# The Challenge

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

## **THIS SUNDAY**

View our 10:55 am worship service Sunday live on our website or directly from YouTube.

## SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**September 28, 2025** 

#### **SERMON**

Rev. Matt Sapp
"Our First Identity"

#### **SCRIPTURE**

Psalm 148 Genesis 1:1-5; 24-31

#### 8:45 am and 10:55 am

Worship Service Special Music EnsembleNYC

#### 9:45 am

Sunday School

#### Nursery

Available for children birth-three years

# Bluegrass & BBQ Fundraiser Wednesday, October 15

Join us for a night of music with the Straynotes, BBQ, and fundraising! On Wednesday, October 15 during our regular Wednesday night dinner we are planning an evening focused on our partnership with the Ruth School in Romania. Our special quest will be Stefan Neaga with his wife Evelina, visiting all the way from Romania, who will speak about his experience, first as a camper and now as a translator for the school. Stefan got to know those on our mission team who served in Romania in 2024, and he is excited to come experience some southern culture and share his story!



Proceeds from the dinner will help offset the cost for those attending the 2026 Romania Mission Trip scheduled for June, when we will send a group of 15 to facilitate a 5-day overnight camp for 40 Roma children who attend the Ruth School.

That evening, we will have several opportunities for you to give through a cake auction, generous donation, or you can pre-order a cooked Boston Butt to take home and put in your freezer! We hope you will come meet Stefan, learn more about the Ruth School, eat amazing BBQ and enjoy great music, all in support of our 2026 Romania Mission Team!

To pre-order a Boston Butt, please contact <u>Courtney</u> in the church office.

## Flu Vaccine

Wednesday, October 1 4:30 pm-6:00 pm

Shots will be offered prior to and during dinner on Wednesday, October 1. Please call or <u>email</u> the church office to reserve a time to receive a flu shot.



<sup>\*</sup>Prescriptions are required to be sent to Lee King Pharmacy from pediatricians for any kids under 13.

## Pastor's Pen

## Ordaining Dr. Ronnie Oliver

When Dr. Ronnie Oliver began serving at Central, one of our questions for him was whether he had ever considered being ordained as a minister. Although Dr. Oliver has served in academic roles for most of his professional career, he has also regularly served in ministry settings since he was a graduate student. Dr. Oliver served churches in Texas, Kentucky, and New York prior to his service at Central.

After two and a half years as our Minister of Music and Worship, after prayerful and deliberate thought on Dr. Oliver's part, and after several conversations between me and Ronnie, we are intending to ordain Dr. Ronnie Oliver to the gospel ministry on Sunday morning, October 19.

This Sunday I will ask our Board of Deacons to pass a resolution affirming this action on behalf of our church pending the approval of Dr. Oliver's ordination council. The ordination council will meet prior to Sunday, October 19 and will be comprised of leaders in our church as well as ministers and friends who have known Ronnie for much longer than we have.

In the Baptist tradition, the local church is granted the authority and responsibility for the ordination of ministers. It is not a responsibility we, or any church, should take lightly. Ordination is a compact and a process entered into between an individual minister, the local church, and God himself. In that way it is a holy process that sets apart individuals for holy service. It is both an honor and privilege for Central Baptist Church to be engaged in this process both with Dr. Oliver and with the God we aim to serve together.

I hope you'll do two things for me as we engage this process as a congregation. First, pray for Ronnie. Thank God for his unique giftedness and for the blessing of his presence among us—and pray for God's continued leadership in Ronnie's life and ministry. And second, be here for Dr. Oliver's ordination service on October 19. We don't ordain ministers very often. It will be a holy and meaningful celebration.

See you Sunday,

Matt

## **Music Ministry**

The Chancel Choir's rendition of Thomas Tallis'
"If Ye Love Me" was just lovely—thank you!
And thank you to Becky, Yen Yu, and Henry for
their beautiful music! Such a great variety of
music here at Central!

This weekend, EnsembleNYC will be joining us in our worship services Sunday morning and bringing a great concert at 2:00 pm. Invite everyone you know!

Save the date! On October 28, at 5:00 pm, our Chancel Choir will be joined by the Fayetteville First United Methodist Choir in a concert of hymns and gospel songs—another great opportunity to invite friends to Central.

Gratefully,

Ronnie



## **Women's Ministry**

Ladies Bible Study Tuesdays at 5:30 pm



We are studying "Ten Women of the Bible" by Max Lucado throughout the year. You can purchase the book from Amazon **HERE.** 



Purses in the Pew Monday, September 29, 11:00 am

Missy Ward Angalla Amani Sasa, Uganda, Africa

Reservations are appreciat-

ed for name tags; reservations are required for lunch (\$8).

Please click the link **here** to sign up!



## Ladies Coffee Hour Thursday, October 2, 9:00 am

Join us every first and third Thursday of the month at Leaf and Bean. No need to make a reservation; just show up and enjoy the fellowship of your peers.

## **Youth Ministry**

# ATTN: Parents of College Students & Young Adults!

We are making a new effort to stay connected and show some love to our college students and young adults. To do that, we need some information from you. Please fill out the Google Form below or have your adult children complete it. We hope to use this information to send care packages and have events throughout the year. Thank you in advance! Click HERE for form.

CBF-GA Fall Retreat Nov. 7-9 at Camp Glisson



Click **HERE** to register and for some information.

## **Senior Adult Ministry**



Our senior adults had a wonderful time in Oregon two weeks ago! Thanks to Christy and David Van Drew, Brandon Respress, and Josh Tate for helping us with airport transportation!



Senior Adult Breakfast at Town & Country Wednesday, Sept. 24, 9:00 am

Join us every second and fourth Wednesday of the month at Town and Country. No need to make reservations; just show up and enjoy the fellowship of your peers!

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#### CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Matt Sapp Pastor

Rev. Katie Faison Associate Pastor for Congregational Life Dr. Ronnie Oliver, Jr. Associate Pastor of Music & Worship Rev. Annie Westbrook Associate Pastor to Youth and Families Mrs. Amanda Willoughby Children's Ministry Director Mr. Henry Lee Organist Mrs. Yen Yu Chen Pianist

Mrs. Debbie Porrello Financial Manager

**Mrs. Courtney Haynes** Sr. Administrative Assistant **Mr. Randy Boswell** Facilities Maintenance Manager

Mr. German Lopez-Figueroa Custodian

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### LOOKING AHEAD

### Sunday, September 28

8:45 am Worship Service

9:45 am Sunday School

10:55am Worship Service

2:00 pm EnsembleNYC Concert

6:15 pm Finance Meeting

7:00 pm Deacon's Meeting

#### **Monday, September 29**

7:15 am Youth Prayer Breakfast

11:00 am Purses in the Pew

6:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal

### **Tuesday, September 30**

7:00 am Men's Bible Study

10:00 am Feeding Our Friends

5:30 pm Ruth Drake Ladies Bible Study

#### Wednesday, October 1

5:15 pm Wednesday Night Supper-Chicken Gumbo & Muffaletta Sandwiches

5:45 pm Grades 1-5 Choir Rehearsal

6:00 pm Youth Group

6:00 pm PK-K Choir Rehearsal/Activity

6:00 pm REST, Communion Service

6:45 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

## Stewardship Update Sunday, September 21, 2025

Weekly Budget Needs \$32,486.92

Budget Offering \$16,461.00

YTD Budget Needs \$1,234,502.96

YTD Budget Offering \$1,124,153.81