From Your Shepherds

It is the elders desire to be true shepherds for the Central family. We pray that the joy of God reflects in our lives.

The Shepherds

March begins the transition from the winter months to days of summer. We will see God’s handiwork produce spring flowers, shrubs and trees.

Many great things are happening at Central. The new education program was presented by Ryan. His presentation was very detailed and has been received with enthusiasm. Preparing our youth for the future in a world that is ever changing is vital. Being prepared for the snares of life is beneficial for all ages.

Our theme for the month of March is “Joy” or happiness in God. Our daily lives bring new trials. James 1:2-3 says “count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces faith.” Satan’s desire is that you will turn against God. We will have “JOY” knowing that if we do God’s will, we will be rewarded with a home in heaven with Him eternally.

March 2018

Shepherds: Tom Butler, Kevin Gardner, Mike Keith, Doug Matthews, Keith Welder
Deacons: Ronny Bayless, Leon Davis, Kenny Johnston, Darrell Morgan, Jon Talley

Address Service Requested

Schedule of Services:

Sun Morning Classes: ........... 9:30 a.m.
Sun Morning Worship: ......... 10:30 a.m.
Sun Evening Bible Study: ....... 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: ......... 6:30 p.m.

March 1, 2018
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Rejoice in the Lord
Philippians 4:4

Minister - Ryan Ary
Associate Minister - Bill Johnston
Youth Minister - Matt Hughes
Reflections from Ryan

Life, Liberty & the Pursuit of Happiness

The Declaration of Independence states that we as Americans have three unalienable rights given to us by the creator. They are: Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. I couldn’t agree more that God did and has given us life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. However, as Christians I believe we have taken two extremes in the latter part of this promise. We have either misplaced the “pursuit” of happiness for “I have the right to be happy”, or we have been confused as to what happiness really means.

From the very beginning of man and woman on earth, the devil has been telling us these lies to get us to seek personal happiness. In Genesis 3.1, the Bible refers to the devil as “crafty”, and then the first thing he does to Eve is cause her to doubt her personal happiness. She thought she knew what that was until the devil came along and caused her to question her loyalty to God. She thought she knew happiness, but the devil tricked her and caused her to see that God was withholding true happiness and life from her and Adam. Now, we know the real story, the devil a liar. What he did was very crafty, it was also false information on his part.

In fact, John would call the devil the “father of lies” (John 8.44) and Peter would compare him to a lion, seeking to devour others (1 Peter 5:8). So, the question is, have we once again given into the lies of the devil and believed that we as Christians, have the right to be happy or have we been confused as to what real happiness is?

Here is the problem with those two things. Neither one of them is right. Now, there is nothing wrong with wanting to live a happy life or wanting a successful life, but is it supposed to be life’s most important pursuit? No. In fact having that as the most important pursuit in your life is harmful because it leads to irresponsible or sinful behavior. Or worse, it leads to making spiritually immature decisions.

God always has and will always value our holiness more than our happiness. Again, God wants you to be happy, but his happiness is different from what the writers of the Declaration of Independence had in mind. Now, don’t misunderstand, the happiness we are discussing isn’t God’s happiness but the worlds happiness. These two are vastly different.

So, what is biblical or true happiness? It is knowing that we have been forgiven by God (Colossians 1.13-14), it is knowing that the blood of His Son cleanses me from my sins (1 John 1.7), it is knowing that His love and grace covers a multitude of my sins (1 Peter 4.8) and it is knowing that He has reserved for me a place of eternal rest (1 Peter 1.4). The list goes on and on, and it is filled with things or ways that God cares for his children each and every day.

Is every day of my life promised to be filled with smiles, wealth and health? Absolutely not. Is every day prom-

Prayer Request

Julie Reedy is dealing with lung cancer.
Roger Fort had gall bladder surgery on February 2nd.
Deloris McGee diagnosed with ovarian cancer.
Bobbie Templeton had hip replacement surgery on February 20th and is now at Signature for rehab.
Sue Bancroft was hospitalized with cellulitis.
Naomi & James Droke dealing with health issues.
Masie Eversole waiting for tests on her lungs in April.
Zelda Pridemore home after a stay in the hospital.
Peggy McDurnon fell and broke her arm.
Pat Guess is in the East Ridge Life Care for rehab.
Carol Long had a C7 on February 27th.
Eva Dyer is in Signature Healthcare for rehab.
John Thomas suffered a heart attack.
Dennis Howard suffered a heart attack.
Ronny Meyers dealing with lung cancer.
Annette Lockert was diagnosed with breast cancer.
Angela Jones living in Panama.
Doug Matthews had quadruple bypass surgery on February 21st.
Beverly Stewart - last stages of dementia.
Roy Satterfield - had knee replacement surgery.
Larry Stephens will be having total shoulder replacement surgery on March 1st.
Anne Sneed under Hospice care.
Jeff Howard - dealing with infection in hip socket.

Upcoming March Events

3rd - Drop-in Farewell - Please join us on Saturday, March 3rd in the New Fellowship Hall from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. as we say farewell to David, Alice, Emily and Taylor Dunn. As most of you know, David has taken a job in South Carolina. There will be cake and desserts.
4th - Garden Plaza Worship service - 3:00 p.m.
16th - Golden Eagles Fish Fry in the OHF
19th - Baby Shower for Hannah Hughes
24th - Easter Egg Hunt from 3:00-5:00 at the home of Robert and Barbara Wright. Ages up to 5th grade. See Shelly Mowry with questions.
W. I. N. G. S. (Women in God’s Service) - The ladies have decided to start a service group for the 2018-2019 year. We will meet on the 4th Sunday of each month following evening services.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the following families on the loss of their loved ones:
- Allison & Andrew Ragland on the passing of their uncle, John Stubbs.
- Ralph Soos on the passing of his son, Randy.
- Donna Eversole on the passing of her grandmother, Katherine Elliott.
- Janice Matthews, on the passing of her brother-in-law, C.L. Murray.

For the month of February, our local Benevolence program helped 45 families which included 129 people!

Please let Ronny Bayless know if you would like to help!

It’s That Time of Year... March 11th