



Welcome to the *CBC Newsletter*. Social Distancing is the New Normal. And just because we are distant does not mean we have to be out of touch. As we approach the Fall with the consideration of reopening for in-person worship, we want to make sure that every member of Central is kept informed of what is happening. Each issue will contain general announcements, feature a member of the CBC community, ministry updates and a devotional from Pastor Fils-Aime. Let us know if this Newsletter is helpful to you.

Two main things we want you to remember are that Wednesday Night Bible Study and the various Prayer Meetings are available to you by phone through the Prayer Conference Call Connection and that Zoom meetings are not just for people who have a computer. You can also participate in those meetings via the *Dial In* phone number provided below.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY
Conference Call Connection—7:00PM
(712) 770-4711 Access Code: 667293#

Prayer Meeting by Phone
Conference Call
Connection
(712) 770-4711
Access Code: 667293#

Sick and Shut-In:
Monday & Thursday
6-6:30 AM

Men's Ministry:
Tuesday and Thursday
6:45-7:30 AM

Mid-Week Prayer:
Wednesday
12:00-1:00 PM

Join Zoom Prayer Meetings
by Phone

WOMEN'S MINISTRY
"POWER HOUR" MEETING
Sunday, September 20 @ 12:30PM
Dial in phone number: **646-558-8656**
"Prayer: Our most powerful weapon!"

EVENING PRAYER
Friday, September 25 @ 7:00PM
Dial in phone number: **646-558-8656**
Time to pray as a family for our church,
our city, and our communities.

Pray for those who are suffering with and recovering from COVID-19.

Youth Ministry: BASKETBALL UPDATE



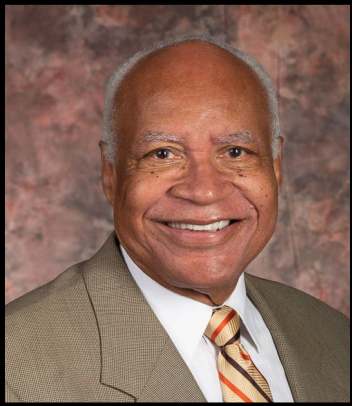
"Your. Life. Matters." This is the message Pastor Jay is sharing with 42 black and brown young men and women registered and involved with the CBC Basketball Ministry. Jay and Jean Thelusme are taking the re-boot of the Basketball ministry by the horns. It is off to a great start in the first 4 weeks. They are building on the foundation that former Director Charles Callaway has built for almost the past 20 years, the pillars of spiritual development, player development, and academic excellence. Continue to both pray for and support us in our community with the Youth Ministry. You should be proud of the work we are doing.

Basketball Coaches and Youth Mentors are needed from our CBC community. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Jay at jay@uws.younglife.org for more information.





Member Highlight: OTIS COLEMAN



How are you feeling? Since April, 2019, I have experienced a succession of medical challenges. Two heart procedures which required installation of three Stents, a fractured leg and a damaged ankle resulting from being run over by a car, Covid-19 survivor, and most Recently implantation of a heart Pacemaker/Defibrillator.

Giving thanks to God's mercy and healing powers grace and mercies I am feeling OK during this period of recuperation. One day I feel like Superman and the next day I feel like a weak Clark Kent. Learning to moderate my activities.

What lessons have you learned? The Covid-19 Pandemic has demonstrated our lives can be changed in the twinkling of an eye. More than ever I understand the reality of trusting in God, the master of our destiny.

What has been most surprising during these past few months? The global impact of the Corvid -19 virus has upon our individual lives. We can no longer refer to our lives as "Normal Living." The only certain thing we are certain about is that Covid-19 is uncertain. Proverb: 3-7 -8 says, "Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones."

What has been most encouraging?

During the extended period of my illness I have been most encouraged by God's grace and His will for my life. I cannot express in words my appreciation for the outpouring of love, kindness and generosity I received from my family, sisters and brothers in Christ and my neighbors. Truly a blessing from God.

How are you keeping busy? I have tried to stay busy by completing projects I have postponed for years. (Still trying!) Reading books (Senior Ministry Book Club/Men's Discipleship), watching movies and shows on Netflix and Livestream and spending time reconnecting with family and friends.

Our time on this earth is a gift from God, a testament of His Love and faithfulness that is new every morning. We should live our lives in a manner that expresses our gratitude for His love and grace.

Lamentations 3:22—The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never come to an end.

September Fighter Verse: DANIEL 2:20-21

Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are His. He changes times and seasons; He deposes kings and raises up others. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.

The Book of Proverbs is concerned with living right, making all the right decisions that lead to success and happiness. Proverbs calls the right decisions we make wisdom: and wisdom in the Book of Proverbs is twofold. First wisdom involves choosing the good, surrounding ourselves with the right people, investing our resources in the right things, and listening to the right advise. And second: wisdom involves avoiding the bad, not putting ourselves in challenging situations, navigating around difficult problems, and especially staying away from contentious people; the people you not only will have conflict with also the people you will lead you into conflict. For the Book of Proverbs, there is only one correct way to deal with conflict and that is to avoid it.

There are several reasons why the Book of Proverbs recommends avoiding conflict but the most important reason of all is because God detests it. The theological foundation as to why the people of God should avoid conflict is found in Proverbs 6:19. The second part of Proverbs 6:19 refers to **“a person who stirs up conflict in a community.”** The second part of Proverbs 6:19 contains the last of a list, a catalogue of characteristics and behaviors that the writer of Proverbs says God hates. The writer of Proverbs uses some of the strongest language possible to describe the type of qualities in an individual that God finds abhorrent. It is not the person that God despises it is the behavior of that person; and right along with a liar, and a person who sheds innocent blood, we find an individual who stirs up conflict.

The idea behind stirring up has to do with unleashing, of allowing something to roam free. The second part of Proverbs 16:19 is describing the type of person who, rather than corralling conflict or putting conflict back into its bag, he sets conflict loose without worrying about the damaging consequences. Like letting a bull loose in a china shop. The older saints would refer to this type of person as someone who likes to “stir the pot.”

God hates this behavior in an individual because it disrupts the peace that God has worked hard to establish within a community. God is a God of peace. Two times in the final two chapters of the Book of Romans, the apostle Paul connects God’s identity with peace. God gives peace, He has given us peace through the gospel, which creates peace between God and man. In times of personal anxiety, God gives peace to His people. Paul promises that for those who pray God will give them peace to conquer their worry. **Philippians 4:7 says that God provides a peace that surpasses all understanding.** And 2 Thessalonians 3:16 says that God is able to provide us peace in any situation we find ourselves in, **may the Lord of peace Himself continually grant you peace in every circumstance.**

And because God is a God of peace, He expects His people to be peacemakers. Jesus, in the Sermon on the Mount said, **“blessed are the peacemakers”** and God expects his people to be peacekeepers. **Romans 12:18 says, that if it is possible as far as it depends on us, to live at peace with everyone.** And when we stir up conflict, we not only offend God by acting in a way that is inconsistent with His character and His nature, we offend God by disrupting the peace that He wants to see exist in our hearts and in our communities.

The reason God hates people who stir up conflict, is because they undermine the order that God has created and replace it with their own set of values. It is like walking into somebody else’s house, rearranging the photos on the wall and the furniture according to our liking, without regard for the people who live there and are paying the rent or mortgage.

Proverbs 6:16-19

There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him:

- haughty eyes,
- a lying tongue,
- hands that shed innocent blood,
- a heart that devises wicked schemes,
- feet that are quick to rush into evil,
- a false witness who pours out lies and
- **a person who stirs up conflict in the community.**

Tony Campolo tells this story. In his childhood home of Philadelphia, October 30, the night before Halloween, was set apart as “Mischief Night”. It was the night that all the young teens in the neighborhood dedicated to pranking the people in the community. One year, Campolo and his friend devised what they thought would be the greatest prank of any Mischief Night ever. They would break into the basement of the local five-and-dime store. But rather than rob the store, they planned to change the price tags on everything. Things that would normally sell for 10 dollars would be marked to as little as fifty cents; and items that were inexpensive would be raised so the price would be ten to twenty times more. Then they would hide somewhere in the store to watch and laugh as the store went into chaos. If their plan had been pulled off, it would have been funny to them; but you know who would not have found that prank very funny at all, the store owner who had carefully put things in place and marked the prices on the items so that his store could have order. I am pretty sure the store owner would have hated it if anyone came along and disrupted the order he created.

And this is the very reason why God hates conflict. God has put things in their place, and when we allow and create conflict in God’s ordered world, we put things out of place. When we talk about, when we argue with, when we fight with people, that is disrupting order that God has created, and that is behavior that God hates.

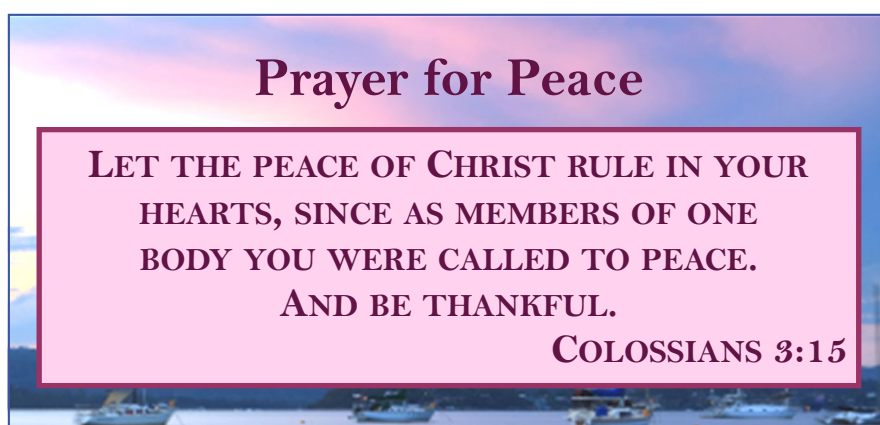
SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Has there been a time when you have “stirred up the pot”? What were the consequences? Are there ongoing tensions or have they been resolved?

Can you think of a time when you have been a Peacemaker? What were the circumstances and what did you do?

Are you currently in a conflict with someone? What steps can you take to be the Peacemaker?

For Additional Reading: *“The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict”* by Ken Sande



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Oreatha Miles	September 1
Carol Nickelson	September 7
Jennifer Fortune	September 13
Lynda DaCostra	September 15
Juanita Bailey	September 17
Corey Anderson	September 21
Paulette Forbes-Igharo	September 24
Charles Callaway	September 28
Mark Marchack	September 29

Announcements

Re-opening for In-Person Worship

As the Pastors plan to resume in-person worship for the first Sunday in October 4th, keep the re-opening in prayer that everyone involved in the planning be open to any necessary adjustments to provide a safe and fulfilling worship experience.

Central Baptist Church / 166 West 92nd Street
New York, NY 10025 / (212) 724-4004

Office Hours until further notice:
Tuesday — Thursday 9:00AM — 4:00PM