The Challenge

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

THIS SUNDAY

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

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 14, 2025

SERMON

Rev. Matt Sapp
"The Joy of New Songs"

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 98:1-5 John 3:13-17

8:45 am

Worship Service
Special Music
Amazing Grace—My Chains
are Gone
Coleman Ryan

9:45 am

Sunday School

10:55 am

Worship Service
Special Music
I Sing Because I'm Happy
The Chancel Choir

Nursery

Available for children birth-three years



Deacon Election Sunday, September 14

At the end of both worship services

This year we will be electing five new deacons to serve a three-year term.

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.



*Prescriptions are required to be sent to Lee King Pharmacy from pediatricians for any kids under 13.

Pastor's Pen

Making Room for God

On Sunday we talked a bit about creating blank space in our lives. In Luke 14 Jesus reminds us that the life of a disciple requires planning and preparation before action. We don't become good disciples by accident. It doesn't' just happen on its own. It requires intention. So we need to leave room for God to move in, among, around, and through us.

Like a building project requires careful planning to see it through to completion, so it is with the life of a disciple. Like a successful military campaign requires intention and preparation, so it is with the life of the disciple.

Most of us get the basics of discipleship. Like an architect understands the basic principles of design and construction, or like a general understands the basics of military strategy, most of us as Christians understand the basic principles and values of discipleship. But those principles and values don't get applied in real world situations without careful thought and intention, without planning and preparation.

So, to see this discipleship thing through to the end, to see the teachings of Jesus applied in ways that transform us, we need to be intentional about how we structure our lives. When we're committing our time to work or family or play maybe we ask the question, "How do I order my life so that faithfulness is the most likely result?" I wonder how many of us ask discipleship questions outside of church?

Knowing the path to discipleship and following it are two different things. In Luke 14 we're reminded that you don't get from "knowing" to "following" by osmosis; it takes intention.

This week, think about the order and clarity that a little blank space in life might provide. Make a little room for God. And as you think about the rhythms of the coming days, weeks, and months, ask, "How do I order my life so that faithfulness is the most likely result?"

See you Sunday,

Matt

Music Ministry

Well, the Chancel Choir demonstrated that they are great at digging potatoes! (Ask them!) Thank you, Choir, Asia, Yen Yu, and Henry for your meaningful musical offerings on Sunday. And WELCOME YEN YU! I'm so excited that Yen Yu is joining the Music Ministry team here at Central.

Upcoming Events:

September 28—EnsembleNYC in our worship services and a concert at 2:00 pm. Please invite friends, family, enemies, pets—it will be a wonderful concert of a variety of great music. We'll also be taking an offering to benefit both EnsembleNYC and Bridging the Gap.

October 26—Concert with Fayetteville FUMC in our sanctuary on Sunday, October 26 at 5:00 pm. It will be a concert of hymns and gospel songs!

Gratefully,

Ronnie



Women's Ministry

Ruth Drake Ladies Bible Study Begins Tonight!



The Ruth Drake Ladies Bible Study begins tonight, Tuesday, September 9. We will meet in the Cauthen-Cole Sunday School room on the 2nd floor from 5:30 pm-6:30 pm.

Please read day 1 and 2 of Sarah of "Ten Women of the Bible" by Max Lucado. You can purchase the book from Amazon **HERE.**



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

NOTE DATE CHANGE

Missy Ward Angalla Amani Sasa, Uganda, Africa

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

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

Ladies Retreat 2025





Deadline to register is September 19

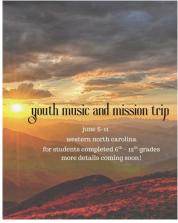
Join us for our annual ladies' retreat this fall. We will gather in Columbus, GA. Columbus has a variety of things to do. Great places to eat, take a walk around the river, shop, visit historic sites, sit by the pool, or if you are really adventurous you can choose to zip line and/or whitewater raft. We will read "Bread and Wine" by Shauna Niequist prior to going and have a few opportunities for discussion throughout the weekend.

Please click **here** to sign up and for more information!

Youth Ministry

Youth Mission Trip Interest

Summer 2026, we are planning a trip to the Asheville area of NC to serve the community there and help with hurricane recovery work. If your student is interested in attending this



trip, please fill out the form found at the link below. Completing the form is not a commitment to attend, but will give us a better idea of how to prepare and best communicate. Click **HERE** to fill out the Interest Form.



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

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

Senior Adult Ministry

Senior Adult Breakfast at Town & Country Wednesday, Sept. 10, 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!

In Sympathy

Sympathy is extended to Bobby and Mary Ann Bell in the death of Bobby's brother, Allyn Bell, who passed away on Sunday, September 7, 2025.

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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 14

8:45 am Worship Service

9:45 am Sunday School

10:55am Worship Service

4:00 pm NCYC Rehearsal

Monday, September 15

7:15 am Youth Prayer Breakfast

6:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal

Tuesday, September 16

7:00 am Men's Bible Study

10:00 am Feeding Our Friends

5:30 pm Ruth Drake Ladies Bible Study

Wednesday, September 17

5:15 pm Wednesday Night Supper-Pizza

5:45 pm Grades 1-5 Choir Rehearsal

6:00 pm Youth Group

6:00 pm PK-K Choir Rehearsal/Activity

6:00 pm Adult Bible Study

6:45 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Stewardship Update Sunday, September 7, 2025

Weekly Budget Needs \$32,486.92

Budget Offering \$26,391.00

YTD Budget Needs \$1,169,529.12

YTD Budget Offering \$1,067,806.81