the air every Sunday from 8:30 am. To 9:00 am.

You will hear the previous week’s sermon and selected music, pastoral prayer, and scripture readings.