



THE CENTRAL CRIER

CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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AUGUST 2015

Over the Pastor's Shoulder

Time marches on. I have a hunch that is no surprise to any of you who read the Crier each month. Whatever we are involved in, whatever we would like to do with our time, it is easy for things we want to do to slip by. Time marches on and its passage brings many challenges to be met. Here at Central Church we are aware of the passage of time as we look at our church building and at the congregation. The historic building we worship in is in need of major restoration, and the congregation as it ages is facing many issues as it faces the future.

To face the challenges of the future, the congregation has decided to take two major steps forward. One, knowing the current pastor retires next March, it decided at its last Quarterly Meeting to search for and call a full time pastor to lead it. The Pastoral Search Committee is well underway in its search and will be called on to report its progress at the next Quarterly Business Meeting. This is a most important step because whom the church calls will provide the tone for reaching out to attract others to join us here at Central. When he or she arrives, they will need the full support of each member of the congregation if it is to be an active congregation and grow in the future as God leads it. I encourage you to be constantly and fervently praying for the Search Committee and to offer what help you can to facilitate their task in the months to come.

The church's second decision in its efforts to face the future was to adopt a plan to ensure the historic building we worship in will continue far into its second century as the central landmark in the city of Galesburg, and an outpost of the love of God. The goal is to raise a significant amount of money to deal with the immediate needs to preserve the building and to establish an Endowment Fund to ensure resources will be available in the years to come to maintain it. A gathering of community leaders has been held and a consultant, Partners in Sacred Places, has been brought in to guide and help us. Later in August there will be Workshops held to assess the resources available and investigate possible use of the building. An article in this Crier outlines the initial steps being taken to meet the challenge

Time marches on. We have, as the poet said, much to do and "miles to go before we sleep," and there is only so much time to do what needs to be done. Please prayerfully consider how you can help Central move to the next stage of its life as a congregation. It can't happen with only a few of us. It will need many to "take the time" to make it happen. We need many to – carpe diem – to seize the day, if the future is to be bright. Will you join in the effort? If you do, you will be glad you did.

Your faithful sheepdog,
Jim Ecklund

CENTRAL PAST
Thank You

Thanks to all who helped with the food booth on Railroad Days in any capacity. Thanks to our grillers Steve Murmann and Clarence Sargeant and all the crew that served, set up, and cleaned up. Special thanks to Brenda Sargeant, Mary Peters, Suzanne Klohn, Lawrence Griffith and Pastor Jim. You are the best!

PARTNERS FOR SACRED PLACES

Building Preservation Update:

As many of you know, Central has recently started down the road that we hope will lead to the preservation of our beautiful building for generations to come. To help us determine whether the resources are available we have begun working with Partners for Sacred Places, a national organization that specializes in helping historically significant churches preserve their buildings. You can learn more about them by visiting their web site www.sacredplaces.org.

The first step has been for them to get a perspective of the church and wider community by way of interviews. This was done in early July. The next phase will occur August 22nd and 23 are the church. On Saturday from 9am to noon Partners will conduct an Asset-Mapping workshop to help us identify the strengths and assets in our Church and community. Lunch will be served from noon to 1pm. An afternoon session from 1pm to 3pm will be a brainstorming session for those interested in discussing specific uses of the building in a Space Sharing workshop. The goal will be to consider ways underutilized parts of the building can be used by our community.

Sunday, Partners will lead a training session on Capital Campaigns.

Broad participation by both Church and community members is critical for success so please consider attending some or all of these workshops.

CENTRAL PRESENT
FUNDS

With all the emphasis on raising money for an endowment fund and placing money in the Galesburg Community Foundation Preservation Fund, we cannot forget our monthly expenses. The middle of May there was insufficient funds in the cash flow account to make payroll and meet the monthly expenses. The Trustees had to borrow \$5,000 from the savings account. We were at the same situation for the middle of July and had to withdraw another \$5,000. Please remember our regular offering as our expenses continue to go on.

The Trustees

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

Amy, Lori Watts, Cathy Lannholm, Helen White, Sylvia Burford, and America

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*****

CLARA BARTON

As many of you know, Central has been a busy place for historical figures to appear through reenactors during the last few months. We've welcomed Mary Ann Bickerdyke, Mary Allen West, Harriet Tubman, President and Mrs. Lincoln and will soon be greeting Clara Barton. Amy Barger, who portrayed one of the nurses during our Bickerdyke Day celebration, will be returning to Central as Clara Barton on Saturday, September 26, at 2:00 p.m. Amy's dynamic portrayal of Clara Barton is both entertaining and informative. Mark the date on your calendars now, and look for additional information coming soon.

PASTORAL SEARCH

The Pastoral Search Committee is working on reviewing the gifts that we find in the candidates God has sent us so far. This is one of those situations when the publication of our opening must be noticed by that special minister who is currently seeking an opening. We believe all of you may be able to help in publicizing our opening. Although we have published our opening in the NACCC website, there's always the possibility that it might not reach all interested candidates. Our pulpit has been served by clergy of other denominations successfully in the past, as well as the present, so we are open to exploring pastors from all established church traditions. For that reason, if you are on social media, would you ask your network if they know of a pastor who might be looking for a call? This is what you could post: **The Central Congregational Church of Galesburg, Illinois announces their opening for a full time pastor. Interested candidates are encouraged to contact the Pastoral Search Committee at news.central1898@gmail.com to confidentially request additional information.**

Church Preservation Now and in the Future

As most are aware, Central Church is planning a drive to raise significant money to preserve its historic building on the Square in Galesburg. It is a big undertaking, one which will need the help of many both within and outside the church. The goal for the drive is to raise in the neighborhood of nine million dollars, six to deal with the natural deterioration of an hundred plus year old building and another three for an Endowment Fund to maintain it in the future.

Preservation Fund

The money raised here will be used for specific projects to deal with current needs of the church. These include a new roof, a boiler to replace the relic currently keeping us warm, window stabilization to ensure they don't fall out in some future windstorm, organ maintenance to replace 100 year old leathers crucial to the sound of the instrument, plastering and painting the interior ceiling, bringing restrooms up to code, as well as reassessment of what can be done with the lower level to expand its use in the future.

Endowment Fund

An Endowment Fund is just as, if not more, important to the future of the church building than the Preservation Fund. An Endowment Fund provides ongoing income **EACH and EVERY year** to maintain the building, program its use, and take care of any deterioration as it happens instead of putting upkeep off requiring a future fund drive. An Endowment Fund of \$3,000,000 at the Galesburg Community Foundation would bring about \$140,000 per year for this purpose. Out of the generosity of the Foundation and a good friend of the church, \$20,000 has been provided as stimulus for us to match with an additional \$20,000 by June 30, 2016. With many thanks to the special donor and to the Foundation, this is a great start toward our goal.

Is the building on the Square known as Central Church something Galesburg would want to save? Is it a goal worth giving to, perhaps substantially, to make sure it remains on the Square and not demolished as some other historic buildings in town have been in recent years? There are many ways to do so. Gifts payable to the Galesburg Community Foundation with Central Church in the memo can be sent for either the Preservation or Endowment Fund. Current gifts to the Endowment Fund will match the money provided as seed money for our projects. Single gifts larger gifts pledged over a 3 to 5 year period, or perhaps a Charitable Gift large enough to insure a person's annual gift to the church will go on after they are gone, are possible ways to give. If you can help reach our goal, please do either by making a gift or call the church and set up a time to meet with church leadership to discuss how you might best help us move forward. To help kick start the project, the Pastor has pledged to give \$10 for the Fund for each of the first 20 people who let him know they read this article.

Call the church at 345-5145 for further information.

Gifts of all sizes are welcome.

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

Galesburg Community Foundation, with a memo noting the Central Church Preservation Fund 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

August Birthdays

1 – Liz King
 4 – Nancy Blevins
 Bob Kimble
 8 - Jean Griffith
 9 – Jill Frueh
 11- Clarence Sargeant
 Barb Waldorf
 12- Lawrence Griffith
 Jody LaFollette
 14- Coke LaFollette



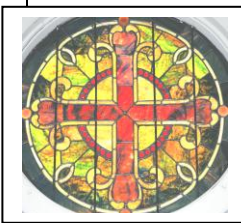
17 Debora Phillips
 Jim Browning
 18 Judy Griffith
 Glenn Scott
 19 Reed Robertson**94
 22 Cheri Siebken
 23 Ann Ehler
 Ryan Godsil
 27 LeAnn Morgan

August Anniversaries

7 – Rodney and Norma Davis
 11- Chuck Reynolds & Kathleen Ridlon
 16- John and Cheri Siebken
 19 – Mary and Doug Betts
 23- Tom and Cynthia Heather



~August 2015~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
USHERS Head Usher: David Griffith, Bob Kimble, Bob Johnson, Harvey Templeton						1 Godsil/Quick Wedding
2 10:30 Worship Service Greeter: Suzanne Klohn Worship Leader: Cynthia Heather & Communion Coffee	3	4 6:30 Rock Church	5	6 KPCK Board Meeting 3:30 Tour from Welcome	7	8
9 10:30 Worship Service Greeter: Ann Ehler Worship Leader: Teresa Sanford Coffee Hour:	10	11 6:30 Rock Church	12 6:00 Meeting Worship/Hospitality 6:30 Ministry Group meetings 7:30 Leadership Meeting	13 5:30 KPCK free Community Meal	14	15
16 10:30 Worship Service Greeter: Worship Leader: Karla Johnson Coffee Hour:	17	18 6:30 Rock Church	19	20	21	22 9am: Woman's Club Meeting 9-3: workshops with Partners for Sacred Places.
23 10:30 Worship Service: Greeter: Worship Leader Rhonda Murmann Coffee Hour: Worshop with Partners for Sacred Places	24	25 6:30 Rock Church	26	27 5:30 KPCK free Community Meal	28	29
30 9 10:30 Worship Service: Greeter: Worship Leader Tom Peters Coffee Hour:	31					



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“The Church From The Square”
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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