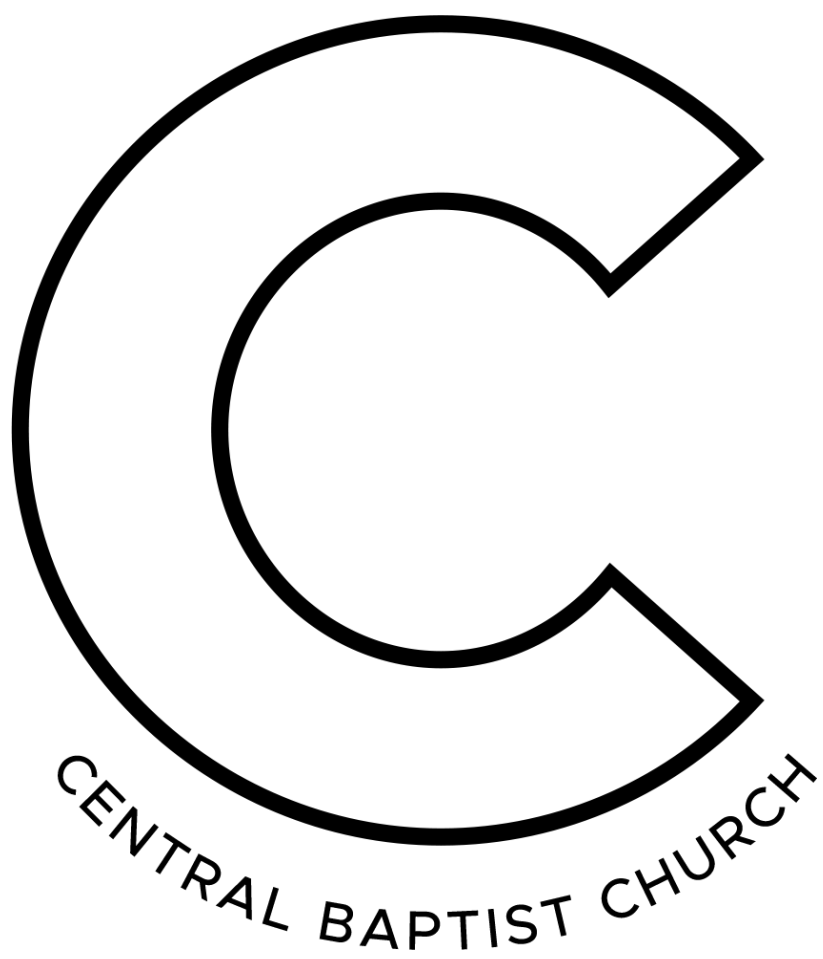




Mid-Year Business Meeting
Sunday, August 2, 2026 | 11:00 AM

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MEETING AGENDA

Discussion and Voting on the Following:

Minutes & Vote to Accept Minutes
Reports & Vote to Accept Reports
Vote to Accept New Members
New Business
Date for next meeting (ABM)

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

February 1, 2026

Downloads: [Updated Constitution](#), [Annual Report](#) | [Financial Presentation](#)

Moderator: John Taylor

Prayer: (Pastor Matt Agresti)

Vote to approve minutes from last meeting October 4, 2025. Motion: MR, SM 2nd. All ayes

Reports:

Board of Deacons (Larry Russell): Major Goal: Looking to have people become more involved in the life of the church, participation.

Deacons Fellowship Fund: (John Taylor) See report

Constitution Update Recommendations: (Pastor Matt)

- Changes - move from Quarterly meetings to semi-annual meeting. Each quarter we would send out financial updates and any relevant updates.
- Clarify staff structure. All pastoral & ministry staff is under the ministry of the Board of Deacons.
- Numbers and headings cleaned up.

Board of Trustees: (Rich Kugele)

- The basement update looks great. Floors redone!
- Small heater in the basement stopped working - Swanton's came and cut new ductwork.
- Fundraising for shingles is coming along. Waiting to discuss cost involved with Alpine - all costs have increased over the past year.
- Questions:
LR: High snow year... Is it possible for us to pay someone to clear out the parking spaces? Response: where would we put the snow?

Board of Missions & Evangelism: (Pastor Matt)

- Mission of the Month went well last year. Might not do it every month, but planning to continue with updates.
- We are increasing funding to all groups. But ending 2 - OMF - Naphakises - they have retired. OCI - the Cornfields - also are retiring. Adding Dinner Church as a regular support.
- There is a missing digit in the budget total. Total giving for missions this year is \$24,080. We have another \$300 to allocate.
- Could use one or two people to be on this board and getting hands dirty to figure out how to reach the people of Atlantic Highlands.

Board of Christian Ed: (Pastor Rebecca)

- Highlighting Village Initiative. It has been awesome! Looking for a few more adult Villagers, as a few need to leave the program.
- In October, Rebecca went to Atlanta for a 10x10 Conference. Discipleship radically focused on Jesus. Shared discipleship. When kids see faith shared by others, it makes a

difference in their own faith. We are working to do this through our Villagers and Sunday School.

- “If your vision can be accomplished alone, your vision is too small”. We want to have a big vision. Need more teachers for Sunday School and shadow for a few months.
- Please pray for youth group - 1 day retreat March 7. Pray for wisdom for the leaders and for the tender hearts for the kids.

Board of Hospitality: (Michele Russell)

- Nothing new, but encouraging people to bring something on Sunday. Don't have to sign up to bring a small thing.
- Sign up with a buddy to sign up to cover a Sunday.

Assistant Treasurer's Report (Larry Russell)

- Sean Blythe has left the area, Steve Mammolito will take the job.
- We ended up with almost \$7000 surplus final quarter.
- We were under budget for the final quarter with our expenses. Had a surplus.
- General Fund Account Cash Flow slide shows where the money goes for the full year. Almost \$19,000 surplus for the entire year.
- Total of almost \$250,000 in the bank overall. If we need to, we could possibly take money out of the account for the shingles. We earn about \$4000 per year in interest in a CD.
- Have \$1600 to spend on a scholarship for a donation.

Questions about Budget:

- BT: Can we lock in the amount for materials? Response - materials are coming from Canada, with tariffs, it is more and more expensive.

Pastor's Report: (Pastor Matt Agresti)

- Wrapping up of Step Groups was good. We got to see the potential for meeting in groups for growth and discipleship.
- Proud of the Board of Christian Ed for thinking of the Village and so thankful for those who donate time and energy to the program.
- Church being family of God: Church has provided rides, gift cards, meals when people have needed it. Support is such a blessing!
- What we've done beyond our walls. Not satisfied, as we can always do more. I am proud of the work that we've done. Block party, success. We've gotten to see connections made. Light it UP! Summer Gazebo.
- Things we wanted to see happen that didn't happen so well: How do we best care for the eldest of our congregation. We set out a goal to figure that out, but we haven't really reached that yet.
- LOOKING AHEAD: We see what's happening in the world. It's so politically divided and ugly and affecting the very real lives of our neighbors. Is it my job to respond to and speak to what happened in Minneapolis? My job is to shepherd our hearts to be shaped by the life, death and teaching of Jesus so that when we interact with our world we are shining that light. That's why this year there is such a focus on Jesus in our sermons. It is easy to be shaped by something other than the teachings of Jesus. Will try to do more than just do Sundays - Bible studies, outreaches will be the focus. How can we better

serve the world around us? Work of the Food Pantry is an enactment of the Kingdom of God. Great hope for the future of that mission. Most people of this area are not people that go to the food pantry. How do we actually reach the people that go to Julio's and First Cup? We must go out and engage with people in a new way. We need to imagine how that would look! Methodist had a 2 hour community meeting to discuss how to love our neighbors after the Minneapolis thing, and I went. Event full. Email to be a part of it! What it says is that politics aside, there is a hunger among regular people in town to see justice done for our neighbors. We as Christians should have a hand in that! There is a way to connect with our town on that level.

- Systematic way of caring for members & regular attenders.
- Meaningful pathways for people to follow Jesus and be discipled.
- Personal Goals - Ordination. Thinking ahead for smoother flow.
- Steve LeGrice - surgery. Doing fine & recovering. Pray for him.

Motion to accept all reports: LR, DD. All ayes

Next year's budget: (Larry Russell)

LR: Moved everything up 3%, made a few tweaks where the budget didn't make sense. If budget numbers come through, we should have a surplus of \$10,000

JK: Need to change name of Senior Choir Expense to being part of the music budget. Would like to see choir revived. It's sad to see it lost.

BT: Utility bills may be more than we have ever seen before. Response: we planned for an increase, if it's beyond that we will figure it out.

Vote on budget: As proposed with a change in wording. (John Taylor)

Motion to accept: AA, RK. All in favor, all ayes.

Proposed new board & committee members:

Nominating Committee (Bob Talmage)

Matt Jensen moving from Missions & Evangelism to Board of Christian Ed. Bob Talmage moved to Chairman of Nominating Committee. If anyone would like to volunteer, this is the time.

JT: Some of our boards are not as full bodied as they appear as some of these members are now inactive. Does anyone want to serve on a board?

Susan Carlson would help with Hospitality.

Steve Mammolito as Assistant Treasurer.

Vote for 3 nominations: Motion to accept: BT, MR All ayes

Vote on proposed constitution updates: LR, SM: all ayes

- From 4 to 2 meetings/year (unless there is something to vote on)
- Change of language on Next Gen pastor and all those that are paid.

New Business

- **LR** - Discussion on choir: STm- takes a director, accompanist, and the people to actually show up.
 - Have had people come prior but only about 5 people - really require about 9 people for a "full" choir. Sam is very busy and unable to lead it at this time.

- JT: Music Ministry can be discussed at a Board of Deacons meeting.
- BT: I missed the organ. When we reached out to people, folks couldn't make it or were sick. It would be nice to have the choir and organ added to at least the Christmas Eve service.
- **AR** - We can go back to quarterly meeting if we need to

Next Meeting Date:

- **ST**: September? Feels like the start of a year
- **SM**: Could consider June 14? Close to half year (if we hadn't missed due to snow)
- **Pastor Matt**: Budget and Church calendar year don't really line up. Semi-Annual in June or July could be a time for us to come together and brainstorm so that we are ready for September. To consider what we want to accomplish for next school year.
- **LR**: We won't have the financial numbers for the second quarter by June 28 - it ends June 30. Would be missing a week's info.

Motion to hold July 26, 2026 LR, AA

- **More ayes than nays**

Motion to adjourn SM, BT all ayes

BOARD OF DEACONS REPORT

Much of the work of the board of deacons is private by nature because much of it is facing individual's personal issues, people's semi-private matters, fielding comments and concerns, helping with personal needs, and so on. We value caring for the needs of the church with sensitivity, thoughtfulness, and prayer, as well as with a spirit of privacy and confidence. More than anything else, we want all associated with our church community to know that we are here for you.

Please reach out to us, or speak to an individual deacon, if you have concerns, issues, or ideas for the future!

Here are updates on the Board of Deacons' activities for the first half of 2026:

- We regularly pray for members, friends, and those in our surrounding community.
- We scheduled for the Gazebo services that will take place August 9 through September 6 and the joint service with St. Paul which we are planning to have on September 13. Thanks to those in the church community who will be helping with this church-wide activity.
- We cared for and visited many of those who are sick, grieving, shut-in, or otherwise in need. In some cases, we have provided financial assistance.
- We met with new candidates for membership, and are pleased to put forward Greg Vongas, Mary Vongas, and Lauren Bates.
- Below is the progress on our goals for 2026:
 - Increase volunteer base and develop new leaders so that more of the church's work is spread among more people: we have actively identified and recruited volunteers and have seen some modest gains in this area.
 - Develop a systematic approach for caring for our church membership and regular attendees: we have developed a process to make sure each person is identified and that we are periodically in contact with them.
 - Develop an intentional approach for caring for the elderly population at Central: our efforts in this area are still somewhat ad hoc but we have addressed specific needs as they have come up.
 - Continue to develop purposeful pathways for growing new and existing disciples towards maturity in Christ: this is ongoing.

Respectfully submitted by Larry Russell, board chair, on behalf of fellow deacons:

Matt Agresti
Kathleen Gill
Beverly Kugele
Bob Talmage
John Taylor

DEACONS FELLOWSHIP FUND

1st Half, 2026

Balance December 31, 2025	\$ 1343.19
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Receipts	
Jan 2026 (yearly allocation)	\$ 2408.03

Disbursements	
Jan - June	<u>\$ (635.88)</u>

Balance June 30, 2026	<u>\$ 3115.34</u>
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Respectfully submitted,
John Taylor
Treasurer, Board of Deacons

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

Board Changes – 2026

- Shawn Blythe left the board (moved to Delaware)
- Mike Karl joined the board in a Property Stewardship consultant role (see special report)

Projects Completed

- The Church's gardens have been planted and nurtured for this new season. We get lots of compliments while we are working on it or watering and are looking forward to the Town Garden Tours in the fall. There are lots of visitors who come into our Church and we talk to them about our Mission here.
- The concrete steps on both sides of the Church were rebuilt and painted. This was completed along with trimming of bushes and tree branches to make it easier and safer to walk on the sidewalk and enter the Church.
- We contracted with a Pest Control company to eliminate any mice and they installed interior and exterior bait stations in specific locations. They will be monitoring the results on a regular basis to make sure the treatment plan is working.
- We had our annual Fire Inspection. We enhanced 6 of our extinguishers by upgrading from water to chemical extinguishers, which is preferable for any electrical fires.

Projects in Progress

- When we found out that the shingles were going to be more expensive than anticipated, we began to discuss the possibility of receiving historic Grant funds. We had a Trustee Meeting at the end of March that included a presentation from one of our Congregants, Mike Karl, who has had experience with Grants. We are taking the first step by determining if we are eligible to apply for a Grant.
- We are also looking at two additional areas related to the Church facilities as needing improvement and are in the process of getting quotes to repair them:
 - Plexiglass panels on the East Highland side of the Church are showing signs of wear, may be leaking, and don't give a clear view of the historic stained-glass windows.
 - The Church driveway is unpaved and has large stones that are not easy to walk on or shovel in winter. It would be better if it was paved with asphalt so we are addressing the town permit process and any environmental requirements.

Respectfully submitted by Rich Kugele on behalf of the Board of Trustees,

Danny DeLucia
Joe Koeppel
Allen Riso
Johnny Rivera
Bob Ruddy

PROPERTY STEWARDSHIP PLANNING PROCESS

The Trustees have begun a comprehensive stewardship planning process to evaluate the condition of Central's facilities, identify current and future needs, establish priorities, develop a thoughtful plan for maintaining and improving Central's property, and pursue available grant opportunities whenever possible.

Purpose: To faithfully care for and improve Central's church and parsonage so they continue to support our mission and ministry for many years to come.

Planning Process Components:

- Needs assessment: gather feedback from various sources (i.e., Central's various boards) to identify physical needs that align with Central's mission
- Facilities conditions assessment: identify a comprehensive list of building components & systems and assess the condition of each
- Project prioritization: based on results of needs and building conditions assessments, develop and prioritize a list of projects
- Funding & budget planning: determine the mix of funding sources used to finance projects including reserves, grants (i.e., grants associated with Historical Place Registration), loans, or dedicated capital campaigns
- Complete projects: hire designers and contractors, and complete the project(s)

Historical Place Registration Process: One potential source of funding being explored is Historic Place Registration, which may make Central eligible for state preservation grants. Planning grants (i.e., grants for facilities conditions assessments) may provide up to \$3 in grant funding for every \$1 contributed by Central. Construction grants may provide up to a dollar-for-dollar match. The first step in the process is to determine if Central is eligible. A request for a certificate of eligibility letter was submitted to the state on June 23rd. A response is expected sometime in the fall.

Timeline: If the decision is made to seek Historical Place Registration and utilize grant funding as much as possible to fund both the planning and construction efforts, it could take 3 to 5 years before construction projects get underway. While this is a long-term process, completing it carefully can position Central to receive significant grant funding and reduce the financial burden on the congregation.

- The Historic Place Registration process can take up to 18+ months to complete.
- Grant funding is provided on an annual basis (i.e., applications are due in April, and notifications go out in August/September each year).

Important Notes:

- This process does not preclude the planning and completion of projects to meet urgent/emergency, safety or time sensitive needs, or for other projects that the Trustees and the congregation determine to be in the best interest of meeting Central's mission.
- The congregation will receive regular updates throughout the process and, when required by the Constitution, will have the opportunity to review and vote on major decisions and expenditures.

Special Report prepared and submitted by Mike Karl, on behalf of the Board of Trustees

BOARD OF MISSIONS & EVANGELISM REPORT

The Board of Missions and Evangelism works with the purpose of cultivating and protecting the church's public witness through three primary means: 1) supporting local and non-local missionaries and service organizations, 2) leading local efforts of outward service and public witness, and 3) testing the church's public witness. This year, the board served those goals in these areas:

Supporting local and non-local missionaries and service organizations:

- Made contact with our missionaries, to solicit regular reports, in-person visits, and/or visual reports if in-person is not available. We appreciate those who have reported in, and look forward to more of that in the future.
- Continued to evaluate and financially support all of the missionaries and organizations, we've decided to support, with the following updates:
 - Began to wean the OCI/Kornfields from our support, as they are out of the field.
 - Decided to support FCA Monmouth with \$2000/year
- Looking ahead, we look to re-visit Mission of the Month in the fall, continue to evaluate and seek new missionaries/organizations, and donate our \$1700 2025 remainder.

Leading local efforts of outward service and public witness:

- (Jointly) Hosted the third annual Block Party, which was a great success in welcoming new visitors.
- Collaborating on planning/running past and upcoming outreach events: Town-Wide Yard Sale and late-summer Gazebo services.
- Continuing leading outreach/mission efforts towards the AACC Food Pantry, including running the first monthly dinner
- Looking ahead, we will continue to discern the unique calling God has for Central towards an intentional mission/outreach effort. We are exploring possibilities at Ptak tower currently, and considering other possibilities.

Testing the church's public witness:

- Evaluated the effectiveness of our outward word and actions (gazebo services, block party, yard sale, etc.) to see how we can make it better

Respectfully submitted by Matt Agresti on behalf of the Board of Missions and Evangelism,

Santo Cerminaro
Laurie Gentry
Rich Kugele
Steve LeGrice

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT

We have had a great first half of 2026!

One of the goals of 2026 for the BOCE is to continue to partner with parents and look for new ways to do that as well. One initiative is through Bible memorization that carries forward into the home. The first time we did this was memorizing Psalm 23 and it went so well now we are working our way through Psalm 100:103.

We also are excited to have our first family gathering in August, hoping this helps foster fellowship with the families here at Central and those who attend Central Youth. We look forward to continuing to do so throughout the 2026-2027 school year in various ways.

We have also continued having great church wide events and Central Youth events bringing both the community in and us out as well as continuing to build relationships within our Central family.

Another goal of the Board of Christian Education this year is to focus on Welcome and Hospitality. We have upgraded some of our safety in our classrooms and are discussing new ways to improve the Central Kids experience for new and existing families while still maintaining our special small church feel.

As we look forward to the 2026-2027 school year, we are excited for the learning, growth, community, events, scripture memorization, and—most importantly—continuing to discover the love of Christ for us and for the world through games, crafts, fellowship and Scripture.

Respectfully submitted by Rebecca DeLucia on behalf of the Board of Christian Education

Amanda Agresti
Carol Brooks
Laurie Gentry
Matt Jensen
Kathleen Mammolito

BOARD OF HOSPITALITY REPORT

The Board of Hospitality oversees Greeting, Coffee Fellowship, Communion, Decorating, Baptisms, and get-togethers with St. Paul's Baptist Church.

The 3 goals we have made as a committee for 2026 are:

- Find a day and time to meet monthly. The board meets the 1st Tuesday of the month at 12pm. This has been helpful for continuity and has been somewhat successful with attendance.
- We have made sub-committees with one person leading with the help of other board members and others from the congregation. Allen oversees greeters, Carol oversees communion with the help of Ruth. Bev plans and puts up the bulletin boards with the help of Rich. Michele oversees decorating with the help of Bev and Susan. Michele oversees coffee fellowship with the help of volunteers from the congregation who supply food.
- We discussed ideas to implement an In-Reach sub-committee. As we discussed ideas we realized we need to change course and focus on the new people coming to the church services. There was an overlap with the Board of Deacons. We are in the process of replanning our sub-committee goals and direction. We plan to implement the new plan by year end. Allen's group encourages those who help greet to welcome new faces and make them feel welcomed. They try to introduce new people to others and to our pastors. They guide new families with children to Sunday school and Pastor Rebecca and teachers who can help them sign their children in.

If you would be willing to help greet, provide food for coffee fellowship or would enjoy bringing your gifts and participating on the board please speak with me or one of the other members.

Respectfully submitted by Michele Russell on behalf of the Board of Hospitality,

Nancy Annunziata
Bob Brooks
Carol Brooks
Bev Kugele
Susan Karl
Allen Riso
Ruth Romeo
Karen Ruddy

ASSISTANT TREASURER'S REPORT

(verbal report - slides attached in email)

PASTOR'S REPORT

(verbal report)

Discussion and Voting on the Following:

1. Accept Reports
2. Vote to Accept New Members
 - Mary Vongas
 - Greg Vongas
 - Lauren Bates
3. New Business
4. Date for Next Business Meeting (ABM)

NEW MEMBER TESTIMONIES

Greg Vongas

With regards to coming to faith, I met Christians at work & through discussions & prayer God revealed himself to me. Today I trust in God to answer prayer, trust in His faithfulness & try to live as described in God's Word.

Mary Vongas

My fiancé felt it was wrong to continue in a relationship which was leading to marriage because I was divorced. A counselor who I was seeing gave me the name of a Christian friend. I met with (Pastor) Reagan Wilson & have studied the Bible & gone to church ever since. I go to 2 Bible Studies a week. I am always reminded of Jesus command to love one another as He loved us - and to strive to live my life as I would if He was standing there.

Lauren Bates

I was raised with faith in Jesus. Although I have had bible stories and prayer invested into my life since I was a child, I still have struggled with my faith. I never stopped believing in God, but I have struggled with personal decisions I have made throughout my life. My faith in Jesus has wavered only because of my own stumbling along the way and allowing condemnation to take root in my life. I am continuing to grow in my faith every day. I have grown more outspoken of my faith as I have grown, and even more so now with becoming a mom. I think about the times I've felt far from God and I acknowledge it's been when I was running on my own path without seeking Him. I live by faith today by seeking prayer when I don't know what to do, when I am feeling frustrated by submitting my emotions to Him, when things feel amazing and praising Him for it. I am cultivating the understanding of what it really means to lay it at His feet. I have prayed with patients and family members when working at the bedside in the hospital and am seeking ways to be that support again for others. My testimony is that I am continuously growing my understanding of God and am forever thankful for the purposeful sacrifice Jesus suffered for me and for everyone. I hope to bring as many people as possible with me into His kingdom.