

## *A Word from Pastor Shayne...*

Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, “Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days

(Acts 10:34-39, & 44-48, NRSVUE)

So, what’s the greatest most exciting dream you’ve every had. One might argue that Peter’s greatest dream was God showing him to take the gospel message to the Gentiles. This would be a huge bridge between cultural and social barriers that Jews of Peter’s day had. They were taught from an early age not to even associate with Gentiles, and all the earliest Christians were Jews first. God was showing Peter a radical new direction for the church. Interestingly enough, Cornelius, a Roman Centurion, had a similar dream telling him to invite Peter to his house. The above scripture shows us the result when both of these men responded to God’s dream for them. Verse 24 tells us that all Cornelius’ relatives and close friends were present at his house and touched by the Holy Spirit. This was the start of ministry to the Gentiles of which we are beneficiaries.

I believe God has a dream for Central too. I can see us reaching out beyond cultural and socioeconomic barriers as well. If we’re going to serve those in the area surrounding the church, this will be necessary. The church community looks different than most of our members. The vision I have isn’t complete yet, but I have a “gut feeling” that we’ll achieve this dream through partnerships with other non-profits. I feel the Math Science Innovation Center is the first part of this dream, but I see more. The pastor isn’t the only one who can dream. Most of the work of the church is accomplished by laity. So, I encourage you to dream too...What dream is God sharing with you for Central? Who are potential partners that you believe can help us reach the “Gentiles” in our community? I look forward to your response.

Blessings, *Pastor Shayne*

## HVAC Project Pledges & GoFundMe

On **Sunday, Sept. 18 during 11:00 Worship**, we will have a **blessing of our HVAC pledges**. Please make every effort to prayerfully consider making a pledge by that day. Please contact Nancy Manner or Pastor Shayne for more information.

Also, we have a **GoFundMe** where **family, friends, neighbors and anyone else you share with can go online to read about our HVAC project and donate!** Please direct anyone to our website, **[www.umcentral.org](http://www.umcentral.org)** where there is a **button on the homepage** that will take them to the GoFundMe information.

## Upcoming Events!



**Thursday, Sept. 15 @ 6PM - 8PM: Paint Night** at the church. Brittany James will be leading this fun activity.



**Saturday, Oct. 8 @ 9AM - 12PM: Blessing of the Animals.** Bring a pet or invite your neighbors to bring theirs for a special blessing.



**Tuesday, Oct. 25 @ 7PM - 8:30PM: Incorporating Music in Your Devotional Life.** We're excited to have Daniel Banke from Reveille UMC join us to lead this workshop.



## September & October Birthdays

Mary Vaughn Francis  
9/25

Brenda Bray  
10/15

Cindy Bondurant  
10/4

Leah Duncan  
10/20



## Food Pantry

Every 1st Sunday we collect non-perishable food items to support the local food pantry ministry of our neighbor Sacred Heart Catholic Church on Perry St. If you wish to send a monetary donation, you may send it to the church office.

## Newsletter Contributions!

We want to hear from you! If you are interested in submitting an article or other writing to the newsletter, please contact Brittany at (804) 305-3673, or leave a message on the church office phone (804) 232-0332.