



THE CENTRAL CRIER

CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

60 PUBLIC SQUARE, GALESBURG, ILLINOIS 61401 – PHONE: 309-343-5145

Web site: <http://www.galesburgchurch.org> Office E-mail: central1898@gmail.com

PASTOR ECKLUND'S E-MAIL: jimeck@galesburg.net

VOLUME 30, ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2015

Over the Pastor's Shoulder - Reflections on Reformation Sunday (from a sermon preached Oct. 25, 2015)

As we looked recently at the Reformation begun by Martin Luther in 1517, one thing that stuck out was that part of its cause was the church of that time had lost its vision of what God and Jesus called it to be. That fact should make us aware of the need for every church to have a vision of what it wants to become. This is especially true for us here at Central as we work to preserve our building as a symbol of the history of our town but more importantly as a center of the sharing of God's love with those in the community. The 16th century church lost its vision as it worked to build its church. We don't want that to happen here.

As a transition in pastoral leadership here at Central occurs in about three months, the most important issue it faces is not whether the building can be preserved or even whether everyone will like the new pastor. I believe the most important need in the life of Central Church today is for it to develop its vision of what God is calling it to be in the next 5-10 years. Proverbs 29:18 in the old King James Version says 'where there is no vision, the people perish.' When people don't have an idea of where they want to go, in coming years not only will they never know when they get there, they will face away in the process.

For a variety of reasons, Central has struggled over the years focusing on a vision. One of the strengths of congregationalism is its members are free to have their own opinions about things theologically and how the church should function. One of the weaknesses of congregationalism is that its members are free to have their own opinions about things and not have to go along with anybody else's. As a result, decisions about what the whole church should be about are hard to make and then implement. It can be easy for people to be passive about decisions that are made and not get involved. The church can't survive much less grow, however, if things operate that way.

A common vision of where Central wants to be five to ten years from now is crucial to its existence. "Where there is no vision, the people perish." Every church needs a vision of where God wants it to go. If it doesn't pay attention to that, sooner or later it loses its way and eventually dies.

As Central moves into the next state of its life as a church, to successfully preserve the building we are in and prepare ourselves to welcome a new pastor in the new year the question for all of us is what is our vision for Central as a congregation of God's children? I urge you to be a part of the process in coming weeks as we look together for this congregation's, because if we do it together, we all will be glad we did.

Your faithful sheepdog,

Jim Ecklund

CENTRAL PAST

ANTICIPATION

Thank you to all who helped with Anticipation Concert: All who donated homemade, and not homemade cookies, they were enjoyed! Rhonda and Steve, for all your efforts and time, arranging and setting up the cookie reception. Harold and David for ushering, and all the 'Behind the Scenes' help. Melanie, for emailing the flier information to Staples. Everyone who distributed the publicity fliers, in and out of town. Thanks to all of you, the concert was well-attended and enjoyed by all.

Blessings,
Betti

Fran Riley Interviews Mother Bickerdyke

On Thursday October 15, 2015, KWQC-TV Channel 6 featured reporter Fran Riley and chief photographer Randy Biery at Central to tape a segment about Mary Ann "Mother" Bickerdyke. Pam Johnson, as Mother Bickerdyke, and Gail Masinda, as her friend Emily, reprised their roles from the Bickerdyke Day in May of this year for this presentation. Here is a link to the feature, along with some behind the scenes photos from the day. Click on any of the photos to view them larger. <http://kwqc.com/2015/10/19/marvelous-mother/>. This can also be viewed at our website: <http://galesburgchurch.org/home/history/photo-archives/fran-riley-features-marvelous-mother/>

CENTRAL PRESENT



CONGRATULATIONS

Special congratulations should be extended to Harold and Virginia Griffith on their 55th Wedding Anniversary. We hope you have a wonderful day with many more to follow.

WEDDING PHOTOS WANTED

And speaking of anniversaries, 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.

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." Philipians 4:6

AS REQUESTED BY THE CHURCH FAMILY

Sam Skillman, Lori Watts, America

Pray also for Our Homebound Members and Friends: –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*****

PASTORAL SEARCH

As announced last Sunday, we have a pastoral candidate we want to recommend to the congregation. Sterrett Collins is a graduate of Knox and is very familiar with Galesburg and our church. He is also a graduate of Texas Tech, U of Illinois at Chicago, and the San Francisco Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California. The pastoral search committee spent many hours receiving information from interested clergy and reviewing their skills and talents. We feel Sterrett has the gifts most in line with our church. Time was also shared with the difficult task of saying good-bye to Pastor Ecklund. He has served us faithfully and well and is instrumental in our involvement with the Galesburg Community Foundation and the path that lies before us. We feel a real sense of responsibility to acquire a new minister with equal gifts for our church family. Arrangements are being made to have Sterrett present a worship service on December 20th. Prior to the service, at 10:00 that morning, there will be a ‘Meet and Greet’ reception in the South Room. Following the service, the congregation will then vote to formally issue a call. We hope all will be able to attend that morning.

My primary role was to be a facilitator as all members were fully engaged in reviewing and seeking the best candidate. On behalf of the committee members, Craig Conolly, Larry Griffith, Gail Masinda, and Clarence Sargeant, I would like to thank the congregation for the many prayers of support we felt during our pursuit.

Ann Ehler, chair



DECK THE HALLS

In preparation for our Holiday Bazaar, we are planning to begin our Christmas decorating in the South Room on November 19th at 1:00. The remaining decorating will occur after church on November 22nd. Many hands make light work so please plan on helping with this enjoyable task.

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas

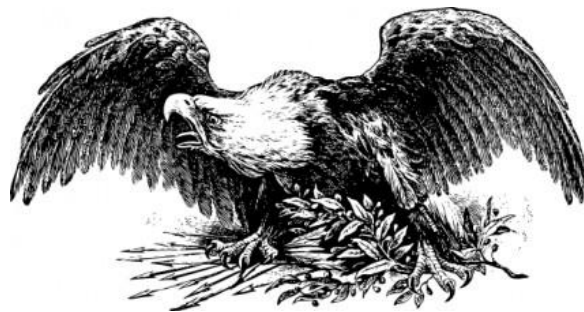
Ready to start thinking about Christmas? We are hosting a Holiday Craft Bazaar and Bake Sale on November 21. There will be a delightful variety of items for sale. We already have lined up vendors for photography, jewelry, Christmas décor and crochet and knitted items! If you or someone you know would be interested in 'renting' a table for your items, please talk to Gail. If you can help with the Bake Sale or Luncheon, please talk to Rhonda or Brenda. All proceeds will go to the Building Preservation Fund. Spread the word!



MORE WITH FRAN RILEY

Fran Riley returned to Central to tape another event that will be held at Central on November 19th, as described below. This is wonderful coverage for our beautiful building and our wonderful organ. Of course it also requires a gifted organist. Thanks, Gail, for all you do!!

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE & Central Congregational Church Presents



JOIN THE RANKS!

A program of Civil War era music performed by Gail Masinda on our Triumvirate organ will occur on Wednesday, November 18th at 6:30. This is free and open to the public although a free will offering will be taken towards the preservation of the Central Church building.

TECH TIPS

Did you already know about Fran Riley's visit? If you visited our website at galesburgchurch.org you did? If you have become a follower, you know that you have been alerted to any new postings. You're no longer wondering when or if an update will occur. It came to your email automatically. Not bad, huh!! With so many upcoming activities, this might be a great time to join. Not already a follower? Sooooo easy to do. Go to the site, scroll to the bottom and click on 'follower'. Easy-peesy right!!!



November Birthdays

3 – Naomi Dacay - 23 Emily King
 4 – Sam Coffman Jr 25 Carissa Littlefield
 Sallee Wade 26 Teresa Sanford
 6 – Eric Shaver 27 Tom Peters
 7 – Dolores Cox
 9 – Jeffrey Griffith
 10 – Misty Lyon
 14 Bonnie Lee
 19- Helen White
 21- Ellen Larsen



November Anniversaries

19- Harold and Virginia Griffith



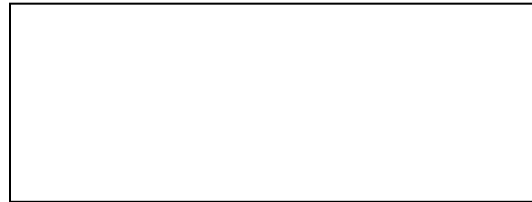
~November 2015 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Ushers Head Usher: David Griffith Bob Kimble, Bob Johnson, Harold Griffith 10:30 Worship Service Greeter: Ann Ehler Worship Leader: Cynthia Heather and Communion Coffee Hour: Bettie Patterson All Saints Sunday	2	3 7:00 Rock Church	4	5 5:30 KPCK free Community Meal	6	7
8 10:30 Worship Service Greeter: Tom & Mary Peters Worship Leader: Rhonda Murmann Coffee Hour: Tom & Mary Peters Guest pastor	9	10 7:00 Rock Church	11 6:00 Meeting Worship/Hospitality 6:30 Ministry Group meetings 7:30 Leadership Meeting	12	13	14
15 10:30 Worship Service Greeter: Worship Leader: Teresa Shipplett Coffee Hour: Bob & Teresa Shipplett	16	17 7:00 Rock Church	18 6:30: Organ recital Civil War Round Table	19 1: Decorating Southroom 5:30 KPCK free Community Meal	20	21 9-1: Holiday Bazaar
22 10:30 Worship Service: Greeter: Brenda Sargeant Worship Leader: Karla Johnson Coffee Hour: Steve & Rhonda Murmann Decorate Sanctuary following church	23	24 7:00 Rock Church	25	26	27	28
29 10:30 Worship Service: Greeter: Worship Leader: Tom Peters Coffee Hour: Clarence & Brenda Sargeant	30	31 7:00 Rock Church				



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

The Central Crier (USPS 706-860) is published monthly by the Central Congregational Church, 60 Public Square, Galesburg, IL. Periodical Postage paid at Galesburg, IL. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Central Congregational Church, 60 Public Square, Galesburg, IL 61401

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