



THE CENTRAL CRIER

CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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Over the Pastor's Shoulder

Alia iacta est. In other words, "The **die** is **cast.**" What we have here is the Latin phrase attributed to Julius Caesar on January 10, 49 BC as he led his army across the River Rubicon. While what we have here at Central Congregational Church is nowhere near what Caesar was doing when he entered Italy, it could be said the congregation at its Quarterly meeting on May 17, took as historic a step in its life as it made a choice that will affect it in significant ways in coming years. By clear vote of the members, the church will move forward as the people of God in 2016 by calling a full-time pastor to be the next sheep-dog, guiding and directing the church in efforts to follow the call of Christ to love God AND our neighbor as ourselves. It was a decision made prayerfully, looking to God's guidance not only for how to vote but also in the future as decisions are made.

Caesar crossing the Rubicon was only the beginning of an arduous struggle that took many people and much time to bring to fruition. So, too, the months and years ahead must involve the whole congregation as it decides the style of pastor, the nature of leadership is God's will to look for in the new pastor. A Pastoral Search Committee has been formed and has begun to meet. It would be my hope by the next Quarterly Meeting in August or early September there will be a report of good progress made in the search. This process is, however, something the rest of the church can't let them do alone. At the very least, regular prayer needs to be lifted up by all members of the church in support, praying for a sense of God's presence with them and his guidance as they move forward. It will not be an "easy" task, but one worth the effort of all of us as it unfolds.

Good things are happening at Central these days. As a commitment has been made to move the church's ministry from the Square forward in coming years, the Preservation Committee has also been at work with several substantive steps being taken to preserve the building. This summer, Partners for Sacred Places will be here in July and August with a study to help us ensure the church's on-going presence in the community for decades to come. In addition, this Crier contains the announcement of a Matching Gift Program made possible by the Galesburg Community Foundation and a friend of the church. In this program, each dollar given to an Endowment Fund that is being established will be **MATCHED DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR** up to \$20,000. The resulting \$40,000 will be a good start toward the \$3,000,000 needed to assure the future care of Central Church. That will be in addition to the Current Needs Fund for which almost \$36,000 has been raised in recent months towards the more than \$5 million needed.

Those numbers do sound scary, but we can be confident as we move forward in faith, great things can happen if we trust in God, act in faith and ALL do our part. I invite you to join in this challenge we are taking on. If you do, I believe fully, we will all be glad you did.

Your faithful sheepdog,
Jim Ecklund

Mary Ann Bickerdyke

The Mary Ann Bickerdyke event was very successful and we received excellent press coverage from the Galesburg Register Mail and our radio stations. During the event, we hosted over 100 students during the day, and almost that many that evening. There were 14 volunteers who were reenactors and five from the church who helped in various capacities. A very special thank you goes to Pam Johnson who did a wonderful job of portraying Mother Bickerdyke. We wrote letters to wounded soldiers and veterans and sent 102 letters to the VA hospital. While a lot of the sentiments are very similar, you might enjoy reading a sentence or two from a few selected. Some of the children's hand writing and drawings make them even more precious! I hope this list touches your heart.

We are praying for you all.//To whoever is reading this, thank you. You probably hear that a lot, but words can't describe how grateful I really am.//You have done so much so that I can have a better life.//You are a blessing and an example to me.//I teach history, and it is hard to explain to students that freedom isn't free.//Praying for God's peace.//I am Evan. Thank you for fighting for me (This was obviously a little kid's writing. I didn't correct his spelling)☺ You are AWESOME!//The memories of your service stay with you as many of us regretfully forget all you have done for our country. May your days be filled with gentleness and God's love.//Jesus said, "Blessed are the peace makers!" That's YOU! Without your stand on watch, we would not have the freedoms we enjoy.//My prayers for you go with this greeting.//May ABBA Father God bless you.//Hello. I know you don't know me but I hope you know how grateful I am for what you have done for us.//Thank you for fighting for me.//Thank you for your bravery and your boldness.//Thank you for preserving the blessings we hold dear.//I hope that one day I can be as strong as you.//I'm proud of you!//Bless your soul!//I think you are really cool.//Today, my class came to learn about Mother Bickerdyke, but what I learned is how hard it is to be a soldier.//Thank you doesn't begin to say what all needs to be said.//God has been with you your whole life, and is with you today, too.//Stay courageous!//I believe in the cause for which you fight -- our freedom.//Thank you for all you have done for me, my family and my country.//I ask God to encourage you, strengthen you, and bless you.//Thousands of people around the world are fighting for my freedom and are suffering for me. I AM GRATEFUL.//God bless America!

That evening, Steve Murmann was able to speak to the condition of the building and explain that we will soon be developing a campaign to raise money for the restoration and preservation of our building. We are very pleased with the financial support we received from that night but as donations are still arriving, the final amount has not yet been determined. The reenactors donated their time, most of those staying the full day, and the Galesburg Cottage Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association donated 24 dozen cookies. There was such an outpouring of donations for materials for the letters, the brochures and posters that our cost was around \$20. Thanks to all who supported this event!

CHUCK CRAIN CONCERT

The Chuck Crain Committee would like to thank the following persons for serving as sponsors. Helen White, Harold and Virginia Griffith, Ray Jacobs, Teresa Sanford-Shipplett, DJ and Karla Johnson, Steve and Rhonda Murmann, Clarence and Brenda Sargeant, Jim and Ro Ecklund, Joyce Bean, Larry Griffith, Harvey and Nancy Templeton, Bob and Dixie Johnson, Carolyn Griffith, Darrell and Debbie Phillips and Nancy McCune.

A special thank you to those who served as Committee Chairman for the Chuck Crain Concert. Arrangements and Contacts: Clarence and Brenda Sargeant; Publicity: Elaine Clayton, Larry Griffith and Bettie Patterson; Ticket Sales: Carolyn Griffith and Nancy McCune; Reception: Rhonda Murmann; House: David Griffith; General Chairman: Harold Griffith. The assistance of those serving on these committees and in many other ways is very much appreciated.

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

Financial Report from the Mission Committee

The congregation gave \$1,699 in the Easter offering to FISH of Galesburg. The Missions Committee rounded that up to \$1700 and sent it on to FISH. Thank you everyone!

Total income from January through May 18, 2015 was \$6,238.45 – from special offerings and 10% of monthly offerings.

Checking account interest from January through April 2015 was \$0.38.

Total expenditures from January through May 18, 2015 were \$6,490.37. Fifteen individuals were helped during this time period as well as many others through these organizations to which we contribute: KPCK, Doctors Without Borders, Safe Harbor, Habitat for Humanity of Knox County, FISH, CCHN (Christian Churches Helping Neighbors).

The balance in the Mission Committee checking account as of May 18, 2015 is \$3,312.04.

The Missions Committee – Teresa Sanford Shipplett, Cynthia and Tom Heather and Don White

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

Carol Wurtz, America, Debi Collier

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

*****CENTRAL FUTURE*****

AMAZING RACE

In an effort to increase students' working knowledge of the history of Galesburg, two groups of Lombard seventh grade students with teachers and staff will take part in a type of scavenger hunt in their version of an "Amazing Race" on June 1st. One of their stops will be Central where they will be met by Gail Masinda as she portrays Mary Ellen West. They are to visit our sanctuary to gain insight about the church and its ties to the founding of Galesburg. They are to identify members of the founding congregation and identify those with streets named after them, and take pictures of the Rose Window and group pictures on the front steps. They will be conducting a few interviews for the Register-Mail and WGIL and plan to make special mention of the church, in particular the funding campaign to help update and restore the church. They will also be posting their pictures of the church as well as special thanks on their Lombard homepage. "Our Lombard community of teachers, students, and respective families will be grateful knowing the history of the church and can also help bring awareness to our community to help preserve these buildings so future generations can enjoy them too."

Rail Road Days at Central

There are many ways to serve at Central during Rail Road Days. One is helping with the Luncheon Food Booth on Saturday June 27th from 10 am to 3 pm. There will be a sign up sheet in the narthex or call Rhonda Murmann. 734-9302

OTHER ACTIVITIES ON RAIL ROAD DAYS

Shuttle buses will travel a 'Historic Route' which includes Central Church as one of the stops on June 27th. In response to that opportunity, we plan on hosting the food booth Rhonda mentioned and giving tours of the building that day. There will also be visiting church choirs performing at 10:00 and 1:00. A reenactor will visit as she portrays Harriet Tubman, who was a slave, a cook and nurse and spy during the Civil War, and a successful "conductor" in the Underground Railroad activities. Abraham Lincoln is planning on making an appearance and we hope he'll be joined by Mary Todd. This is a wonderful opportunity to welcome visitors to our church and to make them aware of our involvement with the Galesburg Community Foundation. For this to be most effective, we are hoping that those who are able will volunteer in some capacity to ensure the success of this day.

Help Preserve Central Church on the Square

Initial Goal: Raise \$40,000 by June 30, 2016

Plans are being made to assure the preservation of Central Church on the Square as a community treasure in Galesburg, IL. A PassThru account has been established at the Galesburg Community Foundation to raise funds required to carry out work needed on the magnificent structure listed on the National Register of Historical Places. Among current items which need to be addressed are: replacement of the boiler, a new roof, and preservation of the stained glass windows, to name a few. Also to be undertaken is development of plans for use of the building as a community center in years to come. Partners for Sacred Places will work with the Committee to make this possible.

In addition, for the future preservation of Central Church, an Endowment Fund whose income will be used each year to maintain the building has been established. As a first step toward a goal of \$3,000,000, seed money has been provided by the Galesburg Community Foundation and a friend of the church, so: **Every dollar up to \$20,000 for the Endowment Fund established for the preservation of Central raised by June 30, 2016, will be MATCHED dollar for dollar.**

Will you be a partner to help make this possible?

Call the church at 345-5145 for further information.

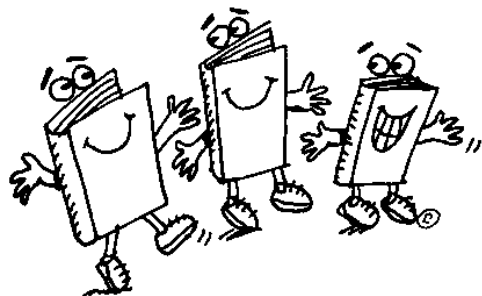
Gifts of all sizes are welcome.

Tax deductible contributions to either the PassThru or Endowment Fund may be made by check payable to:

Galesburg Community Foundation, with a memo noting the Central Church PassThru or Endowment Fund according to your wishes and sent to the Foundation at 246 E. Main St., Suite 101, Galesburg, IL 61401 or Central Church at: 60 Public Square, Galesburg, IL, 61401

PASTORAL SEARCH

The Pastoral Search Committee is taking the initial steps required to announce our opening. A letter was sent to the National Association making them aware of our desire to secure a new full time pastor. In return, we are to complete a Church Information Form (CIF). This form summarizes our congregation and community to help potential applicants become more familiar with our situation. Among many pieces of information asked in this form are questions on the topics of “attribute of a pastor” and “theological position of the church”. We believe this would be best answered by the congregation in the form of a confidential survey. This survey asks the questions listed in the CIF and will be distributed to the congregation on May 31 and collected on June 7. Answers will then be compiled and included in the CIF when it is returned to the NACCC. Upon the receipt of that form, the NACCC will be able to include us among their list of available pulpits for potential applicants. If you are unable to attend church on either of those Sundays, please call the office and a survey can be sent to you.



ANOTHER FORM OF SHARING

Book Study: Becoming A Blessed Church by N. Graham Standish. This group will be meeting at 3:00 in the South Room. All are welcome.

TECH TIPS

Have you visited our website at galesburgchurch.org? If you have, then you know the wealth of information you can find there. Even better, if you sign up to be a follower, (found at the bottom of the home page) you will automatically receive any new information posted there. Have you visited favorite sites only to find there's no new information provided and you're left wondering when or if an update will occur. That is not a problem for those who are followers of our website as that information comes to your email automatically. That's a wonderful time saver, and keeps you up to date at all times. You will find announcements of upcoming events as well as photos taken during the events. Go to the site and sign up today, because if you do, "You'll be glad you did"



June Birthdays

- 1 – Ivy Dale
- 4 – Chris Krei-
- 7 – Eric Berg
- 10 – Mary Peters
Judy Singer
- 12 - Virginia Griffith
Emma Hankins
- 13 – Brenda Sargeant
- 18 – Beverly Maddrell
- 19 – Harold Griffith
Kelly LeClere
- 20 – Bettie Patterson
- 21 Rhonda Murmann
Jill Carr
- 25 Maxine Pillsbury
- 29 Nancy McCune
Diane Stickle



June Anniversaries

- 16- Tom and Mary Peters
George and Barb Waldorf
- 20- Jay and Kim Bullis
- 22- Al and Mary Ann Gieryna
- 28- Michael and Lorie Larsen



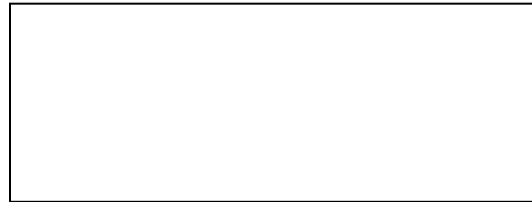
~June 2015 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
USHERS Head Usher: Harold Griffith Tom Peters, Craig Conolly, Clarence Sargeant	1 6:00: DCFS class	2	3 3:00 Becoming A Blessed Church book study. South Room 6:00 Meeting Worship/Hospitality 6:30 Ministry Group meetings 7:30 Leadership Meeting 6:00: DCFS class	4	5	6
7 10:30 Worship Service Greeter: Elaine Clayton Worship Leader Jodi Lafolette & Communion Coffee: Griffiths	8 6:00: DCFS class	9 7:00 Rock Church	10 3:00 Becoming A Blessed Church book study. South Room 6:00: DCFS class	11 5:30 KPCK free Community Meal	12	13
14 10:30 Worship Service Greeter: Tom & Mary Peters Worship Leader: Tom Peters Coffee Hour: Tom & Mary Peters	15 6:00: DCFS class	16 7:00 Rock Church	17 3:00 Becoming A Blessed Church book study. South Room 6:00: DCFS class	18	19	20
21 10:30 Worship Service Greeter: Bob & Dixie Johnson Worship Leader: Cynthia Heather Coffee Hour: Guest Pastor	22 6:00: DCFS class	23 7:00 Rock Church	24 3:00 Becoming A Blessed Church book study. South Room 6:00: DCFS class	25 5:30 KPCK free Community Meal	26	27 RailRoad Days Activities
28 10:30 Worship Service: Greeter: Reed Robertson Worship Leader : Rhonda Murmann Coffee Hour: Steve & Rhonda Murmann	29 6:00: DCFS class	30 7:00 Rock Church				



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

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

Web page: galesburgchurch.org



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