



CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
RICHMOND, IN

“It was by faith that Enoch was taken up to heaven without dying—‘he disappeared, because God took him.’ For before he was taken up, he was known as a person who pleased God.” – Hebrews 11:5

I recently attended a marketing workshop sponsored by Brewer Broadcasting. Although it had a decidedly business-oriented application, it was a good presentation. There were several things that I was able to take away for the presenter's comments and adapt to our unique situation as a church. Particularly, some of his comments about 'branding.' The presenter shared marketing expert, Al Ries' definition of 'branding' as "Something that creates in the mind of the prospect the perception that there is no other product on the market quite like yours." As a church, we are not selling our 'product' in the traditional sense, but I think this idea has some implications for us. In fact, this idea of branding is something that the Church Council has been talking about. In our conversations, we have reflected on what is our perception of who we (Central UMC) are as a church and how does our perception of ourselves compare with the community's perception of Central. The workshop presenter adapted the quote above slightly to define local branding as "Something that creates in the mind of the prospect the perception that there is no other place in the community to buy a product or service quite like yours." I think the key question for us to consider is "What is our 'something' that is compelling and sets us apart from other churches in Richmond?" In the passage above, Enoch was known as a person who pleased God. It was a part of his identity. It was his 'brand.' Not a bad way for others to speak about Enoch and it definitely set him apart from other people. Not that other people were incapable of pleasing God, but apparently Enoch was so good at it that it was what he became known for. Throughout the Bible people and even places are referred to by their identity with statement that include "will be known as" or "shall be called." These statements are not

always positive, but it does establish identity. So why does this matter to us?

The workshop present gave us these questions to consider, "What's the one thing that you want customers to remember about your business and never forget? What do you want to be known for?" The beauty of these questions is that they can be aspirational or something that maybe is not completely true about us...yet. As I think about the role that Central has, does, and will hold in Richmond, I think that answer has and will change over time. What Central was once known for may not be accurate or even relevant in today's world. What we are known for today, may not exactly reflect who and what we want to be as a church. Our vision statement is "Connect, Grow and Serve at Central because Jesus is central." This has some bearing on our 'brand,' but I think we still need to focus in on what we want Central to be known for by the community around us. We want our presence in the community to be something that reflects accurately and positively on who we are and hopefully something that will be compelling enough to people not already affiliated with Central to know that who we are and what we have to offer is unique and something that they may want to be a part of.

So, what do you believe Central is "known as" in our community and what do you want Central to be "known as"? Please email me (tom@richmondcumc.com) or drop me a note in the offering plate to share your thoughts. We are not launching a marketing campaign, but I think we need to know who we are and also begin to understand who God desires us to be for the sake of the community so that we can participate in God's work of bring grace and truth, vitality and hope, and even God's very kingdom into the world around us.

IN CHRIST, Pastor Tom

P.S. My apologies to the English teachers reading this for all of the sentences ending with stranded prepositions.

PONDERINGS FROM PASTOR CURTIS

Read Philippians 4:10-23. We have now reached the conclusion of our year-and-a-half journey through Paul's letter to the Philippians. Even with that length of time, we have certainly only skimmed over the surface of the wisdom for the Christian life contained within this short letter. I encourage you to read the through the entire letter again and continue to reflect on the message for today. Find a good commentary or study Bible and continue to plumb the depth of riches in this book (and then move on to choose another).

The last three verses, v.20-23, are a very fitting close to this book. In v.20, Paul says,

*“To our God and Father be glory
for ever and ever. Amen.”*

Thus, Paul closes the formal instructional portion of the letter with a word of praise to God. In so doing, he reveals the purpose and intention of the Christian life, which is to give glory to God. In fact, this is a summary of the purpose for all of the instructions he has written in the book up to this point. This means that not only should everything within the life of a Christian reflect well on the God we serve (that would be a minimum standard), but everything a Christian does should be done in such a way that it brings honor to the Lord. It should increase the greatness of His reputation, causing people to want to praise Him. Let's ask ourselves, “Is this true of my life? Can every action I take today be done in such a way that it brings glory to God?” After the formal closing of the instructional portion of the letter, Paul concludes with a few greetings, “Greet all the saints in Christ Jesus.

The brothers who are with me send greetings. All the saints send you greetings, especially those who belong to Caesar's household.” What Paul does here at the close of his letter is something very similar to what we do when leaving the company of friends, “Tell your wife hello for me!” At the same time, I appreciate the way in which this act of greetings speaks to the broader nature of the Church, which reaches across the expanse of geography. The church, and many of the people in it, to which Paul is writing is one that he has visited. He has known the people. Likely, they have endured hardship together. They have worshiped God together. So here in the final verses of his letter to them, he sends his greeting; thereby, in some small way expressing his love and affection for them which has been unhampered by either the distance that separates them or the length of time since they have not seen one another. It is a formal way of referencing the bond they share in Christ as a part of His Church despite the geographical distance which now exists between them. As I think of my own impending departure from Richmond, I find a strange comfort in this thought. I am deeply grateful for the relationships and friendships Jen and I have formed here. I take comfort in the fact that like Paul, we are both a part of a fellowship of the Body of Christ throughout time and around the world; thus, in some way we will remain connected. I will continue to love and pray for everyone here at Central UMC.

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.”

Peace, Pastor Curtis



DEAR PASTOR JEN

Starting in July, I'd like to start answering questions that you submit! They can be questions about God, the church, this congregation or community, or other questions about things happening in your life. Your questions can be submitted to me via email or left in my church mailbox. Not all questions may be answered and you may wish to remain anonymous. If you send an email and do not want your name published in the newsletter, just be sure to tell me. I hope that this column will be fun, informative, and inspirational as a part of our Lamplighter. I look forward to your participation! Peace, Pastor Jen

Pastor Curtis Banker

will be ordained at the Indiana Annual Conference on Saturday, June 9th at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis. The service will begin at 10:00 am and is open to anyone who wishes to attend. If you would like to attend but need a ride or if you plan to attend and would be willing to give a ride, please contact the church office. The service will also be live-streamed on the Indiana Conference's website and we will provide the details closer to the date if you wish to watch from home.

On Sunday, June 10th we will celebrate Curtis' ordination and say farewell to the Bankers as they begin a new appointment at Hanfield UMC near Marion, Indiana. We will be having a meal immediately following worship that morning. Please bring a dish to share. Meat and beverages will be provided.

Finally, if you would like to contribute to a "Love Offering" for the Bankers, please drop your labeled gift in the offering plate or have it in to the church office by Monday, June 4th.

UMCOR Sunday

(previously known as "One Great Hour of Sharing"), typically falls in March. We had a conflict on that Sunday this year and postponed our participation in this special offering. If you were not aware, UMCOR Sunday is a collection that is taken up by churches across the United Methodist connection to support the administrative work of UMCOR. UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, is the disaster relief service of the United Methodist church. It provides resources and funds across the United States and around when natural disasters like floods, tornadoes, and hurricanes occur. Our next communion Sunday will be June 10th and the communion offering that day will go to support UMCOR. Please use the offering insert that will be in the bulletin on June 10th or place your gift in the plates during communion.



Thank You

Curtis and I would like to thank everyone for your cards, gifts, visits, dinners, thoughts, and prayers regarding the new arrival of our precious daughter, Elizabeth Kay. We have been completely overwhelmed by your love and support! Thank you also to everyone who planned and organized her baby shower! We have truly been blessed. Thanks again! —Curtis, Jennifer, and Elizabeth Kay Banker

Central's Sunday School Classes

Central has always encouraged the small group setting of the Sunday School classroom. While we have gone away from the flannel boards for small children's Bible stories and lessons, we believe the bond of this group to study and share and grow in scripture is still so relevant for our church today. Here is a current listing of groups and where each meets.

Nurseries:

Preschool: Kaylee Simpson, Jamie Puckett,
Olivia Gibson, Karis Koyles
Infant: Michelle Truitt - Linda Bane

Children's Classes:

Children's Class: Sean/Nicole Andreas
Room 200-201-202
? – 5th: Pat Heiny - Room 209
Youth: Sheri Koyles - Room 110

Adult Classes:

Builders/CUC: Sharon Miles/Frank Monroe
Room 207
Koinonia: Angie Giannitelli - Room 208
New Class: TBD - Room 211
Agape: Jim Puckett - Room 213
Amicus: Doris Miller - Fellowship Hall

Our challenge is to:

1. Strengthen the individual through meaningful, scripture based lessons, relevant to our Christian daily walk of faith.
2. Grow our groups in wisdom of scripture and number of persons.
3. Encourage a bond even beyond the Sunday School classroom
4. Promote these small groups to bring visions and energy to our church.
5. Study to show thyself approved unto God a workman who needeth not to be ashamed rightly dividing the Word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV)
6. Won't you pray about becoming part of Sunday School at Central?
7. Let's share and communicate the return of the Sunday School successes. Let us know what your group is studying, discussing, how you are growing in this walk. Won't you consider submitting an article or sharing your thoughts to: Mary Alice Bolser, (765) 966-6117.



Central at work in Neighborhood: Starr Elementary

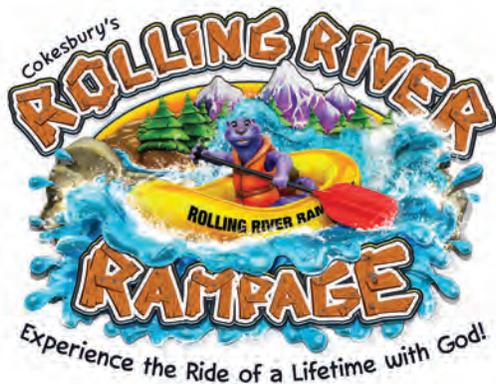
As members of Central, sometimes it is good to be reminded of things that we share and have become vested. Starr Elementary has benefited over and over. Let's list some of the ways.

- Teacher lunch at beginning of school year with beautiful hand written notes. Most teachers have these notes saved in a desk drawer.
- So many Box Tops for Education
- At Christmas time, two of Starr secretaries went up in our storage area and personally picked out a Christmas tree, lights and ornaments and saw to it that a Starr family received a BIG, beautiful tree. Yes, they requested a BIG one!
- Another member visits regularly to help distribute food bags to all the classrooms.
- I believe a family who lost all due to fire was benefited by Red Cross connection. This family was also offered to preview our Garage Sale items even perhaps with financial assistance.
- 2018 March UMW Garage Sale items donated to CIS for Starr
- Amicus Sunday School Class and UMW were willing to assist a particular family with clothing request... And names of other community resources have been given this family
- You were asked to make a 90 second FlipGrid video for the Third Grade Academy – and I'm sure for those of us who did this it was really a fun and rewarding experience!
- Care bags- at beginning of each school year. UMW provides Ziploc bags with personal

hygiene items and a small note of love and encouragement. Let's share a true story of how one of these bags was used.

Two years ago, there was one particular first grade student who consistently arrived late and spent the morning yawning and stating how tired he was. My solution is always to say go wash your face, hands etc. In order to wake up. One morning I was less than patient with his inability to function. His teacher said "here, I have something in my desk for him", handing me this bag – from Central UMW. I was so thankful. As I was handing it to him, the biggest smile came as he said "it even has a comb!" We all drive past the home where he lived-just a couple of blocks from our church, many of us several times a day, and have seen his daddy walking to work every day at the car wash. I did find out later that he and several siblings had lost their Mommy a year earlier to breast cancer.

So when we think our small deeds are small, put in perspective we are doing God's work right here in our neighborhood.



SUNDAY NIGHT KICK-OFF PARTY

COMMUNITY VBS

JULY 15TH - 19TH • 6PM - 8PM
2900 W. MAIN ST., RICHMOND, IN 47374

LOVE KIDS? WANT SERVICE HOURS? LOVE VBS?

Join us for a Community VBS July 15-20. You can help lead games, make crafts, serve snacks, lead music, act in the large group time, and so much more. See Sheri if you would like to help with this! Can't help all week? No problem, sign-up to help whenever you are available!

Tribe news

AS OF JUNE 1, ALL RISING 6th GRADERS ARE INVITED TO JOIN TRIBE

LOCK-IN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Join us on Friday, June 1 for a lock-in from 9pm to 8am. We will be themed games and challenges. Please bring your own drinks for the night and 2 snacks to share. Bring sleeping items if you wish.

Friday, June 8:

Meet us at Clara's at 6pm and bring \$5 for pizza. After Clara's we will head to AMC for a movie TBD. Pick-up is at the movie theater, we will text when we have a more accurate timeframe.

June 24-29:

CAMP ADVENTURE!! All rising 6th to 8th graders are welcome to join us at Camp. Contact Sheri at 806-759-0485 for more details.

July 7-14:

MISSION TRIP to Bluffton, IN and CEDAR POINT. It's not too late to sign-up to join us. Contact the number above for more information.

Sunday, August 5:

Area Youth Group Pool Party! 7-9 at the Municipal Pool.

Sunday, August 12:

Back-to-School Cookout for TRIBE (Watch for details soon)

Opportunities for Women:

July 17-20—UMW's Mission u at DePauw University in Greencastle, IN If you wish to be part of a carpool for a certain event, call Ann Cashner at 962-8458.

Creative Hands

Creative Hands will meet on June 14th and 28th in Fellowship Hall. Come join us for fellowship and fun as we prepare for another pop-up!

Primetimers

Join us Wednesday June 20th at noon in Fellowship Hall as we hear from Tom & Melissa Deckard as they talk about "All About 'Synergy Health Care'". You must reserve a seat to attend. To reserve your spot, please call the office at 765-962-8543

Care Chain

If you live alone, CUMC invites you to be a part of our new Care Chain. Those who love you will be put at ease to know you are in touch with someone every day. Choose the method you prefer: phone, text or email. Someone will contact you and you in turn will contact someone else. It will only take a few minutes at most, but the peace of mind will last all day. See Sally Sayre for more information. Final plans will be in place as soon as we have our list of participants.

New Library Books!

Be the first one to read the newly purchased library books: "Stepping on Cheerios", "Braving Sorrow Together", "Better Dads - Stronger Sons" Put your name and date on the card inside the book and drop it in the basket on the shelf above drop box. When you are finished with the book, just put it in the drop box. The Parlor Library is being maintained for your benefit. There are many treasures there. Be sure to take advantage of it. - Barb Harper, Librarian

Calendar of Events

6/5	Preschool Board Meeting	6:00pm
6/11	Medical Monday	1:00pm
6/14	Creative Hands	9:00am
6/14	Soup Kitchen	9:00am
6/16	Disciple's Hand	8:30am
6/19	Bread Basket	4:30pm
6/19	Trustees Meeting	6:30pm
6/20	Primetimers	12:00pm
6/27	Lamplighter Assembly	10:00am
6/28	Creative Hands	9:00am
6/28	Ad Council	6:30pm

Greeters

6/3	Duane & Sandi Hodgin
6/10	Sarah Wright & Aileen Githens
6/17	Dale & Ellen Hall
6/24	Dan & Shirley Hester

Acolytes

TBD

Scripture Readers

6/3	Phillip Scott
6/10	Ted Halsted
6/17	Anna Claire Ream
6/24	Jan Hibner

Children's Message

TBD

Ushers

6/3	Lowell Robinson, Sam Willman, Jim Puckett, Jamie Puckett, Dylan Puckett, Philip Weimer
6/10	Electa Berk, Larry Parker, Linda Witter, Jim Robinson, Lester Robinson
6/17	Electa Berk, Larry Parker, Linda Witter, Jim Robinson, Lester Robinson
6/24	Rick Eyer, Phil Scott, Jackie Scott, Roger Clark, Beryl Wesler, Ned Toms

Altar Guild

Jeanne Nordstrom and Aileen Githens