

The Torch

Central Church of Christ

April 18, 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.

Mark Your Calendars VBS 2016 July 18-22

For children 4 years through
those going into 8th grade
9:00 a.m. till Noon

Join us as we dive in to find God's truth
below the surface!



Looking for a place to serve?
Sign-up sheets are in the South
Hallway on the Bulletin Board for VBS
Crew Leaders and Helpers.

You are invited . . .

To the Greatest Awana Dinner in the Galaxy

**A very recent time ago, in a galaxy super,
super close, a team of volunteers shared
God's Word with kids . . .**

*Thank you for another fantastic year of
Awana! Let's celebrate this ministry with an
out-of-this world dinner!*

Date: Wednesday, May 4

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Who: You and Your Family

Burgers and brats will be served. Please bring a side
dish or dessert to share.

Children will be joining us for the meal, then will go off
for some playtime. Please let the Church Office know
if you'll be bringing kids, so we can have enough child-
care workers.

(Why, yes, this **IS** a Star Wars dinner! May 4
is Star Wars Day, and we're playing it up!
Not a fan? That's okay, you'll still have a
good time! And if you are a fan? Feel free
to dress for the occasion in your favorite
Star Wars t-shirt!)



We have a new, convenient way
for you to support Central
Church of Christ!
You are able to give online, set
up recurring gifts and submit
tithes and offerings from any
web-enabled device!
See more information inside this
Torch.

Parenting Class for First Bible Milestone

Kid Central is offering a First Bible Mile-
stone for preschoolers ready to enter ele-
mentary classes. A class for parents will be
Sunday, June 19, at 9:30 a.m. in West 1,
or Monday, June 20, at 6:30 p.m. in room
West 1.

**At least one parent needs to attend one
of these classes with your child to partici-
pate in the First Bible Family Faith Celebra-
tion Dinner on June 26.**

**This is a celebration of your preschooler
promoting August 14 to Elementary De-
partment and receiving a big kid Bible
from the church.**

On August 14 your child may attend Pri-
mary Worship in the Fellowship Hall
(follow the green line) at the 9:30 hour.
The teacher is Meghan Ross and for Sun-
day School at the 11:00 hour in West 4,
the teacher is Paula Skaff.

Fellow Co-workers,

Dr. Rory Christensen



One of my mentors' favorite sayings is worth hanging your hat on: "If the horse is dead . . . dismount." Fun saying. Pretty common one, too. It's an old take on some Dakota tribal wisdom, a reminder to continually "assess and adjust" your strategy and behavior in light of your goals and the progress you're making (or not) toward accomplishing them. "If the horse is dead," he says, "dismount." Sounds good. Seems obvious. You know the problem, though. The approach we take seems, far too often, to be less like "dismount and re-direct," and more like this list of business strategies John Maxwell has seen substituted for "dead horse difficulty":

- Buy a stronger whip
- Change riders
- Say things like "this is the way we've always ridden this horse"
- Appoint a committee to study the horse
- Arrange a visit to other sites to see how they ride horses
- Change the by-laws to specify that "horses shall not die"
- Harness several dead horses together for increased speed
- Declare that "no horse is too dead to ride"
- provide additional funding to increase the horse's performance
- Purchase a product to revitalize the dead horse
- Form a quality circle to find uses for dead horses
- Revisit the performance requirements for horses
- Promote the dead horse to a supervisory position

I've long found that list to be a pretty enjoyable read. The problem is, it's insightful too. You know why. It uncovers piece-by-piece our tendency to get attached to the way we do things and to the things we do . . . even if there is no logical or practical reason for that attachment. In Psychology 101, they give this tendency a name, "perseveration" (per-seve-rA-shun), or in particular "stuck-in-set perseveration," where a person keeps repeating, continuing, and maintaining responses that are no longer useful (e.g. behaviors, words, thoughts, activities, strategies, or emotions). Whatever you call it, we all know the end of it: frustration, stagnation, and the slow erosion of what we care so much about. Dress it up any way you want, "dead horses" root us in the past, and keep us from gaining traction in the present and momentum toward the future.

Maybe that's why I'm excited for two things we have on the horizon in our ministry at Central. The first is a Vision Team meeting. On May 20-21 the elders and staff of Central, along with some ministry leaders, will be meeting for a two-day retreat to pray for and sketch out a strategic plan for the next 2-3 at Central. My prayer is that God will use our time to "assess and adjust" our ministry in ways that will continue to release Kingdom growth and God's movement in the greater-Streator area.

The second thing I'm excited about is the upcoming sermon series: "Weird . . . because Normal Isn't Working." So often, the "dead horse difficulty" we encounter has a personal face on it. We're tempted to "double down" on unproductive behaviors, words, thoughts, strategies . . . that keep us from breakthroughs in key areas. In this series, we're looking to chart a different path. How did that line go again? "When the horse is dead . . . dismount"? Maybe we will, as a church and as people of God. And maybe we'll cultivate a habit of doing that. Until then.

Be bold. Stay faithful. Dismount.

Rory

In Sympathy

Our sympathy and prayers go out to:
Tom (Diane) Hallam and family at the loss of his mother, Louise Hallam who passed away April 7, 2016.

Thank You

Thank you for all the prayers and meals provided after my surgery. Thanks for the love shown.

-- Rob and Evelyn Taylor

On behalf of our entire family we wish to thank all our Christian brothers and sisters for the prayers, cards and letters during the recent loss of our mother and grandmother, Agnes Harriet Coats. A special thanks to those who visited her to talk and pray with her, especially those who have done that for several years while she was at Heritage Manor.

-- Bill and Martha Coats

-- Dave and Sonya Dodge and family

--Angela Coats and family

Walk to benefit local children

The Women's Ministry team is putting on the Children's Outreach Walk with hopes to reach God's children in need in the Streator community. On Saturday, June 25, 2016, they will host the family walk at the Streator City Park from 9:00-11:00 a.m. There will be games, contests and door prizes as well as the walk.

A \$25 donation will be taken to register your family. One t-shirt is included in registration and additional t-shirts may be purchased for an additional rate of \$7 each. Proceeds will be donated to the Guardian Angel Outreach located in Streator.

If you cannot attend the walk, they could still use your help! Guardian Angel needs all baby supplies to bless their mothers and families. Please bring diapers, clothes, baby wash and other baby items to the registration table in the foyer beginning on May 8 (Mother's Day). There will be a donation list available. They will also be collecting items on the day of the walk.

To register, volunteer at the walk or for more information about Guardian Angel Outreach or the Children's Outreach Walk, please contact Megan Decker at megan.a.decker@gmail.com or 309.536.0365.



Thank You

Special thanks to Central Church of Christ Minister Rory Christensen. We are so appreciative of all the personal concern given during this difficult time. It was so comfortable sharing family memories both happy and sad. We were blessed to see these thoughts woven into a wonderful service giving tribute to Brian. Thank you Rory, for making this happen so effectively.

Time together during our personal family visitation was blessed with your thoughts and prayer, Jim Bressner. This was so meaningful; thank you.

We are so grateful for the many services made available to our family. However, words do not convey how thankful we have been for the long-term prayers offered in our behalf by complete strangers, prayer and study groups, family, friends, and neighbors.

Heart warming thanks to you all. God bless!

-- The Family of Brian Stansbury

Jane, Brian & Rob Stansbury

Gert and John Stansbury

David & Heidi Stansbury

Kelly, Trevor, Payton & Eli Quaintance

Exercise Class for women

Exercise Class for women happens here on Mon, Tues., Wed. and Thurs. at 5:30 p.m. and Sat. at 8:30 a.m. Starting in May. If you have any questions please contact Dee Allen or the Church Office (815) 673-1581.



MAY

The Rock & The Sponge - 1, 8, 15, 22

Jr. High RE - Group - 3, 10, 17, 24

EVENTS:

See You At The Pole - 4, 11, 18, 25

Graduation Milestone Service - 22

GRADUATION MILESTONE

All graduating seniors who wish to participate in this Sunday celebration will need to attend a prior meeting along with their parents and have a parent fill out a brief survey. Contact Trenton Klebba to sign up for a meeting. *For graduating seniors, Sunday 5/22.*

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR SUMMER 2016

(subject to change)

MAD Camp - June 12 - 17th

High School Camp - June 19 - 25

Jr. High Camp - June 26 - July 1

CIY MOVE Grades 9 -12 - July 25 - 29

VBS - July 18 - 22

TNT Monthly Event - June, July, August

Six Flags Trip - Summer Time Some Time

HS Bible Study - Tuesday Nights

THE TORCH

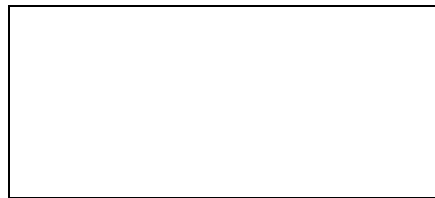
CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST
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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

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61364**

Dated Material

Return Service Requested



Thank You

Thank you to all our church family who blessed us in countless ways during the passing of Louise Hallam. Thanks to all who helped in any way with the funeral dinner. It ministered in many ways. Thanks to Rory, Tony and Cheryl who did so much to help us celebrate the Life of Louise Hallam with words and music.
--Ron and Betty Hallam
--Tom and Diane Hallam
--Glenda Piacenti

Statistics for Mar. 27, 2016

1st Worship	189	
2nd Worship	455	
3rd Worship	181	Total 825
Bible Classes	185	

Statistics for April 3, 2016

1st Worship	86	
2nd Worship	289	
3rd Worship	139	Total 514
Bible Classes	174	

Baptized

- Hollie Henson
- Ella Sibert
- Kimberly Maurer
- Jacqueline LeRette
- Derek Washington



Offerings

Offerings needed to meet Budget-Y-T-D for 2016: \$177,842
Offerings given to-date: \$193,800



Statistics for April 10, 2016

1st Worship	87	
2nd Worship	255	
3rd Worship	120	Total 462
Bible Classes	178	

Statistics for April 17, 2016

1st Worship	93	
2nd Worship	326	
3rd Worship	172	Total 591
Bible Classes	175	

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