



THE CENTRAL CRIER

CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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Over the Pastor's Shoulder

With the arrival of September comes a mixture of feelings. First the summer is over, which means times for vacations for many have passed. Here at Central, summer has been a slower time, but that is not to say nothing has been happening. This article is being written just after our weekend visit from **Partners for Sacred Places**. Last Saturday the morning was spent **Asset Mapping**, listing possible partners in Galesburg we could work with to help us grow as a congregation and preserve our church building for years to come. We found when we stop to think about it, there are many more resources in our town than we might originally realize. The challenge for us is to find ways for us to use and work with all who feel as we do, that Central Church is of great value and should be preserved.

The afternoon session on Saturday was focused on different ways we might **Space Share** with others in the community who share our mission of sharing God's love and working to meet the needs of people in our community. Here again we got a good start on how that might be done.

Finally, on Sunday afternoon, a good representation from our congregation gathered to begin to understand what is involved in a **Capital Gifts campaign**. We were given guidance, including a thick workbook, which will be shared in future months.

The workshops were the second phase of Partners' sharing with us. The first step in July was a series of interviews of church and community leaders regarding the image of our church in the community. With the results of those interviews, and other contacts made during this past weekend, they will provide us in mid September with a full report on what they found, and recommendations as to how we might proceed.

Sunday, September 13, a Quarterly Meeting has been scheduled to update the congregation. If a report has been received by then, we will look together at the recommendations and take what next steps we can. Also at that meeting, there will be a report from the **Pastoral Search Committee** updating their progress.

The coming year will be filled with all sorts of **BIG IMPORTANT** events in the life of Central which will in large part determine what the future of this congregation will be like. Once again, I urge you to join in the exciting journey we are on: in prayer, in sharing your ideas, in giving of your resources to help make it a successful one. Because if you do, you will be glad you did.

Your faithful sheepdog,
Jim Ecklund

P.S. Thanks to those of you who responded to my request last month. I appreciated it and have fulfilled the commitment I made by forwarding a check to the Galesburg Community Foundation Endowment Fund. Thanks again.

CENTRAL PAST

HELPING HAND

The Missions Committee has responded to a variety of needs for people this summer. We sent \$350 to help the folks in Cameron with their recovery from the tornado. We have helped others with utility bills, temporary housing needs and meals. The needs are so great in our community and we have tried to help when we can. We pass on to you the hugs, tears of gratitude and blessings we have received as we have represented our church.

Missions Committee

CENTRAL PRESENT



WEDDING PHOTOS WANTED

Were you or someone in your family married in our beautiful church? We are looking for wedding photos for a future exhibit. If you want to donate a photo we will preserve it for the future. If you would prefer, we are delighted to make a digital copy while you wait so you can keep your heirloom in your family. Please talk to Gail if you have any questions.

2X4 SUNDAYS

Once again we will sponsor the efforts of Habitat by displaying a 2X4 in the Narthex. With a contribution you can help supply a home and hope for a worthy family. Watch for this on the 13th and 20th.

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, 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*****

BUILDING PRESERVATION

The “What’s Next” meeting to determine the next steps in our effort to preserve Central Church has been scheduled for Wednesday, September 2, at 6:30pm. All members of the organizing Committee and others interested in helping make that happen are invited to attend.

Cookies needed!

Central Congregational Church will be hosting the Gospel group **Anticipation** on Sunday, October 11 at 3 p.m. Following the concert there will be a cookie reception in the south room. We need your cookies! There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for contributions. If you would like to help with the reception, see Rhonda Murmann.

PASTORAL SEARCH

We continue to receive names of interested candidates for our full time position. Time is being taken to collect resumes and go through the due diligence steps of searching for the candidate with the gifts we feel best match our needs.

CLARA BARTON

Due to unforeseen scheduling conflicts, Clara will not be coming to Central on September 26th as originally planned but will arrive early next spring.. We will post the new performance date and details as soon as they become available... Watch for further details in 2016.



It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas

Make plans now to join us Saturday, November 21 from 9am to 1pm for a holiday craft bazaar and bake sale. You and your crafty friends (!) may reserve a table space for \$20.00 to sell your hand-made craft items. While you keep the proceeds from your sales table, rental fees go towards building preservation. You can also help by bringing baked goods for sale and/or helping serve lunch. Sign up sheets are in the narthex. Please see Rhonda or Gail if you have any questions.

BACK IN THE HABIT



No, this isn’t about Whoopi Goldberg and her movie. It’s about the number of reasons we find to be absent from church. There are real reasons, convenient reasons, and for some of us it’s just a matter of drifting away from the habit of attending. You miss one Sunday, and then there are several in a row and before long, your Sunday morning routine doesn’t include attending church. But what if you did? What if you came to sit and listen and worship? Maybe you would leave feeling a little more at peace, renewed to face the week ahead. It only takes an hour. Why not try getting **back in the habit** this fall. Come back to church and join our walk of faith.

September Birthdays

3 – Darrell Clevidence
 5 – Jakob Wilson
 7 - Tim Lair
 11- Matt LeClere
 12- Bianca Davies-Mears
 14- Jay Bullis
 George Hutson
 15 – Brent King
 Anthony Singer
 20- Sean Riedel
 26 Margaret Lindsey
 28 – Letha Benner
 Karla Thompson



September Anniversaries

2- Russ and Teresa Brown-Carlock
 Chris and Linda Krei
 8- Larry and Jill Carr
 20 Bob and Teresa Sanford-Shippett
 27- Bob and Jean Kimble



~September 2015~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
USHERS Head Usher: Harold Griffith, Tom Peters, John Barker, Bob Shippett		1	2 6:30 "What's Next"	3 KPCCK board meeting	4	5
6 10:30 Worship Service Greeter: Ann Ehler Worship Leader: Rhonda Murmann & Communion Coffee	7	8 6:30 Rock Church	9 6:00 Meeting Worship/Hospitality 6:30 Ministry Group meetings 7:30 Leadership Meeting	10 5:30 KPCCK free Community Meal	11	12
13 10:30 Worship Service Greeter: Elaine Clayton Worship Leader: Cynthia Heather Coffee Hour: Elaine Clayton 2X4 Sunday for Habitat Quarterly Meeting following church	14 7:00 Church Tour: Knox County Genealogy Society	15 6:30 Rock Church	16	17	18	19
20 10:30 Worship Service Greeter: Clarence & Brenda Sargeant Worship Leader: Craig Conolly Coffee Hour: Clarence & Brenda Sargeant 2X4 Sunday for Habitat	21	22 6:30 Rock Church	23	24 5:30 KPCCK free Community Meal	25	26
27 10:30 Worship Service: Greeter: Steve & Rhonda Murmann Worship Leader Teresa Sanford Shippett Coffee Hour: Steve & Rhonda Murmann	28	29 6:30 Rock Church	30			

What do you want Central to look like in the future?

This page is primarily blank at the moment, but hopefully can be filled with the thoughts and prayers of what you would like to see for the future at Central Congregational Church. The August meetings with Sacred Partners gave an opportunity for that type of brain storming with great ideas resulting from that work. During several of the past events held at Central, a statement was made that the founders of this building believed that this building was intended for more than worship for a few hours on Sunday. Historically, many varied events took place as this was to be a community gathering place. You may have noticed the plaque honoring the 153 contributing members for the dedication of the Rose Window, giving testament that **MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK**. The journey we are choosing will require many prayers and innovative thinking. Years ago this statement was in the bulletin. "The ministry of Central Congregational Church is by the entire congregation and its minister. We welcome you in Christ's name and invite you to share in our Church's work and ministry." This is an opportunity for you to answer that call. Are there events of any kind that you would like Central to host? What are the strengths that you bring to Central that can help make that happen?

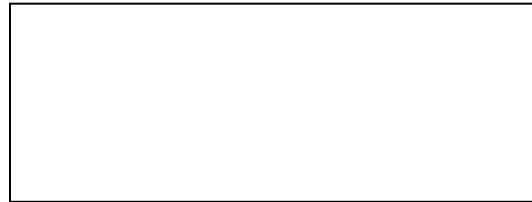
Please take a moment to jot down any ideas that you might have about the future of Central. Or write the prayer that you say to benefit our congregation. You can drop it by the office, drop it in the collection plate or mail it to the office. You can help give direction to our future. It will just take a moment but may bring great results.



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“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