Central Christian Church

Where EveryONE is Welcome

JUL-AUG
2021
NEWSLETTER

THE LINK

Poetry prayer: We Are Not Strangers written by Rev. Sarah Are

If you ask me where I'm from, I'll tell you about the South - about sweet tea, church pews, slow drawls, sultry summers.

And if you pause, then I may go on to tell you how I'm from a family of preachers, how I stand on the shoulders of generations who believed that love could be the answer.

And if you're still listening even then, I'll tell you that I'm from strong women with tall spines who have carried the weight of inequality on their backs with children on their laps.

And then I'll tell you about the kitchens that I'm from, which have always cooked enough food for unexpected guests - just in case.

Or I could tell you about the car that carried us into the mountains, summer after summer so that we could breathe again.

That's part of where I'm from. And if you haven't given up yet, then I may even mention the dirt - the earth that catches me, the earth that holds me.

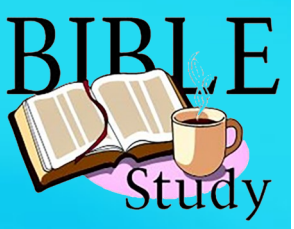
The earth that reminds me of growth. The earth that will eventually welcome me home.

You and I aren't really strangers after all.

Weekly Ministries

Bible Study

- Mondays at 10 a.m.



Celebrate Recovery

- Mondays at 6:15 p.m.

NA Meeting

- Tuesdays at 6:15 pm

Choir Rehearsal

- Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

Prayer Team

- Thursdays at 4 p.m.

Movie Night

3rd Friday of Each Month

I've been meaning to ask. . . where are you from?

Four Rivers of Eden by Hannah Garrity

Inspired by Genesis 2:4b-15 | Paper Lace

The natural beauty and wealth of the earth are poetically described in this passage. The valley of the Tigris and Euphrates weave inward, framed to the north and east by the Pishon and Gihon. The surrounding seas - Mediterranean, Persian, Caspian, Red, and Black - lean in on this land of Eden. Beauty and abundance burst forth from the earth. Where are we from? Here, we are from the earth and the water; we are from the Spirit. God reaches down and places the first humans here and molds them from the elements in this land of abundance. This image is built on the patterning of flowers in Saudi Arabia, in Syria, in Iran. Indigenous to the area, the Blood Lily, Jasmine flower, Damask rose, Purple Crown, and Desert rose bloom among the rivers and the seas of Eden. Where are you from? How is it beautiful? As I studied the satellite maps of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, the water, topography, vegetation, and human efforts to control them create a powerful sense of flow. The land appears in motion like water. From afar, the lines begin to look like patterns; repeating with variation, they remind me of the incredible intricacy of life, the omnipresence of God. There are visual parallels in the macro and the micro. A wide view of the lands and the waters of Earth are reminiscent of close-up images from within the human body. The layout that I chose for this image reminds me of dancing, of flowing to music, to the beauty of life. Where are you from? What energy and emotions do you feel about that place? (Continues on next page...)

Summer Lunch Together
Sunday | July 4th After Worship

Four Rivers of Eden (cont.) Recently, my church, Second Presbyterian in Richmond, Virginia, has been doing the important work of becoming both an Earth Care Congregation1 and a Matthew 25 church.2 We have explored the history of the church and are contemplating ways to acknowledge the land on which we stand and the actions which we have taken. I confess: before 2020, I had not thought a lot about colonialism and the theft of the indigenous people who previously inhabited the land. The most fulfilling part of this work is that we have uncovered significantly more questions than answers. When we have uncovered answers, they have often revealed pain inflicted on others and required honest grappling with the ramifications of the actions many of our ancestors took in the name of God. I appreciate this work because for the first time, it has allowed me to commit my acts of faith in the world in a way that is not hypocritical, needs no justification, and is deeply right. Where are you from? Where have you questioned your faith? Where has your faith held strong? For forty years, I have sat in the pews, I have said the words, I have sung the songs, and I have wondered why I do not feel connected to the Church and to Jesus. But this inquiry about our own origins is connectional, is deeply needed, and is the work of Jesus. This is why people keep the faith. What were we doing for all of this time? Many of us have acted on the teachings we were raised with but could not see them put into action in the Church. We were talking about love, but were not acting on the love of Christ. A whole generation has left the mainline Church for this reason. Where are you from? On whose land do you stand? From where does your authentic faith flow? How do you really connect with God? When do you feel like you are deeply and truly acting on the teachings of our faith? How can the Church put into action your genuine faith as we move forward?

A Prayer for Independence Day

God, source of all freedom, this day is bright with the memory of those that declared that life and liberty are your gift to every human being. Help us to continue a good work begun long ago. Make our vision clear and our will strong; that only in human solidarity will we find liberty, and justice only in the honor that belongs to every life on earth. Turn our hearts towards the family of nations: to understand the ways of others, to offer friendship, and to find safety in the common good for all. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

(Courtesy of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)

Pastor Ken Enters Clinical Pastoral Education

The Institute *for* Clinical Pastoral Training

Pastoral Care Definition

I think it prudent to start with my understanding of Pastoral Care. One of the primary purposes for my desiring this Clinical Pastoral Education is to help me become a more effective provider of pastoral care.

Pastoral care is providing emotional, social, and spiritual support to those going through difficult or challenging situations in their life. Contrary to the name, it need not be provided by a Pastor. A friend provides pastoral care when sitting in silence with you as you grieve the loss of a loved one. A certified nursing assistant provides pastoral care when she sits with a family member, listening to funny family stories, as they wait for the doctor to come give them word on the outcome of a surgery. An elder in a church provides pastoral care when they visit a member in a nursing home, bringing a meal from church. A ministry leader who takes a phone call from a person struggling with addiction and stays on the phone with them as they work through the current temptation is providing pastoral care.

Pastoral care is not about religion or sometimes not even about faith. It is the loving support of a fellow human when they are in need. It may be the nursing home resident who has no family in the area to visit and just needs a friend. It may be a friend whose marriage is falling apart, and they are emotionally spent. It may be someone with a terminal diagnosis searching for the meaning of their life.

Clinical Pastoral Education

Clinical Pastoral Education is an academic field of study as well as a hands-on apprenticeship. Most of the learning comes from reflecting on actual pastoral care experiences. Documenting those experiences in case studies with verbatims and reflecting on what went well, and should be repeated, as well as what could have been more effective or should not be repeated in future pastoral care situations.

Pastoral care is often provided in settings where you do not know the faith of the person needing support, i.e., hospitals, nursing homes, hospice, prisons, etc. Therefore, a critical component is interfaith theological training, that gives you the knowledge and skills to provide even spiritual support to those of different faith traditions than your own. Not evangelizing your faith tradition, respecting, and using their preferences (i.e., reading from the Koran, Book of Mormon, or Bible, praying to God or Allah) while being authentically true to your beliefs.

Much of the hands-on practical application experience that is part of the program will be achieved in a clinical setting like a hospital, nursing home or hospice. That will provide a variety of experiences to include, trauma, end of life decisions and feelings, loss of loved ones, loss of bodily functionality and faculties, providing care to both patients and family members.

What Do I Hope to Gain?

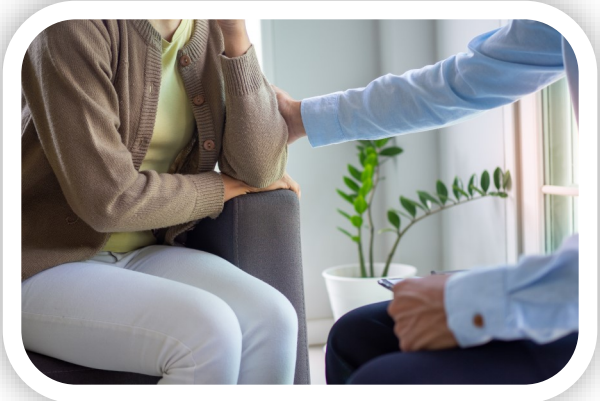
It's been in my long-term educational plan to participate in Pastoral Care Education at some point along my journey in ministry. I am applying now rather than after completing my Master's in Divinity at the recommendation of my regional denomination's Commission on Ministry. This is a required path towards ordination.

When I was called into ministry and accepted that call, I was convinced the pastoral care role would be one of my least favorite and most challenging. During the past three years, that has proven to be incorrect. Pastoral care is one of the most rewarding aspects on my ministry and has come rather easily for me.

During my training for a Certificate in Pastoral Ministry with Lexington Theological Seminary, courses in Pastoral Care have been some of my favorite, receiving some of my best grades. It helped that I had an excellent learning facilitator as a professor for those courses.

Being naturally good at something and doing it well and correctly are often two different things. Someone can love golf and be fairly good, getting respectable scores and feedback from his playing partners. However, until he or she gets professional training, they will never reach their peak effectiveness.

I want to be a more effective pastoral care provider for my congregation as well as others who my God places in my path for support. For example, one of the clinical sites I hope to complete many of my practical assignments is a nursing home / rehabilitations facility / hospice center. To my surprise, they currently do not have any chaplain calling on them. Two of our church members live in this facility. I have volunteered to provide this spiritual care for 4-hours per week. When they asked me if it was just during the period while I was in CPE training, I said, "No, let's start now and I am committing to continue after the CPE training for as long as there is a need."



The interfaith exposure during CPE should also improve my ecumenical work in my community and congregation. Understanding breeds cooperation. At the end of this CPE experience, I fully expect to be a more compassionate, understanding and accepting person.

Welcome:
Barry & Barbara Allender

We thank our Lord for bringing Barbara and Barry Allender to our church family. Barbara moved to Sarasota in 1981 and met Barry in 1991. Barry was attending Central Christian Church Bradenton while Pastor Lewis George was here. Barbara was a Eucharistic Minister at Saint Martha's Church at that time. Her daughter and grandchildren were members of First Christian Church (DOC) in Sarasota. Barry and Barabra decided to join them at that church so they could go together as a family. They were active members there for many years and both became Elders in that church. When Pastor Steve Stogner was retiring, there was a split in the church for a variety of reasons and Barbara and Barry decided to seek out another place to worship.

They had previously retired and moved from Sarasota to Bradenton. Barbara from working for the state of Florida as a Disease Intervention counselor and Barry from a successful painting business. They were looking for an all-inclusive church that was open and affirming. After a pleasant phone call with Pastor Ken they decided to come visit us. Barbara and Barry both felt their first visit to our church was so friendly and welcoming. One reason they keep coming back is because Pastor Ken's sermons are so meaningful for them and they always feel very blessed during and after worship with us.

Barbara has 2 daughters and 1 son, 6 grandkids and 8 great grandkids, for which Barry is Pops and Grandpops.

A safe place where you can be yourself – talking, walking around, making noise, etc. all are okay.

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July Servant's Schedule

SUNDAY - 7/4

1st Scripture: Barb Allender

2nd Scripture: Sherri Lee

Elder: Anita Haisch

Deacons: Pat Martin & Billie Laird

Greeter: Wendy Vanlanot

SUNDAY - 7/11

1st Scripture: Tammy Jacobs

2nd Scripture: Anita Haisch

Elder: Rick Session

Deacon: Pat Martin & Terrie Frazier

Greeter: Billie Laird

SUNDAY - 7/18

1st Scripture: Dawn Lee Thompson

2nd Scripture: Jamie Spencer

Elder: Barb Abbring

Deacon: Pat Martin & Billie Laird

Greeter: Sherri Lee

SUNDAY - 7/25

1st Scripture: Erwin Goodwin

2nd Scripture: Barry Allender

Elder: Wendy Vanlanot

Deacon: Pat Martin & Robert Blake

Greeter: Rick Session

August Servant's Schedule

SUNDAY - 8/1

1st Scripture: Terrie Zieber

2nd Scripture: Bernadette Gregson

Elder: Sue Fitzgerald

Deacon: Pat Martin & Billie Laird

Greeter: Wendy Vanlanot

SUNDAY - 8/8

1st Scripture: Micki Baker

2nd Scripture: Barb Abbring

Elder: Anita Haisch

Deacon: Pat Martin & Terrie Frasier

Greeter: Billie Laird

SUNDAY - 8/15

1st Scripture: Dale Neas

2nd Scripture: Rick Session

Elder: Barb Abbring

Deacon: Pat Martin & Robert Blake

Greeter: Sherry Lee

SUNDAY - 8/22

1st Scripture: Sherry Lee

2nd Scripture: Barb Allender

Elder: Wendy Vanlanot

Deacon: Pat Martin & Terrie Frazier

Greeter: Rick Session

SUNDAY - 8/29

1st Scripture: Anita Haisch

2nd Scripture: Sue Fitzgerald

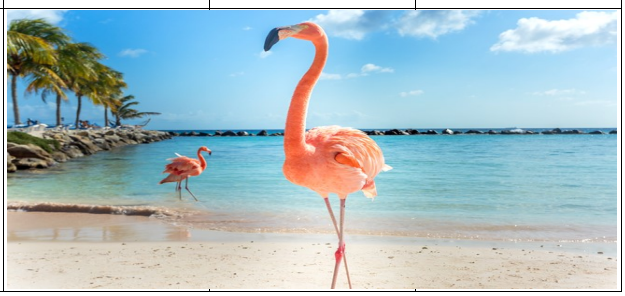
Elder: Rick Session

Deacon: Pat Martin & Billie Laird

Greeter: Wendy Vanlanot

JULY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 TERRIE ZIEBER BIRTHDAY	5	6 CEIL DYR BIRTHDAY	7 RICK SESSION BIRTHDAY	8	9	10 SUE FITZGERALD BIRTHDAY
11	12	13	14	15	16 MOVIE NIGHT 6:15	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

AUGUST

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6 AJ STEVENS BIRTHDAY	7 SHERRY LAIRD BIRTHDAY
8 ERWIN GOODWIN BIRTHDAY	9 TERRIE FRAZIER BIRTHDAY	10	11	12	13 ANITA HAISCH BIRTHDAY	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 MOVIE NIGHT 6:15	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 DIANE TAYLOR BIRTHDAY	30	31