

# 2021

ANNUAL  
REPORT

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# GREETINGS FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR

Rev. Rodney T. Morton  
MTh., MDiv., BCC, BCPC

Greetings Central Family and Friends:

I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! The year 2021 may be one of the most pivotal years in the history of our world and certainly in the history of our church. I thank and praise God for your witness and work in the Kingdom of God through the second pandemic year, 2021.

Never before have so many people looked for the answers to their pain and sufferings and the faith needed for their future and for the good of others than right now. The pandemic along with other cultural shifts have placed our world in a state of disorientation. I have, therefore, asked God to guide, strengthen, and direct me with the faith, boldness, and clarity needed for a time such as this.

I am extremely grateful for you, our congregation of champions and community mission partners for your hard work and unwavering support throughout 2021. It was truly exciting to see how together, we served the city in ways we had only dreamed of until now. Thank you all.

Moving forward, we will seek to reconnect and re-boot our relationship afresh with Jesus Christ, the community, and with one another. We will set in motion my ministry program vision, “2022–Year of Peace,” which is outlined in this report and which I believe God will use to grow the gospel movement here in Baltimore.

The annual report is designed to give you a glimpse of our commitment, the things we invest in, and help you understand why the work we do here at Central is so important. Thank you for all you do and contribute. Let us continue to unleash generosity and start a revolution of peace.

As I do each year, I applaud everyone who is faithfully serving in our ministries and worship services. I want to encourage those of you who have not yet begun your ministry service, or for some reason have stopped serving in a ministry, to ask God what He is calling you to do. If you need our help, please contact us and let us know what we can do to help you return to ministry service.

Let us all work together to offer the hope and joy of the gospel to our families, friends, and community in the city God has placed us. ■

# ANNOUNCEMENT & AGENDA

The Annual Business Meeting of The Central Baptist Church of Baltimore City will be held at 10:00 am on Saturday, January 8, 2022 via the RingCentral conferencing platform.

The annual meeting may consider such business as electing officers, voting on issues along with plans for the coming year, hearing reports from the leadership and other committees and ministries of the church, and transacting other business as appropriate. The proposed agenda appears below.

## AGENDA

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Call to Order

Attendance Poll

Moderator's Opening Statement

Approve Minutes for Congregational Meeting:

- January 30, 2021

Old Business

New Business

- Receive Core Ministry Reports
- Receive Key Area Reports
- Receive Trustee Reports
- Receive 2022 Ministry Program & Church Calendar

Announcements

Adjournment

Closing Prayer ■

# MEETING MINUTES

January 30, 2021

The Congregation of The Central Baptist Church of Baltimore City held its annual church meeting by RingCentral audio/video conferencing on Saturday, January 30, 2021 at 10:00 am.

## CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Pastor Rodney T. Morton.

## QUORUM

The Moderator certified that a quorum was present (62 members). According to the church bylaws, 50 members constitutes a quorum.

## MODERATOR'S OPENING STATEMENT

The Moderator began by saying, "Central is blessed beyond measure, filled with God's grace and showered in His mercy. Central has been my joy and purpose over the last 8 years as God has allowed me the privilege of being Central's pastor." He asked each of us to be involved in the work of the ministry, and quoted Alan Turing by saying, "We can only see a short distance ahead but we can see plenty there that needs to be done."

## MEETING MINUTES—JANUARY 25, 2020

The minutes were read from the church Town Hall meeting held on January 25, 2020. The following two corrections were noted.

1. Trustee Tuck stated that the trustees were exploring/reviewing plans for armed security instead of hiring armed security.
2. The Nehemiah Central Community Development Corporation is a 501(c)(3) corporation instead of 502(c)(3).

**MOTION TO ACCEPT MINUTES WITH CORRECTIONS:** Deaconess Sheron Blackwell

**SECONDED:** Deacon Walter Blackwell

## MOTION CARRIED.

The Moderator presented an overview of the church history and guiding principles.

- Church Vision (GREET acronym)
- Church Mission
- Core Values (CENTRAL acronym)
- Focus Areas—Discipleship and Evangelism, Stewardship, Fellowship, and Leadership.
- Church Theme and Scripture—"Moving Forward Together" Philippians 3:12-16.



## MINISTRY REPORTS

The following individuals presented reports that included the ministry's mission statement, 2020 accomplishments and highlights, and calendar proposals for 2021.

1. Min. Ben Johnson—Music Ministry
2. Mrs. Angela Tate, Director—Family Life Ministries
3. Ms. Lois McLaughlin, Director—Christian Education Ministries
4. Dr. Gail Edmonds, Director—Outreach Ministries
5. Mrs. Edith Kent McCracken, Administrator—Administrative Services
6. Mr. James Armstrong, Coordinator—A/V Media & IT Ministry
7. Deacon Walter Blackwell, Project Leader—Special Projects/Safety & Security Ministry

### ***Family Life Ministries***

Mrs. Angela Tate submitted a letter resigning from the position of Core Ministry Director for Family Life Ministries. Letter of Resignation was accepted.

### ***Administrative Services***

1. Members are welcome to schedule appointments to discuss project needs.
2. The church bulletin is now online.
3. The church website and mobile app have been upgraded.
4. The website and mobile app will contain Centennial project updates and information that impact church and community.

### ***A/V Media & IT***

1. Increased online video quality.
2. Purchased new camcorder and software.
3. Welcomed new member—Howard Moore.

## TRUSTEE & BUDGET REPORTS

Chairwoman Tuck announced the current Trustee Body, including herself as Chairwoman, Kelvin Harris, Treasurer, and Debra Moore, Evelyn Melvin, and Robert Register as members, then proceeded with noteworthy items and the Trustee and Budget reports.

1. We started our bookkeeping service with StartCHURCH.
2. Last in-person service was held 3rd Sunday, March 2020.
3. Grants were received from LifeBridge, Anchor Group.
4. Church accountant is Stephanie Carter of Abrams, Foster, Nole, and Williams.

Detailed financial information is available upon receipt of a written request to the Trustee Office.

**Motion to accept the Trustee Report:** Edith Kent McCracken

**Seconded:** Jewel Kesler

**Motion carried.**

**Motion to accept the Financial Report:** Gwendolyn Taylor

**Seconded:** Tonia Bastfield-Harvey

**Motion carried.**

## MEMBERSHIP STATISTICAL REPORT

1. Baptism—2
2. Christian Experience—7
3. Deaths—18

## 2021 MINISTRY PROGRAM & CALENDAR

Quarterly Focus Chart

FIRST QUARTER	SECOND QUARTER	THIRD QUARTER	FOURTH QUARTER
January–March	April–June	July–September	October–December
Teaching & Learning	Stewardship	Fellowship	Leadership

## PALM SUNDAY AND EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES

Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday Services will be held on a parking lot. The Moderator will provide times and locations in the near future.

## COMMUNITY FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM /THREAD

THREAD is a non-profit organization that works with churches and community organizations to distribute food. Deacon Walter Blackwell and Mr. Bernard Hudnall were the coordinators of the program for our church. The program started in July, 2020 and has been very successful, giving out 3,248 baskets of fruit, vegetables, meats, etc. Donations were received for this program. A citation was received from Maryland Governor, Larry Hogan, in recognition of the work we have been able to do through this program. The following members assisted with the food distributions:

- Mr. James Armstrong
- Deacon Johnny Dabney
- Mr. Charles Diggs
- Deacon Melvin Markley
- Deacon Clarence Massey
- Mr. James McCracken

Deacon Blackwell and Mr. Hudnall will be honored at the Annual Fellowship and Awards Banquet on February 5, 2021. The event will be virtual. The honorees are being recognized for their service during the pandemic crisis.

## CHURCH SECURITY

For 2020 the Safety & Security Ministry provided services for:

- Pennsylvania farmers' food distributions.
- Missionaries' Thanksgiving food distributions.
- Gift of Love Food Pantry food distributions.
- THREAD Food-with-a-Focus food distributions.
- Church Centennial History Walk-Through events.

For 2021 the Security Ministry would like to install additional cameras and recruit 3-4 additional Security Officers.

### **CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION**

We will celebrate the church's 100 years (1921-2021). The theme is "The Bridge Crossing— Out from the Past, Into the Future: A Passion for Faithfulness." The supporting scripture is taken from Psalms 100:5. Deaconess Sheron Blackwell is the Centennial Steering Committee Chairperson.

Planning meetings are being planned for every 3rd Saturday monthly at 10:00 am. Deaconess Blackwell reported on the Centennial Walking Challenge. The committee is also considering asking members and friends to record a 30second video clip about why you love The Central Baptist Church. Recordings can be done at the church.

### **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

The Capital Campaign continues for 2021.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The Moderator adjourned the meeting with prayer. ■

Esther F. Pope  
Session Recorder



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CORE MINISTRIES

**Ms. Lois McLaughlin**  
Core Area Director

The purpose of Christian education is to help the church carry out its vision, mission, and goals by supplying the means, knowledge, opportunity, inspiration, and motivation for Christian growth through educational programs, activities, and teaching and learning.

The Christian Education Core Ministries include the following eight (8) Sub-ministries:

1. Academic Tutoring
2. Church School
3. Curriculum Resources
4. Evangelism
5. New Member Orientation
6. Scholarship
7. Teacher Training & Development
8. Vacation Bible School

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CORE AREA COUNCIL

Under the visionary leadership of the Senior Pastor, the Christian Education Core Area Council develops, implements, and provides oversight responsibility for the training and education of the church. The Senior Pastor appoints the Core Area Director and its executing arm of core ministries for this work.

The Core Area Director together with the Coordinator of each core ministry make up the members of the Council. The Council ensures that the church has holistic plans for the education of the church body and has two main objectives:

1. To initiate, develop, implement, and promote programs that specifically equip church members for discipleship (Matthew 28:19-20).
2. To engage active participation of at least 20% of the membership not already participating in any ministry of the church (2 Timothy 2:15).



The Council also has responsibility to select the member(s) of the church to receive public recognition and honor for outstanding achievements in ministry-related fields at the Annual Fellowship & Awards Banquet, a fellowship activity of the United Baptist Missionary Convention of the State of Maryland's Baptist Congress of Christian Education.

Our 2021 Honorees are Dr. Mildred Herring and Minister Terry E. Long. ■

# Academic Tutoring

Deacon Joseph L. Edmonds  
Coordinator

Academic tutoring seeks to make a difference in the lives of children and adults faced with learning obstacles and challenges. The ministry provides one-on-one tutoring in academic areas and strives to build relationships through Christ-like love and compassion. The teacher along with the student (and parent(s) if student is a minor) agrees on the tutoring schedule.

## GOALS

- Conduct a monthly algebra class.
- Review written assignments (term papers, book reports).
- Continue one-on-one appointments for remedial assistance.
- Engage college student when appropriate.

## 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

No students participated in the program during 2021.

## 2022 PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

- Plan an aggressive Sunday announcement promotion.
- Continue with 2 instructors, one instructor for middle and high school English and writing, and one instructor for middle and high school math.
- Engage a college student to assist with more advanced high school math. ■



# Church School

Mrs. Myra Staples  
Superintendent

Church School offers a diverse curriculum that equips members with practical knowledge to guide and direct daily living. The Word of God is the essential text for each lesson accompanied by contemporary resources to enhance personal growth. The Church School offers classes for all age groups.

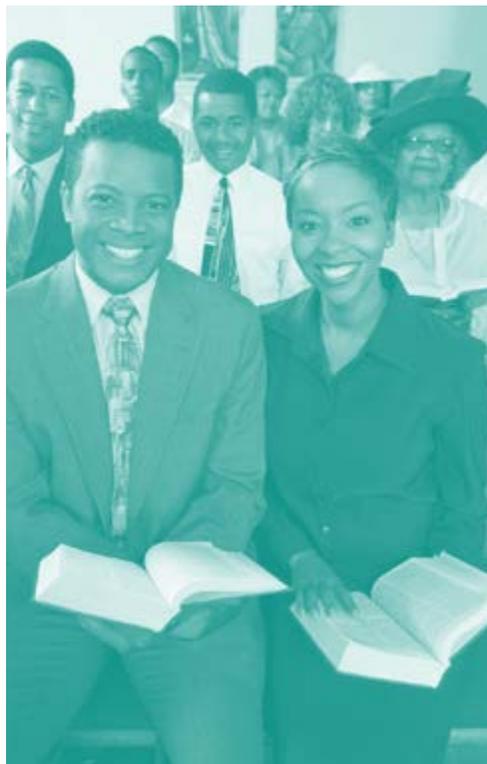
## GOALS

- To increase children and youth attendance by 20%.
- To increase adult attendance by 10%.

## 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

Church School classes continued via teleconferencing through September 12th. After in-person worship services resumed, church school classes moved to Saturday.

- Traditional Class—11:00 am-12:00 pm
- SEED Class—7:00-8:00 pm.



Since moving to Saturday, the attendance has dropped slightly. The average attendance of each class is approximately 14-18 students. The decision to continue with Saturday School came after careful consideration and an evaluation of both classes.

In the midst of the pandemic, teachers work with children and youth in accordance with schedules agreed upon by parents and guardians.

## 2022 PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

- Virtual Easter Program and/or Play—April 2.
- Christmas Program—December 17.
- Mass Church School—June, July, and August. ■

# Curriculum Resources

Dr. Mildred Herring  
Coordinator

Curriculum Resources assists individuals and ministries in planning and participating in Christian educational activities, workshops, and learning opportunities necessary for personal growth and leadership development. The ministry reviews and evaluates the effectiveness of the church's ongoing teaching ministries and programs and makes recommendations for improvements, as appropriate and necessary. The ministry researches materials and sources in order to recommend study classes and discipleship training for all age groups to ensure everyone receives an appropriate education in Christian values and worship discipline.

## GOAL

The goal of the ministry is to increase biblical knowledge.

## 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

- January Virtual Mid-winter Conference—14 members participated; one instructor.
- Virtual Statewide Institute—March 8-12-5 delegates.
- CBC Leadership School—April 23 24-67 attendees; 8 staff.
- Virtual National Baptist Congress of Christian Education—Jun-21, 24 registered.
- Annual Session—Jul-13 registered, 11 adults and 2 youth. Dr. Mildred Herring served as instructor.
- Christian Education Weekend Recharge September Conference—Six delegates, one host, Martha Turner.
- Sunday School Publishing Board (SSPB) Conference was canceled.
- Supported various local, state, and national conventions during 2021.

## 2022 PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

- Virtual Mid-Winter Conference—January 15.
- Virtual BCCE Statewide Institute—March 7-11.
- NBC, BCCE—June 19-24.
- BCCE Annual Session—July 11-15.
- BCCE Christian Education Weekend—September 24.
- CBC Christian Education Day & Leadership School—November 18-20.
- Annual SSPB Conference—November 27-30. ■



# Evangelism

Ms. Clara Carroll  
Coordinator

The Evangelism Ministry exists to expand the Gospel outside the church walls. Servants of God who have truly accepted the call of ministry make up the evangelism ministry. These loyal members, although diverse in age, gender, prayer styles, and communication techniques, are driven by a united passion for spreading the good news.

## GOALS

- To go into the world to seek out those who are lost.
- To “sow the seed” of the Gospel by speaking (witnessing) with those who are lost.

## 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

- Continued the daily prayer line established in 2020, Monday-Friday from 12:00-1:00 pm.
- Created a Facebook page.
- Distribute the Daily Bread publications on Tuesday and Thursday during the food give-away.

## 2022 PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

- Attend Foreign Mission Convention—June 2022.
- Participate in GAIN Project—October 2022.
- Christmas Donations—December 2022.
- Street evangelism.
- Facebook evangelism. ■



# New Member Orientation

Ms. Margaret Robbins  
Coordinator



The primary focus of New Member Orientation is to acquaint new members with the church and provide support and instruction to assist in their walk with the Lord. The ministry plans, implements, and supervises nurturing activities for the discipline of new members. The ministry is also responsible to report membership statistical data directly to Administrative Services.

## GOALS

- To help new members understand the responsibilities and privileges of church membership. Please visit our [New Member webpage](#) to learn more.
- To encourage active involvement in Bible study and church school.

## 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

- Three people joined in 2021 for baptism.
- New member teachers received training on using the Zoom video-conferencing platform together with the [New Member Orientation Handbook](#).

## 2022 PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

- Virtual Teacher Training Workshop—February 19.
- New Member Fellowship—April 17, July 17, November 13. ■

# Scholarship

Mrs. Rhonda Jackson  
Coordinator

The Scholarship Ministry has administration and disbursement responsibility for the church Scholarship Fund. Scholarships are available to high school graduates who meet the eligibility requirements. The ministry sponsors activities each year to promote scholarship awareness, celebrate academic success, and increase scholarship funding.

## GOAL

To assist students with college selection, career choices, completing applications, finding available funding resources, and participating in high school completion courses and other relevant activities.

## 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

1. We celebrated our high school graduate and recognized students promoted to the next higher grade.
2. High school graduate, Jonathan Thomas received the Church Scholarship award of \$2,000 and the Brackett Scholarship Award for an additional \$500.
3. All students promoted to the next higher grade received gift cards. Students promoted to grades 1-5 received gift cards valued at \$10 each, and students promoted to grades 6-12 received gift cards valued at \$20 each. We distributed a total of 21 gift cards.

## 2022 PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

- Black History Luncheon—February 26.
- Scholarship Concert—April 24, featuring Kenneth Baker.
- Virtual Career Day & College Tour—May 1.
- High School Graduate Celebration—June 23. ■



# Teacher Training & Development

Ms. Barbara Robinson  
Coordinator

Society continues to set new challenges for education. Teachers now perform a variety of roles and functions which require leadership, competence, preparedness, and capabilities for teamwork, interdisciplinary skills, supervisory expertise, and the skill of using information technologies. We strive to support teachers in this environment.

## GOALS

Our primary goal is to design training and development that can:

1. Help teachers become better planners and organizers.
2. Provide insight that leads to a deeper understanding of the subject matter.
3. Help teachers recognize and value student diversity.
4. Help teachers create a learning environment classroom.
5. Help teachers develop effective verbal, non-verbal written, technological and media communication skills to support and enhance student learning.

## 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

All 2021 activities were canceled due to the pandemic.

## 2022 PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

Teacher training about how to meet the needs of all students—Sat, June 4 and Sat, Oct 8. ■



# Vacation Bible School

Ms. Joyce Pretlow  
Coordinator

We offer Vacation Bible School (VBS) as a fun-filled program during the summer to connect with children and families in the church and community. VBS is an outreach program specifically designed to draw children and adults who do not normally attend church and to teach them the gospel. As an evangelistic tool, VBS helps us fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19).

## GOALS

- Present solid Bible content.
- Lead children/adults into a relationship with God.
- Encourage Christian growth.
- Reach the families of young people who attend.
- Train church workers.

## 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

VBS 2021 was canceled due to the pandemic.

## 2022 PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

We are proposing an evening VBS for 2022—June 27–July 1, from 5:30–7:00 pm. ■



# CONGREGATIONAL CARE CORE MINISTRIES

**Deaconess Edith C. Fulmore**  
Core Area Director



Such a little word, CARING...but means so much during these challenging times. We saw it in the spirit of giving and comforting others. We took part in drive-by greetings and stand-up meetings on the parking lot and honing our texting skills.

Congregational Care Ministries reached out to neighborhoods both far and near. This season of challenges offered many opportunities to express our humanity and our determination to go the extra mile. This was not new to our members; caring is something we try to practice at every occasion.

Hands of mercy from far and near distributed a variety of food to eat and enjoy. As we might recall, the activities that took place at the historical Sermon on the Mount, our church family and neighborhood strangers blessed the hungry and the needy by delivering food to shut-ins and far-away friends.

Our congregation is to be commended for their regularity in making monetary contributions that enabled the church to give back to the community, pay our debts, and support our mission partners. ■

# Bereavement Ministry

Ms. Margaree Long Lee  
Coordinator



The Bereavement Ministry worked tirelessly in 2021 to respond to the needs of hurting families. With the pandemic, we made fewer home visits but were able to offer prayer and comfort virtually, and assist families with organizing funeral and memorial programs by phone in accordance with church and funeral home guidelines.

Health officials predict that the pandemic will continue through 2022. It is our hope that most of our 2021 goals will be realized very soon.

## 2022 PROPOSALS

- To visit grieving families.
- To provide funeral and memorial service planning assistance.
- To continue mailing cards to families.
- To serve as the liaison between church officials and bereaved family representatives.
- To develop a short questionnaire to capture the wishes of the bereaved family for the funeral/memorial service program.
- To provide a keepsake for the family (e.g., serenity card, lapel pin). ■

# Health & Wellness & Helene's Nurses

Ms. Malvenia Cox, RN, Retired  
Coordinator

The goals of these two ministries are (1) to strengthen and reinforce the relationship between health and spirituality and (2) to educate and encourage our congregation and community to honor their bodies as Holy Temples. We strive to inspire and influence individuals to practice healthy behaviors through daily exercise and routines.

## ROUTINE DUTIES:

1. We provide quality services and programs that focus on wellness, disease prevention and health promotion, and wholeness to the body of Christ and the community to persons of all ages. We work in tandem with the church officials to ensure adherence to all applicable guidelines.
2. We provide comfort and support to members and visitors during regular worship services, funerals, and special events.
3. We order, stock, monitor, and maintain supplies and equipment to ensure readiness and that all equipment is in working condition (Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs), CPR, Heart monitor).

Due to the pandemic, Health & Wellness and the Nurses did not have much opportunity to serve the church in their usual capacity. We were on duty, however, for the church's parking lot services and hope to be of service again in 2022. ■



# Hospitality Ministry

**Ms. Gwendolyn Taylor**  
President

Our mission is to provide a welcoming environment of love, acceptance, comfort, support, care, and unity for visitors, members, guests, and friends to enhance their worship experience, encourage fellowship, and help build a community of believers.

Hospitality renders service to the church by greeting and welcoming members, visitors, and guests and by being of service in any way to make everyone feel connected and as comfortable as possible. Hospitality also:

- Ensures that every visitor receives the church's official Welcome Packet.
- Extends the official church greeting during worship services.
- Act as hosts and hostesses for luncheons, revivals, special occasions, funerals, and whenever called upon.

Because the church was closed most of 2021, Hospitality did not have much opportunity to serve in our usual capacity. We hope and pray for the opportunity to serve the church in 2022. ■



# Missionary Ministry

Ms. Claudia Dock  
President

We endeavor to meet the needs of the congregation and community by spreading the good news about Jesus Christ and assist with developing relationships with God. We promote home mission, foreign mission, and Christian education. We also provide opportunities for Christian service.

## HIGHLIGHTS

1. Assisted the UBMC Women's Auxiliary with the annual "Fashion Share" project, helping victims of natural disasters (fires, floods, etc.).
2. Donated funds to the Lott Carey Foreign Missions Convention.
3. Hosted the church's annual Thanksgiving Food Basket Give-away.
4. Provided assistance wherever needed.

## 2022 PROPOSALS

- We plan to send four delegates to the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention in Nashville, Tennessee. The church will pay the cost of registration plus the cost of one shared room. Additional costs will be the responsibility of the delegate.
- We plan to host a Missionary Day program. We will announce the date. ■



# Usher Ministry

**Ms. Barbara Mitchell**  
President

Usher duties encompass more than escorting the congregation to the pews; they provide service and direction during all church functions.

As doorkeepers in the house of God, ushers are charged with the responsibility for meeting and greeting each individual entering the sanctuary. The mannerisms exhibited by every usher can impact the frame of mind of worshipers and influence how individuals receive the preacher's message.

Before the service begins, they make certain that Bibles, church literature, offering envelopes and other items are distributed whenever appropriate. One of the most important duties is to ensure that everyone is greeted with a smile and met with a joyful spirit as they enter into worship.



The COVID-19 pandemic has adversely impacted the Usher Ministry's usual service to the church and congregation throughout 2021. The church reopened briefly in 2021 but had to close a second time. We are standing by, ready to assist the church whenever we are called upon.

## **2022 PROPOSALS**

- We are proposing an Annual Usher Program. Details to be announced.
- We endeavor to create CBC Usher Ministry Guidelines. ■

# OUTREACH CORE MINISTRIES

**Dr. Gail N. Edmonds**  
Core Area Director

## REACHING THE COMMUNITY FOR CHRIST: ONE NEED, ONE PERSON, ONE FAMILY AT A TIME

The Outreach Ministry comprises those ministries whose mission is to reach outside of the Church walls to reach the immediate and extended community to meet expressed needs of the residents. Residents need not be members of the Church to receive available services. Services are also available to the members of our congregation who are in need.

*Matthew 25: 37-40...And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.*

### OUR MEMBERSHIP

1. Mrs. Harriett Banks
2. Deaconess Merian Bates
3. Deacon Walter Blackwell
4. Ms. Clara Carroll
5. Mr. Charles Diggs
6. Ms. Shirley Dower
7. Dr. Gail N. Edmonds
8. Mrs. Phillisha Fisher
9. Mr. Leon Graham
10. Ms. Jewel Kesler
11. Ms. Irish McNeil
12. Ms. Shirley Scott
13. Ms. Gwendolyn Taylor
14. Ms. Martha Turner

### THANKSGIVING/HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING DONATIONS

- LifeBridge Health Donated—\$1,000 for Thanksgiving Kits.
- Maryland Food Bank Donated—100 Turkey Kits for Thanksgiving Food Give-away.
- LifeBridge Health Donated—\$1,500 for Christmas gifts to children.
- CBC Congregation Donated—\$1,500 toward Walmart Gift Cards at Christmas.
- Outreach Ministries distributed a total of 110 Christmas holiday gift bags. Each gift bag contained one pair of gloves, one hat, one scarf, one toy, and one \$25 Walmart gift card. ■



# Adopt-A-School Partner

**Dr. Gail N. Edmonds**  
Facilitator

The Adopt-A-School program provides a structured pathway for partnership between Baltimore City Public Schools and their community of supporters. The Mary Ann Winterling Elementary School #150 is our adopted school. During this collaboration, we work together with the school to determine how to best connect our resources and interests with the school's unique needs.

## 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

- Mary Ann Winterling Elementary School #150 merged the students and staff of Lockerman-Bundy Elementary School #261 into one school, Mary Ann Winterling Elementary School #150. The principal of the newly merged Mary Ann Winterling Elementary School #150 is Ms. Kimberly Hill-Miller.
- CBC Outreach and Prime Age Seniors donated a total of \$350 toward school supplies for Pre-K and kindergarten classes.
- We donated 35–40 holiday gift bags.
- We volunteered our assistance for the school's "Day of Giving."
- We participated in the virtual reading program for children in Pre-K and 1<sup>st</sup> grade.

## 2022 VISION

We hope to see an increase in the number of Central volunteers and volunteer hours to work with our adopted school. ■



# Fayette Street Outreach & Community Works

Dr. Gail N. Edmonds  
Facilitator



We partner with [Fayette Street Outreach](#) and [Bon Secours Community Works](#) to address the needs of the residents in the West Baltimore community.

## 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

- We continued collaborations with Fayette Street Outreach and Bon Secours Community Works Organizations.
- We served on the monthly Crime and Grime and Anchor Group Committees.
- We participated in Safe Streets interviews.
- We participated in a Block Party to heighten awareness of the new Community Resource Center slated for completion by the end of January 2022.
- Mr. George Kleb replaced Mr. Harry Spikes as Community Works Director in October 2021.

## 2022 VISION

- We plan to play an integral role to ensure that community-driven programs are established for the new Community Resource Center.
- We plan to participate on the committee to develop a “Community Impact Grant” intended to empower the community to take part in determining their financial future. ■

# Gift of Love Center Food Pantry

Deaconess Merian D. Bates  
Coordinator

The Central Baptist Church operates the Gift of Love Center (GOL) Food Pantry, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, where individuals and families can get emergency food assistance. Food assistance is available to individuals and families within our church and surrounding communities. The pantry is fully staffed and operated by Central member-volunteers. Our volunteers shop for necessities, record information necessary for monthly reporting purposes, organize and stock the food pantry, assist with food distribution, and organize and manage programs and projects within the church that support the GOL Food Pantry.

## HOURS OF OPERATION

- 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday, every month
- 10 am–12 noon, ET, except holidays and emergency closings.

Holidays and emergency closings are announced as they occur during Sunday services, via our website and mobile app, and displayed on our external LED boards.

## PARTNERSHIP

The GOL Food Pantry operates in partnership with the Maryland Food Bank (MFB) and complies with MFB requirements for cleanliness, safety, and food distribution. Clients are required to complete a short registration form and provide a non-expired photo ID. To learn more about the GOL Food Pantry, please visit [www.thecentralbaptistchurch.org/gol-food-pantry](http://www.thecentralbaptistchurch.org/gol-food-pantry).

## 2021 HIGHLIGHTS:

- We served approximately 45–50 families on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month.
- We provided at least one emergency food bag each month.
- We distributed approximately 500–600 pounds of food monthly.
- We distributed 100 turkeys with trimmings for Christmas 2021.
- We received grants from the Maryland Food Bank that reduced or eliminated food costs and enabled us to renovate our food storage area and the bathroom used by our clients, and obtain electronic equipment to use for automated recordkeeping. ■



# Prime Age Seniors

**Ms. Shirley Dower**  
Interim Coordinator



The **PRIME AGE SENIORS MINISTRY** offers opportunities to enjoy fellowship and grow in Christ through reaching out to fellow mature adults age 55 and older within our church and community. We hope to lead others to faith in Jesus Christ as Savior, delight in good Christian fellowship, and provide practical opportunities for Christian service.

## **GOAL**

To ensure that every senior has a place of ministry and service as long as they live. No matter what limitations: physically, financially, or emotionally, we believe seniors can and should participate in activities that are designed for service for the Lord.

## **2021 HIGHLIGHTS**

- We continued with Tuesday phone conferences throughout the entire year.
- We participated in Grace Medical Center monthly health trainings.
- We enjoyed two in-person fellowships—Toby’s Dinner Theater and Collins Restaurant.
- We prayed, supported, and encouraged each other due to the death of our member and secretary, Ms. Esther Pope.

## **2022 VISION**

- To explore strategies for building intergenerational coalitions.
- To connect with other senior ministries for ideas, resources, and fellowship. ■

# Prison & Returning Citizens

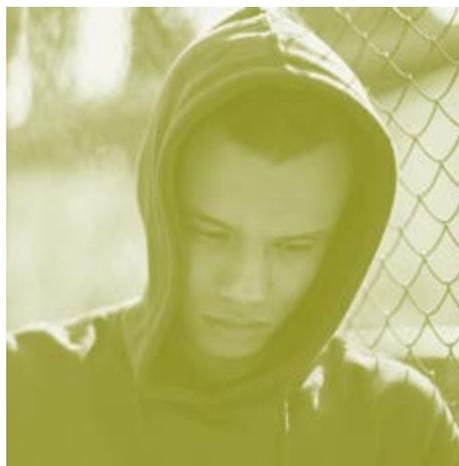
Ms. Jewel Kesler  
Coordinator

Many men and women come to faith in Jesus while in prison and some prior to committing their crime and were not fully living their faith or had not overcome addictions that still controlled their life. Unfortunately, there are also those who are wrongly convicted. These believers often grow dramatically while in prison as they have plenty of time to read the Bible and connect with Christian groups in the prison. Upon release, however, many of these believers struggle trying to fit back into society or find the fellowship they experienced while incarcerated.

The **Prison & Returning Citizens Ministry** is committed to cultivating a transitional environment where these believers can connect.

## 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

- We distributed holiday gift bags to children of returning citizens and incarcerated men at Jessup Correctional Institute.
- We collaborated with Community Works' TYRO Reentry Program.
- We participated in the Goucher Prison Education Program Training
- We participated in the Reading Unites Families (RUF) Program.
- We are participating members of The Coalition for Returning Citizens organization.



## 2022 VISION

- To have the "Don't Follow Me" program fully implemented and functioning in targeted schools.
- To be able to provide emotional support for families of incarcerated men and women. ■

## KEY MINISTRY AREAS



The COVID-19 pandemic has certainly stretched the church in every direction. Now we must take a harder look at our ministry program and reevaluate each area of ministry and decide whether to enhance, redesign, broaden, alter methods and processes, and even retire some ministry efforts. In other words, we must map out a clear and concise path, the best road forward.

Reevaluating our program can help us do ministry more efficiently and effectively, enable us to reach the most people possible, and expand our reach and influence to the greatest extent.

Although every area of ministry is relevant and necessary, we set apart these Key Areas as those areas we believe are relevant and necessary for the immediate advancement of our ministry program to the church and community. ■

# Associate Ministers

Rev. Angela M. Nelson  
Reporter

The Associate Ministers are tasked with assisting and helping our Pastor lead the church. We perform such duties as administration, evangelism, leading worship, preaching, speaking, teaching, and visitation. We supported our Pastor and church family throughout 2021.



## MORNING PRAYER

We led morning Prayer Calls each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 6:30 am. Twenty to 30 participants regularly connect via RingCentral for corporate prayer.

## CHURCH SCHOOL SEED CLASS CURRICULUM

Since 2019, we have served as facilitators for the SEED spiritual development class. Participation has continuously grown since moving to a virtual format. In 2021, the class began a new 52-week study of Great Characters of the Bible using a workbook by Alan Stringfellow. With the return of in-person worship in

2021, class time moved to Saturday evenings, from 7–8pm. Each week, approximately 30 students receive an email outlining the lesson in preparation for the upcoming class session.

## SERVING CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

I was afforded the privilege of participating in the annual Virtual Interfaith Prayer Service in January, hosted by the Spiritual Care Department of the Ascension St. Agnes Hospital.

## FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS

We assisted with various CBC food distribution activities.

## PREACHING & STUDY

- We had opportunity to preach and actively participate in other assigned roles during the Sunday morning worship services.
- We led the Pastor's Wednesday evening Bible Study class when called upon.
- We participated in weekly leadership training sessions centered around the book, *The Leadership Formula*, by Juan Sanchez.
- We engaged in monthly discussions and fellowship outings.
- Rev. Kendall Shoats plans to kick-off a men's study group. The group will be studying from the book, *Kingdom Men Rising*, by Tony Evans. ■

# Audio Visual & IT Media Team

Mr. James B. Armstrong  
*Director*

The Audio Visual & IT Media Team works to ensure God's Word is received by all, in and outside the church. The ministry operates the audio equipment that transmits the sound and the video equipment that displays the onscreen information we hear and see during services and other events. In addition, the ministry oversees lighting, video production, live production, and computer technical support. We also record and distribute recordings upon receipt of a request. Currently, only audio sermon CDs are available.

## TEAM MEMBERS

- Howard Moore
- Deacon Walter Blackwell
- Deaconess Sheron Blackwell
- Victoria Delly
- Rev. Jerry Woahtee

## 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

- We purchased video camera, computer for online video streaming, microphones, and recording & editing software.
- We upgraded audio & video connections to multipurpose room.
- We established a YouTube Channel.



## 2022 VISION

- Install Ethernet cabling to all offices and classrooms.
- Enhance pulpit lighting.
- Upgrade Multi-Purpose Room media equipment.
- Replace sanctuary projectors, screens, and choir microphones. ■

# Deacon Board

Deacon Kenneth Suggs, Sr.  
*Chairman*

As you know, we were unable to do many of the things we planned because of the pandemic and for the most part, that status has not changed.

We will continue to make phone calls to our membership and our known sick and shut-in members. Much of the year, I tried to make some home visits to drop off communion kits, offering envelopes, and some bulletins when I could print them from our website. I did not get to everyone but I do intend to continue this practice until we can gather together again.

We did our best to have at least one deacon attend every funeral that we were aware of and to visit whenever we could and when visiting was permissible.

This coming year, I hope to work closely with our Pastor on some of his proposals for the Deacon Board and to try to generate interest among the deacons and congregation to get involved in some ministry of the church. We understand that, as officers of the church, we too have a responsibility to help carry the load, not just our Pastor alone.

## 2021 HIGHLIGHT

The Deacon Board has changed the length of time a deacon may serve in the leadership position of **Chairman, First Vice Chairman, and Second Vice Chairman**. A deacon may now serve in these positions for a term of four (4) years.

I have been asked to run for another term as Chairman, and have decided to do so.

## 2022 VISION

We are prayerfully looking to increase the Deacon Board membership. More details coming soon.

The road ahead might not look promising, but with God on our side, we cannot fail. Whatever comes our way, we'll be ready to tackle it. ■

# Operations

Deacon Walter J. Blackwell, Jr.  
Mr. Charles Diggs  
Co-Directors

The Operations Team handles routine maintenance and inside/outside property repair jobs. We consult with church leadership for approval on major and costly building projects and repairs.

## TEAM MEMBERS:

- James Armstrong
- Leon Graham
- Howard Moore

## 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

1. We overhauled the church's service contracts. Changes were made to release some vendors and add others.
2. The ongoing issue our boiler consistently costing the church extremely high utility bills and resulting in water damage, has finally been resolved. The boiler has been repaired and pipes have been replaced. We do have a "Phase 2" plan going into effect after the first of the year to replace the outdated traps for the boiler system. We passed the boiler state inspection, however, with flying colors. The inspector commented and I quote, "This boiler has never looked so good!"
3. We installed tamper-proof locks on all wall heater units to prevent unnecessary tampering with the temperature gauges.
4. We discovered water damage in the rear of the main Sanctuary stemming from a leak in the air conditioning unit. Our HVAC contractor, Charles Diggs, and his assistant, Leon Graham, quickly resolved the issue.
5. The integrity of the church's roof is sound. However, we will have to replace all of the roof flashing. Roof flashing is a thin metal material that roofers install to direct water away from certain areas.
6. With the Administrator's move out of Room #9 into Room #3, we were able to divide room #9 into two rooms, #9 and #9A. Room #9 will be the AV Media Team office and room #9A will be a classroom. This project is still pending some short-term minor fixes. ■



# Membership Statistics

Deaconess Cheryl Shoats  
Secretary, New Member Ministry

The New Member Orientation Ministry has responsibility to assist new members in their spiritual growth and development, as they assume the responsibilities of actively serving the Lord. The ministry Secretary reports *membership statistics* directly to Administrative Services for recordkeeping purposes and for inclusion in the Annual Report.

## NEW MEMBERS

In 2021, three individuals joined our church as candidates for baptism. Neither candidate has started New Member Orientation.

1. Kamora Shird (parent)
2. Michelle Brown
3. Licole Shird

## 2021 MEMBERS CALLED FROM LABOR TO REWARD

1. Velma Brooks
2. Deacon Estee Bulluck
3. Deaconess Mabel Couser
4. Deacon Horace Love, Sr.
5. Esther F. Pope
6. Carrie Jean Powell ■



# Safety & Security Team Ministry

Deacon Johnny Dabney  
*Director*

Most of us are familiar with the hazards and threats that churches face today. However, many churches are concerned that they may not be doing enough to prepare their church members to respond appropriately to security-related emergencies. For this reason, we established the Safety & Security Team Ministry. We also installed a camera security system aimed at keeping the church safe.

## **FIRE ESCAPE**

The fire escape located outside the rear of the kitchen has been overhauled:

- All rust removed.
- Primed and painted to bring the fire escape up to fire code.
- More easily accessible.
- Safe egress in case of emergency.

The double doors leading to the administration hallway will remain **UNLOCKED AT ALL TIMES** for access to the emergency exit through the kitchen and down the fire escape.

## **KITCHEN**

The kitchen remains closed to all traffic, except staff employees, Executive Leadership, and authorized personnel for maintenance, repair, and inspection. Thank you for your full cooperation.



## **SIGNAGE**

The appropriate signage has been placed on all doors and throughout the building to indicate the location of fire extinguishers, hand sanitation stations, AEDs, and exits. ■

# Trustee Board

Trustee Marcia R. Tuck  
*Chairwoman*

Trustees function as Christian stewards of the property God has entrusted to the congregation. This includes supervising and maintaining both the physical property of the congregation and gifts made to the congregation so that the ministries of the congregation can be effective and all legal requirements related to the property are satisfied.

## REPORT AREAS:

- Membership
- 3 C's—Commitment, Community, Congregation
- Key Points
- Key Financial Areas
- High-Level Requirements
- Deliverables
- 2022 New Business

We have been successful for the pandemic years, 2020 and 2021, in that our budget and expenses have broken even, primarily because the church has been closed. However, when we reopen the main church building and offices, and resume regular ministry programming, our expenses will increase.

Detailed financial information is not being shown here. If you would like detailed financial information or you have questions, please contact the Trustee Office.

## TRUSTEE MEMBERSHIP:

- Marcia R. Tuck, Chairwoman
- Kelvin L. Harris, Treasurer
- Evelyn Melvin
- Debra Moore
- Robert Register



## 2022 GIVING:

- Capital Campaign—\$350.00 above tithes and offerings.
- Lenten Season—\$1.00 per day for 40 days (\$40.00).
- Seed Offering—Unfixed amount, every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday.

We are encouraging everyone to move to electronic giving. Electronic giving is easier and safer. CBC offers Ezekiel online and mobile and Givelify. Envelope users are reminded to complete the entire envelope and to please write legibly. ■

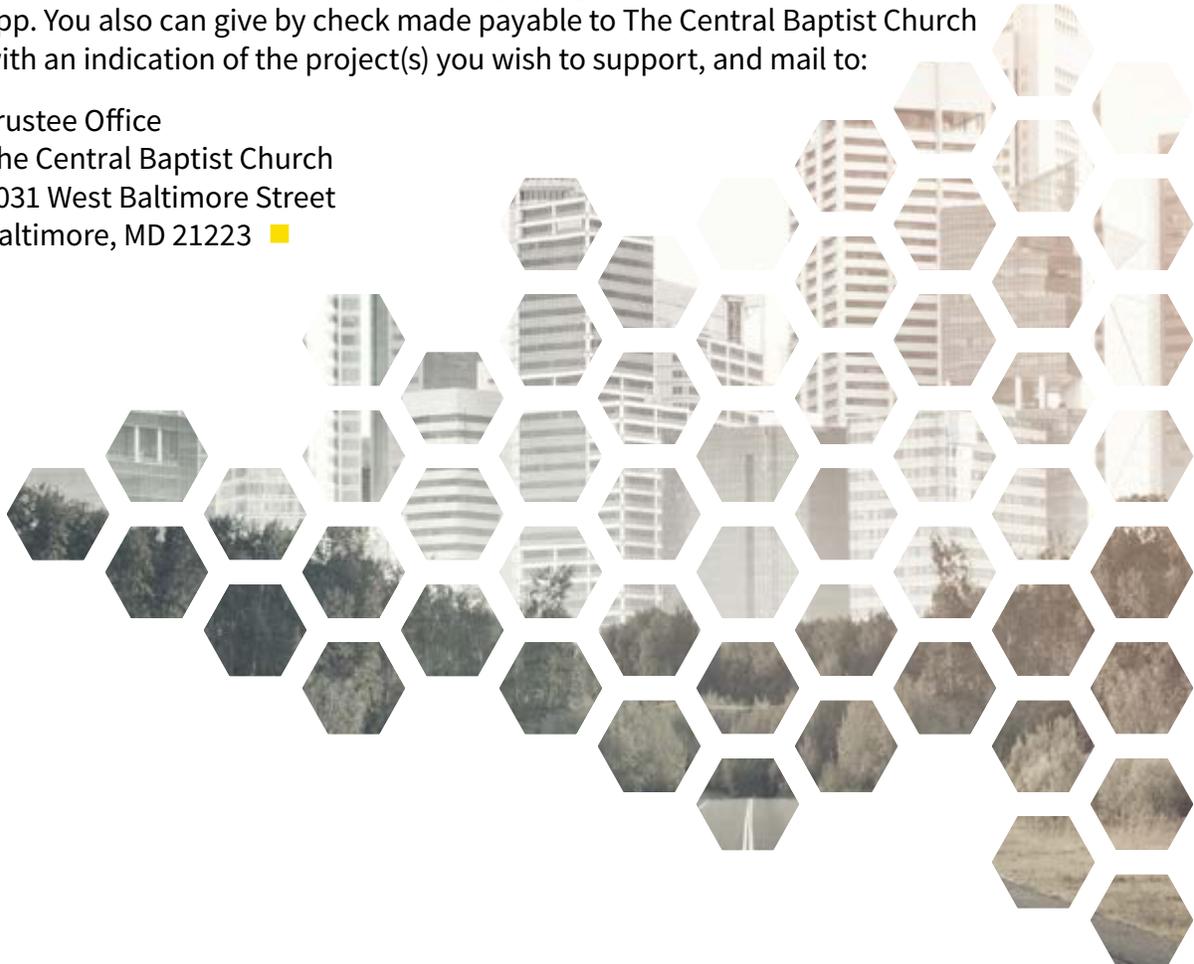
# SPECIAL PROJECTS

From time to time God affords us the opportunity to better fulfill our mission of meeting Jesus, finding Joy, sharing Beauty, and serving Others. While we call these Special Projects, these are ways in which God blesses us that we might bless others.

Special Projects help us support local ministry efforts in a myriad of ways. All special projects we undertake represent a ministry opportunity that fits within one or more of our strategic initiatives or ministry program areas—but may not be funded in the church’s annual operating budget.

You can donate to any Special Project by using our secure website or mobile app. You also can give by check made payable to The Central Baptist Church with an indication of the project(s) you wish to support, and mail to:

Trustee Office  
The Central Baptist Church  
2031 West Baltimore Street  
Baltimore, MD 21223 ■



# Community Food Distributions

Mr. Bernard Hudnall  
Project Leader

The Central Baptist Church regularly distributes food to individuals and families in need. We have received citations from Maryland Governor, Larry Hogan and the Maryland Department of Agriculture Secretary, Joseph Bartenfelder.

With the support of our partners and through the efforts of donors and volunteers, a countless number of pounds of fruits, vegetables, dairy products, and meats have been distributed each week to nearly 400 needy individuals and families. We partner with:

- Community Farms
- Johns Hopkins Hospital
- NAACP

Distributions take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week from 2:00 pm until gone. Food items vary but may include:

- Food boxes—Fruits, veggies, dairy products, and meats (items may vary).
- Bread—800 loaves per week.
- Hand sanitizer—3 oz. spray bottles (3,200 per month).
- Face masks—KN95 disposable masks (2,350 per month). ■



# The Centennial



Deaconess Sheron R. Blackwell  
Chairwoman

## The Bridge Crossing: Out from the Past, Into the Future A Passion for Faithfulness

–Psalms 100:5

The Centennial Steering Committee met on December 8, 2021 and the Centennial Sub-Committees met on December 15, 2021, and shared the following information listed by event.

### **HISTORY WALK-THROUGH**

#### ***Feedback***

- Great pictures, collection was impressive and overwhelming.
- work to the project.
- Beautiful fellowship, very spirited, lots of information.

#### ***Areas for Improvement***

- Event promotion/advertisement.
- Chronological order of pictures.
- Attendance (probably low due to COVID).
- Larger number of member-volunteers to organize the event.
- More time for the walk-through.
- Storage space for historic artifacts.
- Earlier preparation start time.
- Captions to explain pictures.



## T-SHIRT SALE

### **Feedback**

The display of sizes was great and we sold more T-shirts than we expected.

## MOVIE NIGHT

### **Feedback**

Great event; we sold 200 tickets.

## PRAYER BREAKFAST

### **Feedback**

Went very well, the buffet service was well organized and efficient.

## BOWLING NIGHT

### **Feedback**

- Fantastic time.
- Family oriented.
- Lots of fun.
- Well supported.

### **Areas for Improvement**

- Picture-taking. Suggest group picture after each event.
- Ticket sales: Time wasted for setting up in-person ticket sales; use Eventbrite or online ticket sales; reduce pricing for children.

## 2-NIGHT REVIVAL

### **Feedback**

- Awesome, excellent, spirit-filled, and timely.
- Rekindled desire and lessened anxieties for in-person worship.
- Excellent worship leaders and welcome and occasion dissertations.

### **Areas for Improvement**

- Test run the use of audio/visual equipment.
- Availability of CDs for persons who could not attend.

## JAZZ GALA

### **Feedback**

- Great event, good food, wonderful fellowship, and dancing.
- Something different, nice short program, and the music was excellent.



### **Areas for Improvement**

- Test run video to ensure quality, visibility, and sound.
- Provide clear concise directions.
- Arrange table and seating favors, journals, and other take-aways in advance.
- Symbolically price tickets at \$100 per person.

### **CENTENNIAL WORSHIP SERVICE**

#### **Feedback**

Excellent service, combined effort, spirit-filled, timely, powerful message.

### **Areas for Improvement**

- Establish protocol and time constraints for program participants.
- Establish protocol for presenting awards and recognition.

### **SOUVENIR JOURNAL**

#### **Feedback**

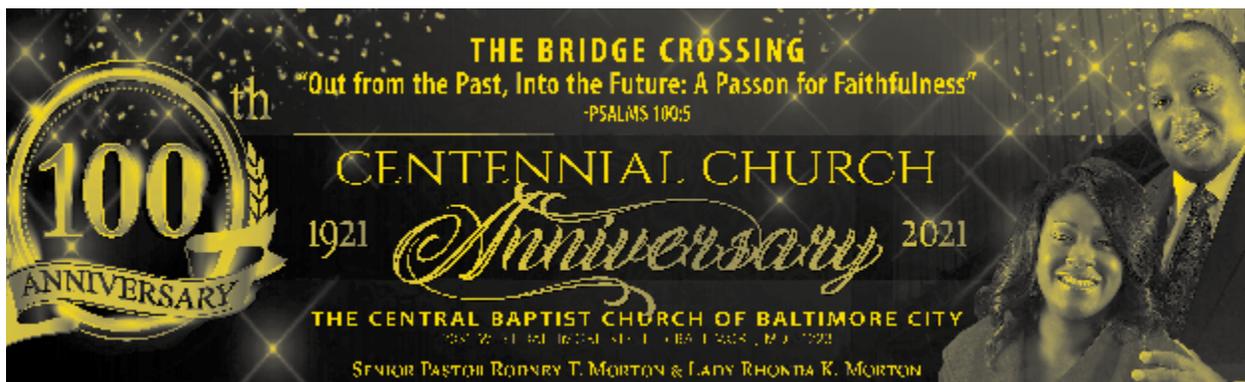
Beautifully done.

### **Areas for Improvement**

- Project timeline, proofreading, organization of content.
- Establish criteria for remedial actions and refunds in advance.

### **GENERAL COMMENTS**

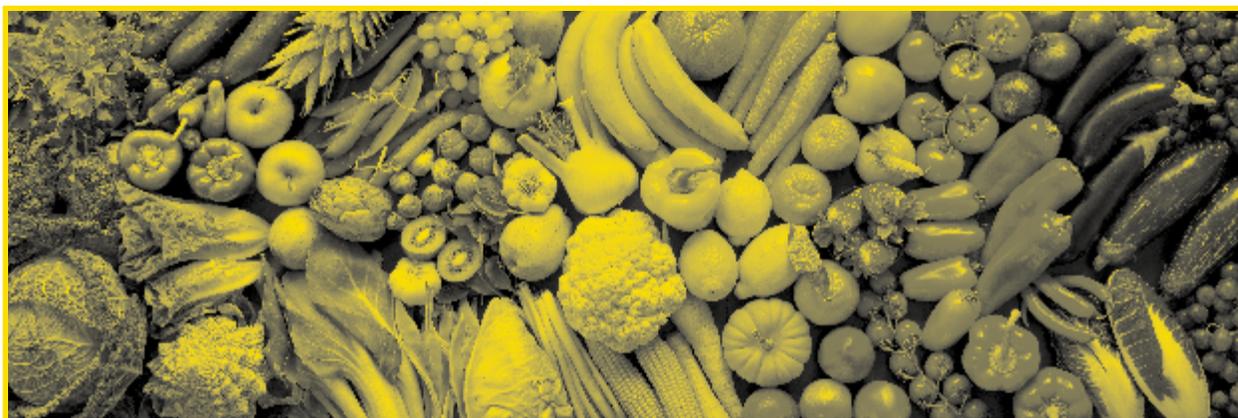
1. An overall great celebration. The events and services were wonderful.
2. Organized advanced planning with the A/V Media Ministry might have led to greater success by having CDs readily available after the worship service.
3. Members would like to have had more activities like the bowling night.
4. Planned picture-taking of each sub-committee and group family members after each event can be of great value.
5. We would have enjoyed seeing more representation and support from other churches for all events.
6. Transportation to events would have been nice.
7. How about a summer event?
8. We could have accomplished much more with a greater number of member-volunteers and a stronger commitment towards completing tasks and assignments in a timely and efficient manner. ■



## THREAD Food-With-A-Focus

Deacon Walter J. Blackwell, Jr.  
Project Leader

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, we partnered with **THREAD-Food With A Focus**, a non-profit organization, to distribute perishable and non-perishable foods, including milk to the church and community. We reported this partnership in our last business meeting.



Unfortunately, we no longer partner with this organization. We began finding food items left on corners and thrown in trash cans. Due to the over-saturation of food distributions in our church community, we decided to dissolve this partnership. We believe that our monthly Gift of Love Food Pantry distributions together with the twice-weekly community farms distributions, is sufficient. ■

# 2022 MINISTRY PROGRAM

Each year, the Senior Pastor introduces the planned Ministry Program for the church. The Ministry Program is a comprehensive outline of the objectives and activities for the church in all its varied expressions, prepared in advance, for a period of twelve months. In preparing the Ministry Program, the Senior Pastor gives each Core Area Director an opportunity to consult with the ministries he or she oversees and submit an outlined schedule of coming activities and events along with a proposed budget.

It is this church planning on a yearly basis, by which desired goals are set, soundest methods are selected, and a calendar of chief events and activities of the church year is prepared. Conflicts and duplications are eliminated, and calendars are made. Adjustments are sometimes necessary to meet specific needs and conditions. ■

# 2022 Year of Peace

**P**

## **PROCLAIM**

Boldly, unashamedly, and publicly declare and affirm the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**E**

## **EQUIP**

Build relationships, share the vision, set goals, and require commitment and accountability. Provide training and evaluation.

**A**

## **ACT**

Aggressively teach, learn, and model biblical precepts, enabling discipleship and evangelism to take hold and move forward.

**C**

## **CREATE**

Develop and implement new ways to gain strength and support from one another and others through fellowship activities.

**E**

## **EMPOWER**

Invest in yourself and others. Study your ministry to enhance your skills and influence. Delegate effectively and help others become successful.

# 2022 Church Calendar

[Go to Calendar](#)

## Did You Know!

***Did you know that the Church Calendar is historical?*** The early church observed certain days of the year in commemoration of our Lord's earthly ministry.

We use the liturgical calendar year because it has several benefits. First, it helps us remember the events of Christ's ministry and reflect on his most important acts that save us: His Incarnation (Christmas), His obedience (Lent and Palm Sunday), His death of atonement (Good Friday), His resurrection (Easter), His ascension (Ascension Day), and His sending of the Holy Spirit (Pentecost). Celebrating these days reminds us that our faith is in an historical Person who accomplished our salvation through real historical events.

We also use the Church Calendar to organize and track ministry-related events and activities and to help us remember and celebrate important milestones in the life of the church. ■

# CONTACTS

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**SENIOR PASTOR: (410) 233-8559**

Rodney T. Morton, MTh., MDiv., BCC, BCPC  
[rmortn@bellsouth.net](mailto:rmortn@bellsouth.net)

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**DEACON BOARD: (410) 233-8558 EXT 13**

Deacon Kenneth Suggs, Sr.  
Chairman  
[ksuggs38@gmail.com](mailto:ksuggs38@gmail.com)

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**TRUSTEE OFFICE: (410) 233-8558 EXT 12**

Trustee Marcia R. Tuck  
Chairwoman  
[trustees@thecentralbaptistchurch.org](mailto:trustees@thecentralbaptistchurch.org)

Trustee Kelvin L. Harris  
Treasurer  
[klh0812@yahoo.com](mailto:klh0812@yahoo.com)

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**SAFETY AND SECURITY: (410) 233-8558 EXT 19**

Deacon Johnny Dabney  
Director  
[johnnydabney82@gmail.com](mailto:johnnydabney82@gmail.com)

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**OPERATIONS: (410) 233-8558 EXT 18**

Deacon Walter J. Blackwell &  
Co-Director  
[wjblackwell64@gmail.com](mailto:wjblackwell64@gmail.com)

Mr. Charles Diggs  
Co-Director  
[charles\\_diggs@msn.com](mailto:charles_diggs@msn.com)

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**ADMINISTRATION: (410) 233-8558 EXT 21**

Mrs. Edith Kent McCracken  
Administrator  
[admin@thecentralbaptistchurch.org](mailto:admin@thecentralbaptistchurch.org)

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**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: (410) 233-8558 EXT 16**

Ms. Lois McLaughlin  
Area Director  
[lois.mclaughlin@gmail.com](mailto:lois.mclaughlin@gmail.com)

Mrs. Myra Staples  
Church School Superintendent  
[myrastaples@aol.com](mailto:myrastaples@aol.com)

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**OUTREACH: (410) 233-8558**

Dr. Gail N. Edmonds  
Area Director  
[gynedmonds@gmail.com](mailto:gynedmonds@gmail.com)





THE  
**CENTRAL**  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
BALTIMORE CITY

2031 West Baltimore Street  
Baltimore, MD 21223

[www.thecentralbaptistchurch.org](http://www.thecentralbaptistchurch.org)

