



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

NOVEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER THEME: UNITY

OUR WORSHIP

IN-PERSON

LIVESTREAM, FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE @ 11:00AM

Www.centralbaptistnyc.org

Youth Sunday School — Contact Pastor Robert at rcasteline@centralbaptistnyc.org

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Member Highlight: Evelyn B. Grant

Interview conducted by Paulette Igharo



How are you feeling? For the last eight months, I have been feeling a sense of loss. There is the loss of independence, loss of being with family and friends, loss of

community and loss of interaction with my church family. I am also grieving the death of family members. Last month, I experienced some health issues with my lung.

What lessons have you learned? I have learned to stay focused on what is important to me and to prioritize. I have learned to be in prayer and know that I have no answers, but God does. 1Thessalonians 5:17 says to pray continually.

What has been most surprising during these past few months? I have really been surprised at the level of violence and hatred that is going on. I am surprised that some people have total

disregard for others and refuse to adhere to the protocols that are in place for Covid-19.

What has been most encouraging? I have been most encouraged by the small group of committed members who are on the prayer call every Monday and Thursday at 6am. This is an opportunity to connect with other believers and pray for the needs of others. All are welcome to participate. You will be blessed and be able to be a blessing to others. I thank God for Elder Deryck Tonge's faithfulness.

How are you keeping busy? My five year old grandson, who is in kindergarten, is doing remote learning at home. I am assisting in that teaching endeavor. I am so blessed to be a part of his early education and to spend quality time with him.

Colossians 3:17 "And whatever you do whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." These are words to live by.

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Evelyn with the Short Term Missions Group that served in Rochester, New York in 2017.

Front row left to right: Evelyn, Georgie Coates, Missionary Marvin Robinson, Helen Jean-Michel, Winsom Samuels, Dana Wright. Back row: Patricia Holmes, Cliff Jean-Michel, Jean Thelusme, Theadora Brown and Paul Levell.



Evelyn with Otis Coleman and Coral Aubert. Pastor's Anniversary Celebration 2015.

Senior Ministry Calendar

- **Senior Ministry Bible Study** will be conducted in the Sanctuary every other week through 2020. November meeting dates are November 4 and November 18 at 12 noon.
- **Senior Book Club** resumes on Saturday, November 7, 2:00pm to 4:00pm in Miss Ann's room or the Parlor. This request is pending confirmation approval.
- **Senior Ministry Monthly Meeting** will take place on November 21 2020, from 2:00pm to 4:00pm in the Upper gym to comply with Covid-19 social distancing requirements.

A Word from the Pastor “Praying for Our Leaders”

IN CONTEXT

1 Timothy 2:1-4

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus,⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time.



The Christian's responsibility is to pray, and our prayers should be for all people who are in need of prayer, and there is a particular group of people that Paul says are in need of special prayer. Verse 2 is not a digression, but a continuation of the idea of verse 1 that prayer should be made for all people and is a reminder that when we are praying, not to exclude the people who are in positions over us. “King” was the term applied to the Roman Emperor. The Roman Emperor in Paul's day was the highest political office in the Empire and was generally considered the most man powerful man in the world.

The other group Paul mentions are “those in authority” referring to people of high status. This

was a group that included the Roman senate and all the subordinate officials who serve under the Emperor: the magistrates, the tetrarchs, the consuls and proconsuls, and all the secular

officials that had any political power whatsoever. Paul says they are in need of our prayers. **Paul understood the tremendous burden that these men and women were under, and because of the load that they had to carry they were in special need of prayer.**

The modern-day equivalent of kings and those in authority for us would be our president and all those who hold local, state or federal positions. Paul recognizes that even people who hold secular positions, are in need of God's power so that they can accomplish their purposes.

In 2009 there was an untrue rumor going around that President Obama had cancelled the National Day of Prayer. An annual day of observance in May designated by congress where people are encouraged to turn to God in prayer and to pray for our country and our leaders. When asked to substantiate these rumors, Obama said that he would never dream of canceling the day of prayer because he and his family need prayer too much. Paul says pray for our leaders because they need it.

I already know what some of you are thinking. *"Paul did not have the ability to see the future so he wouldn't know anything about the people who are holding office right now. Because if he did, he wouldn't ask me to pray for the people in Washington DC. Paul wouldn't ask me to pray for a people who use their political office for personal gain. Paul wouldn't ask me to pray for people who are so partisan they only care about half the country, and that is the wrong half."*

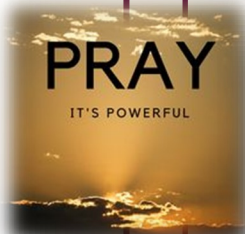
And if Paul only knew who the president would be right now, he wouldn't be asking me to pray for this man, who is a racist, bigoted, misogynistic, xenophobic, pig. He tells lies on top of lies he tells so many lies that his lies have lies, it's hard for him to keep his lies straight. He has divided this country in a way that it hasn't been in the last 200 years and on top of that he is the most vile and unqualified person ever to hold the office. I know surely

pastor, Paul is not telling me to pray for him. I will pray that he is not reelected. I will pray that he gets hit by a bus. And I know if Paul were alive today, he wouldn't feel comfortable writing these words down again." Oh really?

The sitting emperor at the writing of this letter was most likely a man named Nero. In 64 AD Nero burned most of Rome to the ground because he wanted to build himself a new castle, and he blamed the fire on Christians and as a result Christians were the object of persecution. Nero hung Christians on poles and set them on fire to provide light for dark streets. Nero set off an intense era of Christian persecution, where Christians were arrested, had their possessions seized, they were tortured, and their deaths were often turned into sporting events. Tacitus a Roman historian in that day wrote, **"it was not uncommon for Christians to be covered in the skin of wild animals, and then for Nero to unleash wild dogs or lions after them."**

Nero was more dangerous to public safety than Donald Trump could ever be. He was one thousand times crazier, he lied more often (and that is saying something), he was the worst person to hold political office apart from the likes of Hitler, and Stalin. Yet Paul tells the Christians of his day to pray for him; and if Paul could tell the people of his day to pray for someone the likes of Nero, then Paul would have no problem telling us to pray for Donald Trump and all those who hold positions of political power today. Our prayers for those in public office are not dependent on their character or worthiness. We pray for them simply because God says so.

In verses 1 and 2a Paul tells us who to pray for, in verses 2b and 4 Paul tells us why we should pray for them. The second half of verse 2 is introduced with a purpose clause and explains why Paul believes praying for our political leaders is important. **In praying for our political leaders, we are not just praying for them, we are praying that our political leaders do right by us.** The reason why we are commanded and should be committed to praying for our leaders, is so that they may enable us, as it says at the end of verse 2, to live peaceful and quiet lives. Peaceful and quiet suggests a life free of



conflict and fear. There is enough trouble in the world and what we will face that Paul does not want for the government to add to our troubles and worries. In Romans 13, Paul says that it is the government's responsibility, as servants of God, to ensure that justice is carried out. We pray for our government officials so that they can do God's will for the people instead of working against the people.

APPLICATION

By the time you receive this newsletter the 2020 election may have passed, will you commit to praying for our next president whoever he is so that God may use him for His good purposes?



1 Timothy 2:1-2

"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness..."

November Fighter Verse: 1 Corinthians 1:10

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Leroy Chisholm	11/7
Guerline Marcelin	11/9
Lisa Copeland	11/14
Destiny Jean-Michel	11/20
M. Esther Romero	11/23
Maya Newkirk	11/24
Sharaé Moultrie	11/24
Savannah Eaddy	11/27
Dorothy Lambiris	11/30

Newsletter Staff
 Pastor Robert Casteline
 Sharrata Hunt
 Paulette Igharo

Bible Study, Prayer Meetings & Announcements

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY
Conference Call Connection—7:00PM
(712) 770-4711 Access Code: 667293#

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

WOMEN'S MINISTRY
"POWER HOUR" MEETING
Sunday, November 15 @ 12:30PM
 Dial in phone number: **646-558-8656**
"Prayer is our most powerful weapon!"

EVENING PRAYER
 Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, Evening Prayer will meet
Friday, November 20 @ 7:00PM
 Dial into the Zoom Meeting with your phone number: **646-558-8656**
 This is a time when we pray as a church family for our church, our city, and our communities. Pray for those who are suffering with and recovering from COVID-19.

Youth Ministry: BASKETBALL UPDATE

While being socially responsible, the basketball teams continue to meet in the both gyms. Basketball Coaches and Youth Mentors are needed from our CBC community. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Jay at jay@uws.younglife.org for more information.

GOOD NEWS: Youth Pastor Jay Payne and his wife Christina are new parents! Alexander James was born October 23 @ 9:02am—6lbs/3oz.

Central Baptist Church / 166 West 92nd Street
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Office Hours until further notice:
Tuesday — Thursday 9:00AM — 4:00PM