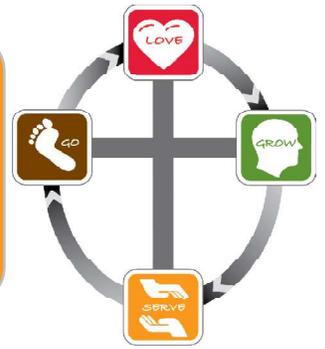


The TORCH

April 21, 2015



Central Church of Christ WHERE WE...

LOVE

GROW

SERVE

GO

2001 E. Main St.
Streator, IL 61364
(815) 673-1581

website:
christiscentral.com

Emergency Phone:
257-1582

Staff

Dr. Rory Christensen,
Lead Minister
Ron Good, Administrative
Minister
Tony Ross, Creative Arts
Minister
Evelyn Taylor, Director of
Children's Ministries
Jessica Pastirik, Director of
Involvement Ministries
Debby Evans, Office Manager
Julie Happold, Financial/
Ministries Secretary

Sunday Worship

1st Worship: 8:15 a.m.
2nd Worship & Bible classes:
9:30 a.m.
3rd Worship & Bible classes:
11:00 a.m.



**YOU ARE INVITED
TO JOIN US AS WE HONOR
CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST'S
CLASS OF 2015
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES
SUNDAY, MAY 17 AT 6:00 P.M.
IN THE WORSHIP CENTER
RECEPTION FOLLOWING IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL**

Open House and Card Shower for Ron & Vickie

Please join us in showing Ron and Vickie Good our appreciation of their service with us for the past four years. We will have a card shower, cake and refreshments on Sunday, May 24, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

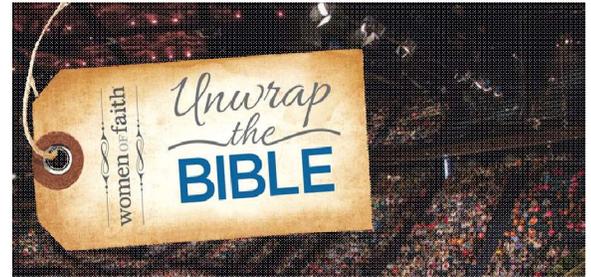
This is our opportunity to be a blessing to them as they have been a blessing to us. The Good's final Sunday with us will be May 31.

FIRE UP THE GRILLS!

It's time for a good old-fashioned barbeque! There are two opportunities in May to help Central's youth attend CIY MOVE and Central's Mission Team to the Dominican Republic raise money to GO on a service mission this summer.

**Saturday, May 2 at Kroger from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. the Central youth will be serving up some tasty pork chops sandwiches, hot dogs, and who knows what else!

***Saturday, May 9 at Kroger from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. the mission team will offer pork chop sandwiches and Kundry's grilled steak tacos.



Through in-depth Bible teaching and transformational worship, you will be equipped and challenged to apply the truth of Scripture to your daily life. Please come and watch as women uncover some of the most incredible treasures found in the Scripture at Unwrap the Bible.

Friday Evening, May 15

6:45 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Doors open at 6:15 p.m.

Saturday Morning, May 16

8:00 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. Doors open at 7:45 a.m.

Advance tickets are \$20. This event is held here at Central Church of Christ

If you have any questions or to register, contact Jessica Pastirik, at (815) 673-1581.



An Evening with Cliff and Lynn Allen

You are cordially invited to an evening with Central's missionaries, Cliff and Lynn Allen
Friday, May 29, 2015
at 6:45 p.m.

Join us for a Dessert Buffet in the Fellowship Hall as Cliff and Lynn update us on their ministry in Tunbridge Wells, England.

Fellow Coworkers,

Dr. Rory Christensen

John Stott said it: “We must be global Christians with a global vision because our God is a global God.” He said it, and it’s true. But the fun part is that’s just his take on what God has already said. You know the way it goes. It’s John 3:16, “For God *so loved the world*, that he gave his one and only Son.” It’s Matthew 28:19, “. . . go and make disciples *of all nations*.” It’s even the story of Scripture, the fact that, at just the right time, God sent his Son into the world (Gal 4:4-5) to seek and save the lost (Lk 19:10).

While Stott’s quote and those verses are truths that we have already appropriated, every now and then we’re served up a situation that helps us see them in a whole new light. The past couple of weeks certainly did that for me. A little over a week ago, my family and I caught a plane bound for Prince Edward Island, Canada. We headed there so I could teach a class on evangelism for the graduate program at Maritime Christian College. But, while the reason for the trip might have been academic, the impact of the trip was quite personal.

In particular the trip brought several reminders of the global mission that we’re a part of. As the plane that would carry us on the first leg of our journey finally appeared at Chicago O’Hare (after five delays and a cancellation!), I was reminded that I’m a part of a worldwide family of people who together “long for [Christ’s] appearing” (2 Tim 4:8), even more fervently than we longed for the appearing of that plane. As I interacted with ministry leaders in a classroom setting, and heard the stories of ministry accomplished by the Maritime churches, I was reminded that wherever the church is

found, she’s found expanding the borders of the Kingdom of God. As I heard of the difficulties that they faced in an environment that’s growing more post-Christian by the minute, I was reminded that there is global opposition to the message we bring. And, as we studied Scripture and discussed strategies for reaching people with the love of Christ, I was reminded that God’s favorite color may well be white (my daughters can thank me for this later): the fields He’s focused on and into which he sends us are white (John 4:35); and, they’re filled with people whose lives he died to cleanse and now eagerly desires to make white (Is 1:18).

Even the conclusion of the trip brought a reminder (although this one is painful to write about). As we showed up at the airport and were told that we had been deleted from the roster of our return flight, and as I wrestled with the reality that we wouldn’t make it home to worship with Central, I was reminded of our true home and life destination, heaven, and of our goal: to get there and take as many people with us as we possibly can.

As I look back on that trip, I can safely say that Stott’s quote rings louder than before: “We must be global Christians with a global vision because our God is a global God.” My prayer for us all is that God would keep expanding our ministry horizon, and calling us to that global mission.

Be bold. Stay faithful.

Rory



Senior Graduation Service – May 17

All seniors graduating high school this May are invited to participate in our Senior Graduation Service on May 17 from 6:00-8:00 pm. The service includes worship, a message, and prayer, and all attending graduates will receive a gift. There will be a reception afterwards for all to enjoy. **All graduating seniors need to fill out Graduation Survey and bring 5 photos (from birth to present) to the Church Office for the graduation slideshow as soon as possible.** Graduation surveys are available in the main office. Email any digital photos to jhappold@christiscentral.com.

Kroger Fundraiser - May 2

Any student attending CIY MOVE this summer has the mandatory opportunity to earn money towards the cost of this event. To work this day, you will choose between three shifts: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. , 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Students are expected to work one shift. See a Youth Sponsor to sign up for a shift. Funds raised will be split evenly between all students involved. This is a cookout at Kroger on Saturday, May 2 with set up at 9:00 a.m. and food service starting at 10:00 a.m. We will grill pork chops, hotdogs or other meats and keep going until about 3:00 p.m. All food is based on donation.

The Sponge & The Rock finale for this year

We’ll end the youth group year with a cookout, right here at Central! Come out to the last Sponge (Jr. High) and the Rock(High School) at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 3.

Involvement Ministries

Jessica Pastirik

Thank You Note

A new Summer Adult Sunday School Class offered

There is a new adult Sunday School offering starting May, 17 at 11:00 a.m. in the Upper Room of the Ministry Center. Lead by Shaun Elias, this summer study will cover "The Case for Christ" by Lee Strobel. Any adult is welcome.

Skeptics dismiss the Jesus of the Gospels by claiming there is no evidence in the case for Christ. Lee Strobel disagrees. The former legal journalist and one-time atheist knows how to ask tough questions. His own search for the truth about Jesus led him to faith in Christ. Come join the investigation this summer.

The family of Tom G. Mills sincerely appreciated all the caring and compassion that was shown by Tom's friends and extended family at his visitation and funeral services. Tom would have been pleased to have known how much he meant to so many. Tom is very special in our hearts and he will be missed so very much.

A special thank you to Larry and Debby Evans and Pastor Rory Christensen for their prayers for Tom before and after his passing, and to the ladies of the church for the wonderful meal.

Thank you all for your support and thoughtfulness during this difficult time.

-John and Betty Mills

-Steve and Kim

-Audrey, Mike and Dave

From the Central Missions Ministry

The Missions Ministry would like to thank you for your generous giving of your tithes and offerings through the beginning of 2015. Because of your giving, the Rock River Pantry Days need for 200 cans of pie filling has been met and will be delivered directly to the camp.

Thank you for your faithfulness. We truly are blessed to be blessing.

--Mike Pastirik, Mission Ministry Chair

Streator marks

National Day of Prayer

Join with others at the Plumb Pavilion in the Streator City Park on Thursday, May 7 at 6:30 p.m. for an hour of prayer, praise and worship.



KID CENTRAL

Evelyn Taylor, Children's Director

Central's Toddler Ministry is in need of more volunteers. See or call Evelyn at (815) 673-1581 for more information on this helpful area of our Children's Ministry.

Attention Kid Central Station Workers

If you work in any area of children's ministry, you will need to attend one of the New Kid Central Station 101 Worker Trainings. We will offer this training on

Sunday, May 3, at the 9:30 a.m. hour
in West 4,

or on Thursday, May 7, at 6:30 p.m.
in West 7,

or on Sunday, May 17, at the 11:00 hour in West 7.

There are some important things you need to know about. It will help you know why we do children's ministry the way we do it here at Central.

If you have been thinking about helping in children's ministry any of these trainings will give you some valuable information to help you make your decision.

Sign-ups sheets will be in south hallway for all three meetings.



Vacation Bible School for 2015!
Mark your calendars. Save the date.

July 20 - 24, 2015
9 a.m. till Noon

For children 4 years through 8th grade
Please be praying for kids and their families that will be coming, the leaders, the volunteers, how you will be able to serve, and God's will for this years VBS
Sign-up table for workers will be up May 10 in foyer.

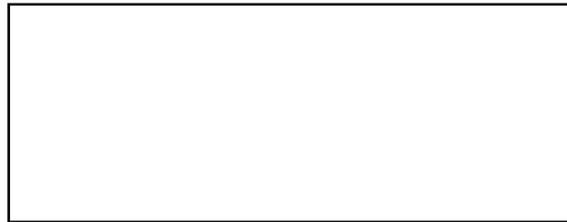
The Torch

CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST
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In Sympathy

Our sympathy and prayers go out to:

John and Betty Mills and family at the loss of their son, Tom Mills, who died March 14, 2015.

Verla Jesiolowski, Melissa Irving, Amanda Irving, Ryan (Nicole), and Chad (Nicole) Irving at the loss of her daughter and their mother, Cindy Irving who passed away March 31, 2015.

Sidonna Baker and Charles Hallowell and families at the loss of their daughter, Michele Hallowell, who passed away April 5, 2015.

James and Roberta McDonald and family at the death of their son, James R. McDonald who passed away April 11, 2015.

Arnold Rogers and Debra (Jake) Bressner, Amos (Debra) Rogers, and Tony (Lindsay) Rogers and families at the loss of Dorothy Rogers, Arnold's wife and their mother, who died on April 16, 2015.

Baptized:
Marlene Newton
Lauren Snyder
Rachel Little
Dakotah Menard
Sheyann Menard
Phoenix Cooper
Geri Cooper
Tony Cooper
Olivia Smith

Offerings



Offerings needed to meet Budget-Y-T-D for 2015:

\$201,120

Offerings given to-date:

\$215,983

Financial Statement available at the Welcome Center or the office

Statistics for March 22, 2015

1st Worship	102	
2nd Worship	316	
3rd Worship	119	Total 537
Bible classes	193	

Statistics for March 29, 2015

1st Worship	74	
2nd Worship	312	
3rd Worship	138	Total 524
Bible classes	182	

Statistics for April 5, 2015

1st Worship	231	
2nd Worship	369	
3rd Worship	210	Total 810
Bible classes	184	

Statistics for April 12, 2015

1st Worship	94	
2nd Worship	281	
3rd Worship	128	Total 503
Bible classes	176	

Statistics for April 19, 2015

1st Worship	75	
2nd Worship	309	
3rd Worship	121	Total 505
Bible classes	160	

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