



THE CENTRAL CRIER

CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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Over the Pastor's Shoulder

Here we are again. Once more we find ourselves in March midway through another season of Lent. This article is written the evening of our joint Ash Wednesday service, which was well attended by members of both Grace Episcopal and our own Central Church. It was a wonderful reminder that we are not alone as we face the struggles of life as individuals and as congregations. Once again we were reminded although we are sinners and it is from dust we come and to dust we shall return, but most importantly, our God is a gracious and merciful God who has made it possible in Jesus for all the mistakes, the sins of our past to be wiped clean and any fear and anxiety we may have for the future relieved by the news of what happened in Jerusalem so long ago in what we now call Holy Week.

As you read this issue of the Crier, with its updates on church life and news about the joys and struggles of our members and friends, we are in the middle of the Lenten season. Lent is meant to be a time of reflection on who we are, our personal strengths and weaknesses, admitting to ourselves and to God where we fall short of where he and we would want us to be. It is also a time to take on some act of contrition, some tangible act which shows our desire to grow in faith and let God take more charge of our lives. Some traditions focus on giving up for the forty days something important which would be to some degree a sacrifice for us to do so. For some this is chocolate, for others maybe coffee. It has been suggested that I might give up Diet Coke. While this act of self-discipline may be helpful for some, it is an exercise of only limited value. The tendency for many is immediately after Easter, and maybe even on Sundays in Lent which are not part of Lent but days of celebration of the Resurrection, to go back to whatever we chose not to eat or drink, possibly in greater quantity in order to "catch up.":

Another way to look at this, however, might be more lasting if we would in our self-examination of the season, try to change not what we eat or drink for a time, but how we act in our daily lives in certain situations. If I was a person who tended to be critical of others, perhaps a Lenten discipline could be to decide when someone does something I usually would be critical of, to decide instead to love the person who did it in hopes love expressed could help the person change, and in the process, I would not be nearly as unhappy a person as I was. If I was a person who tended to compare my situation with those who had more than I do, and as a result am unhappy and envious and wondering why that couldn't be me, maybe in Lent I decide to compare my situation with those who had less than I do, either in money, or health, or number of close personal relationships. If I could learn to do that, I would find myself much more joyful and thankful for what I had rather than grumpy and sad, an attitude that wouldn't help me or those around me at all.

Do you have any attitudes that get in the way of God's love for you, that result in your unhappiness, that keep you from knowing the joy, hope and peace of mind God has for you? This Lenten season, why not resolve to change that attitude to one of reaching out in love to those around you. I can assure you, as I read scripture and from personal experience, if you do you will be glad you did.

Your faithful sheepdog,
Jim Ecklund

***** **CENTRAL PAST** *****

Central Remembered in Bequests

We here at Central have mourned the passing of a number of long time members in recent months. Many have honored them through the giving of memorials which have been turned over to the Galesburg Community Foundation to help us reach our goal of preserving this church we and they loved. In January, in addition to memorials in their names, we have received bequests from the estates of two of them. We give thanks that Catherine Fellows and Helen Peters each remembered the community where they worshiped Christ and shared so much with brothers and sisters in Christ over the years. We praise God for them, and give thanks for their foresight in providing these gifts. Estate planning, including gifts of appreciated securities and life insurance proceeds all provide excellent ways for all of us to consider as we reflect on God’s blessing in our lives. If there are any who would like help in developing an estate planning program benefiting the church, please let the office know.

***** **CENTRAL PRESENT** *****

MUSIC MOMENTS

Our choir is back and preparing songs for worship during Lent and Easter. Join us for short rehearsals at 11:45 to 12:15 on Sunday mornings.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

“Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” Philippians 4:6

AS REQUESTED BY THE CHURCH FAMILY

The Family of Margo Jacobs, The Watson Family, The Family of Donnie Westfall

Pray also for Our Homebound Members –Kay Coe, Tammy Dell, Maggie Goad, Maxine Pillsbury, Arlene Safford, and Sam Skillman

Pray for all God’s Children.

Please remember those listed here in your prayers. As a faith community we have been instructed to pray for one another and to bear one another’s burdens and we are grateful for the opportunity to show love for one another in this way. In the same way, each of us is encouraged to let Pastor Jim or the church office know when we have need for the prayers of the congregation such as a hospitalization, loss or other life transition or circumstance.

Pastor’s Schedule

Pastor Jim Ecklund is available most Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, and often at other times. To set up an appointment with him please call 343-5145.

Coffee Fellowship

If you would like to support our coffee fellowship, but prefer not to serve, you may donate financially to the Worship/Hospitality group and have others serve for you.

Child Care is available during the worship service

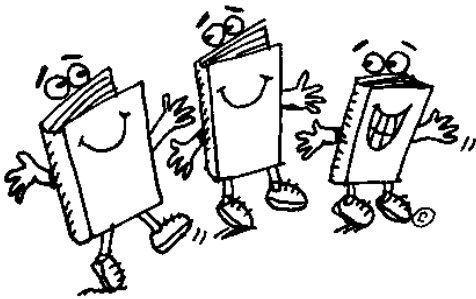
Endowment Fund To Be Established

One of the ways the members of Central Church have decided to proceed in its efforts to maintain and preserve the church building for future generations is in the formation of an Endowment Fund with the Galesburg Community Foundation. Special contributions to this fund will be used for the ongoing care of this building to preserve it as a community treasure for decades to come. As incentive for us to build this fund as rapidly as possible, we have applied to the Foundation for an Incentive program whereby they will match up to \$10,000 given to the fund over the next year. This would mean each dollar we may contribute will generate another \$1 for the future care of our building. Word on the application here will not be received until early April, but the Fund will be available in March for any gifts that may be received. The future of our church building depends on our establishing secure ways to maintain and preserve it in the years to come. The goal for our Endowment Fund has been tentatively set at \$3,000,000. Any and all gifts, small, large and very large will all be welcomed. Let's work together to make it happen.

FAIR SHARE

Central Church has not yet sent in their Fair Share participation check to the NACCC. The recommended gift is \$13.00 per member. If you would like to be a part of the church's support, please make your check out to Central Congregational Church as soon as possible and the church will send one check.

The Trustees



ANOTHER FORM OF SHARING

Book Study: Becoming A Blessed Church by N. Graham Standish. . The books have been ordered and plans are being developed to begin this book study on Wednesday afternoons. If interested, please contact the church or Gail Masinda for further information.

Gaither Vocal Band

WHAT? The Gaither Vocal Band will be at the Peoria Civic Center on Saturday, March 28, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

TICKETS: Reserved ticket prices are: Adults: \$28.50, Senior (60+) and child (2-12): \$24.50. Groups of 15+: \$23.50 plus 2 free tickets. To buy tickets yourself, you can charge by phone 1-800-745-3000 or internet: Ticketmaster.com. To buy group tickets you can call 309-680-3551. If you are interested in going, please call the church office or sign-up in the narthex.



Tech Tips

Congratulations to Reed Robertson for being the first person from our congregation to sign up to receive announcements and updates through our website! Today's Tech Tip is about the format of the website. Whether you are viewing it on your desktop/laptop computer or on a tablet or on your smart phone, the layout will automatically adjust to best fit your screen. The techy term for this is "responsive format." You don't have to do a thing, other than visit the site, that is. (galesburgchurch.org). We've just had another record breaking week for the number of people visiting our website. One of the most popular pages to visit this week was under the 'History' section. There you will find a page called "Lantern Slides" which contains several beautiful historic photos, including one of the interior of the Old First Church. Check it out!

EASTER GARDEN



The Worship Ministry Group will have our usual "garden" of flowers for the Easter service. Individuals and families wishing to make a monetary donation in honor or memory of loved ones may do so.

A portion of the money collected will purchase flowers to grace our altar. The balance of the funds will be donated to the preservation of the building.

Names of donors and remembered loved ones will be printed in the Easter morning bulletin. Please fill out this form and put it with your donation.

The suggested donation is \$10, *if you are able*.

Mark your donation: "Easter Garden." Place the form and donation in the offering plate or bring it to the office by Palm Sunday.

Donor's Name(s)

Amount given _____

In Memory or In Honor of:

Relationship (optional)

March Birthdays

- 1 – Marcia Bullis,
Debbie Begner
- 6 – Mary Betts
- 9 – Krista Godsil
Carolyn Griffith
- 10 – Kate Bullis
Monica McGraw
- 11 - Amos Blevins
- 18 - Kay Coe
- 19 - Jim Vanier
- 21 - Ashley Reynolds
Winifred Chilton
- 24 - Haven Krei
Caden Krei
- 29 - Jean Kimble
- 30 – Kay Shaver



March Anniversaries

28 – Jim and Jean Browning Special
Congratulations on this 45th year anniversary!



~March 2015 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion Sunday Head Usher: Harold Griffith, Craig Conolly, Tom Peter, Harvey Templeton. 9:15 Informal Bible Discussion 10:30 Worship Service Greeter: Worship Leader :Sallee Wade and Communion Coffee Hour:	2	3 5:00 Girl Scouts 7:00 Rock Church 7:00 Prairieland Gardeners	4 5:30 Staff Meeting	5	6	7 9:00am Women's Club 2:00 Godsil Wedding shower
8 9:15 Informal Bible Discussion 10:30 Worship Service Greeter: Worship Leader: Teresa Sanford-Shipplett Coffee Hour: Daylight Savings Time-Spring Forward	9	10 7:00Rock Church 7:00 DCFS Training Class	11 6:00 Meeting Worship/Hospitality 6:30 Ministry Group meetings 7:30 Leadership Meeting	12 5:30 KPCK free Community Meal	13	14
15 9:15 Informal Bible Discussion 10:30 Worship Service Greeter: Worship Leader: Tom Peters Coffee Hour:	16	17 7:00Rock Church	18	19	20	21
22 9:15 Informal Bible Discussion 10:30 Worship Service: Greeter: Worship Leader Rhonda Murmann Coffee Hour:	23	24 7:00Rock Church	25	26 5:30 KPCK free Community Meal	27	28
29 Palm Sunday 9:15 Informal Bible Discussion 10:30 Worship Service: Greeter: Worship Leader: : Karla Johnson Coffee Hour:	30	31				



Central Congregational Church
“The Church From The Square”
60 Public Square
Galesburg, Illinois 61401

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Jesus Loves You!



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST, CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GALESBURG STRIVES TO BE A WARM AND VIBRANT FAITH COMMUNITY THAT WELCOMES ALL, WITHOUT EXCEPTION, EMBRACING AND LIVING OUT DAILY THE BIBLICAL IMPERATIVE TO LOVE GOD AND OTHERS

Central Congregational Church

“The Church *From* The Square”

Pastor Jim Ecklund’s office hours are most Tuesday and Thursday afternoons

Pastor Ecklund’s E-mail: pastor.central1898@gmail.com

Church office hours: 9:00am - 1:00pm Monday – Friday

Call 343-5145 or email centeral1898@gmail.com to set up an appointment.

Our address: Central Congregational Church, 60 Public Square, Galesburg, IL 61401



Gathered in 1837, Replanted September 12, 2010
Central Congregational Church is a member of the:
National Association of Congregational Christian Churches
Midwest Association of Congregational Christian Churches