

The Torch

Central Church of Christ

Sept. 20, 2016

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STREET
STREATOR, IL
61364

(815) 673-1581

EMERGENCY
PHONE

(815) 257-1582

STAFF

Dr. Rory Christensen,
Lead Minister

Tony Ross,
Creative Arts Minister

Jessica Pastirik,
Director of Involvement
Ministries

Chelsea Davis
Interim Director of
Children's Ministries

Abby Carrow,
Christian Education Intern

SUNDAY WORSHIP

1st Worship:
8:15 a.m.

2nd Worship
& Bible classes:
9:30 a.m.

3rd Worship
& Bible classes:
11:00 a.m.

Accepting nominations for leadership at CCC

You can have a voice in selecting those who serve as leaders at CCC. As we prepare to select Elders and Deacons, please read 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:5-9 this week and ask God to help guide you. Think of men who are qualified to serve as leaders. **Nomination forms will be in the worship guides for Sunday, September 25, October 2, and October 9, 2016.** You may complete your nominations and place the form in the offering plate. Nominations will be accepted until October 9, 2016.

The following Deacons have expiring terms and may be nominated: Jim Cox, Rico Diaz, Lyle Follmer, Vince Magana, Glen Peters, Joe Skaff.

Bob Brown, Charles Bivens, Erik Gallick, Kevin Missel, Mike Pastirik are Deacons whose terms have not expired. Please don't nominate them.

Roger Blakley, Todd Galyen, Tom Hallam, George Smith's terms as Elders have expired and they may be nominated.

Please **do not nominate** Jim Blalock, Jim Bressner, Troy Dimmig, or Larry Evans, as their terms have not expired.

Let's Dish . . .  Covered
Dish Dinner

The annual Ladies Salad and Casserole night will take place on October 3 at 6:00 p.m. at Central Church of Christ Fellowship Hall, 2001 East Main Street. All ladies 18 and older are welcome to attend.

Do you have a signature dish? Does someone ask for the recipe every time you bring it? If so, here is the opportunity to show off your culinary skills! Again, All women are welcome, we simply ask that you bring your favorite dish to pass.

Our guest speaker is Ms. Pearl Willis, founder of Roseland Community Good News Daycare, Chicago, IL. Come hear Ms. Pearl's amazing testimony and enjoy an evening of fellowship and encouragement. Hope you can join us!

There is a sign up sheet at the Welcome Center. Childcare is provided with advance notice.

TRUNK TREAT

Mark your calendars! Trunk or Treat is taking place on Saturday, October 29, 2016 from 5:00 -7:00 p.m. There will be live music, games, food, and tons of candy! You can register online at www.centrallive.net to help out with games, food, parking, or secure your spot for your vehicle. Trunk or Treat is a great Halloween alternative that allows families and friends to dress up and have fun in a safe environment. Candy is passed out by families and friends from their decorated vehicles. Each vehicle can be decorated however you would like, the only thing we ask is that the decorations be kid-friendly (nothing spooky or scary) as we want this to be a fun and welcoming environment for kids of ALL ages. Each vehicle should bring a minimum supply of 350 pieces of candy, back up candy will be made available. If you are not able to supply your own candy, but would still like to participate make a note of that on your registration form in the comment section. If you would like to volunteer and participate, but not register a vehicle, no worries, there are other options available on the registration form.



Fellow Co-workers,

Dr. Rory Christensen

I decided to dedicate my “Torch” article this month to getting the word out about our 2021 Vision. The lead up to this story is what I have relayed to you before: this past May, we put together a Vision Team that met at a two-day retreat to set out a vision for the next five years of our ministry, and set forth strategic areas that would guide us toward that vision. While every member of our church couldn’t be on this team, we did intentionally structure it so we could have representatives in the room that could speak to the ministries (involved in different areas), gender (the group was half male and half female), and demographics (representatives from the 60-70’s, 40-50’s, and 20-30’s) of our church. We also made sure that everyone who was in the room, was prepared to do so. Each member of the team came to our retreat having read and summarized every New Testament passage on the mission and purpose of the church; read the book *Deep and Wide* (to give a base for ministry discussion), and conducted a personal SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis of our ministry.

A key result of the vision retreat has been a new five-year vision for our ministry that I wanted to let you know about: “A Christ-like community of believers . . . presenting Christ to the unchurched in relevant, innovative, and life-changing ways.” I’m excited about this vision for a couple reasons. First, it provides a much-needed focus for our ministry efforts, a rallying point that we can each work together to move toward. The Lord we serve came “to seek and save the lost” (Luke 19:10). And, our goal is to carry out his mission by “presenting Christ to the unchurched.” While this may seem like we’re merely repackaging the same thing we’ve always done with different words (a la Wheaties), this language is focused enough that it will greatly help us in assessing ministry efforts and preparation moving into the future.

That brings me to the next reason why I’m excited about this five-year vision: it helps us to better clarify and articulate ministry “wins.” For any endeavor, team, or organization to accomplish what it sets out to accomplish (and avoid what would detract from it), it has to keep the end goal (the “win”) in mind. For us, having a target audience of “the unchurched” provides an objective means for determining if we are succeeding in our ministry efforts. On Sunday morning, we are winning if an unchurched person attends for the first time, comes back for the second time, or if one of us brings an unchurched person with us. In our involvement ministry, we are winning if a previously unchurched person joins a group, if a leader is raised up to start a new group, or if a member of Central begins practicing spiritual disciplines (many of whom [e.g. prayer, witness, service, secrecy] lead us to engage the unchurched). This sort of thinking goes through our entire ministry.

Not only does having clear ministry “wins” give us focus, but it also gives us direction. If we know what a win looks like, then we know how to “score points” to help us achieve that “win.” Given our Sunday morning “wins” . . . if we pray for God to help us reach out to an unchurched person in our life, or if we invite someone to church for the first time, give a sermon series card to them, or share a church facebook post (Sunday Rewind, upcoming event), then we are scoring points. If we show up on Sunday, and an unchurched person has taken our parking space or favorite place to sit, then we are scoring points. If we make guests feel welcomed and at home, then we are scoring points. If we serve enthusiastically and joyfully, and some unchurched guest feels the love of Christ, we are scoring points. You get the picture.

As we move into the fall, I’m grateful to be serving alongside each of you as we seek to bring about the vision God has given us. May God bless our efforts as we “present Christ to the unchurched in relevant, innovative, and life-changing ways.”

Be bold. Stay faithful. Score points.

Rory

In Sympathy

Our sympathy and prayers go out to:
Chris (Gary) Dudak and family at the loss of her mother, Betty Mackinson who died on September 5, 2016.

Also, Lorraine Rhodes-Forrest at the loss of her husband, Richard Forrest who passed away on September 16, 2016.

Your donations help keep others warm

The Streator Rotary Club and Streator Salvation Army are accepting donations for coats (mostly for children) and blankets. They will also accept winter hats, scarves, gloves and blankets. Everything should be clean and in good repair. There will be a box in the Ministry Center Foyer for these items until about the middle of October. Coats will be distributed at the Salvation Army at the end of October, (9:00 a.m. to Noon).





Our baby dedication service will soon be here! In order to participate each family must attend the preparation class on Sunday, October 2 at 11:00 a.m. if you did not attend the class in September.

Our baby dedication service will take place on Sunday, October 9. To sign-up please e-mail Chelsea Davis at children@centrallive.net



Sonshine Singers offered for children

Sundays from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. the Central Sonshine Singers will practice for a performance at Trunk or Treat on October 29. This is for any child K-5th grade who likes singing and drama. They will practice every Sunday night in the Kid Central Room (West #7). They are led by Marlee Reel, Kelly Lefler and Spring Lefler.



Free tutoring for school students

All students from 1st grade to 12th grade are welcome for a free one hour tutoring session. Bring any and all homework with which you need assistance. We will provide a free meal at 5:30 p.m. and begin tutoring at 6:00 p.m. Tutoring takes place every Thursday evening. If you are interested in serving in this ministry talk to Jessica Pastirik or Abby Carrow.

Operation Christmas Child Packing Party

Making a difference in the life of a child is not hard. And this year we are giving you the chance to make a difference in the lives of children all of the globe. We are hosting an Operation Christmas Child Packing Party. This is a great serving opportunity for the entire family. We will be collecting supplies and then filling the boxes with small gifts for children at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 12 in anticipation of their National Collection Week November 14-21.



CENTRAL

Discovering

First and Second Step will take place October 23 and 30, respectively. If you are new to Central or have been attending and are interested in membership, and want to learn more about what we believe that God has called Central to be as a church, we invite you to this two part event. We will discuss the core values of Central and how you can plug in as we enjoy a meal together. Please contact (815) 673-1581 and let us know you will be joining us.

Check out the women's retreat coming

Girlfriends at Central is hosting a women's retreat this fall. All adult women are invited as we take a journey to the seven continents of the world--all without leaving the church property! We will be exploring some of the "I wonders..." that women have, such as "I wonder if anyone cares about me?" or "I wonder where God is when life gets hard?" You will have the opportunity to join in worship, a service project, impactful discussion, and of course delicious food, fun activities, and laughter. So mark your calendars for November 5 and prepare to experience God's Wonder Full World in a new and exciting way.



THE TORCH

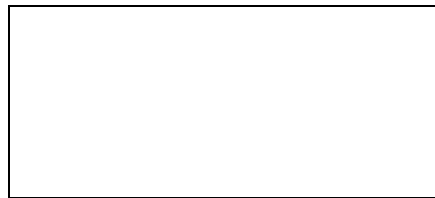
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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

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**Funeral Ministry needs
willing volunteers**

The Funeral Ministry at Central offers comfort to grieving families by providing a welcome place to gather after the funeral services to enjoy a good meal and reminisce with family and friends about their loved one. The meal is prepared by volunteers. Some volunteers furnish prepared dishes for the meal. Others work in the kitchen to serve the meal and help with the cleanup. This wonderful ministry has a long history with our church. It is a way for us to give comfort to those in need. We are in real need of more volunteers. If you are willing to make a dish or if you are able to help in the kitchen when there is a dinner, please call or text Jennifer Taylor (815) 674-8411 or email Jennifer_t.1946@yahoo.com. Your name will be added to a list and you would be called on a rotation basis.

Baptized

Ian Lawton

Michael Gubbels



Offerings

E Giving

Since April 2016

19 Givers

Offerings needed to meet Budget-Y-T-D for 2016:

\$482,714

Offerings given to-date:

\$494,480

Financial Statement available at the Welcome Center or the Church Office



Statistics for Aug. 28, 2016

1st Worship	88	
2nd Worship	221	
3rd Worship	157	Total 466
Bible Classes	192	

Statistics for Sept. 4, 2016

1st Worship	88	
2nd Worship	218	
3rd Worship	88	Total 394
Bible Classes	158	

Statistics for Sept. 11, 2016

1st Worship	75	
2nd Worship	239	
3rd Worship	96	Total 410
Bible Classes	162	

Statistics for Sept. 18, 2016

1st Worship	85	
2nd Worship	250	
3rd Worship	112	Total 447
Bible Classes	166	