



**JANUARY  
LAMPLIGHTER**

*"But Mary treasured all these words  
and pondered them in her heart."*

Luke 2:19 (NRSV)

From the moment the angel told her that she would conceive and bear the Son of God to Joseph's acceptance of her and the child she was carrying, it must have been quite a pregnancy for Mary. The journey to Bethlehem, the birth of her child in a barn, and the eclectic visitors with tales too strange to be true; there was nothing ordinary about the events surrounding the birth of her extraordinary child. It is no wonder that Mary would 'treasure' and 'ponder' these things, and she did not even have the assistance of a scrapbook, blog site, digital camera, or Facebook page to help her preserve these events.

A popular Christmas song repeatedly asks, "Mary did you know?" Whether she knew or not, Mary was a typical mother. She loved her child, cared for him, watched him, and so much more. That is what many parents do. It is what Melissa and I have done watching our children as they grow (all too fast I might add). We treasure and remember the things they do and say and experience. We ponder and think about who they are and who they will become. Despite all our treasuring and pondering about our children, it is easy to forget. We often have conversations where Melissa or I will say, "Do you remember when she said/did...?" and the other will respond, "I'd forgotten about that." As much as we want to remember it all and hold on to every moment of their growing up, some of them slip through our fingers. I do not know if that happened to Mary, but I am pretty sure she was as human as the rest of us and there were probably some things that she forgot about Jesus as he grew up. For Mary, or any parent, we resist forgetting by treasuring

and pondering about our children.

Christmas is a time that we celebrate God's great love for all humanity through the gift of His Son, Jesus. It is a celebration that many experience year after year, but I pray that it is one that renews in you the Hope, Joy, Peace, and Love that God offers to all. As we begin to put away the lights and decorations of this season; throw away the debris of the gift giving frenzy, and clear the refrigerator of the leftovers of our feasting; what about the celebration of the birth of Mary's child will you treasure and ponder in your heart? There are many wonderful things about the Christmas season. I hope that you and yours were blessed in many ways, but the greatest blessing continues to be Jesus. May you treasure and ponder the importance of Jesus in your life and to this world so that the spirit of Christmas remains alive throughout the new year.

# PONDERINGS FROM PASTOR CURTIS

Read Philippians 1:1-2. Over the next several months I plan to work my way through Philippians. (If we continue at the pace of 2 verses, I might be retired before I finish, but we'll give it a shot...). This little letter contained a powerful message to the people to whom it was originally written, and it is packed with insights into living out the Christian life in the 21st Century as well. In order to begin to see the powerful impact of this passage, we really need look no further than the introduction. Paul introduces himself, and Timothy as the writers of this letter in a manner which was typical for the time. Still in the 1st verse, he writes to whom he is addressing the letter: "to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons..." It is interesting to me to notice that Paul addresses the letter, not simply "to the Church in Philippi," but to "the saints in Christ Jesus..." When we think of "Saints," the first thing that often comes to our minds is some sort of super-hero Christians, with glowing halos around their heads. We think of some unattainable level of perfection to which people must live if they are to make it all the way to "sainthood." When Paul writes to "the saints" was it just that the church in Philippi, was just holy enough to have a church full of people who were all destined to be canonized as Saints and immortalized in icons for all future generations of Christians to admire? It doesn't seem likely!

In addressing the Philippians this way, Paul is actually telling them something very significant about their identity in Christ. The word "saint" does literally mean "holy" or "set apart." As we continue

through this letter to the Philippians, we will learn much more about what it means. This is the term used in the New Testament for everyone who would follow Christ. It is not that they are somehow better than other people, but simply they have been sanctified, or made holy by Christ. Those who choose to follow Jesus as "set aside" for service to Him. For the Philippians to be "saints" means that their lives are set apart for God and for God's purposes. They are no longer free to live as they choose, but are to live as servants of Christ. Notice, this is how Paul and Timothy refer to themselves earlier in v.1, "Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Christ Jesus..." The same is still true for us, when we choose to commit our lives to Christ, we have much a more grand potential than we likely realize. Do we recognize our new nature as those who are set apart for service to God? Let's spend some time this month reflecting on what it means to be "saints in Christ Jesus who are in" Richmond!

Grace and Peace, Pastor Curtis



# TRIBE NEWS

*“For where two or three gather in my name, I will be with them” - Matthew 18:20*

## WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WINTER?

### TRIBE GATHERING

We will resume on January 8th from 5-7pm

### DON'T FORGET

You can continue to purchase gift cards or certificates through Scrips.com for all of your shopping needs. A certain percentage of each purchase will go automatically back to the youth. Find it difficult to navigate the website? No worries! Simply submit your order to the church and we will order the cards for you! Information needed for all orders is available in the Narthex.

### ICE SKATING

January 16

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED, SO I NEED TO KNOW IF YOU ARE ATTENDING BY SUNDAY, the 8th. If MLK day becomes a snow make-up day, we will Ice Skate on the 22nd. Cost is \$6.50 to skate (holiday skates come with free skate rental) and \$10 for dinner at the local Mexican restaurant. Orange Leaf is free! I WILL NEED SOME PARENT DRIVERS FOR EITHER DAY!

### FAMILY TUBING

February 5

Reservations are also required by this site, so I need to know if you are coming by January 15! Cost is usually about \$5 a person, but I will post an updated group rate in the email announcements. We meet at Valley's Edge early afternoon and this is our youth group for the day.

### WINTER JAM

The following are the options: We would like for you all to let us know when is best for you and we will pick the date for the majority

**Saturday, January 21: Columbus, OH**

**Friday, February 10: Indianapolis, IN**

**Saturday, February 18: Cincinnati, OH**

\*\*This is an incredible music event with artists such as: Crowder, Britt Nicole, Tenth Ave North, Colton Dixon, Thousand Foot Krutch, Sadie Robertson, Steven Malcolm and many more\*\*

### YOUTH SUNDAY

March 5: Central UMC

March 12: Centerville UMC & First UMC

Preparations for Youth Sunday will begin on Feb. 5 during youth group.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOVE

It is interesting just how much care and concern comes out of the body of Central United Methodist Church. On October 1st, I lost my husband, Jay, to a lengthy and debilitating disease. My experience as a wife and caregiver was challenging, exhausting and emotional. I know that many of you have experienced similar challenges in your lives and frankly the caregiving burdens of the survivor can seem very lonely. While we know intellectually that many have offered to help, just contemplating the explanation of needs and practical support can it itself be overwhelming to articulate, so we tend not to ask for help. Now that Jay is in Glory, I have received numerous expressions of support and love. I wanted to express my sincerest appreciation that the Holy Spirit through these acts of kindness and love has been very well received. Where I once felt alone, I now feel a stronger bond to the family of Christ. I sincerely thank you for your love and practical support with which you have blessed me. - Rosie Valant



## OUR NEIGHBORHOOD CHRISTMAS

We want to express our most sincere thank yous to all of you for your contribution in making December 10th so special. We may never know how much or how many lives were touched and made just a little happier, even for a few hours! Thank you



Central is Hosting a New Ministry! Central UMC has an exciting new opportunity to host an addiction recovery ministry. Beginning in February, on Monday evenings, Central will be hosting a chapter of "A Better Life: Brianna's Hope." This chapter is being organized primarily by a team from Christ United Church here in Richmond. ABLBH is an organization that was started in Redkey, IN by Randy Davis, one of our Associate District Superintendents. For those of you who were at our Charge Conference last fall, you heard Randy talk about the ministry, as well as a testimony from a woman whose life has been impacted by it. For those interested in learning more about the ministry, or possibly being involved, there will be a community meeting on January 23rd at 6:30pm here at Central. This will be a chance to learn statistics about the problem and also what ABLBH is all about. On January 30th at 6:30, there will be another meeting open to the community, which will be an opportunity to hear testimonies of those who have been helped by ABLBH. If you can come to one of these meetings, you will be truly blessed. For more information on ABLBH, check out their website: <http://www.ablbh.org/>

## REFLECTIONS

It seems especially meaningful to me at this time of the year, to share some of my personal thoughts about **LIFE, LOVE, and BLESSINGS**. I know that I often fall short in internalizing what I refer to as "**The Ten Affirmations.**"

I Say This . . .

- To my  **blessings**.
- To **inner peace and strength** in times of sorrow.
- To **faith** in times of uncertainty.
- To **courage** during times of adversity
- To **friends and family**.
- To the **opportunity to serve others**.
- To all that is **good, righteous and just**.
- To not **compromising my integrity**.
- To **truly listening to others . . .** their advice, concerns, and needs.
- To **bring some joy and hope to others each day**, no matter how small or significant it might be.

- Duane Hodgkin



## BE SAFE IN 2017

Several men from Central are involved in a program through the American Red Cross where those needing smoke alarms can get them installed for free. The project allows for the installation of up to three (3), ten year warranty smoke alarms. The only requirement for recipients is that they need the alarms. There are no further qualifications. There is no cost for the alarms or for installation. For more information, or to schedule an installation, contact Dana Mollenkopf at 765-277-0287

## INDEPENDENT LIVING

Please join us on Wednesday, January 18th for Primetimers. We will be joined by Jackie Speicher and Traci Taylor from the Independent Living Center. They will give a presentation on "Helping Us to Live Independently." You must be registered to attend. Please register by Monday, January 16th. To register, simply call the office at 765-962-8543 or e-mail Christin at christin@richmondcumc.com. We hope to see everyone there!



## DISCIPLE'S HAND

Central began a unique men's ministry called "Disciple's Hand" about 6 years ago. It basically involves teams of 3-4 men who permanently adopt one or more widows, single parents or others with long term needs in our church and meet with them once each month to lend a "hand." The men do basic chores around the home such as fix leaky faucets, clean windows, haul trash and so forth. At the end of their time, the men gather with their care receiver and pray with him or her.

We currently have 17 men (5 teams) participating in this program, serving 11 people. We can always use more help so, if you feel you might be interested, please contact me or Pastor Tom. There are no special skills required to participate.

Also, if you have some on-going needs around the house and would like to become a Disciple's Hand care receiver, please let us know. Our "disciples" look forward to lending a "hand" and making a difference in the lives of those who have some of the greatest needs within our congregation. His servant and yours, Bob Hall 277-3621.

## UMW THANK YOU

As president of the United Methodist Women, I would like to send out my thanks and admiration to all the women of the church who worked so hard on the UMW Nativity Pop-up, the UMW Christmas Luncheon, and the UMW Cookie Walk. I continue to be amazed by the amount of hours and the amount of hard work that goes into making events like this a success. You truly are God's hands and feet in the world. Your contributions of time, energy, and talents are what make it possible for UMW to give to missions all over Indiana and the world. - Ann Cashner



## COOKIE WALK 2016

Central United Methodist Women want to thank everyone that made the Cookie Walk successful. All profits go to our missions that support many local charities and organizations

## THE FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

The Friendship Circle will meet on January 19th at 9:30am in the church parlor. Please join us for a light breakfast hosted by Linda Foley. Our program will be led by Lois Stults. Lois always provides us with a ray of sunshine even on a January day. We hope you will meet us for a morning of Christian fellowship.

## CREATIVE HANDS

Creative Hands will begin meeting the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month (it's winter so weather permitting) in Fellowship Hall. See you January 12th.

## UMW DISTRICT MEETING

Saturday, January, 14 from 9:00-12:00 will be a UMW DISTRICT MEETING here at Central. Registration will be at 8:30. All women of the church are invited to attend, whether you are currently a member of UMW or not. A light breakfast will be served. Our UMW President, Ann Cashner, will be the featured speaker and will talk about her prison ministry experiences at Indiana Women's Prison in Indianapolis. Registration is 8:30-9:15. Bring a Friend!

## SHAMPOO

A big thank you to Central members. Thank you so much to those of you who donated shampoo for the Indiana Women's Prison Christmas bazaar. Central Members donated 325 bottles, Hagerstown First UMC donated 298 bottles, and Edwards Memorial UMC in Liberty donated 80 bottles plus \$165 cash. Due to everyone's kindness we were able to deliver 650 bottles of shampoo to the prison and 50 to the Genesis shelter. Amazing! Thank you also to all the people who donated toys at the UMW Christmas Luncheon. The toys will be donated to the children staying at the Genesis Shelter for Christmas. Blessings to all who gave.

## THANK YOU

At the end of November, we completed our drive for our relief efforts for the devastation caused by Hurricane Matthew. We had offered a matching challenge out of our endowment funds which are set aside for missions work for anyone who would give to this effort. Through your generosity, we gave a total of \$1,934.00 towards the work of the UMC in Haiti.

1/2	Church Office Closed	
1/5	UMW Meeting	9:00am
1/7	Bread Baking	8:00am
1/8	Men's Forum	9:40am
1/9	Medical Monday	12:00pm
1/12	Creative Hands	9:00am
1/12	Soup Kitchen	9:00am
1/14	UMW District Meeting	9:00am
1/17	Bread Basket	4:30pm
1/18	Primetimers	12:00pm
1/19	Friendship Circle	9:00am
1/19	Thurs. Evening Circle	6:00pm
1/21	Disciples Hand	8:00am
1/23	Mon. Morning Connection	9:00am
1/26	Creative Hands	9:00am
1/26	Ad Council	6:30pm

### **Youth Group:**

Meets every Sunday at 5:00pm

### **Women's Prayer Group:**

Meets every Monday at 12:00pm

### **Men's Prayer Group:**

Meets every Wednesday at 12:00pm

### **Central Childcare:**

Starts every weekday at 7:30am

### **Central Preschool:**

Starts every weekday at 8:30am

### **Chancel Choir:**

Join a full-filled adult choir! No prior experience or education necessary. Just come if you love to sing! We meet Wednesdays from 6:30pm-7:30pm.

### **Wesley Ringers:**

Join our bell choir! Learn how to ring bells and chimes while praising God's name! We meet Wednesdays from 5:30pm-6:30pm.

### **Youth Choir:**

Join our energetic youth choir! Ages 13-18. We sing all sorts of uplifting music that praises the Lord! We meet Sundays at 10:20am.

### **Cantus Choir:**

Join our lively cantus choir, for children aged 9-13. We sing all genres of music and have a great time every week! We meet Sundays from 12:00pm-12:30pm.

### **Joy Singers:**

Do you have a child who is ages 3-7? Bring them to Joy Singers! These kids meet once a week and have fun learning how to sing songs together. We meet Thursdays from 4:00pm-5:00pm.

## **OLD TESTAMENT STUDY**

We recently completed a 9-week study of the Old Testament. Beginning Wednesday, February 8th we will continue our study with the "Story of Jesus."

This will be a 10-week study ending during Holy week, in time for the Easter Celebration! The study will include:

- Jesus' Lineage and the Covenant - A Stroll through the Old Testament
- The Birth of a King
- Jesus' Ministry Begins - A Different Kind of Rabbi
- Parables and Prayer
- Jesus' Authority and Who Jesus Is
- Teaching the Disciples and Teaching the People
- On His Way to and Entering Jerusalem
- The Last Supper
- The Crucifixion and Resurrection
- Appearance
- New Beginnings

We will meet at 10:00AM each Wednesday morning in the church parlor (unless the parlor is in use) or in one of the Sunday school rooms to be determined at a later date. We hope you will join us in this fellowship! Please contact Rachel Stella at 765.993.0423 if you are interested.

## **GREETERS**

January 1st

10:00am: Pastor Curtis

January 8th

8:30am: Martha & Walter Soper

10:50am: Doug & Brenda Oler

January 15th

8:30am: Bob & Toni Reinke

10:50am: Sharon & David Miles

January 22th

8:30am: Terry & Debbie Jenkins

10:50am: Ann White & Dodie Sherman

January 29th

8:30am: Angelo & Cheryl Giannitelli

10:50am: Jim & Polly Puckett

## **ACOLYTES**

January 1st

10:00am: Levon Jordan & Luke Sheridan

January 8th

8:30am: Jacey & Jackson Cornett

10:50am: Ike Khamis & Olivia Swonder

January 15th

8:30am: Madison Sonsini & Kathryn Brunton

10:50am: Ava McCurdy & Anna Claire Ream

January 22th

8:30am: Dylan Candlish & Masson Heiny

10:50am: Annetta Itnyre & Karis Koyles

January 29th

8:30am: Madelyn Brunton & Mark Brunton

10:50am: Aidan Snedigar & Alec Snedigar

## **SCRIPTURE READERS**

January 1st

10:00am: Kathy Eyer

January 8th

8:30am: Gayla Parker

10:50am: Jim Puckett

January 15th

8:30am: Rita Cummins

10:50am: Joyce Relly

January 22th

8:30am: Mary Alice Bolser

10:50am: Ron Cobine

January 29th

8:30am: Shirley Hester

10:50am: Donna Jurgens

## **CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

January 1st

Pastor Tom

January 8th

Pat Heiny

January 15th

Brett Stewart

January 22nd

Ann Cashner

January 29th

Jeff Sheridan

## **CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

January 1st

NONE

January 8th

10:50am: Melissa Ream

January 15th

10:50am: Joyce Relly

January 22th

10:50am: Erin Jordan

January 29th

10:50am: Sheri Koyles

## **USHERS**

January 1st

10:00am: Rick Eyer, Roger Clark, Beryl Wesler, Jim Hodge

January 8th

8:30am: Rick Eyer, Roger Clark, Beryl Wesler, Jim Hodge

10:50am: Lowell Robinson, Marvin Kenworthy, Jim Puckett, Jamie Puckett, Dylan Puckett

January 15th

8:30am: Bob Sickman, Duane Hodgin

10:50am: Electa Berk, Jim Robinson, Lester Robinson, New Toms, Linda Witter

January 22th

8:30am: Bob Sickman, Duane Hodgin

10:50am: Electa Berk, Jim Robinson, Lester Robinson, New Toms, Linda Witter

January 29th

8:30am: Eric Burkhardt, Larry Parker, Phil Scott, Jackie Scott

10:50am: Duane Locker, Sam Willman

Central United Methodist Church  
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