

# The Torch

Central Church of Christ

August 25, 2015

2001 E. MAIN  
STREET  
STREATOR, IL  
61364

(815) 673-1581

EMERGENCY  
PHONE

(815) 257-1582

## STAFF

Dr. Rory Christensen,  
Lead Minister

Tony Ross,  
Creative Arts Minister

Trenton Klebba,  
Student Minister

Evelyn Taylor,  
Director of Children's  
Ministries

Jessica Pastirik,  
Director of Involvement  
Ministries

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

1st Worship:  
8:15 a.m.

2nd Worship  
& Bible classes:  
9:30 a.m.

3rd Worship  
& Bible classes:  
11:00 a.m.



Bring the whole family for an evening of fun fellowship, as each family participates as a team in a life size game of Candy Land. Remember the fun you had or are having playing this board game with your children! Come enjoy the game, some sweet treats, and fellowship with other families.

## **First Step Discovering Central**

**New to Central?** Interested in placing your membership here? Join us on Sunday, September 13 at 5:00 p.m. You will come away with a better understanding of what we believe God has called Central Church of Christ to be as a church and how you can be a part. Sign up at welcome center or by calling Jessica Pastirik at (815) 673-1581.

## **A starting point for those who are new to Central**

If you're new to Central (you've been coming for a year or less), you may have some questions. Come and meet our Lead Minister, Dr. Rory Christensen, and learn about Central and how to connect with others at Central. Bring your family and join us for pizza and conversation in the gym following our third service (12:30 -1:30 p.m.) Sunday, **September, 27**. We hope you join us.

**CENTRAL'S FALL FESTIVAL**  
SEPTEMBER 13TH FROM 12:30-3:30 P.M.

**ACTIVITIES:**  
INFLATABLES, CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES, VOLLEYBALL,  
BEARS FOOTBALL GAME (IN MAN CAVE) AND MORE...

**FOOD:**  
FRIED AND BROASTED CHICKEN, MOSTACCIOLI POTATOES,  
FRUIT SALAD, COOKIES, COTTON CANDY, SNO-CONES AND POPCORN.

NO NEED TO BRING ANYTHING BUT A LAWN CHAIR AND A FRIEND.

CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST  
2001 E MAIN ST. STREATOR

## **Central Youth Group Kickoff**

On the evening of the Central Fall Festival, September 13, we will be kicking off our Jr. High and High School Youth Group for the year. It will go from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. We will meet in the Worship Center the first week. This is for students in 6th-12th grade.

# Fellow Co-workers,

Dr. Rory Christensen

Statistics can be revealing. Even though they're just numbers, they point to a reality beyond themselves. I got that feeling this past week from reading the results of the U.S. Department of Labor's *American Time Use Survey—2014* and Statista's *Average Daily Media Use in the United States*. They tell how Americans spent their time in 2014. The results are noteworthy. Each day on average Americans devote 8 hrs to sleeping, 7 hrs to working, 4 hrs/12 min to their TV, 2 hrs/24 min to online pursuits, 2 hrs/1 min to their phone, 15 min to sports/recreation, and 8 min to religious and spiritual activities. Taken together, these statistics paint a startling picture of media dependency, physical inactivity, and spiritual passivity. While these are all serious, it's the latter one that gets to me the most. I'll leave it to a New York City monument to tell you why.

When the Brooklyn Bridge was being built in the 1870s, there was controversy surrounding a perceived lack of progress in the construction of one of the two towers on which the bridge rests. At the same time the Brooklyn tower had risen 100 feet above the water line, the Manhattan tower was still 78 feet below the river, where no one could see it. For many, this progress failure was a testament to poor management and haphazard execution. However, this controversy was quelled in 1872, when the project's chief engineer wrote: *"To such of the general public as might imagine that no work had been done on the New York tower, because they see no evidence of it above the water, I should simply remark that the amount of the masonry and concrete laid on that foundation during the past winter, under water, is equal in quantity to the entire masonry of the Brooklyn tower visible today above the waterline"* (McCullough, *The Great Bridge*, 289). In the near 150 years after its construction, the genius behind this decision to invest a significant amount of time building below the waterline has been proven time and again. The Brooklyn Bridge has stood while other bridges of its era have crumbled.

What is true of the Brooklyn Bridge is true for our lives as well. If we invest our time only, or even primarily, in what is seen (read: above the waterline), we will fail to build a life that endures. As MacDonald states, *"Leaders blessed with great natural skills and charisma may be vulnerable to collapse in their character, their key relationships, and their center of belief because they never learned that one cannot (or should not) build above the waterline until there is a substantial foundation below it"* (MacDonald, *Below the Waterline*, 2). Perhaps this is why I'm so excited about the year-two emphasis of the Next Step Project (our two-year strategic plan): Advancing in faith and faithfulness. Because, it serves as a means by which we remind each other to walk a different path, to build richer and deeper lives through prayer and interaction with God, and then to build active and fruitful lives through intentional conversation and sharing our faith. Prayer and devotion followed by mission and God's work. And somewhere along the way, the reminder that our heart work must precede our hard work, and that our hard work flows out of our heart work.

May the upcoming weeks and months find you strategically investing your time in this way. Because you have a choice, build to last.

Be bold. Stay faithful.

Rory

## Baptized

Rhyanna Dorsam

Aaron Taylor Walker



## In Sympathy

Our sympathy and prayers go out to:  
**Marvin Shepard** and family at the loss of his brother, Marshall Shephard who passed away August 6, 2015.  
**Janice Amell's** family and friends as she died on August 3, 2015.  
**Evelyn Yarusinsky's** family and friends as she also died on July 30, 2015.

## Thank You

We would like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers during the loss of our mother. Special thanks to all who prepared food and also to those who served a wonderful meal. Our thanks and appreciation to Tony Ross for performing the service.  
*Dan Stith & Family*  
*Ron Stith & Family*

## Life Recovery Program

If you are or have struggled with: Alcoholism, Divorce, Codependency, Drug Addiction, Food Addiction, or Gambling Addiction, please join us from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. starting Thursday, September 10 at Central Church of Christ in the lower level of the Ministry Center Room #4. The Life Recovery Program is 13 weeks. This is a 12-step program about transformation: from death to life, from addiction to recovery. Although the path of recovery involves hard and sometimes painful work, it will be worth the effort. God will meet us on this path as we become willing to take each step toward new life. We pray this program will help your process and you will find healing, serenity and peace of mind. This group is facilitated by Ronna McAllister, B.A., D.A.D.C. For more information call Jessica Pastirik at (815) 673-1581.

## What is Financial Peace University?

We all need a plan for our money. Financial Peace University (FPU) is that plan! It teaches God's ways of handling money. Through video teaching, class discussions and interactive small group activities, FPU presents biblical, practical steps to get from where you are to where you've dreamed you could be. This plan will show you how to get rid of debt, manage your money, spend and save wisely, and much more! FPU classes meet for around an hour and a half each week for nine weeks. This starts September 3, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Upper Room of the Ministry Center. The Class Coordinator is Todd Galyen. A fee of \$93 covers the cost of materials. If you have any questions or want more information, call Jessica Pastirik at (815) 673-1581.



Friday, October 9,  
Daddy-Daughter  
Dinner Dance  
6 p.m. in the  
Fellowship Hall  
Come for a fun  
dress-up event for  
dads and daughters.



Mark your calendars  
Save the date

Friday, November 6,  
Mother/Son  
Game Night 6 p.m.



Saturday, December 5,  
Family Christmas  
A Event for the Whole Family!

## Ladies Tuesday Morning Bible Study set to start

Please come and join us as we explore the third book of the Bible (Leviticus). We will have our first fall meeting on Tuesday, September 1. Ladies are invited to meet in the Ministry Center's Upper Room every Tuesday morning from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. There will be study guides available. You can expect to meet 40 ladies of various ages who enjoy refreshments, laughing at almost everything, praying, growing in the knowledge of the Word of God, and being challenged and humbled before our God. Childcare is provided; please let us know if you need this service, so we can plan appropriately. Call the Church Office (815) 673-1581. If you have any questions, please call Diane Hallam, (815) 673-3665.



### Awana Clubs

#### Start

Wednesday,  
September 9,  
at 6:15 p.m.

Awana Club is a Bible based club. Where children have fun learning about God's Word! It is for children 3 years old (2 years till Kindergarten and potty trained) through 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

**THE TORCH**

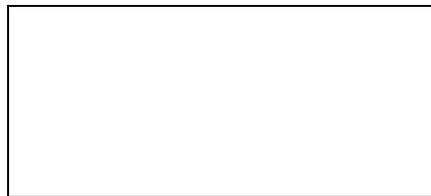
CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST  
2001 E MAIN ST  
STREATOR IL 61364  
PHONE: (815) 673-1581

**NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION**

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61364**

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***Thank You***

Church Family,  
Thank you all for everything you have done to make this transition in our lives so wonderful. We were greeted by over forty of you as we pulled into our driveway our first night here and you had our truck unloaded in less than thirty minutes. From then on you have provided us with food, company, prayers and a tremendous amount of hospitality. Thank you for your love and for making Streator and Central Church of Christ feel like home for us from the very beginning. We are excited to serve this community and the world around us with you as we grow in Christ together.

We love you all!

*The Klebba's*

**Statistics for July 26, 2015**

1st Worship	89	
2nd Worship	280	
3rd Worship	152	Total 521
Bible Classes	196	



**Offerings**

Offerings needed to meet Budget-Y-T-D for 2015:	\$414,810
Offerings given to-date:	\$434,791

Financial Statement available at the Welcome Center or the Church Office

**Statistics for Aug. 2, 2015**

1st Worship	87	
2nd Worship	283	
3rd Worship	134	Total 504
Bible Classes	175	

**Statistics for Aug. 9, 2015**

1st Worship	83	
2nd Worship	287	
3rd Worship	148	Total 518
Bible Classes	191	

**Statistics for Aug. 16, 2015**

1st Worship	90	
2nd Worship	310	
3rd Worship	145	Total 545
Bible Classes	212	

**Statistics for Aug. 23, 2015**

1st Worship	94	
2nd Worship	304	
3rd Worship	137	Total 535
Bible Classes	189	