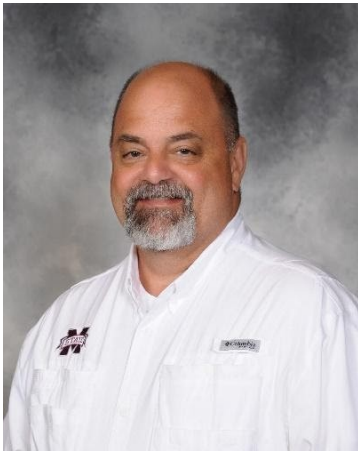


# THE CIRCUIT RIDER

Centenary United Methodist Church Newsletter

January 2022

## ***NOTES FROM PASTOR CECIL***



I sit in my office during this strange time of the year. Christmas Day has passed, and we await the New Year. Theologically, I know that the Christmas season extends to the Epiphany, but it somehow feels that Christmas as a celebration is over. I sit and wonder what I should be doing with myself.

The writer of Ecclesiastes tells us in chapter three that there is a time for everything. We have just had a time of celebrating and await a time of new beginnings in the New Year. So, what now?

I will choose to use this strange time to pray and reflect and I invite you to do so also. As a church we are trying to return all our programs to a bit of pre-pandemic normalcy. We need your help in that endeavor. First, we need your participation in worship. Many of us have gotten used to staying

home and watching services via the internet and it has become habit. It is time to return. Covid-19 and all its variants will continue to spring up from time to time. I ask that you continue to take proper precautions. Wear a mask to church if it makes you comfortable, stay home if you have been exposed or are not feeling well. We are all grown ups and can navigate this together.

Second, we need you at our different programs and functions. If we want Sunday School to continue, we need to attend. If we want the church to offer Bible Studies, we need to attend. If we want our children and youth to have disciple building programs, we need to make sure they are here. Y'all get the idea. We can only do those things that are supported. I know that life is busy and complex in this age we live in, but it boils down to priorities. If you want to be a better disciple or if you desire to see your children grow in their love of God, make it a priority.

Third, we need you to volunteer. God has gifted you with some wonderful and unique abilities. He gave them to you to be used for work in His Kingdom. We can't have programs without volunteers. We can't have classes without teachers, we can't take trips without chaperones, and we can't have outreach without leaders. I promise there is something for you to do at this church, just ask.

Fourth, we need you to be invitational. Invite! Invite! Invite! The only way to grow a church is for you the members to bring folks with you. Reach out to those members who you haven't seen since all this started. Invite you neighbors who claim they are members of such and such church, yet you never see them go. Invite those who you know are unchurched. Invite folks from work. Invite! Invite! Invite!

During this strange week pray about your place in our church. Pray about where you will attend and support. Pray about where you will lead and make a commitment to do so. On January 2, 2022, during our morning service you will be given a chance to come forward to the Altar Rail and make a commitment to God and this Church about where and how you will serve. I look forward to seeing you then.

Blessings, Bro. Cecil

# HAPPY NEW YEAR

## 2022

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### **MOVING FORWARD IN 2022**

**As we begin the new year, Centenary plans to restart many programs and activities that were stopped due to COVID. The Children's Message during the worship will return every Sunday except on Communion Sundays.**

### **GREENLEAVES**

**On Tuesday, January 18th at noon, Greenleaves will return. Soup and dessert will be served at noon in the Fellowship Hall. A short devotional will be presented and time will be spent planning the year's activities. Brenda Locke has agreed to help coordinate the activities of Greenleaves. The desire is to not only provide this time of fellowship for our members but others as well. We will notify our friends at Fisher and Mt. Hermon Methodist churches but ask that you invite your neighbors and friends.**

### **TRIPLE F (FOOD, FUN, & FELLOWSHIP)**

**On Wednesday, January 5th, at 5:00 p.m., Triple F will begin and continue every Wednesday. Plans are to serve pizza and salad every Wednesday. If someone would like to make a dessert or even cook a meal that would be great. The office would need to be notified. The youth will meet under the direction of Cecil Locke. A bible study entitled 'Epic of Eden' will be taught by Bill Burris for the adults. The children will be led by Madison Logan.**

### **THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY**

**Brother Cecil will lead a Bible Study on Thursdays at noon. This is the same study Bill is teaching on Wednesday nights. This enables members of the choir and those that prefer the daytime to be able to participate.**



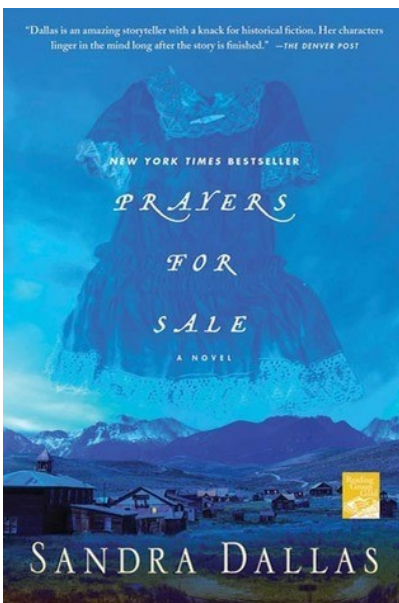
## CHURCH FLOWERS

**We have 11 Sundays with no one designated to provide flowers for the worship service. In 2022, for a fee of \$25, the church will provide the flowers for you. The church has several nice artificial arrangements and the money charged will be used to purchase more arrangements. If you are interested in participating, call the church office. The open dates are 1/9, 5/1, 6/5, 7/3, 7/31, 10/30, 11/6, 11/13, 11/27, 12/4, 12/11.**

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## 2022 Pledge Cards

**Everyone should have received their pledge card in the mail. If you did not, just come by the office. During the worship service on January 2nd, a time will be devoted to prayerfully making a commitment to this church both financially and serving in some capacity. If you have not turned your card in already, please do so on January 2nd.**



## BOOK CLUB

Book Club meets the third Monday each month at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. If you see a book that interest you, read it and then join us as we discuss it together. Our discussions are very informal and you can come and just listen to what others thought. January's book is "Prayers For Sale" by Sandra Dallas.

## UMW CHRISTMAS PARTY



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## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

UMW will return in 2022 with their monthly meetings. The ladies meet the first Tuesday of each month at noon in the Fellowship Hall. The first meeting will be January 4th. Bring a brown bag lunch, dessert and drinks will be provided.

## MINI-METHODIST

Thanks to Jamie Matisse for coordinating the Nativity Float for the Franklinton Christmas Parade. Thank you parents and children!



## FRANKLINTON CHRISTMAS PARADE

## ELVES & SANTA VISIT SCHOOLS

This years Waverley Santa Float had Fielder Bahm, Emma Matisse, Cora Burris, and Luke Burris as elves. The Burris' are Bill Burris' grancchildren.



## **2021 CUMC Missions Summary**

**A. Acquired a portable smoker/grill and 30-gallon jambalaya pot for fund raisers.**

**B. Participated in the following mission projects:**

**1) 4-21-21 Cooked 200 chicken quarters and served meals at Wesley Chapel, SELU.**

**2) 5-23-21 Cooked 100 chicken halves, sausage and lamb chops for CUMC picnic at Barry & Hope Bickham's home.**

**3) June/July 2021 Prepared 25 additional flood buckets costing about \$80/bucket (total of 50 buckets for flood victims).**

**4) July 2021 initiated Kenyan School Uniform fund raiser. Coin bags were distributed to congregation & Sunday School kids.**

**5) 9-10-21 delivered 49 flood buckets to flooded LaPlace Methodist Church and served 200+ jambalaya dinners to hurricane victims and first responders at St. Charles Methodist Church in Destrehan.**

**6) 9-17-21 Prepared and served 200+ grilled chicken dinners for Hurricane Ida victims at Independence, La.**

**7) 9-26-21 Prepared and served 400 + grilled chicken plates as a fund raiser for Kenyan uniforms and Vidalia Methodist Church.**

**8) 11-12-21 Cooked jambalaya for 50 at Bogue Chitto State Park (CUMC campout).**

**C. Other mission activities independent of CUMC Mission**

**1) Salsa fund raiser and CUMC Men's breakfast group fund raiser for Methodist Children's Home in Robert.**

**2) Help Center for Churches (supplied Tuna and financial aid).**

**3) Empty Stocking (Christmas gifts for needy families).**

**4) Quilts for abused babies/children.**

**5) Jackets, sleeping bags, etc. for Hurricane Ida victims.**

**2022—JOIN THE ACTION!**

## **2022 MISSION TEAM 1ST QUARTER PLAN**

- 1) Honor police on National Law Enforcement Day (Sunday January 9, 2022). Prepare meal at lunch and present officers special law enforcement bibles.**
  - 2) Methodist Children's Home Chicken Dinner fundraiser (to be held on February 12, 2022 at noon at the Franklinton Farmer's Market. Advertise by newspapers and phone calls; no ticket sales).**
  - 3) Lunch meal (chicken dinners) for SELU Wesley Chapel on Wednesday, March 9, 2022.**
  - 4) Tornado disaster relief. Split remaining 2021 Mission funds among Methodist Churches damaged by recent tornados in Arkansas, Kentucky, etc.**
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### **UNITED METHODIST MEN'S BREAKFAST**

The Centenary United Methodist Men's Club met on December 5<sup>th</sup> for another delicious breakfast prepared by Barry and Jack Bickham.

Our speaker, the Reverend Doctor Michael Sprague, Chaplain to the Louisiana State Senate and President/ Founder of Capital Commission and Grace Adventures shared with us an inspirational message about how Christian men could be better servants of the Lord. He ended his talk with information about attending the National Prayer Breakfast

n Washington, D. C.

Our next breakfast will be on Sunday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 7:00 AM and our speaker will be Joe Kelly, Executive Secretary of the Louisiana United Methodist Men who will share with us what is going on at the state level.

We are encouraging every man at Centenary to attend to start out the new year. Come enjoy great food and great fellowship this Sunday.



# MINI-METHODIST DECORATING CHRISTMAS COOKIES







## CONGRATULATIONS

Verenna Isabelle Serrano was born on November 29, 2021. Proud parents are Melissa & Victor Serrano. The Centenary family connection is proud grandparents Mickie & David Norwood and Aunt Meg & Aunt Amelia.



1/3 Patri Gast

1/5 Aaron Logan

1/6 Jessica Walker

1/6 Sandra Miller

1/9 Fabian Logan

1/15 Genevieve Brannon

1/15 Kay McCain

1/17 Ben Bickham

1/18 Elizabeth Ard

1/20 Ellen Meyer

1/20 Jennifer Green

1/21 Clyde Oyler

1/29 AnaMarie Locke

If your birthday has been omitted from our monthly newsletter, please call the office and provide us with this information.

IN LOVING  
*Memory*

Heyward Ard



## **TEDDY BEAR BABIES**

**Keep the families below in your prayers as they anxiously await the birth of their child.**

Baby Thomas-Parents: Chris & Stephanie Thomas, Brother: Graham Thomas, Grandparents: Sherman & Yvonne Thomas and Julie & Bill LaCroix.

Baby Jennifer Mae Barker-Parents: Claire & Nick Barker, Grandparents: Cissy & the late Bobby Draper, Angela & Lee Barker

### **FAMILIES OF:**

**Heyward Ard**

**Hubert Daniel  
Wood**

**Jerry Melanson**

**Lance Stockstill**

**Gerald Jones**

**Carl Burnett**

**Ginny Burris**

**Ed Logan**

Irvin Andre, Terrance August, Clara Jo Beaushaw, Fiona Bono, Al Bontrager, Debra Boudreaux, Margaret Burch, Bob Burris, Polly Carter, Roland Carter, Shyanne Chunn, Pat Dier, Margaret Falcon, Holly Fazekas, Wayne Fazekas, Prentiss Forrest, Mike Gill, Vickie Gill, Paul Givens, Lonnie Hamilton, Mike Henley, Tiffany James, Lisa Jenkins, Marilyn Kelley, Alex Kennedy, Hal Ladner, Betty Logan, Ed Lyles, Peggy Lyles, Fantasia Magee, Griselda Marin, Margie McInnis, Lindsey P. McIntosh, Amanda McKenzie, Nile Neeley, Kendall Parker, Kaitlyn Passman, Sally Pollard, Dick Richardson, Meredith Rodgers, Debbie Snell, Bill Stager, Elliot Trahan, Luke Thomas, Miles Watts, Betty Westmoreland, Duke Williams.



**Gavin Beme, Carson Fontenot, Megan McCain, Kelly Reiss, Brody Schilling, Christian Kinzel, Dr. Rebekah Schott, Lee McCain, Jackson Stewart, Chad Penny, T. J. Smith, Jordan Blackwell, Josh Magee, Andrew Darbonne**



**JANUARY DATES TO REMEMBER**

**1/4 UMW-noon**

**1/5 Triple F- 5 pm (every Wednesday)**

**1/17 Book Club-11 am**

**1/18 Greenleaves- noon**

**12/20 Church Council-6 pm**

**12/25 Piecemakers-9:30 am**

**CENTENARY IS NO LONGER USING  
PO BOX 306**

**ALL MAIL SHOULD BE ADDRESSED  
TO 1015 CLEVELAND STREET**

[office@cumcfranklinton.org](mailto:office@cumcfranklinton.org)

**CONTACT US**

**Pastor Cecil Locke**

**Choir Director, Bonnie Pope**

**Secretary, Faith Bahm**

**Treasurer, Julie Foret**

**Custodian, Lee Dudley**

**Nursery, Felecia Forrest**

**Centenary United Methodist  
Church**

**1015 Cleveland St.**

**Franklinton, La. 70438**

Centenary United Methodist Church  
1015 Cleveland Street  
Franklinton, LA 70438

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE