



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

DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER THEME: HEALING

OUR WORSHIP



IN-PERSON

LIVESTREAM, FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE @ 11:00AM

[Www.centralbaptistnyc.org](http://www.centralbaptistnyc.org)

Adult Sunday School 9:45AM via Zoom—Dial in phone number: 646-558-8656

IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

- Member Highlight: Vincent and Martha Clark
- Announcements — Page 2
- Devotional by Pastor Fils-Aime
“A Word About Healing” — Pages 3-4
- December Fighter Verse - Isaiah 53:5 — Page 4
- December Birthdays — Page 4

Member Highlight: Vincent & Martha Clark

by Paulette Forbes-Igharo

How are you doing in this situation, especially living in two places in this COVID environment?

Overall, we are doing well. We enjoy the opportunity to get away to



Florida during the winter and spend quality time with our children and grandchildren who live year-round in Florida. It is nice to have two homes; we get the benefit of the sunshine in Florida and the excitement and the glamour of New York.

If you had known COVID was coming, would you have changed your plans?

No. We have our family in Florida and being COVID-sequestered in Florida has not prevented us from enjoying our time with them. Also, although we are sequestered in Florida, we have the ability to go outdoors, exploring some of the

Rejoice!



*Merry Christmas
from Central Baptist
Church*

DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

Vincent & Martha Clark continued

wetlands and nature walking trails. We are also near the beach!



How do you use your time in the two locations?

In both locations, we have been keeping up with friends and family virtually and making phone calls. In Florida, we attend a nearby church in our community. It is smaller than Central and does not have as many activities, but we enjoy the sound bible teaching. We also have a weekly bible study - just the two of us - where we sing the old hymns and read the scriptures. Our son is a deacon in his church, and we attend some of the activities at that church. In New York, we keep up with relatives and friends as well as maintaining fellowship with our Central family through the senior ministry and marriage ministry.

What has surprised you in the past few months?

The level of resistance to following the CDC guidelines – mask wearing, social distancing, and regular hand washing- in order to limit the spread of COVID. It is surprising that so many view the adherence to these guidelines as an assault on their civil liberties.

What has been most encouraging?

God has used this time to strengthen our walk of faith, virtually and by phone, to reach out to family and friends a little more often as well as enjoy the blessings of spending time with our children and grandchildren. Our

prayer life for all has strengthen and increased during these challenging times.



Marha and Vincent with Pastor John and Kristy.

Bible Study, Prayer Meetings & Announcements

ANNUAL CORPORATION MEETING

Sunday, December 20, 2020, 1:00PM

In-Person & via Zoom

Join Zoom by Phone: 646-558-8656

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Topic: Galatians

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE: Dec. 2, 9, and 16;

Bible Study Cancelled: Dec. 23 & 30

Join Zoom by Phone: 646-558-8656

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, December 20 @ 12:30PM

Dial in phone number: 646-558-8656

"Prayer is our most powerful weapon!"

EVENING PRAYER

Due to the Christmas Holiday,

Evening Prayer will meet

Friday, December 18 @ 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.

SENIOR MINISTRY

All Senior Ministry Activities are
cancelled until further notice.

A Word from the Pastor “Healing”

1 JOHN 1:9

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (NIV)



In 1 John 1:9 John the beloved apostle extols the virtue of confession. Confession is important in the Christian life in that it opens up the possibility of forgiveness; confession means that potentially our sins can be dealt with, but it doesn't guarantee it.

Imagine if it was that easy that in life and in love and in law that all you had to do was admit that you did something wrong and then all would be pardoned.

“Yes, officer I was doing seventy in a school zone.”

“Ok, you confessed; you are now free to go without a ticket.”

“Baby I just wanted to let you know that I lost our life savings and the kids college tuition betting on the Jets to win a game.”

“So long as you admitted it, that's all-right Sweetie.”

“Boss, I didn't do the project that you told me to do, I was out this weekend and I didn't feel like finishing.”

“You didn't? That's perfectly fine. Your job is safe.”

If only it were that easy! The act of confessing doesn't exonerate us in life. The judge might reduce your sentence, but he won't suspend it. Likewise, your mere confession doesn't secure your forgiveness with God either. Now I am not saying that confession is of no value in the Christian life; confession is one of the chief spiritual disciplines. We should all be in the practice of confessing the same way we are in the practice of sinning, daily and continually. But confession, opening up to God

about our behavior, being honest with God about what we have done, only allows for the possibility of forgiveness. For John, our forgiveness is not rooted in the power of our confession, but the character of God. The real reason behind our forgiveness is God's faithfulness and His righteousness.

In the second part of verse 9 John describes God as faithful and just. God is faithful because he keeps his promises. ***Psalm 145:13 says, The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does.*** God's righteousness is His justice; He does not let sin go unpunished.

On the surface, a faithful and just God seems incompatible with a forgiving God because if God were just, he would punish us for our sins. That is why the cross becomes so important. On the cross, God judged Jesus for the sins you and I committed. We are guilty of the crime; Jesus received the judgment.

Confession opens the door to forgiveness; God forgives because of who He is. John says that there are two things that happen as a result of God's character after we confess. The first is that our debt is cancelled, that is what it means to forgive. In the ancient world when you were in debt to someone that carried legal obligations, they actually carried papers on you that said you owe them money. And when the debt was paid off, the paper was thrown up or burned. Never to go back to. When God forgives, he tears up the paper of our sin. Which means He forgets completely our offense.

Isaiah 43:25 says “I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.”

In “A Forgiving God in an Unforgiving World,” Ron Lee Davis retells the true story of a priest in the Philippines, a much-loved man of God who carried the burden of a secret sin he had committed many years before. He had repented but still had no peace, no sense of God's forgiveness. In his parish, was a woman who deeply loved God and who claimed to have visions in which she

spoke with Christ and He with her. The priest, however, was skeptical. To test her he said, "The next time you speak with God, I want you to ask Him what sin your priest committed while he was in seminary." The woman agreed. A few days later the priest asked, "Well, did God visit you in your dreams?"

"Yes, he did," she replied.

"And did you ask him what sin I committed in seminary?"

"Yes."

"Well, what did he say?"

"He said, 'I don't remember.'"

APPLICATION

As we approach Christmas, reflect on this from the *Abundant Life Study Book, Lesson 3—Faith and Forgiveness*. "About 2,000 years ago an angel appeared to a man called Joseph and told him that his fiancée, the virgin Mary, would give birth to a baby. The angel said: You are to give him the name Jesus, because He will **SAVE** his people from their sins. Matthew 1:21." Later in the lesson we read, "It is very important for you to understand clearly the greatness of God's forgiveness. The forgiveness of your sins which Jesus obtained for

you through His death on the cross is complete. Think about this wonderful truth: God forgives all the sins of the one who puts his (or her) faith in Jesus."

Acts 10:43—*Everyone who believes in him (Jesus) receives forgiveness of sins.*"



SEAN International,
1994, 1996. *Abundant Life—The Life of Jesus in You*. 17-18. New York: Albany Urban Acad.

COVID TESTING SITE Upper West Side/Harlem

**NYC Health + Hospitals/Gotham Health,
Sydenham**

264 West 118th Street
New York, New York 10026
844-NYC-4NYC

**COVID-19 Testing and Antibody Testing
Offered**

Monday – Saturday, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Sunday, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

December Fighter Verse: Isaiah 53:5

**But He was wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,
And by His stripes we are healed.**

December Birthdays

Chima Joseph	12/1
Cometia Banfield	12/2
Theresa Richardson	12/3
Ketty Pierre	12/5
Preston Gordon	12/10
Christopher White	12/11
Elijah Winn	12/12
Gwendolyn Myles-Chisholm	12/12

Lorraine Davis	12/14
Theadora Brown	12/14
Lydia Endale	12/16
Paul Levell	12/19
Edwina Chambers	12/20
Toni Barton	12/20
Maria Negron	12/20
Vincent Clark	12/22

Vincent Gerardi	12/22
Dana Wright	12/23
Sharrata Hunt	12/26
Andrew White	12/26
Patresse Phillips	12/28
Zaria Dickerson-Parker	12/29
Herbert Moore	12/31