

The Torch

Central Church of Christ

Oct. 18, 2016

2001 E. MAIN
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.



Haiti Mission Trip will put your faith into action

If you would like to learn more about the possibility of joining a short term mission team in July 8-15, 2017, please see Jessica Pastirik or Ellie Eccleston for an application. A \$75 deposit and application is due no later than December 1st. We will be working with our missionary partners Haitian Christian Outreach. There is an informational meeting for anyone considering this on Monday, November 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the Upper Room.

Community Thanksgiving Dinner offered to all

The Streator-wide Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be held Thursday, November 24 at noon at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 509 E Broadway, Streator.

This meal is provided for those who would otherwise be alone on Thanksgiving. Reservations are required for the sit-down meal, carryouts and delivered meals. Information about how to place a reservation or to volunteer will be available in the worship guide on Sundays or call the Church Office (815) 673-1581.



Bethlehem Walk is December 1-4, 2016

Here are some things you can do to help prepare for this year's special Bethlehem Walk.

- Pray! Pray for those we are trying to reach through the Bethlehem Walk. Pray that we bless God because He has already blessed us. Pray for safety for the entire Walk from set up through tear down.
- **Reservations will be open starting on Monday, November 7 at 9:00 a.m. by calling (815) 673-1581.**
- There are invitations that you can take with you give out to help get the word out about the reservation day. They are available at the welcome center.
- If you have a speaking part (Guides and Cast), the rehearsal schedule will be posted on the BW Board and check for walk-throughs on Sundays in November. There will be childcare during these rehearsals.
- We do not charge for the Walk nor do we accept donations during the Walk. If you can give beyond your normal tithe and offering, place your donation in the designated envelopes available in the pews or at the Kiosk.
- There are donations we will be accepting and the complete list **will soon** be posted on the Bethlehem Walk Board in the foyer. Most of them are food items for the Marketplace. If you see something you can provide, please sign up on the list. There are copies of the candy recipes at the board as well, for those willing to make candy for the Marketplace.
- **We are holding Sunday Morning Worship Service at Woodland High School this year at 10:00 a.m. on December 4, 2016. The school is located at 5800 E 3000 North Road, Streator.**

Fellow Co-workers,

Dr. Rory Christensen

Years ago, George Bernard Shaw made a comment that rings true: "The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place." If that's the case, then hopefully some of the moves we have taken over the past few weeks are in the right direction. Communication has been and continues to be a significant blessing to and hurdle for our ministry. It's the key piece that assists unity and releases forward momentum. However, it's also the piece about which it's easy to make assumptions (e.g. that what we're doing is working, and that we're all in on the info) that can stymie the entire shooting match. And if it's true that people are typically "down on what they are not up on," these assumptions and the failed efforts they fuel can seriously impact our ability to unite around a common vision and score points for the Kingdom in our community.

That being the case, over the past few weeks, we've gone "back to the drawing board," with our communications processes. While we haven't totally cleaned house, we're making some shifts that we're hoping sharpen communication and target it to the appropriate audiences. For internal communication, we realized that monthly communication via The Torch isn't frequent enough for our purposes (something that leaves us reprinting announcements and service opportunities in our Sunday bulletin, turning it into a book our guests have to thumb through, and that we're tempted to write off as too much work). That being the case, for internal communication, we created Central News, a weekly email sent to those who subscribe to it (it's specifically for those who are on our Dream Team, the group who are working to accomplish our 5-year-vision of "Presenting Christ to the unchurched," although anyone can receive it). Central News will include an ever revolving list (nothing on it longer than two weeks) of announcements and service opportunities. It will also include a quick (50 seconds or less) video of the coming week's theme, so you can be even more intentional when you invite to church the unchurched person you're praying for. And, we'll include a weekly Team Tip: a focused reminder and/or instruction that helps us "score points" toward the wins that accomplish our vision.

Bringing in Central News has ramifications that impact some of our other communications processes. It's allowing us to pull much of the announcement-type information out of our bulletin (you can still get that info via Central News or a print version of it in the information kiosk outside the worship center). That releases us to shape it into something that will be useful to our guests (rather than something easily thrown away). It's also moving us to start shifting the Torch into a targeted-quarterly publication that forecasts the upcoming quarter of ministry (the earliest this will happen is January 2017). On the web-based front: we will continue to target our facebook page and Instagram account toward posting information that is useful to the unchurched (channeling them toward our ministry), and that is easy for us to share with our unchurched friends; we will also be revising and streamlining our website so that it is a better communication tool concerning our ministry.

It's our hope and prayer that these shifts will assist us in better targeting information, so increasing numbers of people can learn about, be impacted by, and connect with our ministry. Keep praying for this, and for what we're trying to accomplish. What we do matters! Oh, and, make sure you stay in the loop, too.

Be bold. Stay faithful.

Rory



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.

Ring the Bells for the Salvation Army

Central Church of Christ has committed to Ring the Bells for a full day for the Salvation Army at Walgreens, Kroger, and Walmart on Saturday, December 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Central has done this for a number of years and wants to carry on our commitment to help the needy in the Streator area. Many people ring the bells with a smile, but some have even chosen to do so with a flair. No matter how you do it, it's all to help the Salvation Army care for the needy. You can choose to give a special gift this year by calling the Office (815) 673-1581, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or sign up at the Welcome Center on Sundays starting in November.



Operation Christmas Child Packing Party



Everyone is welcome to come join the fun as we kick off National Collection Week by having a packing party in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 12. We will attempt to pack 200 plus boxes as supplies allow.

This is for anyone both adult and children, individuals or families that would like to help pack boxes. Join us for this fun filled event. Sign-Up at the Welcome Center.

The Amazing Journey of a Simple Shoebox Gift begins with YOU and results in Evangelism, Discipleship, and Multiplication

From children to seniors, people pack shoebox gifts each year to bless children in need around the world. Parents often use the project to teach their kids about giving. Empty Shoeboxes and instructions are available in the church foyer. You may take as many as you want to fill. If you have any questions, call 815-673-1581.

Shoebox Drop Off Hours

Mon., Nov 14, 2016: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Tues., Nov. 15, 2016: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Wed., Nov 16, 2016: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Thur., Nov 17, 2016: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Fri., Nov 18, 2016: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Sat., Nov 19, 2016: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Sun., Nov 20, 2016: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Mon., Nov 21, 2016: 7 a.m. - 9 a.m.



THE Bethel Series

The Bethel Series is a carefully planned adult Bible study program that offers a unique approach to the Scriptures. If you are looking to expand your knowledge of the Old and New Testaments, you will be led into a disciplined study in such a way that you grow in understanding of the meaning and mission of the church in today's world. This class, led by Jim Allen and Jane Cavanaugh, will meet on Sunday mornings at 11:00 am in the Ministry Center Lower Level. Sign up at the Welcome Center.



Surviving the Holidays Seminar

Surviving the Holidays is a helpful, encouraging seminar for people facing the holidays after a loved one's death. Please join us on **Thursday, November 10, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Upper Room of the Ministry Center. There is no cost to attend.

The seminar features video interviews with counselors, grief experts, and other people who have experienced the holidays after their loved one's death and who offer practical suggestions and reassurance. These people share honestly about:

- * Being prepared for surprising emotions that may hit over the holidays
- * What to do about traditions and other coming changes
- * How to handle holiday parties and invitations
- * How to survive potentially awkward moments with other people
- * Where to find comfort, strength, and hope in a seemingly hopeless time

Those who attend will receive a Survival Guide filled with practical tips, encouraging words, journaling ideas, and exercises for daily help through the holiday season.

For more information, call Jessica at 815-673-1581 or email involvement@centrallive.net Child care is available with advance notice.

THE TORCH

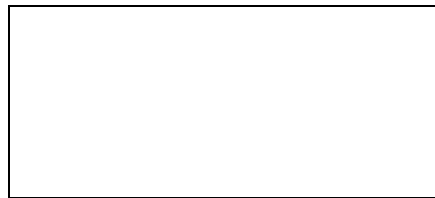
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**Funeral Ministry needs
willing volunteers**

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

- Sierra Granados
- Kaitlyn Walter
- Kassidy Walter



Offerings

E Giving

Since April 2016

20 Givers

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

\$533,526

Offerings given to-date:

\$545,640

Financial Statement available at the Welcome Center or the Church Office



Statistics for Sept. 25, 2016

1st Worship	84	
2nd Worship	234	
3rd Worship	124	Total 442
Bible Classes	184	

Statistics for Oct. 2, 2016

1st Worship	75	
2nd Worship	268	
3rd Worship	120	Total 463
Bible Classes	158	

Statistics for Oct. 9, 2016

1st Worship	83	
2nd Worship	233	
3rd Worship	125	Total 441
Bible Classes	145	

Statistics for Oct. 16, 2016

1st Worship	74	
2nd Worship	268	
3rd Worship	97	Total 439
Bible Classes	164	