

# The Torch

Central Church of Christ

February 16, 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.

## Meet our newest Mission Partner:



*Amanda Roederer*

### Amanda Roederer, Assistant Development Director for Scarlet Hope

My name is Amanda Roederer, daughter of Ralph and Laurie Cole, and I began my spiritually journey right here at CCC. I was introduced to Jesus Christ in 6th grade by former youth pastor, Rondel Ramsey - this changed my life forever! My faith in Christ led me to Lincoln Christian University majoring in Business and Bible.

I had big dreams to change the business world but God had other plans - he called me into ministry at Southeast Christian Church. After three years in ministry, I was chosen to be on the launch team of the first multi site campus at one of the largest churches in the country. God did big things!!!

He has now called me to minister to women in the adult entertainment industry - bringing them the hope and love of Jesus! I truly believe **Scarlet Hope** is doing exactly what Jesus would be doing - having dinner with those who believe they

are without hope! Scarlet Hope not only feeds women physically by sharing home cooked meals in the strip clubs weekly but spiritually as well by offering resources such as christian community, abuse recovery, transitional jobs, and other opportunities to support their new lives in Christ.

Amanda lives in Louisville and is married to Adam and they have three boys: Finley (6), Truett (2) Calloway (6 months). [www.scarlethope.org](http://www.scarlethope.org)

## CONNECTING OUR FAMILIES WITH AN UPDATED PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Wanting to match a name to a face you saw at a church event? Needing a current address to send a thank you note to someone from Church? We will help you connect better with our church family here at Central with a new pictorial directory through the help of Lifetouch Portraits!

We need dozens of volunteers to help make this directory a success. If you would like to help with publicity, making phone calls, sitting at a table for sign up Sunday, or being a host for picture days, please see Bonnie Dimmig or call the Church Office (815) 673-1581.

The dates available for pictures are April 8 (2:00 - 8:50 p.m.), April 9 (10:00 a.m. - 4:50 p.m.), April 11, 12, 19, 20, & 21 (2:00 p.m. - 8:50 p.m.).

If you have a family member who is on active duty, see Bonnie Dimmig to receive instructions on how to put a picture in the directory.

To have your picture taken for the church directory is free to you.

More details to come to save \$5 on your personal portrait order through our community food drive program.



# Fellow Co-workers,

Dr. Rory Christensen

This month I thought I'd give a little ode to the **ellipsis** (Yeah, I know how that sounds, just don't quit on me yet). As far as punctuation goes, this one's all about the good time. It's that simple, dot-dot-dot, ". . ." punctuation mark that gets you into and out of all kinds of interesting places. Any time you want to shorten a phrase and make it a bit more focused or easier to understand, out comes an ellipsis. It's the mark that means you've left or taken out unnecessary words. It can also indicate that you've left something unfinished ("He opened the door and . . ."), are leading into something ("She said, '. . . don't tune out yet.'"), or are bringing awkwardness ("Well . . . that was . . . brilliant."). It's a pretty key and common punctuation mark.

However, (and this is where it gets fun), unlike so many pieces of punctuation, this one has a dark side (enter ominous music here). Unlike some of the other "go to" punctuation marks (e.g. periods, commas, question marks, etc.), this one isn't up-front in all its business dealings. In fact, it can be most useful in cloaking truth and twisting someone's words. If an ellipsis falls in the wrong hands, it takes a moment like, "He said, 'I will never quit,'" and turns it to, "He said, 'I . . . quit.'" It changes the record from, "He was not at all kind," to "He was . . . kind." And, it leaves out important details, ". . . God so loved the world . . ."

While the ole' dot-dot-dot has the potential for sketchy usage, it was its laudable side that came to my mind a few days back. I was driving my car from a house filled with grieving family and friends. A loved one had passed away. I had gone to grieve with them a bit, and maybe say a word or two. Before I left I did what has become a sort of habit for me in situations like that one: I read Psalm 23 with them and prayed. And, as I read, I was reminded all over again of the promise of God (vv. 1-5) and the hope He brings (v. 6).

I caught that reminder and, during the drive back, the ellipsis came. It found that quote from St. Francis of Assisi (pronounced "uh-see-zee," not "the-sissi), "Preach the gospel at all times and when necessary use words," and turned it to, "Preach the gospel at all times . . ." And, in that moment the ellipsis did what ellipses do; it focused my attention and helped me see the essential part of the quote (and of our calling). It reminded me (all over again) that there are dozens of people in our community who either haven't heard or experienced God's truth (cf. Rom 10:14-15), received His life (Jn 3:16), or begun to live in light of His hope (cf. 1 Pet 1:3-5). It reminded me that we're called to use whatever means we have to lead people in that direction (even something as simple as Psalm 23 and a prayer). And it provoked me to wonder what it would look like if an entire congregation unleashed that shortened quote ("Preach the gospel at all times . . .") on people we work with at Vactor, at the schools, at the fire station, at . . . (it's an ellipsis, you fill it in ☺). In came one simple ellipsis and out came a fresh vision for what we're called to, one that I pray grips us all. An ellipsis is a powerful thing. Let this one encourage you a bit, especially as we move through the Easter season.

Be bold. Stay faithful. Never stop . . .

Rory

## ***Thank You Notes***

We want to thank all the women of the church for the delicious meal for Pam's service and all who brought food for the meal. Also, thank you for all the words of comfort, prayers and cards. Thank God she is finally at peace. Pam's faith in God never ever wavered throughout the many years of her disease.

In Christian Love,

*Sandy, Dustin, Penny & Melissa Vernon*

The family of Noah Chamberlin would like to thank everyone for all their prayers during the search for Noah. Noah was laid to rest on January 27, 2016.

In Christian Love,

*The Chamberlins*

*The Robertsons*

*The Ruberstells*

*Soldiers for Jesus M.C.*

## **Central's College Scholarship Applications are available**

Central's College Scholarship applicants need to pick up an application in the Church Office or from the kiosk and return it to the office, completed by April 1, 2016 to be considered for the Fall 2016 college semester.

**Coming March 25 & 26:  
A New Family Event at  
Central Church of Christ**

Road to the Resurrection is an immersive experience that will guide your family to follow Jesus' footsteps on his Easter journey that leads to the Cross and Resurrection. On the way you will encounter biblical characters and experience sights, sounds, and tastes that will lead you to engage in the Easter event in a new way.



- Each family's journey will take an hour.
- Groups will depart every 15 minutes, beginning at 6:00 p.m. on the 25th and at 1:30 p.m. on the 26th
- Families need to have a reservation to be able to attend. There are a limited number of reservations available.
- Reserve your departure time by coming to or calling Central Church of Christ (815-875-1581).

*You are invited to worship with  
Central Church of Christ  
2001 E Main Street, Streator, IL  
Easter Sunday  
March 27, 2016*

*8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m.*

*The start time for the first service is at 8:00 a.m. for this week only.  
Live Streaming at [www.christiscentral.com](http://www.christiscentral.com)*

## Thank you! Landscaping is nearly complete

Special thanks are extended to our CCC worship family for your generosity toward our landscaping project. The project is nearly completed. We are forever grateful and appreciative of your kind words, encouragement and contributions.

While the project has given our campus a fresh, new look we will need to implement periodic care to provide the continued welcoming appearance. As spring approaches there will be a need for willing and interested spirits to join us to make that happen. When the weather permits, personal calls will be made to schedule "clean-up mornings". Please indicate your interest to join our team of service by contacting one of us or calling Jessica Pastirik at the CCC office (815) 673-1581.

Thank you,

**The Trowel & Mustard Seed Team,**

Edith Dady (815) 6722-4882,

Judy Hallowell (815) 672-7018 and

Lori Sweeden (815) 712-6670.

## 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.

## Event planned for all women!

The Girlfriends Women's Ministry Team is inviting all women, including our young ladies (ages 7th grade and up), to our Titus 2 Cupcake War event in the CCC Fellowship Hall. The event will take place on Saturday, March 12 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. We will compete as teams of two, with one woman older than 30 and one younger than 30, to decorate cupcakes with a specific theme. The cupcakes will be judged and prizes awarded. Come for fun, fellowship and encouragement with Godly women in accordance with Titus 2:4-5.



## It is time to think of SUMMER at 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. The church is offering a super early bird special of a \$10 discount for those signed up before March 31.

This is in addition to the 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.

## Adult Euchre Night

### Friday, March 18

Our third Euchre Tournament for the winter will be on Friday, March 18 from 6:00 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.

Childcare provided with advance notice. You can also register by calling Jessica at (815) 673-1581 (M-F from 9:00-5:00 p.m.)

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 fellowship!



### MARCH

Sunday Night Youth Group - 6, 13, 20, 27

Tuesday Night Hoops 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> - 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

#### EVENTS:

See You At The Pole 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> - 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Winter Jam Grades 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> - 20

### EARLY APRIL

#### EVENTS:

CIY Believe 6<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> - 1-2

The Vine 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> - 1-2

### 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 week-end, they discover ways in which God is calling them to be Kingdom workers in their schools, communities, and the world.

### THE VINE

This conference is designed to help high school students understand what it means to be a light in a darkened world. There will be speakers, worship music, and breakout sessions.

**THE TORCH**

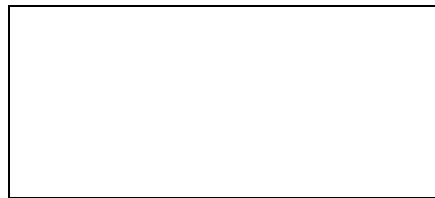
CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST  
2001 E MAIN ST  
STREATOR IL 61364  
PHONE: (815) 673-1581

**NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION**

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

Dated Material

# Return Service Requested



## Baptized

- Stephen Richardson
- Aubree Gallick
- Charles Wissen
- Jeff Coyne
- Shannon Sheedy



## Keep us up-to-date

We hope everyone takes this opportunity to be included in our directory. For everyone at Central to stay connected, we also need everyone's correct phone and address. Please let us know if your address or phone changed in the last six months. You can mark, this on your Connection Card on Sunday. Central does not give out phone numbers that are not listed in our church directory.

## Statistics for Jan. 24, 2016

<b>1st Worship</b>	<b>89</b>	
<b>2nd Worship</b>	<b>309</b>	
<b>3rd Worship</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>Total 538</b>
<b>Bible Classes</b>	<b>191</b>	

## Statistics for Jan. 31, 2016

<b>1st Worship</b>	<b>77</b>	
<b>2nd Worship</b>	<b>295</b>	
<b>3rd Worship</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>Total 537</b>
<b>Bible Classes</b>	<b>194</b>	

## Transferred Membership

- Heather Smith



## Offerings

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

\$76,218

Offerings given to-date:

\$79,251

## Statistics for Feb. 7, 2016

<b>1st Worship</b>	<b>77</b>	
<b>2nd Worship</b>	<b>291</b>	
<b>3rd Worship</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>Total 537</b>
<b>Bible Classes</b>	<b>200</b>	

## In Sympathy

Our sympathy and prayers go out to: **Harriet Dennis** and family at the loss of her husband, Daniel Dennis who passed away January 26, 2016.

**Millie (Ron) Murphy** family as their grandson, William B. "B.J." Hendon died on February 2, 2016.

Financial Statement available at the Welcome Center or the Church Office

## Statistics for Feb. 14, 2016

<b>1st Worship</b>	<b>85</b>	
<b>2nd Worship</b>	<b>247</b>	
<b>3rd Worship</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>Total 447</b>
<b>Bible Classes</b>	<b>161</b>	