

Central Scene

Central Presbyterian Church



Church Mission Statement

To celebrate God's love, nurture growth, share our faith, and serve the needs of others

Church Membership

Membership in Central Presbyterian Church is open to all who profess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. New members will be received upon baptism and profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith, or by letter of transfer.

Words From the Pastor

How serious are you about the Word of God?

There was a guy who opens his Bible at the chance and picks a verse for the day by putting his finger randomly. One morning this was his verse for the day. It was from Matthew 27:5: "Judas went out and hanged himself." No, no, no, that cannot be! he thought. So, he tried again. The second hit was Luke 10:37 "Jesus said yes, now go and do the same" Now he was stunned, "really, Lord?" No! let me try one more time, he thought. And the last one was John 13:27 "What you do, do it quickly."

How serious are you about the Word of God? Christians around the world confess unanimously that the Bible is the Word of God. It means that the Bible is only authority for faith and for the practice of the believers. It is the final authority to Christians. It means that we, Christians are holding the Bible, the Word of God, to be our ultimate guide for what we believe (faith) and what we do (practice). So to us, the Bible is above the authority of any person, any tradition, and any opinion. (And how often do we put Bible under the authority of human knowledge, understanding, or culture?)

Jesus prayed to the Father for His disciples and said; "Sanctify them by the truth. Your Word is the truth" (John 17:17). When Reformers cried out "Sola Scriptura," they meant that the Bible is the sole authority that defines and governs the whole life of the believers. It is that seriousness that we must hold when we approach the Bible.

Martin Lloyd-Jones once said that "it is not a harsh judgment to say that the most obvious feature of the life of the Christian church today is "superficiality." Christians these days don't go deep into the Word of God. They want quick answers to their life problems. They prefer quick satisfying and sensual style of worship. They read Bible quickly and briefly. Even those who follow the reading plan, they read the portion of the day, and read the meditation done by someone else. And say, Hmm... Ok... Good! Reading Bible without deep thoughts and mediation will lead the readers into the superficial Christian life.

Let me remind you once again that God chose the Bible as the main passageway to deliver His message to you. It is His personal and private letter to you. God communicate with you through the Bible. God speaks to you through the Bible. God tells you where to go, and what to do with the Bible. Flipping through the Bible and picking verses randomly is a dangerous scheme.

Upcoming Events

May 5th

Men's Breakfast 8am
Work Day 9am

May 14th

Women's Circle 6:00pm

May 20th

Pentecost Sunday
Fellowship Luncheon
Session Meeting

Sunday School 9:30 AM

**Young Adults Sunday
School 9:30 AM
(New class forming)**

**Choir Practice Wednesdays
at 6:30pm**

**Noon Bible Study
Thursdays**

**Evening Bible Study
Thursdays at 6:30pm**

History of Hymns

"Come, thou Fount of every blessing"

Robert Robinson

Perhaps all hymns are to some extent autobiographical in that they reveal something of the author's spiritual experience. In some hymns, the autobiographical thread is stronger and more obvious. Such is the case with British Baptist hymn writer Robert Robinson (1735-1790), who as a barber's apprentice, fell under the powerful influence of George Whitefield's preaching.

A favorite line in the last stanza, "Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love," is thought to be particularly autobiographical, referring to Robinson's early life, when his mother sent him to London to be an apprentice. It was during this time, according to hymnologist Kenneth Osbeck, that "he associated with a notorious gang of hoodlums and lived a debauched life" until he came under the spell of Whitefield.

After his conversion in 1755, Robinson first preached at a Calvinistic Methodist chapel at Mildenhall, Suffolk, and then founded his own independent congregation at Norwich. He was re-baptized in 1759 after taking up Baptist theological perspectives.

This led to his nearly 30-year relationship (1761-1790) as pastor of Stone Yard Baptist Church at Cambridge. Baptist hymnologist William Reynolds notes that Robinson "was an unusual man, and, while lacking formal education, he rose to great prominence as a preacher, scholar." Robinson published *A History of Baptists* in 1790.

"Come, thou Fount of every blessing"

Robert Robinson

**1 Come, thou Fount of every blessing;
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unchanging love!**

**2 Here I raise my Ebenezer;
hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.**

**3 O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.**

“Come, thou Fount of every blessing,” written in 1758, was the first hymn in *A Collection of Hymns for the use of the Church of Christ, Meeting in Angel-Alley, Whitechappel . . .* (1759). Martin Madan included the first three stanzas in his *Collection of Psalms and Hymns* (1760), which established the practice of eliminating the original fourth stanza.

The missing stanza follows:

O that Day when freed from sinning,
I shall see thy lovely Face;
Clothed then in blood-washed Linnen [sic]
How I’ll sing thy sovereign grace;
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry,
Take my ransom’d Soul away;
Send thine Angels now to carry
Me to realms of endless Day.



One of the most obvious biblical allusions appears in stanza two: “Here I raise mine Ebenezer/ hither by thy help I’m come.” The Hymnal Revision Committee for the 1989 United Methodist Hymnal received requests to alter this stanza by omitting the term “Ebenezer,” which means “Stone of Help,” a reference to 1 Samuel 7:12: “Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Jeshanah, and named it Ebenezer; for he said, ‘Thus far the Lord has helped us.’” But not finding a suitable substitute, the Committee chose to maintain the original language.

On this side of the Atlantic, the tune NETTLETON has been the most common but not exclusive musical setting for this famous and well-loved text. NETTLETON first appeared in John Wyeth’s *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second* (1813).

Dr. Hawn is professor of sacred music at Perkins School of Theology.

Central Women

Upcoming events for all Central women:

Saturday, July 14--Brunch at Margland--\$15.

Tuesday, December 11--Dinner at Margland--cost unknown at this time

More details as the dates are closer.

Trinity Village Assisted Living

Betty Coles has been designated as your “go to” person for Central Presbyterian Church. If you are interested in Assisted Living at Trinity Village or you know someone who may be interested but hesitant to make a phone call, she will be more than happy to meet with you or that person and/or go with you on a tour of the facility.

We are very proud to be a part of Trinity Village. Please contact Betty Coles (501)-535-3729 for more information.

Gifts to the Church

**In Loving Memory of
Billy Ray VonTungeln**

Pat Drewett

**In Loving Memory of
Bonnie Rauls**

Ann Woolley

Jimmy & Sheila Horn

**In Loving Memory of
Bonner Grier Davis, Jr.**

Pat Drewett

Karen & David Perdue

Central Presbyterian Church

6300 Trinity Drive

P.O. Box 1105

Pine Bluff, AR 71613

...a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) through Synod of the Sun and the Presbytery of Arkansas.

Directory

Office Number (870) 879-9074
Email: office@centralprespb.com
Website: www.centralprespb.com

Pastor:

Reverend Jai D. Kwak
pastor@centralprespb.com

Secretary:

Justine Anton

Nursery Attendants:

Laura & Zac Cosner

Clerk of the Session:

Zac Cosner

Presbyterian Women Moderator:

Kay Cromwell

Session

Class of 2018

Kay Cromwell
Mike Kelley
Lynda Vick
Karen Perdue

Class of 2019

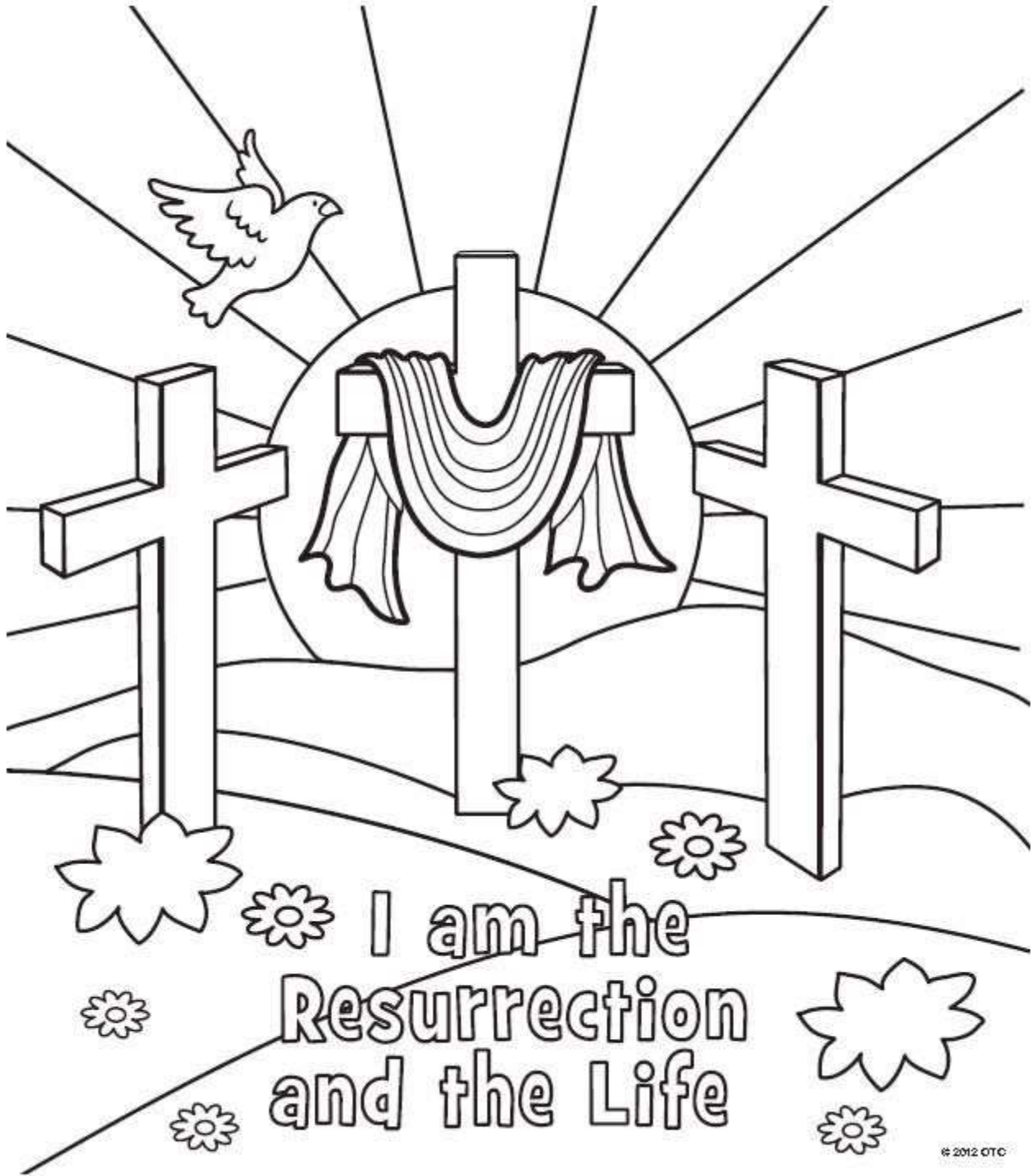
Zac Cosner
George Mosley
Brad VonTungeln
Logan Mosley

Standing Committee Moderators:

Zac Cosner Budget & Finance
Zac Cosner Fellowship & Nurture
Kay Cromwell Missions & Outreach
George Mosley Building & Grounds
Logan Mosley Education
Lynda Vick Worship & Music

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the June issue of Central Scene is May 22, 2018. Please let us know if you would like to continue your subscription by emailing us at office@centralprespb.com.



I am the
Resurrection
and the Life

Lectionary Readings for May 2018

6th Sunday of Easter— May 6, 2018	Ascension of the Lord— May 10	7th Sunday of Easter— May 13	Day of Pentecost— May 20	Trinity Sunday— May 27
Acts 10:44–48	Acts 1:1–11	Acts 1:15–17, 21–26	Acts 2:1–21 or Ezekiel 37:1–14	Isaiah 6:1–8
Psalm 98	Psalm 47 or Psalm 93	Psalm 1	Psalm 104:24– 34, 35b	Psalm 29
1 John 5:1–6	Ephesians 1:15–23	1 John 5:9–13	Romans 8:22– 27 or Acts 2:1– 21	Romans 8:12–17
John 15:9–17	Luke 24:44– 53	John 17:6–19	John 15:26–27; 16:4b–15	John 3:1–17

Acts 10:44-48 Revised Standard Version (RSV)

Gentiles Receive the Holy Spirit

⁴⁴While Peter was still saying this, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. ⁴⁵And the believers from among the circumcised who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶For they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, ⁴⁷“Can any one forbid water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

May 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Choir Practice 6:30 pm	3 Noon Bible Study Evening Bible Study at 6:30	4	5 Men's Breakfast 8am Work Day 9am
6	7	8	9 Choir Practice 6:30 pm	10 Noon Bible Study Evening Bible Study at 6:30	11	12
13	14 PW Circle 6:30 pm	15	16 Choir Practice 6:30 pm	17 Noon Bible Study Evening Bible Study at 6:30	18	19
20 Pentecost Sunday Fellowship Luncheon Session Meeting	21	22	23 Choir Practice 6:30 pm	24 Noon Bible Study Evening Bible Study at 6:30	25	26
27	28	29	30 Choir Practice 6:30 pm	31 Noon Bible Study Evening Bible Study at 6:30		

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P.O Box 1105

Pine Bluff, AR 71603



03 *David Perdue*
04 *Ruth Holland*
07 *Frank Merritt*
11 *Kyle Judkins*
14 *Brady Vick*
19 *Mildred Gaunt*
20 *Heather Cogburn*
23 *Jayne Varnell*
23 *Lurline Elam*
28 *Adam Cogburn*
29 *Laura Cosner*

19 *Mr. and Mrs. Jameson Massey*
20 *Mr. and Mrs. Danny Reeves*

If you or a family member has been omitted or would like to be added to the Birthday and Anniversary list, please contact the church office.