



# NEWS

## UP FRONT

Beginning earlier this year the church hosted two Sacred Conversations, attended by a large portion of the congregation. We focused on values of our church.

The values that were expressed in these gatherings were:  
Embracing Humanity: doing what Jesus did and where Jesus did it;  
Open Canopy: embracing diverse humanity with welcome and acceptance;  
Downtown Oriented: a church serving the heart of Springfield;  
Generosity: encouraging and equipping people to nurture their God given gifts and use them.

The next step was to ask a team of people to meet several times and "define" what we would DO if we wanted to be known by our values. This team of people thought deeply, had conversations with members of the congregation and with individuals in our community.

Together we have produced a "map" of actions for 2025 which will be a big focus of our energy. This map includes restructuring our existing policy. At the business meeting on October 16, we voted to suspend the Bylaws and Constitution in regards to our church policy for the first six months of 2025 as we try out this new organizations structure.

Simply the "LCT" will be suspended and restructured into 3 sections:

1. Standing Teams (those things that are ongoing and required for our church to function. These include things like Sunday School leaders, Greeters and blowing the leaves from the porch).
2. Ad Hoc Teams (these will include leaders for each of the Action Steps, identified in the map referenced above. Each of these action steps will be discussed in Quarterly Business Meetings and we will include updates in upcoming newsletters.
3. An Administrative Leadership Team (ALT). this small team will help to guide the activities of the Ad Hoc Teams and be responsible for sharing progress with you. This team includes the elected Moderator, Vice Moderator, Treasurer, Benevolence Treasurer, and 2-3 at large appointments from the congregation by the Moderator.

## COMING UP

**12/3** Connecting Women, 10 a.m, Weber Lounge

**12/7** Men's Breakfast, 8 a.m, Merriam Hall.

**12/10** Leadership Coordination, 6:30 p.m, Weber Lounge.

**12/20** Christmas Fellowship 6 p.m, Merriam Hall

**12/21** Men's Breakfast, 8 a.m, Merriam Hall.

**12/24** Christmas Eve Service 6 p.m.

**12/24 & 12/25** CBC is closed for Christmas

**12/28** Piano recital by Jason Huddleston 2 p.m.

Church Office  
8-5, M-F

## Upfront (cont)

The newly elected positions were affirmed at the October Business Meeting:

**Moderator:** Leigh Steiner

**Vice Moderator:** Randy Wells

**Treasurer:** Bill Smith

**Benevolence Treasurer:** Ross Hodel

Additionally Gregg Harwood was elected as Professional Relations.

The Moderator has asked the following individuals to serve as the at large members of the ALT: Bruce Hayes, John Martin, Joleen Welch

Moderator,  
Leigh Steiner

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### Kumler Food Pantry

There was a wonderful collection of nonperishable food in November for the Kumler Food Pantry but please, don't stop now! The food insecure of Springfield are still there and still needy. We can help them! Please continue to bring a can or box of nonperishable food to the Serve the World center at church and it will be taken to Kumler.

### Wednesday Night Dinner Shelter Meals

We provide meals for Contact Ministries through MealTrain. Instructions are on the MealTrain web site. Type this link into your browser to sign up: <https://mealtrain.com/yoo5gm> or call the church office at (217) 523-3639 and Rachael will sign you up.

### Dates to Remember

**12/3 Connecting Women** meets at 10 a.m. in Weber Lounge.

**12/7 Men's Breakfast** meets at 8 a.m. in Merriam Hall.

**12/10 Leadership Coordination Team** meets at 6:30 p.m. in Weber Lounge.

**12/20 Christmas Fellowship** at 6 p.m. in Merriam Hall.

**12/21 Men's Breakfast** meets at 8 a.m. in Merriam Hall.

**12/24 & 12/25 Central Baptist** is closed for Christmas.

**12/28** Piano recital by Jason Huddleston at 2 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

## BIRTHDAYS

**12/9** Anne Tankersley

**12/16** Helen Richardson

**12/17** Ralph Billings

**12/23** Jim Nelson

**12/29** Gregg Harwood

**12/29** Stephanie Beal

## ANNIVERSARIES

**12/24** Fred and Suzanne Stericker

**12/27** Mike and Kiersten Large

If we missed anyone, let us know at [rachael@cbcchurchfamily.org](mailto:rachael@cbcchurchfamily.org)

## NEWS AND NOTES

### Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering

Friends in Christ:

I am writing to encourage your giving to your last annual offering of the year, the Retired Ministers and Missionaries offering of our American Baptist Churches, USA.

The Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering, RMMO, as you know, supports MMBB's effort to support retirees or their surviving spouses with emergency assistance when needs outdistance resources. Each retiree or surviving spouse also receives a "Thank you" check each November. Mine arrives each year just in time to meet expenses in the latter half of each November. So, thank you very much for your gifts to this offering last year.

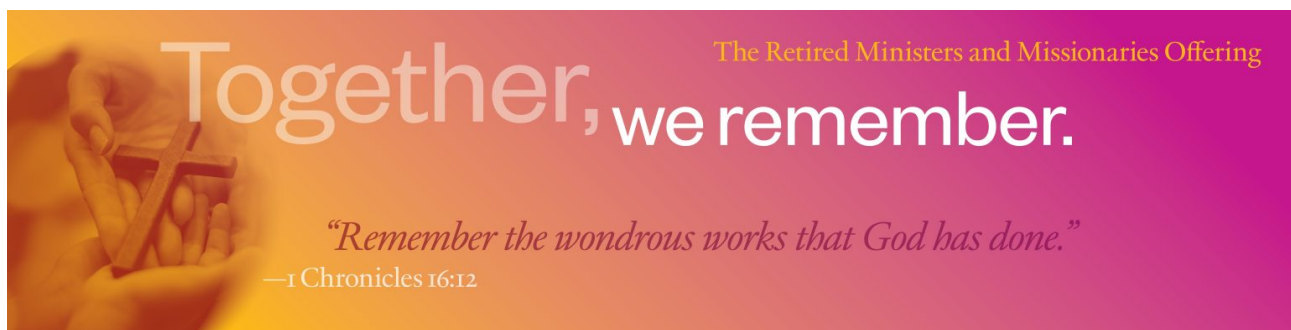
I mentioned above the support this offering assists in providing emergency assistance when needs outdistance resources. Here is an example: about 15-16 years ago, MMBB member retirees who were able and interested, were given the opportunity to visit, either by telephone, or, preferably, if possible, in person. My wife, Macbeth and I made these visits in Central and Southern Illinois as well as several members who lived across the whole of Missouri. In our travels, I recall one person who spoke with us about the stresses on their income that year. The person was very concerned about how their ability to cover their expenses would be impacted by the annual adjustment to the monthly annuity payout they would receive the following year. Our gifts to RMMO each year help provide help for those in circumstances like this. This is the significance our gifts to "RMMO 2024" will have for many.

So, again, thank you for your past support and your consideration of the gift you can make this year.

Thank you all for your thoughtfulness in this matter.

In the peace of Christ,

Rev. David R. Nicholson, M.Div., BCC, retired Senior Staff Chaplain, Springfield Memorial Hospital (formerly Memorial Medical Center), Springfield, Illinois and member of Central Baptist Church.



## NEWS AND NOTES (Cont)

### Graham Mart

The 9th annual Graham School Christmas Mart will be held in Merriam Hall on December 14 this year. In case you don't know about the Mart, here is a quick synopsis.

The Christmas Mart is basically a store, set up for one day, for parents of Graham School to select gifts for their children for Christmas. (We have an inventory worth about \$35,000. We don't spend that much though. The items for the Mart are purchased throughout the year at clearance sales and stored at the church until the big day. Monetary donations are always welcome.)

The parents purchase a \$5 voucher at the school which allows them to shop. That money stays with the school for special projects. They bring the voucher to the church and a personal shopper helps them choose a gift from four categories: A WANT (toy), a WEAR (clothes, coats), a NEED (pajamas, slippers, pillows, etc.) and a READ (book). Parents are given wrapping paper and bows and take the gifts home with them. For some parents, this is the only way they can obtain gifts for their children. We serve about 200 children from Graham and when the Mart is done, items that are left are distributed to other worthy organizations.

Many volunteers are needed to make this event happen. Most of the teachers at Graham help on this day—some of them have been doing it for 9 years. Some Central members have also been volunteering for 9 years.

Volunteers are needed for the following positions: Personal shopper, merchandise restocker, parking lot attendant, carry-out help and hospitality. Volunteers will be needed from 8:30 am to Noon. You can work the entire time or an hour or two. There is a sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center, or you can call Sharon Smith at 217-416-8047.

This is our way of blessing the families of Graham Elementary School.

Remember in Matthew 25:40 Jesus says, whatever you do to these my brothers you do it unto me.

Sharon Smith

### Connected Pairs

Stephanie and Donna would like to wish everyone and their families a very Merry Christmas!

