

October 2011

# The Primetime Post

## Surprise! Surprise! Surprise!

Pastor Loran and Sandra Livingston joined us for our kickoff event and quickly found themselves in the middle of a party with everyone eating ice cream. The room had been beautifully decorated with balloons on every table. It was a surprise 60th birthday party for Pastor, whose actual birthday is November 14th. He thought he was there to share funny stories from his years of ministry. Instead, out came the cake and oversized birthday card signed by Primetimers. With the help of his dear wife, Sandra, and his sister, Janice, we enjoyed seeing pictures from the past, followed by a candid camera video and secret guests.



Five-year old grandson, Caleb, was so cute talking about his funny Poppy, tickling him. Caleb is the son of Amy and Doug Arvin, Pastor's daughter and son-in-law. When he ran out of the room, he was laughing and saying, "This was fun!"

Ray Newton, who grew up with Pastor in Wadesboro and was his college roommate, drove from Tennessee with his wife, Pam, to be a part of the party. Ray shared stories about growing up and remarked about the leadership and communication abilities Pastor displayed even as a teen. He laughed about two speeches Pastor gave on UFOs and presented him with a gift, a commemorative book on UFOs.



Another, completely unexpected surprise—Steven Bass and his wife Olga. Steve was brutally "murdered" in 1991, in the drive-through at McDonald's. Pastor and Sandra sat in the next car in the drive-through with their family. Steve, a victim of multiple stab wounds, was pulled from his car and thrown on the hood of Pastor's car, fighting for his life. The criminal ran away and Pastor carried Steve to safety, helped control the bleeding, and got medical help. The medics said that Steve was dead at the scene, but took him to the hospital anyway. Pastor found out where he had been taken and went to minister to the family, who greeted him with an exuberant, "Pastor!" Turns out that they attended Central. Steve credits Pastor for saving his life. Pastor was able to share the story of what happened that day with Steve, who had no memory of the horrible event.



Pastor was completely surprised and we all enjoyed seeing another side of our Pastor who ended the evening by thanking Sandra for standing by him, praying for him, and being his wife.

*Thank You!*

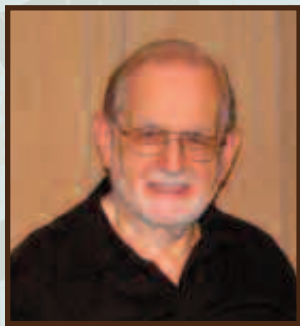
**October 21<sup>st</sup> - 1:30 PM - Primetimers are traveling to Statesville for the 2011 Carolina BalloonFest.**

This trip sold out at our September dinner, but we are accepting names for a waiting list. Please call Sherry to be added to the list.

**Looking forward,**  
Joy Millis, Director



# Meet a Primetimer



## Introducing - Ed Osiecki

For regular attendees of Central Church of God, Ed Osiecki is a familiar face, even if the name is not. Ed normally sits in front of Dennis Livingston, Central's choir/orchestra director. He plays alto saxophone in the sanctuary orchestra. Ed's father was a professional musician, traveling throughout the Great Lakes region. Taking after his father, Ed became quite a talented accordionist. When he entered high school, Ed wanted to play in the high school band, but there was no need for an accordionist. His father suggested another instrument — the tenor saxophone. He taught Ed the keys of the saxophone, and two weeks later, Ed became a member of the high school band, playing the tenor saxophone. Continuing

in his father's footsteps, Ed worked and later ran the family music stores in Erie, PA. When Ed entered the Army in the 1950s, he became a member of the US Army Band. He played tenor sax in the band, and he later played accordion with the USO. While he was in the Army, Ed was stationed in Texas. While there, he played with the USO at Brooke Army Medical Center.

In Erie, Ed formed a dance band called *The Top Hatters*, playing the nightclub circuit. One day his drummer came in and told Ed that he quit. He said that he had started going to church. About ten years later, he came to Ed and told him that the Lord had sent him to see Ed. He gave Ed a ticket to see the Billy Graham movie, *Time to Run*. Ed took the ticket and went to see *Time to Run*. At the end of the movie, Ed responded to the invitation given, and accepted Jesus in the theater. God took Ed Osiecki from the direction he was going and turned him around.

Since that day, Ed has seen God's provision in every way. He has lived the scripture found in Philippians 4:12: "*I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.*" To teach him faith, God even used a hailstorm to provide for Ed, and, another time, used a snowstorm that dropped seventeen inches of snow on the area.

Ed has a heart for others to know God in a personal way and enjoys sharing the Good News. One of the highlights of his Christian walk so far is the time he was able to witness to a young woman who was a Jehovah's Witness and lead her to Christ. She is now doing missions work.

Ed felt the Lord calling him to leave Pennsylvania and move south. In 1985, headed to Florida, Ed stopped in Charlotte and spent the night in the hotel at the old PTL. The doorman noticed that Ed had an accordion and told him he would like to hear him play. The next morning, the doorman came by Ed's room to hear him. When the doorman asked Ed where he was heading, he explained that he was on his way to Florida to begin a new life. The doorman suggested that Ed apply for a job at PTL. Ed did so and ended up working security for PTL and played accordion with the *Heritage Grand Dads*. Later, a friend Ed knew in Pennsylvania, now living in Charlotte, suggested that Ed come to Central (old Central on Kilbourne Drive and Central Avenue). The first Sunday evening Ed attended Central, the Pastor told a congregation of about 300 people, "If you are in this church, you will either get saved or leave because you can't stand to hear the word." That convinced Ed that he was in the right place. He has been at Central ever since.

If you get a chance, talk to Ed and ask him about some of the things God has done in his life. You will be fascinated by what you hear. Ed is truly an example to all of us on how to walk in faith with our God.

## Prayer Requests

**Please remember these in prayer:** Our love and sympathy to Ozelle Stanley in the loss of her husband, Howard, and Doady Helderman in the loss of her brother; to Crystal Lamont in the loss of her husband, Richard; Esther Torgeson in the loss of her sister, Greta Braaten; Peggy Utley in the loss of her brother, Gerald; Larry Rushing in the loss of his mother, Leslie.

Please also keep Millie Miano, Ruth Bowers, Nannette Norton, Eleanor Siskron and Frances Purcell in your prayers.

# OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Michael & Yoshi Collins .....01	Gene Smith ..... 01	Margaret Thornton .....16
Dub & Pat Hope .....02	Sue Smith .....01	Gwen Hoover.....17
Barney & Carol Lisk.....02	Ralph Belk.....02	Teresa Patterson .....17
Melvin & Barbara Simpson .....02	Brenda Richardson .....02	Margaret Fox .....19
Gary & Glenda Holman .....04	Margaret Ferree.....03	Nancy Johnson .....19
Ken & Carol Lowery .....05	Geri Burrell .....04	Raymond Peeples .....19
John & Teresa Patterson .....05	Barbara McKim .....04	Lib Bowling .....20
Bill & Betty Pegram .....10	Margaret Scanlon .....04	Ron Poe .....22
John & Margaret Ferree .....14	Ray Armbruster .....05	Gary Deeb.....23
Ken & Jean Snider .....14	Ken Curtis .....05	Martha Lawing .....24
Ted & Sheena Fogel .....15	Peggy Utley.....07	Gary Sabaugh .....24
Harold & Frances Minford .....15	Sylvia Beasley .....08	Dennis Schmidt .....25
Dan & Nancy Johnson.....18	Nina Guinez .....10	Ruby Williams .....25
C. H. & Kathleen Simerly.....18	Jean Stines .....10	Ruth Cato .....26
Bob & Kay Pressley.....23	Barbara Anderson .....11	Sandy Clifford .....26
Ted & Shirley Mills .....25	Nancy Gallagher .....11	George McKenzie .....26
Tracy & Evanell Ross .....25	Daisy Lindsey .....11	Jennie Johnston .....27
Al & Treva Rimmer .....27	Gayle Byrd .....13	Jay Landers.....27
	Katherine Ewing .....13	Don Morton .....27
	Barbara Bernier .....14	Ray Williams .....27
	Camille Gaddy .....14	Kay Carnes .....28
	Joan Stokes .....14	Marge Loeffler .....28
	Margie Benzmilller .....15	Rosemary P'erez .....28
	John Ratteerree .....15	Betty Curtis .....30
	Marie Towkan .....15	Anne McManus .....30
	Judy Morgan .....16	Kathy Beatty .....31
	Dolly Skipper .....16	Jim Parnell .....31



## Bible Study by Louise Douglas

*“He hath showed thee, O man, what is good, and what doth the Lord require of thee but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God” (Mic. 6:8).*

The wise man says in Ecclesiastes 12:13: *“Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.”*

Satan’s purpose is to keep this from happening. (God allows him this.) He does this through guile. He can make it seem real and right by himself being transformed into an “angel of light” (II Cor. 11:14). We see a prime example of this in the “garden.”

We read a story when I was in about the second grade. It was said that a pot of gold was buried at the roots of a tree in a nearby forest. If one could catch a scrappy little

elf that lived there, he would tell you which tree. Sure enough, one boy caught him and the elf pointed out the tree. The boy had to get a shovel so he tied a yellow scarf on the tree. He hurried back and saw that every tree had a yellow scarf around it. So are the wiles of the devil.

We need to straighten up with God – now! Paul tells us how in Ephesians 6:11-18.

When God calls time on us, C. S. Lewis said, “It will be too late then to choose your side.”

*“From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee; When my heart is overwhelmed, lead me to the rock that is higher than I” (Ps. 61:2).*

*“A stone makes not great rivers turbid grow;  
When saints are vexed, their shallowness they show.”*

— Saadi



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**Primetime Post**  
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# Primetime Events

**PRIMETIMER DINNER**  
**OCTOBER 4 • 6:30 PM**  
**FAMILY LIFE CENTER**

## THE PHELPS FAMILY

Steve, Jaci and Jeni Phelps will bring us



an evening of beautiful harmony! Jeni will travel from Springfield, Illinois, to join her father, Steve, and sister, Jaci, who both are a part of the Central orchestra & choir. September 26 is the last day to purchase a ticket.

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Primetimer Dinner**  
**Tuesday, November 1, 2011**  
*"The Baker Family"*  
 Join us for an entertaining evening of comedy and fun with a guest appearance by LuLu.  
 Get your \$7 tickets by October 24.

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 HELP! We are selling out every Primetimers dinner, that means we are setting and decorating more tables. We need more help! On the Tuesdays of our dinners, volunteers show up at 8:30am to begin getting the room ready. Please call Sherry Kendrick in the church office (704) 295-6846 to let her know you are willing to help.