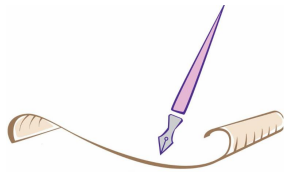


**CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

9191 WOODWAY DRIVE WACO, TX 76712
(254) 754-3544 CPCWACO.ORG



December 4, 2017



Pastoral Potpourri

The year was 1809. Napoleon was in the midst of his campaigns so that is what most people were interested in. Yet, no different from other years, babies were being born. But who had time to think about babies when there were battles raging?

So it was in that same year, 1809, mid-way between Trafalgar and Waterloo, there came unnoticed into the world a whole host of heroes. William Gladstone, the English theologian and three-term Prime Minister, was born in Liverpool; while in Beaconsfield, France, the French socialist and reformer Pierre Proudhon began life. Alfred Lord Tennyson was birthed at the Somersby Rectory; the English poet Edward Fitzgerald, best known for his translation of *Rubiyat* from whence we get "eat, drink, and be merry for tomorrow we die," was born in Suffolk; and in Boston, Edgar Allan Poe entered the world.

On the same day in 1809, Charles Darwin made his debut at Shrewsbury, while Abraham Lincoln uttered his birth cry in old Kentucky. Also, Lincoln's first vice president, Hannibal Hamlin, who strongly opposed slavery and spoke often with Lincoln about it, and who, from that position, became one of the organizers of the Republican Party, was born in Paris, Maine.

The world of music was enriched with the coming of Felix Mendelssohn in Hamburg, Germany. Cyrus McCormick, the inventor of the reaping machine, was born in Walnut Grove, Virginia. The gentle, honest, and wise frontiersman, Christopher (Kit) Carson was born in Madison Co., Kentucky. The American Educator, Frederick Barnard, Chancellor of The University of Mississippi, President of Columbia, and for whom Barnard College is named, was born in Sheffield, Mass. And also beginning life in Massachusetts in 1809, was the Honorable Oliver Wendell Holmes.

Yet who took notice of these babies? Everyone was focused on war. Yet I cannot help but ask: Which of the battles of 1809 mattered more than the babies of 1809? When wrongs need to be righted; when truths need to be spoken; when continents need opening; and the human spirit needs nurturing; God sends a baby to do it. We think of God as managing the world through strength, mighty acts, and battalions; yet His mightiest act may be a child - "and a little child shall lead them."

May you each have a most blessed Advent season. I'll see you in church, Stephen

This Sunday, December 10, 2017

Second Sunday of Advent

9:30 am - Sunday School - Mark 1:1-8

10:45 am - Worship

Rev. David Rodgers, preaching

Text: Isaiah 40:1-11

Sermon: Prepare Ye the Way

[Click here for this Sunday's readings](#)

Next Sunday, December 17, 2017

Third Sunday of Advent

9:30 am - Sunday School - Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

10:45 am - Worship

Rev. Stephen Rehrig, preaching

Text: John 1: 1-5, 9-14

"In the beginning was the Word"

Sermon: Finding The Word

Theme: In the beginning of everything was the same Word we continue to struggle with.



The PNC (Pastor Nominating Committee) has completed the MIF (Ministry Information Form) and submitted it for review and comments to the COM (Committee on Ministries). We received approval from the COM this week without any changes. The proposed MIF will be sent this week to our Session for their approval. Once the Session has approved it, we will then download the information into the Presbyterian USA-Church Leadership Connection website (sort of a Match.Com for churches and pastors).

This is the end of the first phase of the PNC process. The first phase of this process included meeting weekly, sending out surveys to the congregation, getting feedback and discussing, listening to comments at the in-home Stewardship meetings and then, with that input, coming to a consensus in writing the MIF our description of who we think we are as a church and who we are looking for in a new pastor. Now, hopefully there are some applicants out there who will be a match for the strengths we are looking for in a new pastor and that we are what that pastor is looking for in a new church home. We should start receiving PIF's (Pastor Information Forms-sort of a resume for pastors) and review them, pick out some to talk to and interview and with the final candidates see them actually in the pulpit somewhere.

A deliberate process but we are moving forward into the next phase.

Announcements

Stewardship Drive Update: Because Christ is central to all that we do, you the Saints of Central are showing a tremendous faith in the future. To date, 31 pledges for \$238,932 have been received. What a blessing this is. Thus far this represents an increase in giving of 23% over this past year. Currently we are developing the 2018 budget, and will be presenting it to the Session in December. If you have not yet made your commitment for next year, please turn that in as soon as possible. This is an exciting time in the life of Central Presbyterian. God is leading us on a wonderful journey and future filled with service for Our Lord. Won't you come be a part of this with us.

Be sure to stop by **Collin Street Bakery** this Saturday, December 9, between 1 - 2:30 pm, to hear our **choir and handbells** treating customers to Christmas music!

Presbyterian Women's Tea will be held at the home of Rita Smotherman, 1369 Windstone Court, Waco, December 12 at 10:30 am. Please bring a goodie to share!

Advent Devotional Booklets are available to be picked up in the narthex.

Future Dates

December 8 - Mission Crafters, 10:30 am

December 9 - Adult choir and handbells at Collin Street Bakery, 1 - 2:30 pm

December 10 - Second Advent Group meeting, 6 pm

December 12 - Presbyterian Women's Tea, 10:30 am

December 17 - Third Advent Group meeting, 6 pm

December 19 - Stated Session meeting, 6 pm

December 24 - Christmas Eve service, 6 pm

**NO Supper Club
or
Potluck Lunch
in December**

Christmas Joy Offering

To help retired church workers and their families, the Christmas Joy Offering provides critical financial assistance through life's challenging circumstances. You may give generously through our special offering on December 24, during morning worship.



Celebrating Birthdays

Andrew Bryngelson - December 12

Linda Williams - December 22

Melissa Rhoden - December 25

(We are missing many birthdays in our database; please let us know yours!
We need the year to enter the date in the database, but will never print it!)



December Scripture readings are available in the Narthex or click [here](#) to view.

The Weekly News is published each Thursday and sent to members via email. It is also mailed to members who do not have email or desire a printed copy. Printed copies are also available in the church narthex. Church activities and pertinent event information is available on the church website: cpwaco.org