

The Torch

Central Church of Christ

Dec. 15, 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.

Results from the Congregational Meeting

A congregational meeting was held after each of the services on Sunday December 6, 2015 with board chairman Larry Evans presiding. The two items on the agenda were:

- Election of Elders/Deacons/Trustee
- Approval of the 2016 Budget

The entire slate of Elders/Deacons/Trustees and the 2016 Budget were approved by majority vote.

Our Elders are Roger Blakley, Jim Blalock, Jim Bressner, Troy Dimmig, Larry Evans, Todd Galyen, Tom Hallam, Scott Palm, and George Smith, Jr.

Our Deacons are Charles Bivens, Bob Brown, Jim Cox, Rico Diaz, Shaun Elias, Lyle Follmer, Erik Gallick, Vince Magana, Kevin Missel, Mike Pastirik, Glen Peters, Joe Skaff, Steven Snyder, and Virgil Taylor.

Our Trustees are Jim Blalock, Tom Hallam, Larry Evans and Jim Bressner.



Two opportunities to see War Room on Saturday, January 30, 2016 in the Worship Center @ Central Church of Christ. War Room is from the creators of Fireproof and Courageous.

War Room brings you the story of the life-changing power of prayer.

Matinee Showing at 1:15 p.m. and Evening Show at 6:15 p.m.



After a short break Central's youth group is ready to kick off our winter and spring semester. Below are some events and dates that will show up in January. Please see our spring calendar found in the kiosk for a full list of events and follow us on our "Central Youth" Facebook page. We love you all and thank you for your support!

JANUARY

(Sunday Night) The Rock & Sponge - 3, 10, 17, 24

Tuesday Night Basketball 9th-12th - 5, 12, 26

EVENTS:

See You At The Pole - 6, 13, 20, 27

Fellow Co-workers,

Dr. Rory Christensen

I was recently engaged in a conversation, when that judgment came up. You know the one. It includes that ominous “H” word, and is used by people as a stamp across gospel messages and invitations they receive, a stamp brings about a “return to sender” sort of situation. You know the judgment. My wife and I were out to dinner with a couple from the church, enjoying some engaging conversation, and there it was. First the context, then the pronouncement (my paraphrase throughout), “I have been trying to get some of my friends to come to church. But, they won’t come because of how some people at church have behaved. What do you say to people who won’t come, because they see people at the church as being hypocritical in the way they live?”

Good question. It’s one that pesters any serious follower of Christ (none of us are truly consistent, so it’s a pretty handy stick to whack us with). You know the stock response we have to it. “Christians aren’t perfect, they’re just forgiven.” But, that response falls flat in the face of those who feel they know the standard of Christ, and who deem us to have fallen short of it (Nerd note: it also falls flat, because it’s a Justification [being declared “not guilty” in God’s eyes] response to a Sanctification [the manner in which we mature and live and look more like Jesus] indictment). So, how do we respond to this question?

My new tack on this old conundrum is to track with Paul’s discussion from Galatians 5:16-23. You know how it goes. The “acts of the flesh” (the sin we struggle with, that pull us toward inconsistency) are obvious (easy to point out and focus on). But God is changing our heart so those things aren’t the last, or even dominant, word in our lives. As we follow Jesus, there is a new fruit that comes from our lives. We become increasingly loving, joyful, prone to peace-making (not drama), patient, kind, godly, faithful, gentle, and self-controlled. And, it’s dying to the flesh, and a life full of this fruit that’s God’s desire for each of us (it’s what God wants for us, and what sin mucked up).

In light of that progression, my new response to that old judgment goes in this direction. “You can point out moments of inconsistency. So can I. Those moments are obvious. We all have them. But, is there fruit in their life? Are they more loving, joyful, prone to peace-making (not drama), patient, kind, godly, faithful, gentle, and self-controlled?” My prayer is that it is increasingly true of them, and increasingly true of each of us as well. May the New Year find us faithful in pursuing God (through worship, prayer, growth in community, service, etc.) so that His change is seen in our lives. May we be those who live to “perfect holiness out of reverence for God” (2 Cor 7:1).

Be bold. Stay faithful. Bear fruit.

Rory



Program starting January 7

This program features biblical, Christ-centered teaching that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. The DVD seminar features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories of people, followed by a small group discussion about what was viewed. Past participants have related how helpful the information and follow-up discussions were to them.

Many grieving people find they are only beginning the work of healing when friends or family have returned to their daily life routines. Don't allow fear of what others may think to keep you from what could help you. Confidentiality is very much a part of this program.

Your bereavement experience may be recent or not so recent. You will find encouragement, comfort and help in grieving the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, other family member or friend. No matter what the cause of your loved one's death, this is an opportunity to be around people who understand what you are feeling. You will learn how to recognize the symptoms of being stuck in grief and that you do not need to live in bondage to certain emotions. You will learn valuable information about facing your new normal in life and renewing your hope for the future.

GriefShare starts Thursday, January 7, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at Central Church of Christ, 2001 E. Main Street, Streator. This program features biblical, Christ-centered teaching that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. Whether your loss is recent or not so recent, you are welcome to come. You will find encouragement, comfort and help in grieving the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, other family member or friend. Any questions, contact Central Church of Christ at 815-673-1581.

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, February 4, 2016 at Central Church of Christ in the lower level of 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 with help your process and you will find healing, serenity and peace of mind.

This group is facilitated by Ronna McAllister, B.A., C.A.D.C.

For more information call Jessica Pastirik at 815-673-1581.

Adult Euchre Nights

Our three Euchre Tournaments for the winter will be on Friday, January 29, February 26, and March 18, 2016 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Central Church of Christ.

Sign up at the Welcome Center on Sunday. Space is limited to 40 teams. You must sign up as a team of two. Childcare provided with advance notice. Please bring an appetizer to share. This is a great opportunity for you to team up with a friend, co-worker or neighbor for some great Christian fellowship. It is important to be on time so we can start promptly. If you have any questions, contact Bob Snedden or Jessica Pastirik, (815) 673-1581.



Congratulations!

The Central Church of Christ float entry . . . The Best Gift is Jesus, won first place in Light Up Streator Parade.

Thank you to all of our "special little blinking presents" who walked in the parade, shining bright for Jesus. It was such a blessed event to share the gift of Jesus.

GOOD AS NEW

Is your child asking questions about becoming a Christian or being baptized?

We will be offering the Good As New Class on Saturday, January 16, here at the church in West 7 for children 2nd-6th grades from 9:00 a.m. till 1:00 p.m.

This class will answer questions for your child so that you and your child can decide if the time is right for them to make their decision to make Jesus the Lord of their life.

There is a sign-up sheet on the South Children's Bulletin Board.



In January we will be starting a unit on the life of Moses in the book of Exodus. Children bring home weekly take home pages that you can work with your child on to help continue the Bible learning that was started with your child on Sunday.

Life is super busy but the time spent with your child in God's Word is priceless!

Two important changes will be taking place on **SUPER SUNDAY, January 3, 2016!**

During the 9:30 a.m. hour, 3rd and 4th graders will be in new a combined Sunday School Class. This class will meet in west 6 (Red Line).

Our 3rd Graders will be promoted to Junior Worship at the 11 a.m. hour in the gym (Green Line).



THE TORCH

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

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

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

Dated Material

Return Service Requested



Baptized

Jeffrey Shimmons *Baptized*
IN THE NAME OF THE Father,
THE Son, AND THE Holy Spirit

Transferred

Paula Evans
Trenton and Robin Klebba

In Sympathy

Our sympathy and prayers go out to:

Charles (Cheryl) Bivens and family at the loss of his brother, Gerald Bivens who passed away Nov. 24, 2015.

Sandy Vernon and Dustin Vernon at the loss of her daughter, and his mother, Pam Vernon who died on Sunday, December 6, 2015.

You are cordially Invited...

Father Daughter Snow Ball

January 23, 2016
Central Church of Christ
Streator, IL
5:30-8:00 p.m.

Share a fun filled evening with your 6-12th grade daughters.
Music, photographs, dinner, and ballroom dance lessons!

\$5 per person
Semi-formal attire requested
Sign up in the church foyer on
Sundays, January 3, 10, 17

Statistics for Nov. 22, 2015

1st Worship	48	
2nd Worship	240	
3rd Worship	112	Total 400
Bible Classes	137	

Statistics for Nov. 29, 2015

1st Worship	75	
2nd Worship	304	
3rd Worship	120	Total 499
Bible Classes	178	

Statistics for Dec. 6, 2015

1st Worship	82	
2nd Worship	256	
3rd Worship	105	Total 443
Bible Classes	175	

Statistics for Dec. 13, 2015

1st Worship	75	
2nd Worship	282	
3rd Worship	136	Total 493
Bible Classes	199	

Offerings



Offerings needed to meet Budget-Y-T-D for 2015: \$628,500

Offerings given to-date: \$648,890

Financial Statement available at the Welcome Center or the Church Office