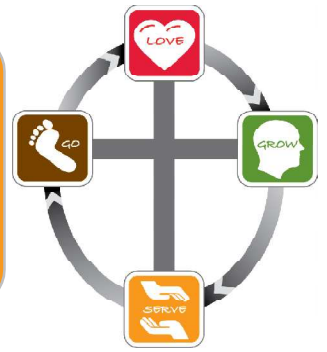


The TORCH

May 19, 2015



Central Church of Christ

WHERE WE...



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.

Congratulations graduates!

We are proud to announce graduates from Central Church of Christ. We have enjoyed watching you grow and mature physically, mentally and spiritually.

2015 Graduates College Degrees

Alexander D. Clayton earned a degree in Chemical Engineering with a minor in German from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Terre Haute, IN.

Tiffany Cox received a Bachelor's of Arts in Youth and Family Ministries from Lincoln Christian University, Lincoln, IL.

Brendan Dimmig received his Bachelor's in Law Enforcement from Western Illinois University, Macomb, IL.

Billie Dimmig received her Bachelor's in Religion from Liberty Christian University.

Alyssa Miller graduated from Eureka College, Eureka, IL with a Bachelor's of Science in Special Education.

Janelle Hackathorn earned a degree in Child Development with a minor in Family and Consumer Science from Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, IL.



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.

High School Graduates

Devin Bednar, Streator Township High School

Ryan Dickman, Woodland High School
Camden Dodge, Streator Township High School

Sarah Fulkerson, Homeschooled
Jacob Knox, Streator Township High School

Shayla Hallam, Woodland High School
Amanda Hidalgo, Streator Township High School

Arianna Holmes, Streator Township High School

Gabrielle LeRette, Streator Township High School

Hannah Linson, Woodland High School
John Leverton, Pontiac Township High School

Isaac Missel, Streator Township High School

Kalin Salz, Fieldcrest High School

Cambria Threadgill, Ottawa High School

8th Grade

Erin Dickman
Aleesa Downey
Blake Gleckler
Warren Krohe
Amanda Moran
Michael Mounce
Matthew Olson
Lillian Vaughan



CHICAGO, IL (HOFFMAN ESTATES)
September 25-26, 2015

See Jessica Pastirik for more information

Fellow Coworkers,

Dr. Rory Christensen

James 1:2-4 has provoked me for years: *“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”* I find that passage impacting for a number of reasons. It drives us toward spiritual maturity. It helps us reframe trying times and situations. It directs us to push into God for strength to endure. It instructs us to find God’s vision for what he can accomplish through trials. However, one of the most impacting things about the passage is the way that it is 180° from our natural response to difficulty.

Go back to 2003 and you see that fact lived out. Flip the calendar to that year and you find one of the most splendid rebranding maneuvers the marketing world has witnessed. Staples, Inc., the office supply chain store, ran into a stretch of bad publicity due to the discrepancy between their slogan, “Yeah, we’ve got that,” and the reality that customers experienced in stores. That negative press drove Staples to a decision in 2001, after weeks of focus groups and interviews, to enact a nationwide overhaul of their organization. They streamlined their operations to give their customers the simpler shopping experience they wanted. Then, in 2003 they launched their new slogan, “Staples: That was easy,” and hit play on a series of advertisements that connected the slogan to an “easy button.” The rest is history.

What is telling to me about this Staples saga is how easily the phrase caught on in time since. Walk around and you’ll notice that we now have a fully developed cultural language of hitting the “easy button” to immediately solve or bring to conclusion difficult problems or situations. As it turns out, we like the idea of having a magic wand to solve real world problems. But, as much as we may like it, the reality we live with is far different. The truth of the matter is, life doesn’t work that way. Because we live in a fallen world, trials don’t simply “go away,” and sickness and disease can be constant companions. And when those realities come home to roost, our picture can be anything but pretty, the farthest thing from easy. It’s in that space that we wrestle with those words, “Consider it pure joy.” My question: How do we do that?

This summer, we are going to be tackling that question head on. We’re going to kick off our summer with a five-part sermon series, where we will let Joseph (Gen 37-45) guide us through godly responses to trying situations that have the potential to derail our faith journey: adversity, temptation, discouragement, materialism, and revenge. As we do, my prayer is that God would use the life of Joseph to teach us how to “fix our eyes on Jesus” (Heb 12:2a), and find his joy (Heb 12:2b), as we “run with perseverance” (Heb 12:1) in the midst of difficulty. I’ll see you there.

Be bold. Stay faithful.

Rory

Children’s Ministry will benefit from a summer intern



Central’s Children’s Ministry has a summer intern, Abby Carrow will be here through August, helping and serving in many capacities. Here are her own words of how she is called to work with children. Please make her feel welcome here.

I grew up in Southeast Indiana, the oldest of four in a Christian home and was homeschooled all the way through high school. Growing up, I was always passionate about music and drama and looked forward to the Christmas program at church every year. When I was in high school, I got involved in community theatre and a youth choir while also staying plugged in to the teen worship band at my church. Music was my life! For my junior and senior year, I even got the opportunity to direct the children’s Christmas programs along side another girl my age. We enjoyed working with kids and teaching them music. It was a challenge, but it really helped me to grow.

The year before graduating high school I thought that I wanted to go to college for vocal performance, but God had other plans in mind. At the end of the summer after I graduated, He opened doors for me to be able to attend Central Christian College of the Bible, where I enrolled in the Associate of Worship Arts program in the fall of 2012. The longer I was there, the more I realized that He was calling me to work with kids, and I have since switched my major to a Bachelor’s of Christian Education. I look forward to everything I’m going to learn this summer by being able to put everything into practice that I’ve been learning in the classroom.



Thank You Notes

Summer Events Just for Youth!!

TNT (Tuesday Night Thing) is for any Jr. High and High School students from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. here at the church. The activities may be inside or may be outside depending on the weather. The dates for these are:

- Tuesday, June 9
- Tuesday, July 14
- Tuesday, August 4

There will be a **Bible Study at the Missel Ranch** (Kevin/Misty Missel) for those in high school. This is planned to kick off Wednesday, June 17 at 7:00 p.m. The study will not meet while the students are at CIY MOVE, but will return Wednesday, July 1 and meets weekly after that.

Look for the **Trip to Great America** packets that will be out soon. Get a packet, save your money and get ready to have fun on Thursday, July 16. This is for anyone in 6th through 12th grade.

Vickie and I would like to thank everyone at CCC for the past four years that we have ministered with you. It is very evident that members not only love Jesus but also want to serve in His name in the the Streator community.

For me personally, it has been a blessing to have been able to work with the Elders, Deacons and Staff.

As we will continue to pray for CCC, we ask the same as we begin this new chapter in our lives.

Sincerely,
--Ron and Vickie Good
Col. 1:28

We would like to thank Central Church of Christ, Tony Ross, Jessica and the Church Family who helped preparing and serving the meal after the service, and clean up. It was truly a blessing. May God bless Central Church of Christ for all the support and prayers.

-- The Family of Michele Hallowell



Kid CENTRAL

Evelyn Taylor, Children's Director

Come join us for a night of family fun!

A great movie, games, snacks, and fellowship with other families!

Friday, June 19, at 6:30 p.m.

Here at Central



BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE GENEROUS, BECAUSE THEY FEED THE POOR. PROVERBS 22:9

Mark your calendars and save the date for Wednesday, August 5. Kids 3rd-6th grades are invited to go to Aurora to Feed My Starving Children and pack food boxes to send to hungry children.

We will be leaving the church at 11:30 a.m. Lunch will be provided. To learn more about Feed My Starving Children go to www.fmsc.org

Vacation Bible School 2015!

July 20 – 24, 2015 *** 9:00 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 year's VBS.

Sign-up for workers will be on the bulletin board in south hallway.

Pre-registration can be done on line at christiscentral.com or there will be registration tables set up in foyer starting, Sunday, May 31.



The Torch

CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST
2001 E MAIN ST
STREATOR ILLINOIS 61364
PHONE: (815) 673-1581 FAX: (815) 673-1582

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In Sympathy

Our sympathy and prayers go out to Kathy (Vince) Magana and family at the loss of her mother, Evelyn Rush, who passed away April 26, 2015.

Also, Louise York, wife of the late Lincoln York has died. Lincoln York was a former minister at Central.



Central is looking for a used push mower. If you have one in your garage that you would be willing to donate, please call Don C. at (815) 672-9891 or Chuck B. at (815) 672-5733.

Thank You Note

The Family of Dorothy Rogers would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, kind words of sympathy and donations. Also, a thank you to those involved in preparing and providing the funeral dinner.

Sincerely,
--Arnold Rogers
--Debbie and Jake Bressner
--Amos and Debra Rogers
--Tony and Lindsey Rogers

Statistics for April 26, 2015

1st Worship	78	
2nd Worship	355	
3rd Worship	124	Total 557
Bible classes	204	

Statistics for May 3, 2015

1st Worship	77	
2nd Worship	263	
3rd Worship	133	Total 473
Bible classes	197	

Statistics for May 10, 2015

1st Worship	117	
2nd Worship	355	
3rd Worship	156	Total 628
Bible classes	178	

Statistics for May 17, 2015

1st Worship	78	
2nd Worship	291	
3rd Worship	110	Total 479
Bible classes	191	

Offerings



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

\$226,260

Offerings given to-date:

\$256,372

Financial Statement available at the Welcome Center or the office



Baptized:

Braydon Follmer
Isaac Follmer
Jaron Follmer

Transferred:

Bradley Austin
Karen Austin
Isaiah Austin
Lillian Austin

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