



**CENTRAL
BAPTIST CHURCH**
LOVING • LEARNING • LEADING • LIVING

APRIL 2021 NEWSLETTER

APRIL THEME: HE IS RISEN

April Fighter Verse— Isaiah 25:8

He will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people's disgrace from all the earth. The LORD has spoken.

OUR WORSHIP

IN-PERSON
LIVESTREAM, FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE @ 11:00AM
Www.centralbaptistnyc.org
Adult Sunday School 9:45AM via Zoom
Dial in phone number: 646-558-8656

IN THIS ISSUE

- April Birthdays — Page 1
- Member Highlight —Katherine Smith — Page 2
 - Pastor's Devotion — Page 3
 - Announcements — Page 4
- Pray from our Missionaries — Page 4



April Birthdays

Chris Gee	4/4
Eddie Sims	4/4
Erica Winn	4/4
Jermaine Bolden	4/5
Jacqueline Santiago	4/5
Ronald Pusey	4/6
Lauren Jones	4/12
Phillip Jones	4/12
Alexis Phillips	4/13

Azalee Evans	4/14
Rhonda Marshall-Leneau	4/17
Eleise Menjivar	4/20
Julissa Burbon-Marcelin	4/23
V. Ann Denise Brown	4/24
Betty Johnson	4/24
Gwendolyn Barnes	4/27
Julie Harris	4/29
Sandra Cook-Richardson	4/29



Member Highlight: Katherine Smith

by Paulette Forbes-Igharo

Answers provided by Katherine Smith who kept her maiden name after she married Joseph Selch.

How have you and your family coped with the self-isolation and related challenges of the pandemic?

I decided early on to make lemonade out of lemons regarding the self-isolation and its related challenges. I am deeply grateful for the blessings of stable housing, enough tangible resources and the love and support of family and close friends when so many others are suffering homelessness, hunger and loneliness.

Describe the positive aspects you have experienced in your life due to the prolonged shut-down during the pandemic.

On a personal level, I have benefitted a great deal from the global time-out. I have used the extended period of time and lack of outside distractions to clarify my priorities, improve my closest relationships, including the one with God, and move forward on numerous home projects.

Describe one thing you were forced to do as a result of the pandemic which you would like to continue moving forward.

It has been very positive beyond words to spend my days with Joe. He has been working remotely as a high school Science teacher and with the increased time together, we have been able to identify areas of strengths and weaknesses in ourselves as well as our marital and family relationships. With the complete cessation of the busyness of life as usual in NYC, we have taken full advantage of the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to assess where changes need to be made and make them happen.

What have you learned about yourself during the pandemic which you would like to maintain and/ or change? Be specific.

Joe and I recently realized that our season as parents of a houseful of young children has come to a close. We are the parents of four young adults and our "baby" is 14 years old and will be a high school student this fall, God willing. Our responsibility is no longer to care for our brood of chicks, but to support their launch into adult life.

We look forward to becoming a couple again and have started going on regular dates, getting to know each other at this new stage of life. We met almost 30 years ago, as young people discovering ourselves. For most of those years, we worked hard to raise our large family, enduring various challenges. It's our time now, to put ourselves and each other at the top of the list and we have earned the right to pursue our own dreams, - go everywhere and see everything that piques our interest!

What else would you like to share about your life and relationship which have been affected by the prolonged shut-down during the pandemic.

Throughout the shut-down, I have been single-mindedly focused on organizing every aspect of my life in preparation for, God willing, obtaining a full-time job as a NYC DOE teacher of incarcerated youth. I want to open their eyes and ears so they can turn their lives in a godly direction, and I ask my church family to pray for that goal to come to fruition. Also, I hope to re-launch my marriage and family therapy practice part-time after the pandemic ends and use my spiritual gifts and talents to heal broken families.

Another thing that I have become more aware of during the pandemic which I would like to change is that I still have unresolved feelings, anger and bitterness towards extended family members who have hurt me. I want to forgive everyone for everything and learn to enjoy the company of people whom I used to loathe.

During the lock-down, God showed me that my biggest area of struggle, the most significant thorn in my side, is the very thing which He is using to distinguish me. I have ADHD and it makes my life so hard in so many ways. I now realize that pursuing a course of study in Educational Psychology in conjunction with my own personal experience living with ADHD will prepare me perfectly to work with individuals, couples and families to overcome their own challenges with ADHD. My desire is to use that which almost completely derailed my life, but for the grace of God, to give other people hope and success. It is through the experience of actually living it myself which has provided me with the skill set and passion to assess and treat others with similar challenges.

The pandemic has given me the opportunity to comprehend the enormity and intricacy of God's plan for my life and, most of all, I want to keep my spiritual eyes and ears

A WORD ABOUT FAITH

From Wednesday Night Bible Study-March 10, 2021

"Faith is not the mind's assent to certain propositions about Jesus or about one's own sinful state. Faith is the absolute entrustment of the self to God and God alone."

Sam Williams' Commentary on *Galatians*



Exodus 16 marks the second time in merely thirty days of freedom, that the people of Israel have complained to Moses about God and how God has cared for them since God freed them. Their first complaint at the end of Exodus 15 was about how God has stranded them in the desert where there was no source

of water. Now in Exodus 16 their complaint is about how after God had provided water, God has not thought their rescue through enough because they fear that they will be stranded in the desert without food. This fear is not real because later on in Exodus 17 we learn that they still had food in the form of cattle and livestock. They are not actually starving or hungry, they are worried that their food supply will diminish in the desert and there will be no way to replenish it.

So, they do what comes naturally to them, they grumble on a massive scale. And their worry about not having food has seemingly impacted their recollection of the past. In this their second complaint, the Israelites have the audacity to look back at their time of servitude and oppression in Egypt and remember it as a period when they enjoyed a never-ending supply of meat and bread. Both complaints, though directed at Moses their God appointed leader, are in essence an attack on the reliability and the trustworthiness of God. As if the God who had planned and orchestrated their rescue out of Egypt did not also plan for their continued care. Very early on in their journey to the promised land the Israelites demonstrate what will become a theme throughout their wilderness wanderings, that the people of God don't trust God enough to depend on him for their care. When they feel vulnerable, they worry and complain instead of praying, trusting, and waiting.

God always has a plan. God had a plan to care for Israel which is why he led them on their present course. Chapter 16 contains both God's unusual response and unusual provision to the Israelites' complaining. The response is unusual because God will answer the Israelites with grace. Exodus Chapter 16 is one of those chapters you should be glad that God does not have human traits and tendencies. Because if I were God and people complained about what I was doing, and if you were God and people started grumbling against you, I would and you would answer them by giving them something to complain about. Instead, God answers the grumbling of the Israelites with grace.

He grants them meat in the form of chicken from heaven and an unusual compound called manna. And though the Israelites envisioned their past as being a smorgasbord of fine foods and meats, quail would have been considered a delicacy for them. And the manna would have been considered equally a treat. The manna is described later on in 16:31 "white like coriander seed and tasted wafers made with honey." Honey was a rarity in the ancient world, since it was found only in the wild; and to enjoy anything sweetened with honey was a luxury. So, when God answered the complaints and grumbling it would have been good just to give them food at all, but God gave them more than would they asked for and more than what they ever deserved. He demonstrated his grace.

Central, we should never forget that God regularly gives us more than what we ask for and continually gives us more than what we deserve. Prayer and trust are the way to get God to respond to our needs instead of complaining. So rather than grumbling like the Israelites did so frequently in the wilderness, let us commit to trusting God and his plans knowing that He will never forsake or abandon us.

Questions to Consider

How are our complaints against people also complaints against God?

What does our complaining say about the trustworthiness of God?

What are the areas in your life that you wish to stop complaining about?

The next time you catch a
faithless complaint
crossing your lips or even
your thoughts, take
whatever it is you were
about to use as a sin and
turn it into praise.



Bible Study, Prayer Meetings & Announcements

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY
Join Zoom by Phone: 646-558-8656
YouTube

Prayer Meetings by Phone
Conference Call
Connection
(712) 770-4711
Access Code: 667293#

Sick and Shut-In:
Monday & Thursday
6-6:30 AM

Men's Ministry:
Tuesday and Thursday
6:45-7:30 AM

Mid-Week Prayer:
Wednesday
12:00-1:00 PM
Join Zoom Prayer Meetings
by Phone: 646-558-8656.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY
"POWER HOUR" MEETING
Sunday, April 18 @ 12:30PM
Dial in phone number:
646-558-8656

"Prayer is our most powerful weapon!"

EVENING PRAYER,
Evening Prayer will meet
Friday, April 30 @ 7:00PM

Dial into the Zoom Meeting with your phone
number:
646-558-8656

Pray for those who are suffering with and
recovering from COVID-19.

Those seeking to receive the vaccine to be able to
receive the first dose and schedule the second.

The prayer requests of our family and friends.

**All Senior Ministry Activities are
cancelled until further notice.**

Pray For Our Missionaries

Our missionaries who serve with 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
Luis and Azucena Matute, Panama & Costa Rica
Vincent and Maryam Morgan, Brooklyn, NY &
Middle East
Ray and Valerie Ramos, Brooklyn, NY
Marvin and Denise Robinson, Rochester, NY

Our missionaries who serve with World Venture:

Barry and Peggy Owen, Asia

Our missionaries who serve with United World Mission:

Matt and Nicole Paschall, Hungary

Our missionary who serves with Urban Life Source Connection:

Dale Belli, New York City

Our missionaries who serve with COMINAD (Cooperative Mission Network of the African Dispersion)

Brian and Ruth Johnson,
Europe, Africa, and the Caribbean

Central Baptist Church
166 West 92nd Street
New York, NY 10025
(212) 724-4004

Office Hours:
Monday — Thursday 10:00AM — 6:00PM

Newsletter Staff

Pastor Robert Casteline
Sharrata Hunt
Paulette Igharo

Special Thanks to Kaitlin Selch