

The Link



Disciples Women's Newsletter

FINAL EDITION

November 2015

THE END OF A GOOD FOUR YEAR RUN

This combined edition of *The Link* and *The Call* is the final publication of these newsletters.

The Link published its first newsletter in October of 2011. This issue was just 2 pages long. Four years and 24 editions later *The Link* has grown in size and hopefully in quality. The initial idea for a women's newsletter came from Jan Ehrmantraut and the name and the editorial work was provided by Nancy Morris.

In the same year another newsletter was started under the name of *The Jeremiah Chronicle*. *The Chronicle* covered the justice ministries of Central with news items, announcements and thought pieces about justice issues.

In 2014 *The Jeremiah Chronicle* became *The Call* and had a broader scope. *The Call* covered both the justice and service (mercy) ministries of Central. Photos have always had a key role in all three of these publications. Jack Morris did the editorial work for both *The Chronicle* and *The Call*.

There are two reasons why these publications are being suspended. The first is quite simple. "The Morris Publishing Company" has run out of steam after publishing a newsletter a month, for 4 years. The second reason requires a little bit more explanation. These newsletters came on the scene when Central was very concerned that it was not communicating its programs and activities well. A volunteer, non staff, effort seemed quite appropriate at the time. Now, however, under the leadership of our new Senior Minister, David Shirey, many of these communication needs are being addressed through, a somewhat expanded, *Chimes*, the new *Friday Report*, announcements in the worship service and plans to call a communications person to the staff. Let the new be born!



A Word From Elizabeth

For four years Nancy and Jack have conducted interviews, researched and investigated the inner workings of the church, and found creative ways to tell the ongoing story of Central Christian Church in the writing and editing of the newsletters *The Link* and *The Call*. In these newsletters they have shared historical information about Central and our denomination, introduced us to people in our church from Becca Rilea to Stuart and June Talbert, called our attention to the intricacies of some of the ministries of the church and reminded us of Christ's call to mercy and justice.

Jack and Nancy are passionate about the church and its ministries. Through their leadership in Disciples Women and Justice Ministries they have promoted soup drives, bake sales, the mother daughter tea party, blanket drives and numerous other events supporting the Disciples Mission Fund and other outreach ministries. You have seen Jack and Nancy registering people for events, supporting the Bread for the World offering of Letters, setting out posters, arranging tables and much more. And in the midst of all this they created *The Link and The Call* to lift up the gifts and contributions of others.

In this season of the church we consider our commitments to the church, I'm grateful for the way Jack and Nancy, with generous hearts, have given themselves to Central. Thanks to both of you for your ministry!

Women as Mentors

By Nancy Morris

Central's Disciples Women's Bible Study for the year is highlighting the remarkable women who are mentioned in the New Testament. We will learn about Anna who was able to recognize Jesus' role and calling when he is brought into the temple as an infant. She practices her spirituality and she gives voice to what she understands.

We will hear the story of the bent over woman known not by her name but by her condition. This reminds us that our names for ourselves can lead to despair and defeat rather than hope and the possibilities Jesus offers.

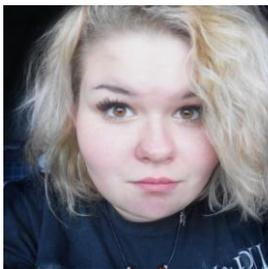
The story of the women at the tomb of Christ can be an inspiration to our present-day witnesses. Although young Mary the mother of Jesus, begins her encounter with God doubting her own worthiness she leaves with a song of praise recognizing that God's favor is for her and others who need God's favor too.

We will learn about the Canaanite mother who insists that Jesus heal her child and we think about the mothers today who advocate for their children to receive better health care and to have a better life. We learn about the mother of James and John, Jesus' encounter with the woman at the well and the woman at Bethany who anointed Jesus.

Last year we discussed the stories of important women who lived in Old Testament times and we have learned lessons from all of them.

One of the lessons we are recognizing is that women through the ages have mentored one another. I know you can list one or more women in your life, a relative or a friend who taught you, supported you and encouraged you. We have a network of mentors in our church who have taught us a lot just by example and other who have advised us and worked with us. We are lucky to have these exceptional women as our mentors. Central Christian Church is full of them so please remember to thank them and let them know how much you treasure their counsel and example. Now we need to be aware of the younger women in our church that we can mentor and encourage on their faith journey.

The Link would like to introduce you to two of Central's young women who are teenagers now and already servants in our church and examples and mentors to their younger sisters in Christ. They are Olivia Brewer and Rebecca Rilea.



MEET REBECCA RILEA

Rebecca is a bright seventeen year old who is a senior at Bryan Station High School. She really enjoys her art classes there and obviously shows talent in that area because her work has been exhibited in Central Bank's art gallery.

Becca also enjoys her participation at Central, especially working with little children. She looks after the tots in the nursery and the young children in the Worship and Wonder program. She is a special friend to five year old Max McLaughlin, son of Central Minister, Rev. Elizabeth King. Max will yell a

Friendly "Hello Miss Becca" whenever he sees Rebecca at church.

She also enjoys playing with and watching over her precious little nieces, Lillie and her baby sister, Nina.

You will see Becca on every first Sunday at the Fair Trade table with Debbie Rice. Central members are given an opportunity to purchase Fair Trade products, such as coffee, cocoa and candy, that supports farmers and helps to save the environment in Third World countries.

Sometimes you will notice that Becca is serving as deacon and serving communion during worship on Sunday mornings. She is a very dedicated Central member.

Rebecca's mother passed away about four years ago and before she died she requested that her supportive friends, Jan and Curt Ehmantraut, become Rebecca's legal guardians and they did. Becca found a new loving home with the Ehmantraut family and a new loving church at Central.

Becca told me that she has learned that all God's children have value and she wants to treat others in ways that will help them understand that they are loved and have value. (Continued on Page 3)

Her future plans after high school graduation are to attend the Paul Mitchell Cosmetology School and become licensed in this area of work. She certainly can use her artistic flair and love of color in her beauty-related career.

Rebecca shared that Jan Ehrmantraut was her mentor and had had a major impact on her life and that she considered Central member, Laura Santana as one of her mentors. Laura created and directs the extraordinary dramas involving the children in reliving Bible stories in the “Kid’s Central” Sunday school. Debbie Rice, another encouraging mentor, and Becca have worked closely on organizing and promoting Fair Trade awareness at Central as well as preparing the beads and directions for our prayer ministry.

The youth Mission Trip to the Heifer Project Ranch taught Becca about how giving something very simple can have a major impact on the lives of others. She said to remember the 4M’s when you give a gift of a goat that helps a farmer in a Third World Country. 1) **Money** – He can sell goats in the future. 2) **Milk** – He and his children can drink the milk and sell the extra. 3) **Manure** – The farmer can use the manure to fertilize his crops and make them more productive. 4) **Motivation** – When the farmer can provide for his family it gives him new hope and encouragement.

Thank you, Becca, for sharing what you learned with us. I will always remember the 4M’s when I attend the Alternative Giving Fair and stop at the Heifer Project table. I usually make a gift of ducks, chickens or honey bees but this year it is very likely that I will give a goat.



MEET OLIVIA BREWER

Olivia Brewer is another intelligent and well-spoken young leader at Central. She is sixteen years old and currently a junior at Lafayette High School. Her family consists of her mother, Holly, her older step-brothers and her Dad, Rod Brewer and her step-mother, Lori Brewer. Rod and Lori are active members of Central. Olivia lives with and spends time with both of her parents.

She is a very busy teenager who participates in Student Council, Beta Club, the Executive Board of the junior class, MU ALPHA THETA, the Rising

Republican Club and she enjoys playing tennis.

Olivia is interested in the field of math and science and is looking at Transylvania and Vanderbilt as possible colleges to attend. She plans to attend medical school and become an OBGYN and participate in the “Doctors Without Borders” program. She wants to help women around the world with their health issues and encourage them to teach their children what they have learned about taking care of their health.

You probably remember Olivia as the worship leader who sometimes reads the scriptures during the Sunday morning worship service. She reads so beautifully and distinctly that everyone in the sanctuary can hear and understand every word. Olivia shared with me that this is not an accident because she prepares very carefully by looking up the words in the scriptures that she doesn’t know. Then she practices in order to be able to read with understanding and clarity. I told her that this is such a gift to the congregation because when we can hear and understand the meaning of the words it adds so much to our worship experience.

Olivia told me that her most memorable youth mission trip was when Central’s youth visited Amor Ministries in Texas. The director of the safe haven for refugees is Rev. Phillip Berto. Central’s youth were able to see, first hand, Cuban refugees who had just arrived in Texas after spending days floating on rafts in the shark-infested waters of the ocean. Here they were given water, food and a bed in the mission where they would be safe.

Olivia felt compassion for the plight of refugees all over the world. If they survive the difficult journey to a foreign place, she became aware of the fear they experience when they are unable to communicate because they do not speak the language of the new country. She realized how much they need our physical and emotional support.

I hope you enjoyed meeting Becca and Olivia. These exceptional young women impressed me with their compassion for others, their sincerity of purpose and their intelligence. They represent a bright future for Central Christian Church.

CHRISTMAS TIME IS NEAR!

Central members are sponsoring a Mitten Tree for the students at our community partner school, James Lane Allen Elementary School. The deadline for bringing hats, caps, gloves and mittens is November 22. If you have any questions see Linda Cueni

For the second year the Outreach Ministry Team is sponsoring a Salvation Army Angel Tree. Gail Kennedy and the Outreach Team are organizing the effort. Starting on November 22 there be a table in the Gathering Area where you can register for this. Your unwrapped gifts should be brought to the church by Sunday, December 6. Watch for more details on how the Angel Tree Works.

Disciples Women are having their annual Bake Sale in cooperation with the Alternative Giving Fair on December 13th. They will be in the Fellowship Hall from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm. Stop by and purchase some delicious holiday treats for yourself, for your office and for neighbors and friends. All proceeds from the sale will be used to support Disciples Women's mission projects. Jackie Fiscus is chairing the event with assistance from Jill Harris and her granddaughter, Maggie Fiscus.

HOLIDAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 14 – Outreach Retreat 9 am to 3 pm
November 22 – Gifts due for Mitten Tree
November 22 – Salvation Army Angel Tree begins
November 26 – Catholic Action Center
Thanksgiving Dinner in Fellowship Hall
November 29 – First Sunday of Advent
December 6 – Central Choir Christmas Concert
December 13 – Alternative Giving Fair
December 13 – DW Bake Sale
December 24 – Christmas Eve Services
6:00 pm Family Service
11:00 pm Candlelight Communion Service

Disciples Women's Green Corner

Even in the hurry and busyness of the holidays you can be "green."

- Save wrapping paper to be used again
- When you shop bring reusable bags
- Laundry increases when family is home for the holidays. – Most of the laundry will get just as clean using cold water or lower the temperature on your water heater.
- When you travel lower the house temperature by 10-15 degrees while you are away.
- Buying the big tech gift? Remember that laptop computers use 50-80% less energy than desk top computers.



Insight from Central's History

The Civil War 1861-1865 – Disciple leaders Stone and Campbell sought middle ground between abolition and slavery, such as gradual emancipation. – Loyalties during the war were divided in Lexington but Main Street Church (the predecessor of Central) held things together. – The building was seized at different times by confederates and unionists, as a hospital. – at the same time some members were active in the Underground Railroad. – Main Street Church was affected by the war but shortly after the war became the largest meeting house in Kentucky. – Disciples often "hold together" despite differences.

Central Celebrates its 200th Birthday in 2016

The Call

News of the Outreach Ministries of Justice
and Mercy of Central Christian Church
FINAL EDITION November 2015

CENTRAL MEMBER, REV. BEN POAGE, RECEIVES AWARD FOR SERVICE IN APPALACHIA

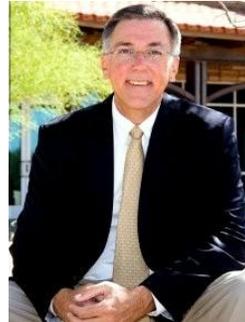


Bennett Poage, a founder of FAHE (Federation of Appalachian Housing Enterprises) was the recipient of the prestigious Dwayne Yost Friend of FAHE Award at FAHE's 2015 Annual Meeting in Kingsport, Tennessee.

Ben has a long history of community economic development in Appalachia. Starting back in 1968, right after completing seminary he joined Appalachian Volunteers and moved to Prestonsburg, Kentucky. Ben was then instrumental in founding numerous organizations dedicated to improving the lives of Appalachian people, including the Grass Roots Economic Development Corporation, MATCH (Marketing Appalachian's Traditional Community Handcrafts) and HEAD (Human Economic Appalachian Development Corporation). His approach has always been to promote economics from the bottom-up instead of top-down and to focus on human development.

HEAD Housing, which became FAHE in 1980 was developed because it was a natural economic and community development concept

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A Word From David

“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him in whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!’”

Romans 10:13-15

I suggested a few weeks ago that this text is the patron saint of communications. How can we participate in the mission of Christ's Church if we don't know the opportunities that are awaiting our involvement? And how can we know what those opportunities are if they are not communicated effectively? How beautiful are the feet of those who bring – *publish* – glad tidings! As the hymn sings it, “Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace, tidings of Jesus, redemption and release.”

Here's to Jack and Nancy Morris for publishing glad tidings of the good work of Central's Outreach and Disciples Women by way of *The Call* and *The Link* over the past four years. (Continued on Page 5)

Calling Central Members to Christ's Work of Justice and Mercy

(Ben Poage continued from Page 4)

that provided both jobs and much-needed safe affordable housing.

Bennett Poage's dedication and love for the people of Appalachia has transformed the lives of countless individual and families and his legacy will certainly continue on in the mountains of Appalachia.

Sometimes just "Showing Up" can make a Big Difference

At the recent Problems Assembly of BUILD 11 Central members "Showed Up" to vote on what justice issue that BUILD would work on this year. That was not a good showing for a church of our size – BUT!

A week before at listening sessions held at Central a majority of people expressed the need to get better health care for the homeless; especially in the area of mental illness.

During the voting at the Problems Assembly it was a very close vote between the issues of Education and Youth and the issue of Mental Health Services.

Education would have won by 5 votes if 11 people from Central had not been present. With their votes Mental Health Services won by 6 votes. We may look back and see very good things resulting from what these 11 faithful persons did!

(A Word From David continued from Page 4)

Thanks to the Morris Publishing House's reporting, writing, editing and publishing. We at Central have been better informed of the wide-ranging ministries of fellowship, study, mercy and justice that we are engaged in.

The positive thing about Jack and Nancy's discontinuing of *The Call* and *The Link* is that they have noticed the increased attention given to communication at Central and are confident the word about causes that matter will be communicated in a timely and accurate manner. I share their confidence! Together, the staff is striving to make the *Chimes*, facebook page, web site, new Friday e-mail blast and soon to be launched Wednesday "Go Deeper" pastoral message an effective combo of communication tools. We welcome your input by forwarding newsworthy items complete with Who? What? Where? When? and Why? to lynn@centralchristianlex.org. We'll make sure they get posted in the right places at the right times.

One more thing: *Act* on the communications you receive. If an opportunity fits your gifts, graces and calendar, pitch in, contribute, volunteer, attend or pray. Whatever response is invited, please respond.

We can all begin by thanking Jack and Nancy for the good work they've done publishing *The Link* and *The Call*.

Your Help is Needed to Pass Tim's Law in 2016



Tim Morton is the son of Central members Faye & Morgan Morton. Tim suffered from mental illness throughout his adult life. He on several occasions chose homelessness and was hospitalized by petition 37 times. But he never had a "right to treatment" before it was too late. He only had a "right to die" under Kentucky law. Tim died March 27, 2014.

"Tim's law would help young people who are diagnosed with serious brain diseases today receive treatment that could save their lives and give them a quality of life that we only imagined being possible for our son, Tim." Faye Morton

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(Tim's Law continued from Page 5)

The Bill

Tim's Law is in two sections. It strengthens the already-existing law (KRS 202A.018), which permits individuals with brain diseases or severe mental illness involuntarily committed to the hospital to be discharged on the condition that they agree to – and comply with – court-ordered or “assisted” outpatient treatment, (AOT).

What is AOT?

Assisted outpatient treatment (AOT) is court-ordered treatment in the community for individuals who meet strict legal Criteria. Most commonly, these individuals are too ill to recognize their own need for medical care, a condition known as anosognosia.

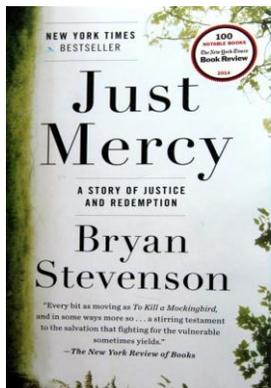
History:

The Kentucky Legislature continues to support updating its AOT law. In 2015, Chairman of the Health and Welfare committee, Representative Tom Burch filed bill HB 65 to improve and expand the practice of AOT. The bill had two parts; 1) to enhance the current outpatient

agreed order statute, (extending the time and adding supports) and 2) provides a mechanism to help individuals with a symptom of anosognosia to gain service/treatment in the community with court-ordered treatment before they were hospitalized. This is the new section for the current KRS202A that provides an individual **treatment before tragedy** instead of waiting until they are homicidal, suicidal or become a felon; sentenced to long-term imprisonment. (In which case, they will lose all civil rights and not likely to receive treatment.)

This bill was the culmination of a broad effort to coalesce advocates throughout Kentucky around a single comprehensive effort. The bill unanimously passed the House Health and Welfare Committee on February 12, 2015, but the Kentucky legislature session ended before the bill could be voted out of the Appropriations and Revenue Committee.

We expect the broad support built around the last bill to assist in legislative efforts to a new bill in 2016 and ask your support to contact your state representatives before the general assembly begins in 2016.



Book Notes

By Nancy Morris

Just Mercy *A Story of Justice and Redemption* By Bryan Stevenson



I would like to tell you about a book I just read that has really opened my eyes to the evils of our country's criminal justice system. As you may already know the United States has more men and women in prison than any other country in the world.

Just Mercy, A Story of Justice and Redemption was written by Bryan Stevenson who is the executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama and a professor of law at New York University Law School.

The author has appeared on CBS “60 Minutes” and PBS “Charlie Rose.” I hope you have the opportunity to hear him speak sometime and I hope you will read his book.

He talks about his experience with the criminal justice system, especially in the South, that is so corrupt and terribly unjust. In representing his clients he discovered the following.

- 1) A system that allows county judges to override a jury's verdict of life in prison and arbitrarily declare the death penalty with no questions asked.

(Continued on Page 8)

- 2) A system that allows life sentences to be given to very young African American boys, including those with mental illness.
- 3) A system that allows incompetent legal counsel to represent offenders who are mostly black and or poor.
- 4) A system that permits overt manipulation of the jury system that is unfair, usually to minorities, such as having all white juries in counties where African Americans are in the majority.
- 5) In one case of a black man, who was innocent of a crime, and was at a church supper at the time of the crime with all the church members as witnesses but they were not allowed to testify.

Reading this book was certainly an eye-opener for me about the flaws in our criminal justice system. It has caused me to be more aware of what is going on in our country and the many efforts now being made to correct the injustice.

Here are a few examples of these struggles for justice:

- The Supreme Court is examining the racial divide in jury selection using cases in Georgia, Kentucky and North Carolina.
- The FCC cutting prison phone fees in Pennsylvania. In some cases prisoners were being charged \$14 a minute to talk to their family. These high costs were isolating parents from their children and children from parents. Thanks to the FCC prisoners can now call their families for \$1.65 for 15 minutes.
- Bryan Stevenson and his Equal Justice Initiative are getting justice and freedom for innocent persons in prison.

BUILD has also made a real difference in criminal justice issues in the Lexington community.

- BUILD won a Restorative Justice Program in the Fayette County court system for youth who are using drugs and alcohol. Over 150 young people have gone through this alternative rather than jail. Linda Harvey operates this program from her office at Central Christian Church.
- BUILD was able to have then Mayor Theresa Isaacs put \$175,000 in the budget each year for women's drug treatment program in the Fayette County Jail. To date, 418 women have been treated through this program.
- BUILD got the Circuit Court Clerk and the head of the Detention Center to develop a plan to ensure that inmates have state issued photo ID's upon their release. ID's are required to find housing and get involved in rehabilitation programs.
- BUILD won top notch training for judges and attorneys in Fayette County to help them identify eligible candidates for Drug Court. Because of this training 40 more people have gained access to treatment, saving our city half a million dollars each year.

URGENT!

God's Pantry is in desperate need of food contributions for Central's Pantry. Barrels are located in the Fellowship Hall to receive donations.