



# CENTRAL TODAY

January 2010

A Note from the Pastor

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The start of a new year has always felt significant to me. I am a maker of new year's resolutions, and I am pleased to be able to say that I actually succeeded in a goal I set for 2009: resuming a normal pattern of exercise while balancing church and parenting responsibilities. Just as I have achieved that goal, my rhythms will change as Laura, Amaya and I welcome a new addition to our family in May.

2009 was a historic year at Central: for the first time since the early 1990s Central has an installed pastor, we resumed our practice of having a seminary intern work and learn with us, and many unique events occurred. As of this publication, our financial books for the year have not yet closed, but it appears that, for the first time in an era, we will receive more in contributions and income than we will spend. What a fantastic accomplishment, and to happen in the midst of this very challenging economy is something to celebrate! This was made possible by a few unique contributions: a bequest and the \$50,000 anonymous gift challenging us all to give additional "gifts of significance." Thanks to members, friends and staff for our generous support of this church's important mission.

I am confident that 2010 will bring new opportunities and new challenges. One of the things I love to do is help the church staff and committees engage in planning. It has been interesting for me over the last few months to begin a planning process for a time in which I will be absent from Central – a three month sabbatical that will begin in late April. This sabbatical was part of the original contract when I began as the Designated Pastor back in February, 2005. At the time, it felt far off in the future. After all, my task was to help the church live or die in four years. But we chose to live and what an exciting five years it has been. And I am looking forward to a period to intentionally rejuvenate and study to be the best pastor I can be for our new context.

I have been working with the Personnel Committee, the Worship, Music and the Arts Committee and the Session to make plans for pastoral and pulpit coverage while I will be on sabbatical. What I am most excited about is how we can use the next few months to take Central's vision and goals to a new level. To that effort, we will have three major congregational events. The first will be the Cross-Cultural Connections event on **January 16-17** (see p. 4 for more details). The second event will celebrate Central's history and will happen in February. The third event will help us move from our history to our future, as we contemplate bold new goals that will guide our work as a congregation, and my work as your pastor as I return from my sabbatical.

I hope you join me in looking to the future with excitement!

David Colby

## UPCOMING WORSHIP

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 3

The Children and Youth Christmas Play will be on **Sunday, January 3 at 10:30 AM**. Jeff Jones has written a wonderful play, "It's Still News" for the children and youth this year. Jeff says that the inspiration for this year's play comes from the amount of anticipation and preparation the modern world . . . places on the event of Christmas. From Advent hymns, services, candles and calendars to – of course – holiday shopping and travel, our conception of Christmas is as a final destination to be reached and celebrated. Indeed, most Christmas plays end with the nativity scene as if the story has resolved itself there. The irony here is that Christmas is really the beginning of the story, not the end. This delightful play BEGINS with the nativity scene and uses the traditional nativity characters to illustrate the sense of hope and anticipation that pervades even AFTER Christmas.

If you've wondered what it would be like to sing in the choir, come and join us on **Sunday, January 3 at 9:30 AM in the choir loft around the organ**. There is no midweek rehearsal as the choir is on holiday. The music will be familiar hymns and carols to go with the children and youth Christmas play. This is a great time to try out the choir or just come and sing for one Sunday. It's easy – just show up at 9:30 AM!!

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

Will be another exciting day at Central. We will ordain and install new leaders for the congregation, we will welcome Jack Anthony Toikka into the community of faith through baptism, and celebrate the sacrament of communion. Rev. Colby will preach on Isaiah 43:1-7 and the story of the magi bringing gifts to Jesus in Matthew 2:1-12.

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 17

Rev. Colby will preach on what it means to be a multicultural church, drawing on some of the experiences from the Cross-Cultural Celebrations Connection (see p. 4). Plan now to stay after worship for a multicultural feast.

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 24

When Jesus spoke in the synagogue in Nazareth in the fourth chapter of Luke, he quoted the prophet Isaiah and said he had come to preach good news to the poor and to set at liberty those who are oppressed. Maureen Smith will talk about whether we are being true to that tradition and will include some reflections from the cross-cultural program the previous weekend.

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 31

Seminary Intern Jennifer Miles will preach.

## SING WITH THE CHOIR

Looking for a new opportunity in 2010? Central's Choir rehearses every Wednesday evening from 6:30-8:30 PM in the Sanctuary. If you love to sing, we would love to have you join us. Want to test the waters? Talk with Music Director Kathy Handford after any worship service.

## MIDWEEK WORSHIP

Each Wednesday afternoon from 12:45 to 1:00, members of the church staff and others gather for an intimate worship service in the sanctuary. We read scripture, offer prayers, and usually sing two hymns. All are welcome.



2010 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN: MULTIPLY OUR BLESSINGS

CENTRAL'S YOUTH & GIVING

This year Central has a special challenge and opportunity for the youth. A member of the Finance and Stewardship Committee has committed to give an extra \$200 if 8 or more youth return a pledge card. Some youth at church have already returned pledge cards for next year and we celebrate that. Others of you may have been part of a family decision about how much to give – that is important as well. We want to give each one of you the opportunity to be treated as a mature member of this church. We need your support, and we also want you to develop patterns of lifelong generosity.

Thank you to all who have already returned pledge cards! If you have not done so yet, feel free to cut this out and mail or bring it in to the church office.

Central Presbyterian Church

Multiply Our Blessings

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

My Stewardship Pledge for 2010 is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ / week, month, year (circle one)

- I want to pay by direct debit transfer (Our treasurer will mail you an authorization form).
- I would like to make a special year-end gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.
- I would like a visit from the pastor.
- Please contact me about including Central in my will or estate plan.



CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | 500 Cedar Street | St. Paul, MN 55101



FIRE SCHOOL

Are you making a New Year's resolution for 2010? How about donating your time and knowledge teaching immigrants and refugees to read and write English? The Minnesota Literacy Council offers a 12-hour training so no previous experience is required (<http://www.themlc.org/ESLTutorTraining.html>).

For more information, visit [www.fireprograms.org](http://www.fireprograms.org) or contact Wendy Slade at 651-224-4728, ext. 100.

Current Schedule: Tuesday 10-12:30 PM  
Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday 6-8:15 PM  
Saturday 10-12 PM

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

### CELEBRATION OF CROSS-CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

JANUARY 16-17, 2010

Everyone in the Central community is invited to a Celebration of Cross-Cultural Connections on **Saturday, January 16, from 10 AM to 1:30 PM**, including lunch, with the same theme continued in the Sunday worship service on the 17 and at a multicultural feast for the **Third Sunday Lunch**.

One of our goals is to honor the legacy of Stephen Ndumbe, who was always so ready to share his Cameroonian culture with his church. His daughters Stevana and Rekita will talk about how they would like their dad to be remembered and will tell us about their trip to Cameroon for his burial.

We are also planning some fun get-to-know-each-other-better exercises, and we make this promise: if you attend the event, you will come away knowing some things about your fellow church members you didn't know before.

An important part of the morning will be a discussion of next steps we might take for Central to build on the cultural diversity that is one of our strengths and become more of a multicultural church. We'd like to see you there and hear your ideas.

Contact Maureen Smith with any questions at 651-224-4728 ext. 118 or [mcsmith@umn.edu](mailto:mcsmith@umn.edu).

### THE HOLY SPIRIT, DISCOVER ITS PRESENCE IN YOUR LIFE

Have you ever felt an irresistible push to do some action, and it turned out to be so just what was needed? Has there even been a time when circumstances seemed overwhelmingly complicated or hopeless, yet, things fell into place so easily to make all turn out right? What is at work there?

January is a time to examine such events. Jennifer Miles will lead a three week seminar on the discernment of the Holy Spirit. We will study Its historical definition, Its description in scripture and how It has influenced people from ancient eras to contemporary times.

Classes are held on **Wednesdays from 6–7:15 PM on January 20, 27 & February 3** in the Friendship Room.

**Week One:** What is the Holy Spirit and what is Its purpose? We will examine traditional definitions, Its place in the Trinity and how It is illustrated in scripture. There will be discussion on Its movement and action.

**Week Two:** This week will focus on discerning the difference between nudges of the Spirit and personal wants. We will look at what scripture and history teaches us about listening to the wrong voice and the repercussions.

**Week Three:** How can this knowledge be used in contemporary, daily life? We will discuss the relevance of being more in tune to the Spirit and what affects that can have on your life and your relationship with God.

Join us for all or any of the classes and learn more about the movement of the Holy Spirit in your life and how you can be more aware of Its influence. Childcare will be provided!

### WANT TO GET MORE INVOLVED AT CENTRAL IN 2010?

For those who have been visiting Central, we will offer an Inquirers' Class on Tuesday night, **January 12, from 6:30–9:00 PM**. If you are thinking about making Central your church home, or if you would like to get to know other people who are involved here, or if you would like to explore the beliefs, commitments, organization and activities of Central, this is an opportunity for you. Please RSVP for this class by talking to Rev. Colby after worship, or through an email ([dcolby@cpctestpaul.org](mailto:dcolby@cpctestpaul.org)) or a phone call (651-224-4728, ext. 102).

## POINSETTIAS

**P**oinsettias decorating the church are in loving memory or honor of the following:

Kris & Mac Baird	Honor of our Parents, Mr & Mrs Russell Hansen; Mr & Mrs Hugh Baird
Bruce & Margaret Beese	In Memory of Loved Ones & Edna Mae Beese
June Berger, Joyce Baloga & Darlene Larson	Donald Berger
Alex, Kerry & Zachary Bollman	In Honor of our Grandparents
Laura Clay & David Colby	In Loving Memory of Grandma Carol Blakley
Linda Clay	In Memory of Carol Blakley
Dwight & Nancy Colby	In Honor of our Children & Grandchildren
Larry & Lisa Cumpston	In Memory of William Cumpston & Kenneth Piper
Eugene & Marjorie Elliott	In Honor of William & Mary Drever
Lucille & Jerry Ferguson	In Memory of Gordon Ferguson & Loved Ones
Tom Fish	In Honor of Audrey & Charles Fish
Juneal Fisk	In Honor of Bill Fisk
Herb & Marilyn Freier	In Honor of our Grandchildren
Nancy Gilger	In Celebration of Jesus' Birth
Kelly Ishizuka	In Honor of Sophie Lynn Kannapiran
Esther Holtz & Family	In Memory of Clarence Holtz
Gina Juffer	In Honor of Family & Friends
Bim & LeVuo Juhnke	In Memory of our Parents & Dan Saari
Erika & Lisa Kelly	In Honor of Dan & Joan Kelly
Joan Kelly & Jane Lonergan	Doris & Bernard Schleiter
Pam & Larry Larson	Dorothy & Dave Fahey; MaryEllen & Dan Schultz
Russell & Frank Lundeen	In Memory of Ardis & Larry Lundeen
Marlys Miller	Rudy & Grace Miller; Sharon Helwegen
Anita Minske	Gene Minske
Elizabeth Murphy	In Memory of my Mother, Katherine Clark
Lynda Petrie	In Honor of my Children & Grandchildren
Robert & Mary Price	In Memory of Frank Price
Bernice Runkle	In Memory of LaVerne Runkle & Sigrid Bodley
Susan Seymour	In Memory of Larry Seymour
June & Dick Wheeler	Our Parents & Siblings
Roger & Bonnie Zopfi	In Honor of Nora & Clifford Dickson; Craig John Zopfi

EVENTS & INVITATIONS

YOUNG ADULTS WINTER GATHERING – FRIDAY, JANUARY 8 AT 6:30 PM

Let's celebrate the holidays, in the New Year! Join us for an evening of fellowship at the home of Kathy Handford & Bill Lund. We'll unwind from the holidays over wine and appetizers. Please bring a bottle of your favorite wine to share. We'll have some fun non-alcoholic cocktails too! RSVP by January 4 to mrskatepearce@yahoo.com.

WOMEN AND THE SACRED

Women, come gather around the table to share happenings in our lives, to connect faith and life in action and reflections. To grow our spiritual lives we are reading "Searching for your Soul" by Catherine Kurs. We will continue to meet **Sunday mornings at 9:15 AM** in the Oval Room. For more information, contact Ann Finseth at ann@finseth.com or 651-644-4027.

BOOK STUDY

Book club will be meeting on **January 13 & 27 at 10:30 AM** in the Friendship Room. **Everyone is welcome.**

DORCAS CIRCLE

Meet on the second Thursday of each month at 11:30 AM. The next meeting will be **Thursday, January 14.**

WEDNESDAYS AT CENTRAL

WEDNESDAY LUNCH

Join us at **11:45 AM on Wednesdays**, for a gourmet treat of fresh baked bread, homemade soup and salads, dessert and beverages. All this for a minimum donation of **\$6.00.**

EACH WEDNESDAY, staff, members and friends of Central are welcome to a brief midweek worship service from **12:45–1:00 PM.** We gather for prayer, scripture, and hymns. An important aspect is to remember Central members in prayer by name each week.

MIDWEEK EMAIL: Central sends out a midweek email and if you're not on our list you are definitely missing out! Upcoming events, worship announcements, and a reflective prayer are all things that will give you something to look forward to in your inbox every week. To get on the list, email Central at office@cpcstpaul.org.

JANUARY BIRTHDAY WISHES

Date	Name
1	Susan Seymour
4	Kathy Handford
4	John Lee, Jr.
6	A.J. Garza
6	Darlene Larson
8	Florence Zopfi
10	Eileen Momsen
14	Marlys Miller
14	Ane Sofi Varanasi

Date	Name
15	Gene Sullivan
15	Peter Varanasi
16	Eric Severson
21	Rick Peterson
22	Jeff Willging
22	Bonnie Zopfi
23	William French
23	Wendy Peterson

Date	Name
24	Melinda Kovach
26	Andy Hisey
27	Dick Lidholm
29	Amanda Amarteifio
30	Pat Kivela
30	Jim Kovach
30	Robert Singh
30	Annalee Wolf

## INFORMATION &amp; THANK YOU'S



## FLOWER SIGN-UP AND DELIVERY

You may provide sanctuary flowers in memory or in honor of loved ones, or to commemorate a special day. Flowers are \$40 for two bouquets. Please call or email the church office to make arrangements or *sign up on the bulletin board outside the Friendship Room.*

While it is okay to have multiple flower donors on a particular date, the following dates have not been assigned: January **17. 24 & 31.**

## WELCOME TINA NGUYEN

Throughout 2009, Central's Session, or governing board, debated how best to "staff for growth." We hired Pamela Erwin as our Interim Children and Youth Coordinator, and she began in late October. A new position was created for a marketing specialist who would provide expert analysis of how we can more effectively communicate the exciting mission and events of this church. We were delighted to hire Tina Nguyen, who began work on December 28. Tina will be working closely with our staff and the Publicity Committee. **Welcome, Tina!**

## CENTRAL IS ON FACEBOOK

Join our Fan page on Facebook. You need an account to sign up but you can stay connected to the happenings at Central. Go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search for Central Presbyterian Church in St Paul MN. Click on "become a fan."

## THANK YOU

from

... **Lucille & Jerry Ferguson** to the deacons and all at Central for the beautiful altar flowers and for the cards that made our birthdays special – a very caring church family.

... **Ayoko Foli** to my friends at Central for the beautiful flowers.

... **The Board of Deacons of Central** for your generous participation in the Christmas Giving Tree mission project. We delivered many beautifully wrapped Christmas gifts to the Naomi Family Center this past week. The gifts from Central members and friends will help bring happiness to the Naomi families this Christmas.

... **Marge & Del Case** for the beautiful floral arrangement and words of encouragement through your cards and calls. Your kindness and concern means so very much to us during this new journey that we have been set upon.

... **Kathy Handford** to everyone who so graciously volunteered to help with hospitality in the way of greeting and ushering, serving dinner and receptions for the Holiday on Cedar Street, TubaChristmas Concert and the DeAnne Parks art exhibit. Thank you too to all who helped decorate the church for Christmas. During such a busy season, I really appreciate the dedication and willing spirit of all who support these events and activities.

... **Kristin Olson** Great news! I just returned from my doctor's appointment where they ran some final tests and have officially declared that I am in remission. As of now I am CANCER FREE!! Thank you for all of your love and support during this difficult time. I am certain without you I wouldn't have recovered so quickly.

# CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. David D. Colby, dcolby@cpcstpaul.org, ext. 102	.....Pastor
Maureen Smith, mcsmith@tc.umn.edu, ext. 118	.....Pastoral Associate
Jennifer Miles, smilinjenmiles@msn.com, ext. 117	.....Seminary Intern
Kathy Handford, kathrinehandford@comcast.net, ext. 103	...Director of Music & Arts/Organist
Wendy Slade, office@cpcstpaul.org, ext. 100	.....Office Manager
Pamela Erwin, perwin@bethel.edu, ext. 109	..... Children & Youth Coordinator
William Zopfi, billz@cpcstpaul.org, ext. 104	...Treasurer/Building Superintendent
Charlie Barklind, ext. 116	..... Custodian/Sexton
Tina Nguyen, publicity@cpcstpaul.org	.....Marketing Specialist
Ma Vang, ext. 100	.....Evening Receptionist
Barb Westman, bw53@lakedalelink.net, ext. 114	.....Food Service Manager
Judi Shaughnessy	.....Wedding Coordinator
Sandy White, wjands7@aol.com, ext. 112	.....Director of Martha's Closet
Becky Novotny, nov00008@umn.edu, ext. 109	.....Preschool Teacher
April Joy Peterson, ext. 113	.....Nursery Care Giver

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