



# Reaching Wide & Growing Deeper

*JANUARY, 2025  
NEWSLETTER*

## January Theme: All Things New

**January Fighter Verse: Isaiah 43:18-19**

**“F**orget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing. Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.



### OUR WORSHIP IN-PERSON

LIVESTREAM, FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE @ 11:00AM  
[www.centralbaptistnyc.org](http://www.centralbaptistnyc.org)

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**  
**Wednesday, January 8, 2025**  
**7:00PM**  
**In person & Zoom**

**Nursery available at 10:45a — Infant to 5 years old**

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

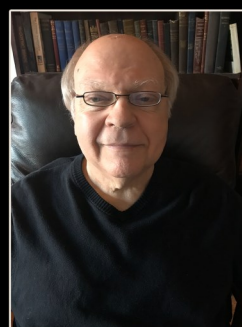
**Adult Sunday School 9:45AM In Person and via Zoom**

**Youth Sunday School 11:15AM**

**Kindergarten to 12th Grade**

**2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays.**

**Mark Marchak Memorial Service**  
**January 11—2PM**



**Mark Marchak**  
September 29, 1950 - December 21, 2024

**Memorial: Jan 11**  
**Service: 2 PM**

Please keep Karen, Alena, Aron  
and so many other family and friends  
in prayer as they mourn.

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### In Retrospect— December Activities

**T**he holiday season at Central is always busy, but this year seemed particularly busy with church wide events along with any ministry specific activities or celebrations that might not have been on the official calendar.

I assume you, like me, did not attend every event. So rather than reading about each event, take some time to reflect on those you did attend. How did the event

*continued on page 2*

# JANUARY DEVOTIONAL

## Star of Wonder

By Debby Holland Diaz MA ThM

*And when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, Wise men came from the east to Jerusalem, saying Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we saw his star in the east, and are come to worship him. And when Herod the king heard it, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judea: for thus it is written through the prophet, (Micah 5:2) And thou Bethlehem, land of Judea, art in no wise least among the princes of Judah: For out of thee shall come forth a governor, Who shall be shepherd of my people Israel (Matthew 2:1-6, RSV Revised Standard Version)*

God has led me to begin the New Year with us meditating on the faith and courage of those Wise Men who boldly traveled to a foreign land because they wanted to worship the King whose Star they followed faithfully. May we be so bold in our faith as we follow our Lord! Let's reread Micah 5:2 as it appears fulfilled in Matthew 2:6. Isn't it exciting to see how a 300 year old prophecy from one of the minor prophets, Micah—who advocated pure worship of the Lord—comes true!

Throughout the Old and New Testament, God speaks to us through prophets, foreigners, women, men, even through a donkey! In this beloved Christmas Story, God speaks through a thing—a Star! Ask God to help you meditate on that special Star, the Divine Light, Jesus!

Come to the light, 'Tis shining for thee. The Light of The World is Jesus!—Chas.W. Fry

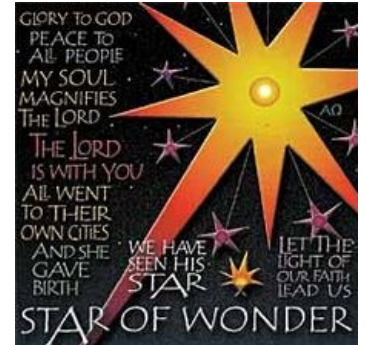
God protected and guided the Wise Men, whether or not they believed in The God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Micah, because they were faithful to God's call. They unquestioningly followed God's Star until "it came and stood over where the young child was." (Matthew 2: 9b) and then, in verses 10 and 11, they rejoiced and worshipped Jesus! Let us continue to rejoice and worship Jesus every day of this New Year!

Let us praise God for the inspiration of the Star and the Wise Men. Let us thank God for the fulfillment of an

ancient prophecy. Let us rejoice that God sent forth Jesus to be our shepherd, not an elected leader, not a military ruler, but a shepherd. Thank you God for sending your son Jesus into the world to shepherd real people long ago and to shepherd all people ever since. Let us daily follow Jesus our Shepherd!!

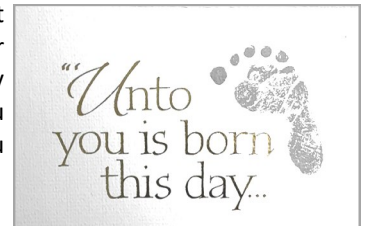
Savior, like a shepherd lead us. Much we need thy tender care!

—Dorothy H. Trupp



*In Retrospect— December Activities—continued from page 1*

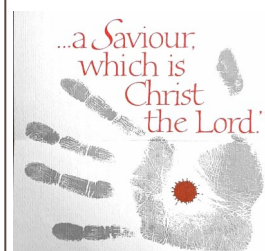
make you feel? Did the event meet your expectations or were they surpassed? If they were surpassed, why? If you were disappointed, do you know why?



It's well known that the holidays can be a difficult especially if this the first Thanksgiving, Christmas and/or New Year's without a loved one. The season can be a bag of mixed emotions from the constant veil of loss to the light of joy bursting around you. Experience it all, and most importantly don't stop breathing. Rest in our Savior's arms, bask in God's presence and let God love you. Remember God's promise to never leave or forsake you. Jesus promised, "I am with you..." in Matthew 28:20. One of my favorite Christmas cards is based on Luke 2:11 "unto us is born this day a Savior which is Christ the Lord." That's a praise moment!

The holidays are fixed and confined on the calendar i.e. November 28, December 25, January 1, but fluid in our hearts. Be thankful and joyful each day knowing that God loves you, cares for you and knows what you need even as He makes all things new.

Sharrata Hunt



Dayspring Cards  
Concept by Christopher Patcher  
Handlettering and Art by Connie Smiley

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Opportunities to come together to learn, pray and fellowship.

## BIBLE STUDY

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

#### Adult

9:45AM— In person and via Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/6831601413>

Enter the meeting ID 683 160 1413 when prompted.

Phone: 646-558-8656

#### Sunday Youth Group

11:15AM—2nd, 3rd & 4th Sundays

In-Person OR

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/6831601413>

Enter the meeting ID 683 160 1413 when prompted.

Phone: 646-558-8656



### Senior Bible Study

Wednesdays

12 Noon to

1:00pm

Miss Ann's Room

### WEDNESDAY IN THE WORD

7:00—8:00PM

Wednesday Night Bible study is a great way to keep your heart and mind on God! Join us for an interactive, in-depth reflection on the scriptures and how they can be applied to your life.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/6831601413>

Enter the meeting ID 683 160 1413 when prompted.

Join Zoom by Phone: 646-558-8656



Join us as we explore and diagnose our spiritual health.

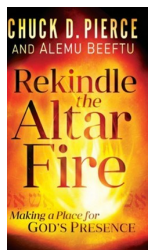
Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/6831601413>

Or dial in on your phone:

(646) 558-8656

Enter the meeting ID 683 160 1413 when prompted.

## Senior Ministry Events



### SENIOR BOOK CLUB

Saturday, February 1st

2-4pm, Miss Ann's Room

*Rekindle the Altar Fire—Making a place for God's presence*

by Chuck D. Pierce & Alumu Beeftue

### Senior Technology "Basic Cell Phone Usage"

Wednesdays

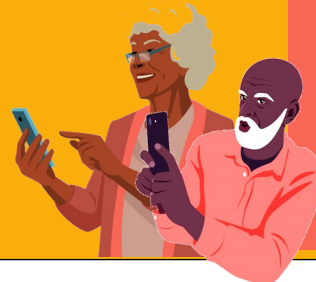
11:00am to 12 Noon

January 8

January 15

January 22

Miss Ann's Room



## Senior Ministry. Exercise Program

No Class January 1, 2025

Saturday, January 4—Chapel

Saturday, January 11—Chapel

Saturday, January 25—Chapel



### Senior Ministry Monthly Meeting

"Christmas In January"

Saturday, January 18, 2025

2pm to 4pm - Chapel

"Secret Santa Gift \$15.00 Max



# Church Wide Events — Celebrating Community

## Central Baptist Church Senior's Ministry

Invites you to: "NOAH"

Sight & Sound Theatre Lancaster, PA

**Saturday, July 19, 2025**

Leave Central at 8:00am – Return at 9:30pm

Tour Includes: Deluxe Motor Coach Transportation, Buffet Luncheon at Millers Smorgasbord, Shopping at Tanger's Outlet Discount Center

Cost: **\$240.00** Per Person  
(Deposit and 2 Payment)

Deposit of **\$40.00** due by **January 15, 2025**, to Secure Seat.

**Make Checks or Money Orders payable to:**  
Central Baptist Church  
(Note on check Senior Trip)  
See Otis Coleman regarding payment plan.  
All payments are to be given to **Otis Coleman**.



150 Riverside  
Drive & West  
87th Street, New  
York, NY 10024

Each 2nd Saturday Central goes to The Riverside center to bring the residents a worship service. Come and bring a willing heart to serve. We meet at the church at 10AM and walk over to the center as a group. Ministry ends around 12 noon. See the upcoming dates.

**January 11**

**February 8**

**March 15**



**Saturdays**  
**9:30-12 noon in Lower Gym**

**Open to the public.**  
**All levels.**  
**Equipment available.**

## FINANCIAL HEALTH SEMINAR



Sunday, January 5 and January 12  
immediately after service.

Presentation by  
Salvator Spagnuolo of  
Prudential Advisors.

Each session is one hour.  
Refreshments will be served.

*This event is sponsored by the  
Deacons of Central.*

## THE WONDER OF HIS BLESSINGS

By Lois Ewald

The wonder of God, Who loves to bless His world  
The wonder of God, Who loves to bless His people  
The wonder of the Bible, His book of blessings promised  
The wonder of blessing for the man who does not walk in  
the counsel of the wicked, or stand in the way of  
sinners, or sit in the seat of mockers  
The wonder of blessing for those who delight in the Lord,  
who meditate on His law day and night  
The wonder of blessing as he lives like a tree by streams of  
water, seasonal fruit, leaf never withers  
The wonder of blessing as the Lord watched over his way  
The wonder of blessing for the poor in spirit, the kingdom  
of Heaven is his  
The wonder of blessing for the mourners, comforted  
The wonder of blessing for the meek, inherit the earth  
The wonder of blessing for those who hunger and thirst  
after righteousness, will be filled  
The wonder of blessing for the merciful, shown mercy

The wonder of blessing for the pure in heart, see God  
The wonder of blessing for peacemakers, called His sons  
The wonder of blessing for those persecuted because of  
righteousness ... Kingdom of God is theirs  
The wonder of blessing for those insulted, spoken evil of,  
with false accusations, a great heavenly reward.

The wonder of blessing for nations who serve God, for  
children who honor parents, those who regard the poor  
and weak, whose strength is the Lord, who come in His  
name, who maintain justice, who fear the Lord, who keep  
the law, who give for nothing to gain, who persevere, who  
wait for the blessed hope, who read the Word of God, who  
wash their robes in the blood of the Lamb, who wait upon  
God, etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc., etc. THE BIBLE

*Used by permission*

*See a brief bio of Lois Ewald on page 8.*

## Praying Together

**W**ith so many opportunities to pray corporately with one another. Below are the leaders and ministries who need your prayers. Create a prayer journal and keep track of the requests and praise reports.

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH	CITY, STATE & COUNTRY
Pastor Fils-Aime	New York City
Pastor Robert Casteline	Leadership of NYC, State and Country
Willana Mack Hudson	The World and personal circumstances
Deacons & Elders	<i>Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16</i>
Ministries	
Missionaries	
Members and Friends of Central	
Sick and Shut-in	

### DAILY PRAYER MEETING BY CONFERENCE PHONE

Led by Elder Deryck and Sonya Tonge  
(609) 746-1164  
Access Code: 667293#  
Monday — Friday  
6-6:30 AM

### EVENING PRAYER

Friday, January , 2025  
At 7:00PM  
Via Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/6831601413>

Enter the meeting ID 683 160 1413 when prompted.  
Phone: 646-558-8656

## Praying for our Leadership

**B**elow are the names of our Elders, Trustees and Deacons. Please pray for them and their families. As members of our congregation, we each have a Deacon who will reach out to you periodically to see how you're doing and if you have any needs or prayer requests.

If you don't know who your Deacon is, email [deaconsasmarch2024@groups.outlook.com](mailto:deaconsasmarch2024@groups.outlook.com) or call the church office and leave a message requesting a call from your Deacon.



### ELDERS

Rev. John Fils-Aime  
Rev. Robert Casteline\*  
Vincent Clark\*

\*Interim for 1 year



### TRUSTEES

Yulando McMullen, Trustee  
Myrna Phillips Gibson, Trustee  
Taji Phillips, Trustee



### DEACONS

Deacon AnnDenise Brown  
Deacon Kimberly Casteline  
Deacon Otis Coleman  
Deacon Sharrata Hunt  
Deacon/Trustee Yulando McMullen  
Deacon Michelle Newkirk  
Deacon Joyce Powell  
Deacon Sherry Reid  
Deacon Esther Romero  
Deacon Jean Thelusme



**L**et us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16

# January 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b> 30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>2</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>3</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>4</b> 10:00-11:30A-Pickleball 11:00-11:45A-Senior Exercise—Chapel
<b>5</b> 9:45A ---Adult Sunday School 11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP 11:15-Sunday Youth Group 1P-FINANCIAL HEALTH SEMINAR	<b>6</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>7</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 7PM-Tuesday Talk Back	<b>8</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 12P-Midweek Prayer-Phone; 11A-12P—Senior Technology Class 12P Senior Bible Study-Chapel 7:00P-CONGREGATIONAL MEETING—In Person & ZOOM	<b>9</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>10</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>11</b> 10A-RIVERSIDE REHAB 10:00-11:30A-Pickleball 11:00-11:45A-Senior Exercise—Chapel 2P-Mark Marchak Memorial Service
<b>12</b> 9:45A ---Adult Sunday School 11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP 11:15-Sunday Youth Group 1P-FINANCIAL HEALTH SEMINAR	<b>13</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>14</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 7PM-Tuesday Talk Back	<b>15</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 12P-Midweek Prayer-Phone; 11A-12P—Senior Technology Class 12P Senior Bible Study-Chapel 7P-Wed Nite Bible Study—ZOOM	<b>16</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>17</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>18</b> 10:00-11:30A-Pickleball 2P-Senior Ministry Meeting—Christmas in January, Secret Santa—Chapel
<b>19</b> 9:45A ---Adult Sunday School 11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP 11:15-Sunday Youth Group	<b>20</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>21</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>22</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call 12P-Midweek Prayer-Phone; 11A-12P—Senior Technology Class 12P Senior Bible Study-Chapel	<b>23</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>24</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>25</b> 10:00-11:30A-Pickleball 11:00-11:45A-Senior Exercise—Ms. Ann's
<b>26</b> 9:45A ---Adult Sunday School 11A-SUNDAY WORSHIP 11:15-Sunday Youth Group	<b>27</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>28</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>29</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>30</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call	<b>31</b> 6-6:30A Prayer on Conference call  7pm-Evening Prayer Zoom	

## MISSIONS AT CENTRAL

**L**isted below are all the missionaries that Central supports listed by their Mission Boards. 10% of Central's tithes and offerings go to support our missionaries.

### Global One 80

Joaquin and Oneida Vargas, Arizona & Mexico

### Missions Door

Francklin and Nerlie Alexis, Haiti  
 Felix and Amnerys Abreu, Dominican Republic  
 Edwin and Liz Colon, Brooklyn, NY  
 Herode and Edline Guillomettre, Haiti  
 Duane and Miriam Mansveld, Montreal, Canada  
 Ray and Valerie Ramos, Brooklyn, NY  
 Marvin and Denise Robinson, Rochester, NY

### United World Mission

Matt and Nicole Paschall, Hungary

### Urban Life Source Connection

Dale Belli, New York City

### World Outreach Ministries

Luis and Azucena Matute, Panama & Costa Rica  
 Dr. Azucena E. Matute, Panama

### World Venture

Barry and Peggy Owen, Asia

### **The Great Commission** **Matthew 28:16-20**

**T**hen the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

**M**ay the love of the Lord overflow in your life. You can do all things through Him who gives you strength. Happy birthday!

Eloise Edwards	Jan 01
Paul Jones	Jan 02
Jordan Campbell	Jan 07
Myani Mayo	Jan 07
Christopher Phillips	Jan 08
Myrna Phillips Gibson	Jan 09
Georgia Ana Coates	Jan 09
Jarren Bolden	Jan 11
Christine Lewis	Jan 11
Omari Pusey	Jan 12
Taji Phillips	Jan 13
Lenworth Bennett	Jan 13
Madelyn Woodard	Jan 13
Coralita Simon	Jan 16
Henry Stone	Jan 16
Michelle Newkirk	Jan 18
Camille Sanneh	Jan 19
Ruth Browne	Jan 20
Judy Sabater	Jan 21
Elaine Parker	Jan 22
Noah Foster	Jan 22
Grant Jefferson	Jan 23
Martha Clark	Jan 26
Gracie Dickerson	Jan 26
Edith Phillips	Jan 26
Jackson Luding	Jan 27
Kaylee Castillo	Jan 29
Charece Williams Gee	Jan 29





## Keep Central's finances in prayer!



**R**emember this: *Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.*

**2 Corinthians 9:6-8**

## About Lois Ewald



All my springs are in Thee...  
Ps. 87:7, 36:7-9

- Prayer Ministries
- Discipleship
- Bible Classes
- Nursing Home Ministries
- Prison Ministry
- Children's Prayer Gatherings
- Outreach to Internationals
- Conferences, Breakfasts



Lois Ewald, Director  
Global Springs Ministry, Inc.

**L**ois Ewald, has been involved in Christian ministry for many years with various groups of people. Her ministry in New York included work with international students and with her husband John, served as directors of Hephzibah House on the upper west side of Manhattan a ministry providing affordable accommodations to missionaries, pastors, anyone serving in ministry. Her involvement with prison people has been a calling from God for her. For about forty years, she has been privileged to be with both women and men in prisons in New York City, New York State, and Indiana. Even though she is in her early 90's, she continues to serve.

*Wonder of His Blessings* is taken from her latest publication *Wonder of Wonders*. It is a major blessing that Mrs. Ewald has given us permission to use excerpts from her publications.

**Newsletter Staff:** Pastor Robert Casteline, Oversight; Paulette Forbes-Igharo and Sharrata Hunt. Special thanks to Debby Diaz, Nadja Hicks, and Tanya Glenn.

## The Last Word

by Nadja Hicks

*There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early.*

**Psalms 46:4-5 (KJV)**

**T**here are plenty of ways to start a day. But the word *start* has surprising implications. It comes from an Old English word meaning *leap up*. Further digging reveal meanings of *to rush*, *to fall*, *tumble*. The word *begin* may seem like a synonym for *start* but inspect its etymology closely and find a shade in a very different color. *Begin* comes from an Old English term meaning *to open*, *to undertake*, and also *take the first step in*, and *come into existence*. Another characteristic of the original word is that it is only found in compound forms. *Begin*, in my naïve study of it, implies receptivity, yet a state of active engagement, and requires connecting to something more than itself in order to become anything at all.

Usually I begin my day with prayer. Usually. Sometimes there's an uptick in pressures trying to sneak through the cracks. Before getting out of bed, competing "voices" shout worries, hopes, distractions, responsibilities, rudely demanding attention, trying to storm the gates at the first sign of waking.

Yet Psalm 46, like a still small voice, whispers directly over circumstances both personal and shared—wars and rumors of wars, natural disasters, politics, and our own troubled hearts...

With every vividly described extreme, the psalmist emphasizes how they cannot wrestle away God's power.

*Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. God is within her; she will not fall; God will help her at the break of day.*

Sometimes mornings threaten to *start* rather than *begin*. They demand we *leap up*, *rush*, *fall*, *tumble* into the day. But in that immediate demanding noisy *now*, we can be still and know *He is God*. Then we can *open up* to what will *come into existence*. When we seek Him first and connect, our first step can be into the Lord's river of calm protection, the essential first step for the day to become anything at all.