

# The Torch

Central Church of Christ

June 21, 2016

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.

## Congratulations graduates!

We are proud to announce graduates from Central Church of Christ. We have enjoyed watching you grow and mature physically, mentally and spiritually.



### College degrees awarded

**Lauren Schultz** earned a Bachelors of Fine Arts in in Graphic Design in December 2015 from Columbia College of Chicago.

**Alex Cole** earned two degrees from Illinois State University, Normal. He has a bachelors in Ag Business and Landscape Management.

### High School graduates

**Kyle Barry**, Streator High School  
**Nicholas Dimmig**, Vermilion Oaks Academy  
Homeschool  
**Ashley Fredericksen**, Streator High School  
**John Graham**, Streator High School  
**Danielle Middleton**, Streator High School  
**Mya Nelson**, Streator High School  
**Samantha Reynolds**, Streator High School

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion

Mason Ewing	Bradley Simpson
Savannah Gleckler	Allison Smith
Austin Graham	Elle Wilkinson
Eliza Missel	Jacob Zavada
Videl Obenhin	Jordan Zavada

## Central's Vacation Bible School

July 18-22, 2016

For children 4 years through  
those going into 8th grade

9:00 a.m. till Noon

Get ready to dive in to find God's truth!

*Come and see what hides under the surface!*



Pre-register online at  
[www.christiscentral.com](http://www.christiscentral.com) or  
call (815) 673-1581 or visit  
the table in the foyer on  
Sundays

# Fellow Co-workers,

Dr. Rory Christensen

**E**very now and then something is introduced into your life in such a way that it alters your perspective. One such visual hit me years ago, during a seminary lecture on church life-cycles. In that lecture Dr. Estep introduced me to research conducted by Robert Dale, research that made use of a Sigmoid Curve, the visual of note (“Sigmoid” just means “C or S-shaped”). According to Dale, every congregation has a health cycle that involves nine stages leading from health through decline: dream, beliefs, goals, structure, ministry, nostalgia, questioning, polarization, and dropout. To show how congregations move through these stages, he graphs the stages on a Sigmoid Curve. A good summary is as follows:

Imagine a bell curve, with dreams on the bottom left, a curve that moves upward as clarifying beliefs, strategic goals, and facilitating structure are added to help a church reach a peak in ministry effectiveness. However, the peak does not last forever, and decline sets in as churches begin to celebrate accomplishments or fall into a kind of preservation mode to lock in their successes. Soon, the congregation starts to recognize that “there was a time when” they were more effective than they are at present (i.e. they start becoming nostalgic). In this stage, there is still enough momentum from the past to sustain a semblance of current effectiveness. But this is simply the lull before the storm. The seeds of decline have already been sown, and if left unchecked, the congregation will continue the downward slope of the curve into questioning, polarization, dropout, and perhaps even to organizational death (Carlus Gupton, *Dale, To Dream Again*).

As helpful as Dale’s Sigmoid Curve has been over the years, for clarifying what I’ve seen in churches, it’s the hopeful piece of his research that really motivates me. According to Dale, even though congregations move through these predictable life stages, decline doesn’t have to be the end of the story. When decline sets in, if a church starts to dream, and develop and execute new plans to accomplish those dreams, then the church starts another Sigmoid Curve, a new cycle of health, and begins to grow again.

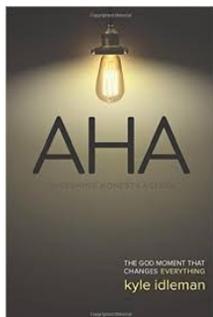
Maybe it’s this way of looking at the church that gets me excited about the work of the past few weeks. As you all know, this past May 20-21 we had a Vision Retreat to mark out our church vision, clarify our target audience, and put together our 2016-2018 strategic plan. As hopeful as the process was and is (given what we know from Dale), it’s the helpfulness that I’m most excited about. Even though I found that the retreat goals were a bit ambitious (my fault), the vision we roughed out (“Presenting Christ to the unchurched in relevant, innovative and life-changing ways”), has already assisted in planning concerning the strategic movement of our ministry over the next five years. And, the strategies and actions steps that are being developed to that end should move us in that direction. And, when I look at the process, it just feels like good, clean fun, because, as with any strategic movement of this kind, a new Sigmoid Curve can get moving. And that’s just good times . . . and a good horizon for our ministry. Thanks so much for your prayers in the process. Soli Deo Gloria.

Be bold. Stay faithful.

Rory

## Looking for a small group?

A women’s summer Bible study facilitated by Abby Carrow begins Wednesday, July 6. They will be going through the book *AHA* by Kyle Idleman and will meet Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m. in the Upper Room. Child care is provided.



## 4/19: Move-Magnify-Multiply

All interested are invited to participate in the next of Central Church of Christ’s leadership training initiatives, “The 4/19 Sessions”. The next session will be held on Tuesday, July 5, from 6:15 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Upper Room. The 4/19 Sessions are Central’s catalyst for living out and leading others to follow Jesus’ Matthew 4:19 command. Through them we are challenging each other to learn and live as leaders: those who know the way and show the way. Join Dr. Christensen and other ministry leaders as we think strategically in this direction. Childcare is provided if you would please call the Church Office (815) 673-1581.

## Offerings

### E Giving

Since April 2016

16 givers

\$7,744 included in Offerings-to-date



Offerings needed to meet Budget-Y-T-D for 2016:

\$317,575

Offerings given to-date:

\$339,333

Financial Statement available at the Kiosk in the foyer or the Church Office

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### Exercise Class for women

Exercise Class for women happens here on Mon, and Thurs. at 5:15 p.m. Tues. at 5:00 p.m. and Sat. at 8:30 a.m. In August class is starting the 21-day challenge of 21 Day FIX . . . Beach body workout at the times listed above.

If you have any questions please contact Dee Allen or the Church Office (815) 673-1581.

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## July

Jr. High "The Sponge" –  
Wednesday - 6, 27

High School "The Rock" - Tuesday – 12

### EVENTS:

City Fireworks - 9

VBS - 18 through 22

CIY Move Parent Meeting - 17

CIY Move for High School - 25 through 30  
Step Up Milestone Class - 31

Youth Group Leader/Volunteer Training -

## Baptized

Aden Smith



## Transferred Membership

Jim & Deena Reynolds



### Statistics for May 22, 2016

1st Worship	80	
2nd Worship	275	
3rd Worship	99	Total 484
Bible Classes	188	

### Statistics for May 29, 2016

1st Worship	81	
2nd Worship	225	
3rd Worship	95	Total 401
Bible Classes	154	

### Statistics for June 5, 2016

1st Worship	92	
2nd Worship	254	
3rd Worship	124	Total 470
Bible Classes	174	

### Statistics for June 12, 2016

1st Worship	101	
2nd Worship	252	
3rd Worship	90	Total 443
Bible Classes	144	

### Statistics for June 19, 2016

1st Worship	88	
2nd Worship	235	
3rd Worship	85	Total 408
Bible Classes	153	

## In Sympathy

Our sympathy and prayers go out to: **Carlos Lopez** and family at the loss of his wife, Maria "LuLu" Lopez who died Monday, June 6, 2016.

**Richard (Nancy) McCoy** and family at the loss of his brother, Mark McCoy, who died on June 12, 2016.

**Rob (Julie) Happold** and family at the death of his father, Robert Happold, who passed away on May 25, 2016.

## Thank You Notes

The family of Dave Peacher would like to thank Pastor Rory for his comforting words at this most difficult time, and to all the wonderful ladies serving in the kitchen and everyone that brought food. We can't thank all of you enough.

-- Kelly, Lindsey, Maddie, Bryce Peacher

--Steve and Carol Biroshchik

The family of Mark Lucas McCoy would like to send a special thank you to the Funeral Ministry Team and everyone that made dishes for the funeral dinner. Thank you to Central Church of Christ for allowing us a place to meet. It truly was a blessing.

With loving appreciation to all,

--The family of Mark Lucas McCoy

The family of Robert "Bob" Happold would like to thank all of the CCC Elders, staff and those who prayed for Bob over the past couple of years. We also appreciate the funeral ladies and those who provided dishes for the funeral meal.

Thank you very much for all the prayers and sympathy expressed to us during this time. It was greatly appreciated.

--Rob and Julie Happold and family

**THE TORCH**

CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST  
2001 E MAIN ST  
STREATOR IL 61364  
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**NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION**

**US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO 296  
STREATOR IL  
61364**

Dated Material

Return Service Requested



**Friday, July 8  
Kidz Korner at  
Northpoint Plaza**

Free event offered by businesses in Streator.

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Kid Central will have a Booth.  
There will be flyers for Central's



**Help promote our  
VBS at Streator  
Parade**

Anyone who wants to represent CCC Kid Central by walking in the Streator 4th of July Parade please sign up at the VBS table in the foyer. **The parade is Sunday, July 10** and we want to promote our VBS by handing out goldfish crackers and flyers.

**Cards & notes for  
Evelyn**

Please join us in showing Evelyn Taylor our appreciation of her service with us for the past 12 years. We will have a box available at the welcome center for any cards or notes for her.

This is our opportunity to be a blessing to her as she has been a blessing to us. Evelyn's final Sunday with us will be July 31.