

**CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

9191 WOODWAY DRIVE WACO, TX 76712
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December 6, 2018

This Sunday:

9:30 am - Sunday School - Luke 3:1-6

10:45 am - Worship

Rev. Judith March Hardie preaching

Luke 3:1-6

Stewardship Dedication Sunday

Greetings from Pastor Judith



I bought my first home during my sophomore year at college. I was 18 and didn't like the restrictions of living in the dorm. Since then, I have owned at least one house all but the last seven years. I find that even now that I prefer thinking of myself as an owner-something about buying/building/owning. I forget that everything I have ultimately came from someone else. I am but a temporary manager. Being a steward isn't quite the same as being a renter, where I might pay to use this apartment, while not having to do the lawn or take out the trash. No, the steward has power and responsibility, some freedom and choice while still being responsible to both care for the property and to provide whatever dividends the owner wants in return. God is our owner-creator. We belong to God; everyone and everything belongs to God. What does God want

from us as we manage/steward our bodies, ourselves and our organizations?

Once, there was a group of women and men who came together, investing their time, their talents, and their treasure to help purchase land on the outskirts of a small town and build a building where they could produce something they thought the world needed. They formed a board of directors for finances and making decisions, as any good organization would. They brought in CEOs who knew the business well and helped them to grow. Soon, both the town and the organization had grown. They moved and built again on the outskirts of town, where they continued to grow and build to accommodate the stockholders who came to learn about the product being offered.

With more and committed investors, they were able to use some of the dividends to provide more esthetics and programs for the stockholders, and to further praise and market their product. They were not elite, they knew their business was good for everyone, stockholders and the town as well. No matter how new or old the stockholder, no matter how big or small the investment, the product and the dividends were good and worthy. The business grew and grew, and after many years decided to move again to the outskirts of town.

You might be interested to know more about the product and dividends. The products are the greatest improvements and life-givers you can ever find: the Love of God, the teachings of Jesus, and the encouragement of the Spirit. In return for these gifts, we give our praise and gratitude to God, and we follow Jesus in loving God with all our heart and mind and soul and strength, and loving and respecting our neighbors as we do ourselves. The dividends are the fruits of this work: Love, Joy, Peace, Faith, Courage, Kindness, Hope, Compassion, Forgiveness, Health, Humility, and Self-control, as well as an Abundant Life.

So, stockholders, stewards of this House of God, I would encourage you to invest your time, talent and treasure in this stock-sure organization, for the dividends are abundant and wonderful. It is only with your investment and careful stewardship of all that God has placed among us that we can continue to grow and improve and extend the Grace of Christ outside to the community that is growing up around us. More stockholders are always welcome. There are even seats regularly open on the board. Come, join our efforts. We call it "good stewardship," but Jesus calls it living an abundant life.

Like those first 18 women and men who began this branch of an organization almost 150 years ago, let us invest of ourselves, give praise to God, follow the teachings of Jesus, and reach more people who yearn to know this abundant life we know in Christ. This Sunday is Consecration Sunday, when we commit our time, our talents, and our treasure to creating and developing Christ's ministry here at Central. So please, pray and commit, give and grow, rejoice and be grateful! Amen. Grace and Peace, Judith



**Advent Groups
December 9 & 16**

Christ is Coming! Hallelujah!

Join us at Collin Street Bakery

to hear our choir & handbells
offer Christmas music!
Saturday, December 8, 1 - 2:30 pm



Poinsettia Orders

If you would like to purchase one or more poinsettias for the sanctuary (\$15 each), please fill out an order form (in your bulletin Sunday) and indicate "Flower Fund" on your check.

150th Anniversary

Save the DATES! We hope all of you have already marked your calendars for **Sunday, February 17, 2019**, when we will celebrate Central's 150th anniversary with a special worship service and festive luncheon. To highlight Central's many years of faithful service to the community, there will be an All-Church Service Day on **Saturday, February 2, 2019**. We hope that ALL members and friends will participate in one of the planned service events:

- Caritas Hidden Treasures Resale store -- Sort donated items with Don Wall and others. (adults, older youth, ages 10-15 with a parent)
- Children Serving the Community -- Assemble blessing bags for the homeless and make cards to deliver along with homemade cookies to Woodway firefighters and police. (children, youth and adult leaders, and bakers)
- Sewing for Hospitalized Children and People Using Walkers -- Sew colorful pillowcases and pocket bags for walkers with Laura Clifton and Tricia Tolbert. (adults who can cut fabric, iron, or sew)
- Habitat for Humanity (tentative) -- Work with Jay Bryngelson and others on a current project. (adults, older youth)

Sign-up sheets with details will be available in the narthex.

Prayers

Prayers for the family of **Jim (Jamie) Smith**, who died over the weekend. He was the son of Jimmy & Nancy Smith, and brother of Janice and Libby.

Prayers for **Greg Wheeler**, whose daughter will celebrate her wedding in our sanctuary this weekend.



December 8 - Choir & Handbells will play at Collin Street Bakery, 1-2:30 pm

December 9 - Advent Groups

December 11

- Prayer Walkers, 10 am, Activities Center

Second Tuesday Supper Club at Casa de Castillo, 4820 Sanger, 6 pm - please

RSVP to Don Wall at 292-3292

December 12 - Adult Choir Rehearsal, 5:30 pm

Children's Music, 6 pm

Bible Buddies/ Youth, 6:45 pm

December 13 - Prayer Walkers, 10 am, Activities Center

December 14 - Mission Crafters, 10:30 am

December 16 - Advent Groups

December 24 - Christmas Eve service, 6 pm

Save the Date!

Judith's Installation Service

Sunday, January 13 at 4 pm

With guests from all over the presbytery

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!)



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: cpcwaco.org