

The Torch

Central Church of Christ

March 22, 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.

FEED THE NEED - Reaching out to our community

Central Church of Christ is partnering with Lifetouch, our church directory photography, to organize a food drive to benefit Streator's Salvation Army. Lifetouch is offering your family \$5 off your upcoming portrait in exchange for either a box of Kleenex, laundry detergent, bar of soap, can of vegetables, can of fruit, peanut butter, or jelly.

For your family portrait to be included in our new directory, please make your appointment today on our website www.christiscentral.com and click on Lifetouch or sign up Sunday, in the foyer.

Then bring one of the above items to your appointment to receive \$5 off your Lifetouch portrait order. A military and/or senior citizen discount may also apply to you.

The dates for the photography are April 8, 9, 11, 12, 19, 20, and 21. This is a great opportunity to better connect with our church body here at Central.

It is time to sign up for Rock River Christian Camp

To get the best deals for camp, make sure you sign-up early! There are camp booklets in the foyer by the camp display. You can come to the Church Office, Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to register your children. There is an early bird discount of \$20 being offered by Rock River for signing up before May 1, 2016.

Camp is a wonderful experience for kids as they meet new kids, have an unplugged week learning about God and His Word, plus all the other fun camp stuff, such as campfires, games, swimming, crafts, hikes, zip line, and tons of fun.

Senior Saints in the Smokies 2016

A five day/four night relaxing, fun-filled vacation retreat

May 30-June 3, 2016

Senior Saints will refuel your soul, tickle your taste buds, and have you rolling on the floor laughing. The best part is you can enjoy all these things and more for a \$250 plus transportation costs. This price includes your room, meals, and entertainment. The cost includes delicious meals and lodging from Monday supper through Friday breakfast. (A sack supper will be served Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings.)

You'll enjoy a flexible schedule with plenty of free time, excursions to local attractions, stimulating workshops taught by Johnson professors, private bathrooms, mouthwatering food and southern hospitality. The campus features: *beautiful mountain vistas, *quiet peaceful surroundings, *campus tours, *a 20 meter indoor swimming pool, and hiking trails.

A \$50 deposit is due by April 11 to the Church Office. If you have questions, please feel free to contact: Jessica Pastirik, Involvement Director (815) 673-1581 or Dorothy Roudebush or Jean Kimes, Young at Heart Coordinators. Your drivers this year will be Rory Christensen and Jim Bressner.

Fellow Co-workers,

Dr. Rory Christensen

I thought that a bit of a story was in order as we push into the spring. This one's about the man who discovered the source of many computer viruses. His name is John Norstad. He's a Northwestern University systems engineer and computer guru who invented "Disinfect," a software program that protects computers from viruses. In an interview with writer Peter Gerner, Norstad talks about it: "I went to a conference in Europe and met most of my counterparts in the PC antiviral community. One fellow consultant and designer was a Bulgarian who told us about the Bulgarian virus-writing factory. Evidently, during the Communist heyday of the 1980's, the KGB trained and paid PC programmers to break Western copy-protection schemes. It was an official piracy program meant to frustrate computer users on a global scale. Then when the government fell in Bulgaria, all these people were out of work and bitter. So they formed virus-writing clubs and set about meeting the PC community worldwide. A significant percentage of the PC viruses came out of a group of disenfranchised hackers who had formerly worked for the Communists."

I read this account, and I'm reminded that computer viruses are a lot like the false beliefs that worm their way into Christian life. We start with a pristine operating system: total trust, complete devotion, "running the race" with gusto and fervency. Then over the course of time, as our operating system processes different scenarios and tasks, viral thoughts and phrases start to filter in, undermining our belief, breeding distrust, bringing persistent questions: "Is God really pleased?" "Have I gone too far?" "Can God forgive this?" "Do I have enough faith?" With each question comes a marker that false belief has infiltrated like a virus, replacing the pristine grace-based operating code written and given by Christ, *with* new lines of corrupting works-based code. Enter these viral beliefs and out comes a life driven from a position of "fully forgiven, simply trusting," to "somewhat forgiven, if I . . ." Such belief if left to run its course will at best hamper proper function, and at worst crash our faith system altogether.

Perhaps it's because of the rampant nature of this sort of virus that Paul gives it no quarter in Galatians 5. In the face of an Enemy who cooks his time cranking out new bits of destructive viral code, Paul calls us to consider the manner in which our lives are infected: "*You were running a good race. Who cut in on you to keep you from obeying the truth?*" (Gal 5:7). Has your spiritual operating system become infected? Are you living to earn the grace you've received, rather than living victoriously because of God's grace? Have you stopped or slowed in running the race? If so, perhaps a system reset is in order, one that restores us to Christ's operating system and a life centered around the truth: "*The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love*" (Gal 5:6b). It's a life of victory. Fully forgiven. Simply trusting. Living hope. Running persistently. Praying fervently. Worshipping consistently. Loving abundantly.

During the month of April, we will turn our thoughts in this direction. Given the widespread and persistent nature of the Enemy's viral code, we are going to devote a series to considering the manner in which we can replace corrupted code with code written by Christ. We're calling the series "Turtlenecks and Sweaters: Persistent Questions that Choke Faith." It's our prayer that the series will equip us to "throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And [help] us run with perseverance the race marked out for us" (Heb 12:1b). Until then.

Be bold. Stay faithful.

Rory

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, April 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.

In Sympathy

Our sympathy and prayers go out to: **Virgil (Joann) Taylor** and family at the loss of his mother, Chelsea Taylor who passed away February 22, 2016.

Bill (Martha) Coats and family at the loss of his mother, Harriet Coats who died on March 18, 2016.

Interested in Membership at Central?

On Sunday, April 10, you are invited to a 2-step experience to help you better understand how to get connected at Central. In the first class "Discovering Central", Rory Christensen, Lead Minister, will be describing who we believe God has called Central to be as a church.

Class starts promptly at 5:00 p.m. in the Upper Room of the Ministry Center. Dinner will served during this time and childcare will be provided. We hope you will join us for this experience as you consider connecting to our mission, values and community. You can sign up for this class by contacting the Church Office or Jessica Pastirik, Involvement Director at (815) 673-1581.

Women's Conference at Lincoln Christian University

The annual women's conference at LCU is Wednesday, April 27. The theme is "Soul Support . . . He restores my soul". One of the speakers for the day is Michele Cushatt an author as well as an inspirational speaker.

The second speaker is Dr. Dinelle Frankland, who is a professor at LCU.

The cost for the conference is \$35 if paid before April 17. This will include lunch. If you would like to travel with other ladies from our church, we will need you to sign up in the foyer. If you are willing to drive, please mark the sign up sheet and tell us how many you can take in your vehicle. We leave at 6:30 a.m. and return about 6:30 p.m. Those traveling together help reimburse the driver. If you have any questions, please call the Church Office (815) 673-1581 or Diane Hallam (815) 673-3665.

Funeral Ministry needs volunteers

The Funeral Ministry at Central offers comfort to grieving families by providing a welcome place to gather after the funeral services to enjoy a good meal and reminisce with family and friends about their loved one. The meal is prepared by volunteers. Some volunteers furnish prepared dishes for the meal. Others work in the kitchen to serve the meal and help with the cleanup. This wonderful ministry has a long history with our church. It is a way for us to give comfort to those in need. We are in real need of more volunteers. If you are willing to make a dish or if you are able to help in the kitchen when there is a dinner, please call or text Jennifer Taylor (815) 674-8411 or email Jennifer_t.1946@yahoo.com. Your name will be added to a list and you would be called on a rotation basis.

Giveaway to benefit future missions trips

Saturday, April 9 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Hundreds of items will be given away in the Fellowship Hall.

If you have clean household items you would like to donate, you can drop them off at the church Fellowship Hall starting Monday, April 4 through Friday, April 8 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

It's a great time to clear out all those unused tools, presents, knick-knacks, purses, books, shoes, toys, kitchen and household items, and sport equipment.

Note: We are not accepting clothing.

Everything is given away on a donation basis. All donations received help to offset future outreach/evangelism opportunities and mission trips.

If you need to make arrangements to drop off items in the evening, please contact: Jessica Pastirik at 815-673-1581.

Exercise Class for women

Exercise Class for women happens here on Mon, Tues. and Thurs. at 6:30 p.m. and Sat. at 9:00 a.m. Starting April 4 they are doing a 4-week series of the Biggest Loser Video workout, which is a 30-minute work out. If you have any questions please contact Dee Allen or the Church Office (815) 673-1581.



APRIL CALENDAR

The Rock & The Sponge - 3, 10, 17, 24
Jr. High RE - Group - 12, 19, 26

EVENTS:

See You At The Pole - 6, 13, 20, 27
CIY Believe 6th-8th - 1-2

JR. HIGH MID WEEK RE-GROUP

Are you in grades 6th-8th? Do you need a mid-week boost? Then come join us at the Church building on Tuesday nights starting again in April. It will be a great time to invite friends, play games and spend time together. Plan on meeting from 6:15 - 7:30 p.m.

CIY BELIEVE

Jr. High students not only worship together but also engage in life-challenging discussions with their peers and adult leaders. As they go through the weekend, they discover ways in which God is calling them to be Kingdom workers in

MISSION POSSIBLE 5

Loving God; Serving Streator

What's Mission Possible?

A day of service throughout Streator.

When is Mission Possible?

Saturday, May 7, 2016

How can I find an area to serve and sign up to participate?

Visit the Mission Possible Information and Sign-Up table in the Main Foyer of the Church between Sunday Services starting April 3rd. Because most service takes place off campus, for the safety of everyone and to help each team leader keep track of their teams, we ask that you sign up for a t-shirt to be worn that day.

Who can participate?

YOU CAN! Regardless of your age or ability, we have a variety of opportunities for you to serve. For your child's safety, if your child is younger than Junior High, they will only be allowed to serve at a location with a parent or grandparent present.

Is there Childcare available for participants?

YES! For children ages six and under. Childcare is available starts at 7:45 a.m. (Please feed your child breakfast before you drop them off.)

What is the time commitment?

Whether you have an hour or can serve the entire morning, there are a variety of tasks available for you to participate both on and off campus.

How can I contribute if I can't serve on May 7th?

You can participate by filling a grocery bag (or 2 or 3) that will help local food pantries and Streator's Blessing in a Backpack Ministry. For your convenience, grocery bags will be distributed on Sunday, April 3rd.

When do we return our filled grocery sacks?

Please return it to the church on Sunday, May 1st. We will have youth able to assist you bringing in bags from your cars.

What time should I arrive to work?

Morning Check-In is from 7:15 a.m. to 7:45p.m. It is very important to stop and Check-In before you set out for the morning. This is very IMPORTANT so team captains know how many people they have and no one is left behind at a work sight. It also helps the kitchen crew have an accurate count for lunch.

We will have a short time of prayer and instruction by 8 a.m. and be on our way!

Did someone mention Lunch?

Yes, a great team of volunteers will even feed you! Lunch will be available in the Fellowship Hall from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. And even if you took part by contributing in other ways (verses physical labor that day), please come out for lunch at this time and join in the fellowship. We celebrate and appreciate everyone's involvement in making our city a great place to live!

Help available for elderly and widows:

If you are in need of a team of workers from Mission Possible to help with some outdoor work or to help you organize/clean out your garage, or moving heavy items, we will have teams that would love to help. Please contact Jessica Pastirik at 815-673-1581. We will have someone come out and look at what needs to be done before the day of Mission Possible, this will ensure that we assign the right amount of people and have the tools necessary for the tasks.

THE TORCH

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

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

US POSTAGE

PAID

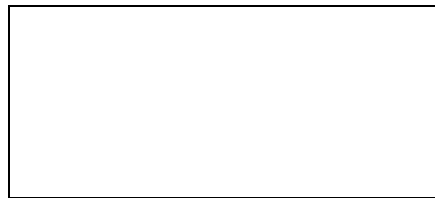
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STREATOR IL

61364

Dated Material

Return Service Requested



Thank You

The Family of Chelsea Taylor would like to thank Tony Ross for handling our mother's funeral. Also thanks to the kind ladies who prepared the dinner after, and to all who expressed kind words of sympathy for our loss.

--Virgil and Eugene Taylor

Statistics for Feb. 21, 2016

1st Worship	82	
2nd Worship	269	
3rd Worship	135	Total 486
Bible Classes	176	

Statistics for Feb. 28, 2016

1st Worship	95	
2nd Worship	294	
3rd Worship	125	Total 514
Bible Classes	199	

Statistics for March 6, 2016

1st Worship	74	
2nd Worship	272	
3rd Worship	112	Total 458
Bible Classes	197	

Statistics for March 13, 2016

1st Worship	75	
2nd Worship	230	
3rd Worship	157	Total 462
Bible Classes	165	

Statistics for March 20, 2016

1st Worship	86	
2nd Worship	299	
3rd Worship	170	Total 555
Bible Classes	178	

Baptized

Sara Dye

Dustin Vernon



Offerings

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

\$139,733

Offerings given to-date:

\$147,861



Transferred

Lelia Lefler

Shawn Morrisette

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