



# THE CENTRAL CRIER

## CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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### Over the Pastor's Shoulder

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It is appropriate that the first week in April is the final week of Lent. The coming of Spring after the blahs, cold and snows of winter have given away to new life as our lawns turn green. So too, after the journey Jesus took to Jerusalem ended with a crucifixion, and death on a cross for him, we know it led to new life for us all as he was raised from the dead on Easter Sunday.

So it is, I welcome you who read the Crier each month to a time of new beginnings for us all. Lent has been a time to reflect on who we are as sinners, and take seriously what it means to be a follower of Jesus. We have been reminded of his call to not only the disciples in the first century but all of us to take up our cross, as he did his, and follow him. We have been reminded Jesus' way to live to find meaning, joy and hope in life, will lead to the best kind of life possible. His way, which admittedly is hard to do sometimes, involves seeing ourselves as servants to those around us in need and growing in our willingness to place other people's needs ahead of our own.

Over the centuries when the church has seen itself as a servant people, it has grown as people realized Christian faith is more than a religion. Faith in Christ is more than just a bunch of people who get together once in a while on Sundays, pray a bit, sing a few hymns, and listen to some preacher talk ABOUT God and ABOUT love. It is a way of life in which people live and share God's love every day. The ideal for a church family, someone once said, is for its members on Sunday to enter the sanctuary to worship, and then leave to serve God during the week wherever they find people in need. Whenever the church slipped away from that priority, it has struggled to exist.

In the next year, Central Congregational Church is coming to a crossroads in its life. When I retire in February, 2016, the church will need to decide what the shape of its future will be. Plans have begun to facilitate making that decision. Formation of a Pastoral Search Committee is well under way. The third and fourth Sundays this month there will be Open Forums to discuss what the congregation's future might look like. This will involve thinking through what will be needed to move forward, either with 1) a full-time pastor, 2) a part-time pastor, or the third option which no one wants but must be considered, rebooting our resources in a new and different direction. The decision will be made at the summer Quarterly meeting. Whatever option is chosen, the key will be how the congregation will answer Christ's call to us to love one another and put other's needs ahead of our own.

What is your vision for what Central might look like in the years ahead? How might it grow as a servant community, loving its members as has been done for decades AND reaching out in love to those around us? Let's move forward in faith to follow Jesus and his way. Bottom line, if we do that, we will be glad we did.

Your faithful sheepdog,

Jim Ecklund

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**CENTRAL PAST**  
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An article that appeared in last month's Crier spoke to the application process to establish an Endowment Fund for Central through the Galesburg Community Foundation. While all contributions gathered so far will certainly help us maintain the building, the extra benefit we would receive by being accepted as an Endowment Fund would be the matching funds up to \$10,000. We are to receive a final decision on this application in April. There are large ticket concerns that will need to be addressed in the near future. Although we continue to repair the roof, it seems as soon as one spot has been addressed, another fails. The boiler is another concern that is complicated by its age and unavailable parts for repair. Estimates are being secured to determine the "anticipated life span" as well as replacement costs. The preservation of our building is a concern for us at Central as our place of worship, as well as the historic significance for the community. We all look forward to a positive decision for the Endowment Fund. More on this subject will occur in the May Crier.

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**CENTRAL PRESENT**  
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**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, Bill Sargeant, America, Carol Wurts

*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**

# FEED THE SPIRIT, FEED THE SOUL

## SPECIAL EASTER OFFERING

Central's special Easter offering this year will benefit the Fish food pantry.

Hunger is an ongoing concern here in Galesburg and Knox County and so it is with that in mind that we will focus on the Fish Food Pantry during the month of April. This year we are once again asking members of our congregation to consider a donation of money rather than nonperishable food items. The food pantry people tell us that for every dollar one of us would spend to buy and donate a food item, the food pantry is able to buy much more food with the same amount. Each of us is therefore encouraged to donate funds rather than food.

You will find special offering envelopes in your worship bulletins on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. However, you may make a donation to the Easter special offering any time during April. Just **write your check to Central Congregational Church** and write **"Fish Easter offering"** in the memo section. You may place it in the offering plate or give it to one of us.

Thank you for your concern and your prayers for the hungry of our community.

The Mission Group

Teresa Sanford Shipplett, Tom Heather, Cynthia Heather, and Don White

### \*\*\*\*\*CENTRAL FUTURE\*\*\*\*\*

Central will be hosting three special events in the next few weeks that should provide a great deal of diversity and enjoyment for all who attend. The dates are April 19<sup>th</sup>, May 3<sup>rd</sup> and May 6<sup>th</sup>.

### Three Outstanding Musicians One Amazing Concert

Luke Acerra, Gareth Cordery and Robert Spurgeon will present an afternoon concert of baroque to modern music for piano and cello on Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 3:00. All three musicians began their cello studies under the tutelage of Carolyn Suda, the principal cellist of the Knox Galesburg Symphony Orchestra. This will be a free concert, although donations toward the preservation of Central Congregational Church will be accepted.

### CHUCK CRAIN CONCERT

Chuck Crain will be returning to Central Church at 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 3, 2015. This will be a fundraising concert with proceeds going to building preservation. Chuck is a featured vocalist at the Presley County Music Theater in Branson, MO. Tickets will be \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 ages 10 and under. Detail planning is underway. Much help will be needed in getting the word out and in selling tickets. Please mark the date on your calendar and volunteer to help. The concert committee is seeking 12 sponsors for the show. Cost to be a sponsor is fifty dollars. For the fifty dollars you will receive 5 tickets (a value of \$50) which you may resell, give away or use yourself.

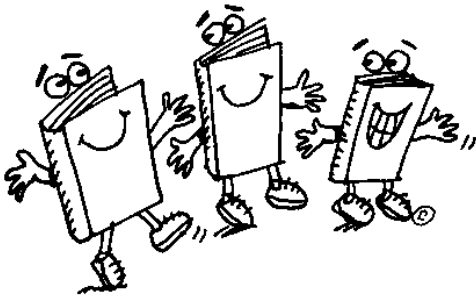
### Cookies Needed!

Once again Central Congregational Church will host a cookie reception following the Chuck Crain Concert May 3. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Please bring your cookies by Sunday morning May 3. If you can help with the reception, see Rhonda Murmann.



## MARY ANN BICKERDYKE

During the evening of May 6<sup>th</sup>, we will be turning back the pages of time to welcome Pam Johnson as she portrays the life and times of Mary Ann Bickerdyke. Before her name christened hospitals, a bridge, a battleship and even before she was known as "Mother," Mary Ann and her family lived in Galesburg. It was here she came to realize her life's work—to care for wounded soldiers during and after the War Between the States. The state of Illinois has officially declared this day to be *the Mary Ann Bickerdyke Day*, and as her funeral was held in Central Congregational Church, it is fitting that she returns to Central to tell her story once again. There will be performances during the day for local students, and the public is invited to the evening performance beginning at 6:30. There will be a freewill donation towards the preservation of Central Congregational Church.



### ANOTHER FORM OF SHARING

Book Study: Becoming A Blessed Church by N. Graham Standish. The books have arrived and the study should begin soon on Wednesday afternoons. If interested, please contact the church or Gail Masinda for further information.

### Pastoral Search Committee

There will be an initial meeting of the Pastoral Search Committee following the Open Forum meeting after church on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

Once again, services will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church during Holy Week. Beautiful preludes begin at 11:45 with services beginning at 12:05 Monday through Thursday. Services extend on Good Friday until 3:00.

There are several significant birthdays during April. Tom and Gail Bullis will turn 89, and Maggie Goad will be 91. In addition to special birthdays, Tom and Gail will celebrate their 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Congratulations to all and we certainly hope you enjoy your special days!



Apologies for special March birthdays that didn't receive the recognition they deserved. Kay Coe turned 86 and Jean Kimble turned 87. We hope both ladies enjoyed their special birthdays.

Pastor Ecklund will be out of town from April 14<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup>.

Are you receiving your Crier through the postal system but would prefer to receive it on line? Simply let the office know of your preference and your email and we can make that happen. The office number is (309)343-5145 or email that information to central1898@gmail.com.

### April Birthdays

4 – Lorie Larsen  
 6 – Tom Bullis  
 13—Debbie Dalton  
 13 – Abby LeClere  
 16 – Marte Glass  
 17 – Jodi McMillan  
 21 John Mikrut  
 25- Maggie Goad  
 28 – Gail Bullis



### April Anniversaries

7- John and Beverly Maddrell  
 19- Scott and Krista Godsil  
 29- Tom and Gail Bullis..65 years



~April 2015 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>USHERS</b> Head Usher: Harvey Templeton, D.J.Johnson, Clarence Sargeant, Harold Griffith			1	2 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service	3 Good Friday	4 Holy Saturday
<b>5 Easter Sunday</b>  10:30 Worship Service Greeter: Harold Griffith Worship Leader Easter-Cynthia Heather & Communion	6 7:00 DCFS	7 5:00 Girl Scouts 7:00 Prairie Gardeners 7:00 Rock Church	8 6:00 Staff Meeting	9 5:30 KPCK free Community Meal	10	11
<b>12</b> 10:30 Worship Service Greeter: Worship Leader: Craig Connolly Coffee Hour: Clarence & Brenda Sargeant Beth Swanson organist	13 7:00 DCFS	14 7:00 Rock Church	15 6:00 Meeting Worship/Hospitality 6:30 Ministry Group meetings 7:30 Leadership Meeting	16	17	18
<b>19</b> 10:30 Worship Service Greeter: Steve & Rhonda Murmann Worship Leader: Teresa Shipplett Coffee Hour: Harvey & Nancy Templeton Open Forum in South Room Pastoral Committee meets after forum 3:00: Cello and Piano concert	20 7:00 DCFS	21 7:00 Rock Church	22	23 5:30 KPCK free Community Meal	24	25
<b>26</b> 10:30 Worship Service: Greeter: Clarence & Brenda Sargeant Worship Leader Tom Peters: Coffee Hour: Steve & Rhonda Murmann	27 7:00 DCFS	28 7:00 Rock Church	29	30		



**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: [jimeck@galesburg.net](mailto:jimeck@galesburg.net)

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

Call 343-5145 or email [centeral1898@gmail.com](mailto: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