



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

**MARCH 2021
NEWSLETTER**

MARCH THEME: GOD BEHAVING BADLY

March Fighter Verse—Exodus 33:19

And the LORD said, “I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.”

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

- Spiritual Preparation for Resurrection Sunday
 - Member Highlight — Sharrata Hunt
 - Announcements — 3
 - Pray from our Missionaries — 4
 - March Birthdays — Page 4



During this season of preparation for Resurrection Sunday, there are two opportunities to gather with your brothers and sisters to reflect and pray. Morning Devotionals on the Conference line and Road to Resurrection Video Reflections on YouTube.

MORNING DEVOTIONAL

- **Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays @ 7 AM**
- **30 minutes devotional and prayer time**
- **Conference line dial in 1 (712) 770-4711**
- **When prompted, use access code: 667-293**

For **Road to Resurrection Video Reflections**, go to YouTube and search Central Baptist Church of NYC.



Member Highlight: Sharrata Hunt

by Paulette Forbes-Igharo

You recently retired. Yes. As of the 31st of December I formerly retired.

How are you feeling and what have you been keeping busy? Though I had been thinking of retiring for a while, it was working from home due to the pandemic that I discovered how much I enjoyed being in my apartment. I experienced a daily freedom that made me want to live my life that way. Though it has been and adjustment, I enjoy not having to juggle auditions and doctor's appointments with my work schedule.

So you're are still auditioning? What about the pandemic? Yes. The auditions come in spurts. It's unpredictable so there's no planning for them. Because of the pandemic, auditions are recorded and sent to the agent. Fortunately, I have been able to get help from friends here at the church and my neighbors. I have not booked a job yet, but it's all up to God. I have to just put each audition in His Hands.

Tell me about your art? I am mostly inspired by scripture, hymns, phrases from praise and worship songs and sermons and sometimes current events. I'll do a quick sketch and then at some time do a painting or a collage. I was especially moved by the Black Lives Matter Movement and protests this past summer and how it spread around the world and I asked myself, what is my contribution as an artist to the movement. I am a member of an artist group called Creators' Haven and on our Fall working retreat I did my first Black Lives Matter collage highlighting the men who died as a result of police violence. Subsequently, I created a similar collage featuring the women who died as a result of police violence.

What else have you been up to? I have taken a couple seminary classes this past year. I am taking time off, and plan to return in September. Now that I am no longer working at the church, I have started taking part in Sunday School and Wednesday Night Bible Study. Evening Prayer continues each final Friday of the month via Zoom. Praying with and for each other is a special time for the church community and I appreciate my Discipleship Group.

What lessons have you learned as we go through this pandemic? One thing I have learned while leading Evening Prayer especially via Zoom, is to not be so strict about the format, and let the Holy Spirit lead. I have also learned it is important to stay in touch with family and friends. Sunday School and Bible Study are keeping me from spiritual isolation because it's so easy to slip into a routine that does not include important time for The Lord.

There are two verses from our first discipleship lesson I

would like to share:

Isaiah 51:1 and 2 Corinthians 4:6-7 as I remember what God has done and who I am in Christ.

Isa. 51:1—Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness and who seek the LORD: Look to the rock from which you were cut and to the quarry from which you were hewn; Isa. 51:1

2 Cor. 4:6-7—For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness,"^[a] made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

Any last words or observations?

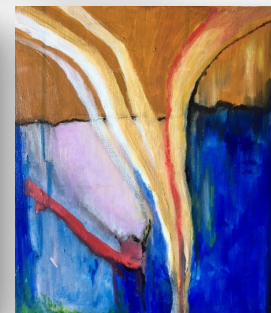
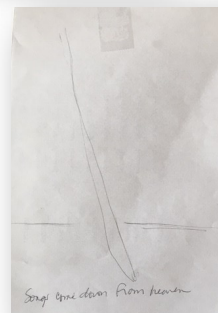
I worked at Central for 10 years and am grateful for the opportunity. I want to thank Central Baptist Church, the Pastors and the Leadership for allowing me to serve and work for them.



(Left) Black men killed by police



(Right) Black women killed by police
Mixed media on canvas—8x10



Songs Come Down from Heaven
Sketch on paper/Painting—Oil on canvas—11x14

Pastor's Devotion

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. ⁴ My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive

words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, ⁵ so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.



First Corinthians 2:1-5 is one of the apostle Paul's earliest descriptions of his preaching style and philosophy, we don't have a cd or a DVD of Paul preaching, but this passage gives us an idea of what type of preacher Paul was. Paul's description of his preaching begins with a description of his communication style. Verse 1 of chapter 2 describes how Paul preached. Verse 1 is a subtle jab at the preaching style that was popular in Paul's day. In the ancient world public speaking was an intense competition, orators would often compete for applause because the more popular the speaker, the greater distinction he earned. And these distinctions were often the pathway to wealth and fame, because popular speakers were the ones who were offered lucrative opportunities to entertain at dinners in between courses.

With so much at stake speakers often went to great lengths to distinguish themselves usually employing two of the communication styles that Paul mentions in verse 1. Brilliance of speech or your bible may read eloquence, in the Greek it is literally superior words, describes a communicative style in which the speaker demonstrated their cleverness through impressive word play. Sophisticated sophist sililoqued spiritedly so as to substantiate their sharp wit. Ancient speakers often believed that by talking down to their audience the more impressive they became. Wisdom speaks of a further attempt of the speaker to disassociate himself from his audience by again coming across as intellectually superior. And for whatever reason the more the speaker employed these methods, brilliance of speech and wisdom, the more popular the speaker became. These methods made the speaker stand out.

But Paul mentions these communication styles not because these were the methods Paul adopted, but because these were the methods Paul rejected. Paul says he did not come in this way, which means the very things that would have made

Paul popular among his audience was the very thing that Paul did not implement when he preached. In his day, Paul would not have been a very popular preacher. And Paul rejects these methods because Paul did not care about being a popular preacher. For Paul the call to preaching and by extension the call to ministry was not a call to popularity or celebrity it was a call to servanthood. If Paul were alive today Paul would not care about how many twitter followers he had, or how many of his friends liked or retweeted his comments or trying to get verified on Instagram. In Paul's day just like today, people could often become so impressed with the speaker that they lose sight of the message, so in order for this not to happen Paul says that the methods that would ensure his popularity he abandoned so that the people could focus on the message.

In Paul's thinking the person and the message could not share the spotlight at the same time, so Paul stepped out the way so that the message would always obscure the person. In fact, Paul was so committed to this idea, that later on he wrote in 2 Cor. 4, "we do not preach ourselves." Paul rejected any method that made him the center of attention. And like Paul our calling is to make the gospel of Jesus Christ famous and not ourselves.

Bible Study, Prayer Meetings & Announcements

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Topic: Galatians

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

Announcements continued

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, March 21 @ 12:30PM

Dial in phone number:
646-558-8656

"Prayer is our most powerful weapon!"

EVENING PRAYER,

Evening Prayer will meet
Friday, March 26 @ 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 from 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)

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

March Birthdays

Viola Holmes	3-Mar	Evelyn Trowell	17-Mar
Lisa Phillips	4-Mar	Jordan Winn	19-Mar
Cristal Tejeda	5-Mar	Diane Singleton	20-Mar
Adelle Marcelin	7-Mar	Willana Mack	20-Mar
Jahzara Bryant	9-Mar	Brandon Valentin Griffin	21-Mar
Kristy Fils-Aime	14-Mar	Charles Smith	23-Mar

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

Office Hours until further notice:
Tuesday — Thursday 9:00AM — 4:00PM