



*November*  
LAMPLIGHTER



**“Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus...”**

**– Philippians 2:5**

I want to thank everyone who participated in the Soul Shift series that we completed at the end of September. From what Curtis has shared with me, it was the best supported (based on the number of books purchased) series in the time he has been at Central. Overall, I have heard very positive things from those who read the book, participated in group discussions, and/or listened to the sermons. As we were wrapping it up, I also had several conversations that essentially ask the question, “Now what?” We read the book and spent time reflecting on the shifts discussed in the material, but we need to continue down this road.

Our mission is “Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” We make disciples by being disciples. A disciple is one who follows and learns from Jesus. As much as we learn actions and words, our thoughts often guide our behaviors. In Philippians 2:5, the Apostle Paul encourages us with these words, ‘let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.’ To have the mind of Christ means to share His plans, purposes, and perspectives. It means that we understand our role in God’s plan for the world and are willing to participate in bringing glory to God, restoring creation to its

original splendor, and participating in the work of salvation. It means that we identify for Christ’s purpose to proclaim faith, hope, and love to a broken, hurting world. It means that we embrace Jesus’ perspective of humility, obedience, compassion, and utter reliance upon God. Jesus’ mind was always on obedience to God and loving others. May we be of one mind and may it be the mind of Christ Jesus.

Through Soul Shift, we read and reflected upon the shifts or changes that should take place in the lives of those striving to be disciples of Jesus. If you encountered shifts that captured your attention or even struck a nerve, I would suggest that those are the areas that you need to continue to ask the Holy Spirit to transform you. Sir Isaac Newton’s first law of motion says, “Objects at rest stay at rest and objects in motion stay in motion until acted upon by an outside force.” In our lives, even in our faith, we follow a similar principle of maintaining that status quo. We tend to not change patterns of thought, behavior, or habit until something, an ‘outside force’, acts upon us. For our lives and minds to become more like that of Jesus, we need the Holy Spirit (i.e. The Outside Force) to act upon us and transform us.

So where do we go from here? As we continue to strive to have the mind of Christ, one thing that I believe we will discover is that we are not called to be a church in the community but rather a church for the community. We continue to ask and allow God to work in our lives to bring about the transformation that will better align us with God’s will. We look for opportunities to grow in our love and trust in Jesus. We seek out or create settings for discussion and study of the Bible. We become intentional about being disciples so that we can make disciples as Jesus commanded. Together we are the Church, the body of Christ. It is through us that God continues to work out His plan of bring salvation to all the world and establish His kingdom. So may the Shifts that God has initiated at Central continue to transform us to better reflect the mind and image of Jesus.

IN CHRIST, Pastor Tom



### **Ponderings From Pastor Curtis**

Read Philippians 3:12-21. This month, as for the entire year, we are continuing our way through Philippians. In the last paragraph, addressed last month, Paul addresses the value of knowing Christ as compared with anything else. In this paragraph, he explains a bit more about the goal of the Christian faith as he encourages the Philippians to press on toward the effort of knowing Christ.

In v.12 he writes, "Not that I have already obtained all this, or already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me." He uses an interesting word here: "perfect." He then seems to suggest that goal, being "made perfect" was the reason for which Christ took hold of him in the first place. I don't know about you, but on the surface of it, "perfect" seems like a pretty tall order! Some days, I feel like I'm doing well, if I can work my way up to "not too bad." What is Paul talking about here? The word, "perfect" is a word that means "mature" or "complete". It means to bring something to its fulfillment. What Paul is talking about is the idea that has had many names throughout the history of the Church. We Methodists might call it "Holiness", "Christian Perfection", or "Sanctification." Each of us were created in the image of God; that is, we were made sharing some of God's characteristics. However, that image of God in which we were made was damaged by sin. Sanctification is the process by which it is restored. This means that we are both freed from sin and empowered to love in the way that Christ loves. This is what it

means to mature in the Christian faith.

When Paul says that we press on toward that goal of being mature, he means that we continue to put ourselves in a position in which we can receive more of God's grace in order to continue this transforming work toward holiness in our lives. We do this through practicing spiritual disciplines; such as, prayer, fasting, Bible study, accountability groups, worship, etc. In v.17, he gives the Philippians a particularly helpful tip at this. "Join with others in following my example... take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you" (v.17). A great way to grow in discipleship is to find someone who is more advanced in the faith than you and do what they do! Perhaps even ask them to help you!

Though we can reach a point of maturity, or "Christian Perfection", the process of growth in grace is not one which we will finish in this lifetime. Indeed we will continue to grow for the rest of our lives. As Paul reminds us, "our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body" (v.20-21). Let us continue to grow in faith and Christ-likeness, until the day faith becomes sight.

This month, will you press on toward the prize? What is one way that God is calling you to go deeper in the faith? Let us press on together to live faithfully until the day when our faith is complete.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Curtis



### **Altar Flowers**

We are in the process of updating our Altar flower orders. If you would like to give flowers to be placed on the altar, please contact Christin at 765-962-8543. The cost is \$25 per order. If you have given orders in the past and would like to continue to give, please call the office at 765-962-8543 so we can make sure we have the correct billing information and message. **If we do not hear from you, the order will NOT continue in 2018.** all orders for the remainder of this year, will be placed. If you have any questions, please contact Christin.

### **Primetimers**

Please join us Wednesday Nov. 15th at noon in the Fellowship Hall. We will be hearing from Sue King, MRL as she talks about "The Wescotts - Focusing on Burton Wescott." You must reserve a seat to attend. To reserve your spot, please call the office at 765-962-8543 or email Christin at [christin@richmondcumc.com](mailto:christin@richmondcumc.com)

### **Friendship Circle**

We will meet on November 16th at 9:30am in the church parlor. A light breakfast will be hosted by Mae Monroe and Linda Foley will present the program. Please join us for a morning of Christian Fellowship.

### **UMW News:**

On Thursday, Nov. 2, at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary, UMW will have a Memorial Service for members who have died, a Love Offering will be collected, and we will vote on and install our new UMW officers for 2018. Refreshments will be served in the parlor by the Friendship Circle. All women are welcome.

Mark your calendar for the upcoming UMW Christmas Luncheon, right after church on Sunday, Dec. 3rd. Everyone is invited, men, women, children and teens.

### **Our Neighborhood Christmas**

ONC will be adding wreath give aways this year. If you have any wreaths in your attic of any size, with or without lights/decorations, either grapevine or green and they are in fairly good shape, we would restore to beauty to give to our neighborhood. This means we will also need Command strips to hang and display, so we would be happy for any donations of these. Thank you for all your help and support!

### **Attention!**

Save the date, November 19th, 2017, for all those who like pecans and homemade noodles. They will be available for you to buy on Sunday, November 19th. There will also be a few adorable Christmas items, and kitchen utensils. Plan to be here! (Creative hands will be meeting on November 9th)



### **Christmas Poinsettias**

It's that time of year again. We are beginning to take orders for the Christmas Poinsettias. They will cost \$12 a piece. If you would like to place an order, Please call the office at 765-962-8543 and we will be happy to take the order.

### **Altar Guild and Communion Stewards**

We are in need of several people to help fill the candles in the sanctuary and refill the pew pockets. This is done by volunteers who come in at their convenience during the week. Each volunteer chooses one month during the year. There are several months available for 2018. We also need volunteers to help with our monthly communion. If you would like to help please contact Ann Cashner at 765-962-8458 or email

## Missions Update

Just a quick update about what Central UMC has been doing recently. Some may be aware and some not, but Central has a very unique asset. Through the sale of the former Chester Heights UMC church building and parsonage, Central UMC inherited an endowment, the interest from which is to be used to support missions. This is quite a remarkable gift for a church to have, and speaks of the tremendous foresight which those involved in the merger possessed!

Recently from these funds, the mission team decided to contribute \$1000 to Unchained Praises, a drug addiction ministry which operates here in Richmond, as well as in Connersville and Winchester. (Some of you may remember Susan Sexton the director of Unchained Praises spoke in church last fall). Hopefully Susan will be able to come back sometime soon.

In addition to this, Central's usual communion offering in the month of November (11/5) will be contributed to the YWCA Genesis Women's Shelter, with which Central has had a long-standing relationship. The mission team has decided to match that communion offering contribution up to \$1000. Plan to give as you are able!



This Christmas, why not give the children in your life something special to read?

Shop faith-fulled children's books at a special discount and earn money for Central Childcare and Preschool!

The Sparkhouse Book Fair will be set up October 30-November 19. You can shop Monday-Friday in the childcare classroom #1 and in the main hallway on Sundays. See Pastor Jen with questions.

## Central Preschool Wish List

The preschool classes would appreciate your donation of the following items. Please contact Pastor Jen if you are interested in donating before you make your purchase, so that we do not get too many of the same item. Thank you for considering to help enhance our students' learning and fun!

10 pumpkins

20 goody bags for Halloween

20 goody bags for Christmas

20 white glass plates from dollar tree (all of the same so that they can be decorated by the children)



## Hey kids and youth!

Are you interested in being a part of this year's Christmas pageant on December 17th during the worship service? Please let Pastor Jen know. We will rehearse for a few minutes each Sunday starting in November at the end of Sunday School and will have rehearsals in the sanctuary on December 10th and 17th during Sunday School.

# THE TRIBE NEWS

**“FOR WHERE TWO OR THREE GATHER IN MY NAME, I WILL BE WITH THEM” - MATTHEW 18:20**

## **“The Conundrum on the Crackerjack Cruise”**

MYSTERY DINNER/LUNCH THEATER

IT's BACK!!!

Saturday, January 27: 6pm at Centerville MC

Sunday, January 28: Noon Central UMC

\*\*Auditions Sunday, November 5 at 3pm\*\*

ADULTS AND YOUTH CAN AUDITION FOR ROLES

## **High School Small Group**

Saturday, November 4: 7-8pm at Roscoe's (I have confirmation class until 7 so we are not meeting at 6)

Saturday, November 18: 6-8pm at Amanda's house—bring the item, you own, that you are MOST THANKFUL for to contribute to our discussion

## **All Youth**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19: SCENE 75 in Dayton (laser tag, golf, video games, etc.) Please let Sheri know if you will be joining us so I can arrange for transportation. PARENTS NEEDED FOR THIS TRIP!

## **TRIBE GATHERINGS**

(5-7pm unless otherwise noted)

November 5 at Central

November 12 at Central

November 19: Scene 75—Meet at Central at 3pm and bring \$30 for the arcade and activities.

\$10 will go directly to Sheri to pay for a basic group package (\$5 game card and \$5 arcade pass, 1 slice pizza, chips, and drink) The extra is for you to spend for any extra game time wanted.

We will return to the church by 8pm.

PARENT DRIVERS NEEDED FOR THIS EVENT

## **PROGRESSIVE CHRISTMAS DINNER PARTY**

Multiple homes, four “courses”-YES PLEASE! If you would like to be a host home for our progressive Christmas Dinner Party on Sunday, December 17, please contact Sheri. It would be awesome to have representatives from each church!

# Clothing Swap

Time to clean out those closets? Not sure what your child or grandchild needs for their winter wardrobe? Baby, toddler, elementary age, teen, and young adult clothing all needed! (Adults are welcome to contribute as many teens wear adult sizes)

Let's Help Each Other! Clean out your closets and bring the CLEAN items to the church by Sunday, November 12. The TRIBE and other volunteers will organize them for a clothing swap on Friday, November 17 for those that brought items in, and Saturday, November 18 for those that were unable to contribute but may still be in need of clothing.

## Thank you Andreas Family!

her at dovesnestphotos@gmail.com

Please join me in thanking Nicole and Sean Andreas for their amazing service to the Children's Ministry here at Central! Not only do you see them up front for Children's Moments and with the Kindergarten through 4th graders in Sunday School class, but they also spend countless hours behind the scenes planning lessons, organizing resources, making sure their classroom is ready to rock, and doing so much more. In December, they will take a break from serving in this area as they get ready to focus on their growing family! Let's keep this ministry going strong. They have made a strong foundation for the children and we'd like to see it continue that way. Please contact Pastor Jen if you'd be interested in helping her with the K-4th Sunday School Class!

11/2	UMW Installation of Officers	9:00am
11/5	Membership Class	9:00am
11/9	Creative Hands	9:00am
11/9	Soup Kitchen	9:00am
11/11	Bread Baking	8:00am
11/13	Medical Monday	1:00pm
11/13	Preschool Board Meeting	6:00pm
11/14	Trustees Meeting	6:30pm
11/15	Primetimers	12:00pm
11/15	Charge Conf. (First UMC)	6:30pm
11/16	Friendship Circle	9:30am
11/18	Disciples Hand	8:30am
11/20	Monday Morning Connect.	9:00am
11/21	Bread Basket	4:30pm
11/23	THANKSGIVING	
11/24	CHURCH CLOSED	
11/29	Lamplighter Assembly	10:00am

## Planning an event?

If you are planning on an event you would like to be held here at the church, please contact the church office at 765-962-8543 at least a week before the event to make sure the date and time are available. Please make sure to fill out a church event form, located in the office, so we know how you would like your event set up and where you would like to have it. If you have any questions, please call Christin at 765-962-8543 or email [christin@richmondcumc.com](mailto:christin@richmondcumc.com)

## Greeters

11/5 TBD  
11/12 TBD  
11/19 TBD  
11/26 TBD

## Acolytes

11/5 Levon Jordan & Luke Sheridan  
11/12 Jacey Cornett & Jackson Cornett  
11/19 Kathryn Brunton & Kate Holthouse  
11/26 Dylan Candlish & Masson Heiny

## Ushers

11/5 Lowell Robinson, Sam Willman,  
Jim Puckett, Jamie Puckett,  
Dylan Puckett, Marvin Kenworthy  
11/12 Eric Burkhardt, Electa Berk, Larry Parker,  
Linda Witter, Jim Robinson,  
Lester Robinson  
11/19 Eric Burkhardt, Electa Berk, Larry Parker,  
Linda Witter, Jim Robinson,  
Lester Robinson  
11/26 Rick Eyer, Phil Scott, Jackie Scott,  
Roger Clark, Beryl Wesler, Ned Toms

## Scripture Readers

11/5 Kathy Eyer  
11/12 Joyce Relly  
11/19 Gayla Parker  
11/26 Anna Claire Ream

## Children's Message

11/5 Pastor Tom / Pastor Curtis  
11/12 Nicole Andreas  
11/19 Pastor Jen Huff  
11/26 Pat Heiny

## Altar Guild

TBD

## Happy Fall!

It is my favorite time of the year. I love the sights, smells, and sounds that come with Autumn. November also brings us Thanksgiving and is a great time of year for us to practice being grateful, something that is wonderful to do all year long. Some people keep a gratitude journal, others make sure to tell people why they are thankful for them, and some do random acts of kindness to pass on what they are grateful for in life. I will post gratitude challenges for you at the beginning of each week on Facebook. The first challenge is to start a gratitude journal and add to it throughout the month. Below is a calendar wheel, one method of journaling. You find the day of the month and write something you are grateful for on the line. This can hang on your fridge or go somewhere else where you will use it everyday this month. If writing is not your forte, perhaps you can draw a picture or take a photo and keep track of what you are thankful for in one of those ways. I hope you will make copies of this and that your whole family will participate! May you be filled with joy as you discover God's blessings in your life, so much joy, that it overflows to those you encounter each and every day. - Pastor Jen

