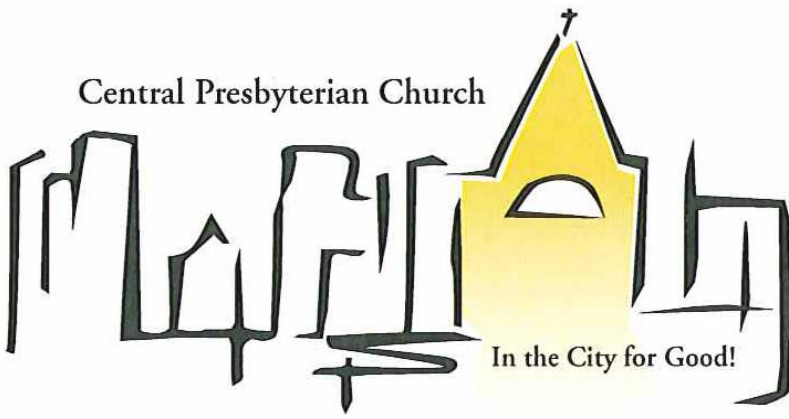


Central Presbyterian Church



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Let me begin with two brief statements. First, I am very appreciative of the work of the Saint Paul Police department in solving our recent security threats. I have been proud of the response of the Session and congregation in responsibly addressing this issue with sensitivity and urgency. (See p. 4 for more information).

Laura and I continue to appreciate your concern and prayers. It has not been an easy month.

Second, I am excited by the action of the Session to recommend to the congregation and presbytery that I be elected and installed as Central's pastor at the completion of our four year designated period. We have accomplished so much in the last three years together, and I eagerly look forward to the challenges and opportunities that we will continue to face together. When I first considered the position of Designated Pastor at Central back in the fall of 2004 in conversation with the Designated Pastor Nominating Committee of Central and trusted colleagues, I knew that nothing was guaranteed and there would be many challenges, both expected and unexpected. I accepted the position trusting that I was called by God to this specific ministry, and excited to face the challenges. It is the most demanding and rewarding ministry I can imagine as each day I try to focus on helping Central be "in the city for good" in all senses of that phrase (see p. 5 for the Publicity Committee's new logo rollout).

I love living and working in the city, but for vacations, we often get out into the wilderness. In April I spent a day hiking the trails at Ghost Ranch, a Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center in Abiquiu, New Mexico – the rugged desert landscape that was made famous by the paintings of the artist Georgia O'Keefe. My experience there caused me to reflect on the themes of generosity, legacy and responsibility. Arthur and Phoebe Pack, the owners of a sprawling plot of land with canyons and streams and rugged hills and grazing land, created guest facilities. As they aged, they feared that the ranch would be sold off in small parcels and the landscape ruined. So they searched for a worthy organization that would continue to use Ghost Ranch as an environmentally sensitive retreat center. Their intention to be generous and responsible was clear; a worthy recipient was needed. The YMCA already had a conference center in the southwest. The Catholic Diocese of Santa Fe thought the site too remote. Finally, a friend suggested that Presbyterians in Santa Fe were doing good work, and they were approached. And that is how Ghost Ranch became one of the three national conference centers of our denomination.

(con't on p. 2)

CENTRAL TODAY

MAY 2008

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

MAY 4—SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Rev. Colby will preach about discipleship in the third sermon in the series “Confirmation – Not Just for Kids.” Elementary age children, who have been rehearsing with Kristin Olson during Sunday School time, will sing an anthem.

MAY 11—PENTECOST

MOTHER’S DAY

An exciting day in the life of the church. Pentecost is the liturgical celebration of the birth of the church, and will we celebrate! Members of the confirmation class will be welcomed as new members. We will celebrate both sacraments: baptism and communion. And what would a birthday be without a cake?

MAY 18—TRINITY SUNDAY

During worship we will recognize teachers for our programs. Make plans now to stay after worship for our fantastic Third Sunday Lunch. Following lunch, Dana Dellis, Community Outreach Coordinator for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit office of the Met Council will provide information and field questions about light rail and impact upon Central (see p. 4 for more information about Central and Light Rail).

(con’t from p. 1)

As we spent the day hiking with eight-month-old Amaya, I thought about my desire for her to grow up with an appreciation for the outdoors and for beauty. How do we be intentional about passing on our values to future generations? Out there in the desert, with scarce water resources and precious land holding some of the major dinosaur fossils in North America, the value of conservation, of being responsible with the resources available was of top priority. A one-time gift of the ranch will not preserve it for the future. There was an attractive chart by the Dining Hall listing all the participants in their 2007 annual fund drive. I plan to have my name on the chart of 2008 donors and I hope to return to Ghost Ranch again.

Now that I am back in the city, back at Central, I wonder how the legacy of this church will be passed on to the next generation. Who will step up to ensure that resources are available to pay for programming and staff and care for the historic building? How will we support programs that will carry out the mission of the church to those in need?

This month, many of us will be receiving tax rebates. Now I am not an economist, and will not debate the effectiveness of a policy of giving rebates during a time of deficits and war to spark the economy. And I have no doubt that some of you have immediate needs for which this rebate will be used. But for some, it is an unexpected and unnecessary windfall. Let me encourage you, if you are able, to use this rebate responsibly and generously to further your values – to create a lasting legacy. We cannot all create lasting artwork like Georgia O’Keefe. We do not all have a ranch and thousands of acres to donate. But we do all have ways and means to be generous with our time and talents and resources to make a difference in the world.

As we begin to move forward into a new era at Central, we will need all the prayers and support and generosity of members and friends.

David Colby

MISCELLANEOUS

GRADUATE RECOGNITION

On Sunday, June 1, we will recognize graduates at Central. If you or someone you know (but who is too shy to tell us directly) is a graduate of a high school, technical school, college, or post-graduate program, please let the church office know (office@cpcstpaul.org or 651-224-4728, ext. 100).



Audrey Amarteifio
David Colby
David Fisher (?)

Faith Holschbach
Murphy Pyan
Jane Storck (?)

Special THANKS to all the Dining Room painters: Rick Barker, Charlie Barklind, Kris Fluegel, Sue Hankerson, Jerry Johnson, Jim Olson, Jim O'Neill, Bill Zopfi, and Roger Zopfi.



To the Kitchen Crew: Kathy Barker, Rick Barker, Charlie Barklind, Del Case, Marge Case, Sue Hankerson, Fran Harling, Esther Holtz, Annie Junor, Barb Westman, and Kathleen.

YOUNG ADULTS –

SPRING & SUMMER EVENTS

Spring has us looking forward to warm-weather activities! We're planning gatherings such as a Farmer's Market breakfast before church, Movie in Mears Park, live music & dancing at MN History Center, a service project and perhaps another Mississippi River cruise!

All are welcome – if you'd like to submit ideas or receive information as we organize please contact Kate at mrskatepearce@yahoo.com.



MEMORIAL DAY

The office will be closed on **Monday, May 26** in observance of Memorial Day.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session is the governing body of the church, and is composed of three classes of five active elders and the pastor. The Session is responsible for the mission and government of Central, with broad responsibilities and concerns. In the first months of 2008, the Session organized itself into standing committees that oversee particular areas of the church's life. During our four year designated pastorate period in which we are to "live or die" the Session has focused carefully on those priorities leading to growth and the future, while keeping an eye on longer-term concerns such as light rail and care of the building.

The Session met on Tuesday, April 15 in a long and productive meeting. Rev. Colby introduced the agenda by describing how aides move cots into the US Capitol on nights when filibusters are threatened for the Senate. This meeting wrapped up before 11:00 pm and to our knowledge, no one fell asleep. Among the actions and discussion items:

- The Rev. Paul Gilmore, pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Stillwater and a member of the presbytery's Committee on Ministry, was present to guide the discussion about next steps for Central as we near the completion of the four year designated pastorate with Rev. Colby. The Session voted to recommend to the congregation that the pastoral relationship be continued for an indefinite time by extending a permanent call to Rev. Colby. A congregational meeting was called for September 21, 2008 for the purpose of electing Rev. Colby.
- The session approved a letter to the congregation providing thorough and full information about the recent security threats. An open conversation with members and friends of the congregation to discuss all the related issues was held on Sunday, April 20. (The Session continues to rely on the advice and counsel of the St Paul Police and executives in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to formulate next steps to ensure safety and promote healing.)
- The Treasurer's Report showed an operating budget surplus for the month of March! This is an amazing accomplishment – thanks to those who support the ministry of this church financially.
- In his pastor's report, Rev. Colby described recent conversations with staff of the Central Corridor Project of Met Council. As a historic building along the proposed Light Rail route on Cedar Street, Rev. Colby and Father Paul Morrissey of the Church of St. Louis, King of France, were invited to a conversation about the impact of light rail on the historic nature of the two churches. At this meeting, they were surprised to be told (in contradiction to past statements) that the alignment for the line had been determined months ago by engineers to place the tracks in the lane closest to the church buildings. This determination did not take into account an analysis of the impact of vibrations during construction and operation (despite our requests and a resolution passed by the St Paul City Council declaring this stretch of Cedar Street a vibration sensitive zone). The Session voted to oppose light rail if it followed the engineering plan of placing the rails on the side of Cedar Street nearest the church. Central will continue to cooperate with our neighbors, particularly Minnesota Public Radio and the Church of Saint Louis, King of France to have our concerns heard and addressed. The Session asked Rev. Colby to create a public forum opportunity for church members to hear about light rail plans, ask questions, and raise concerns. (this has been set for May 18— see p. 2)



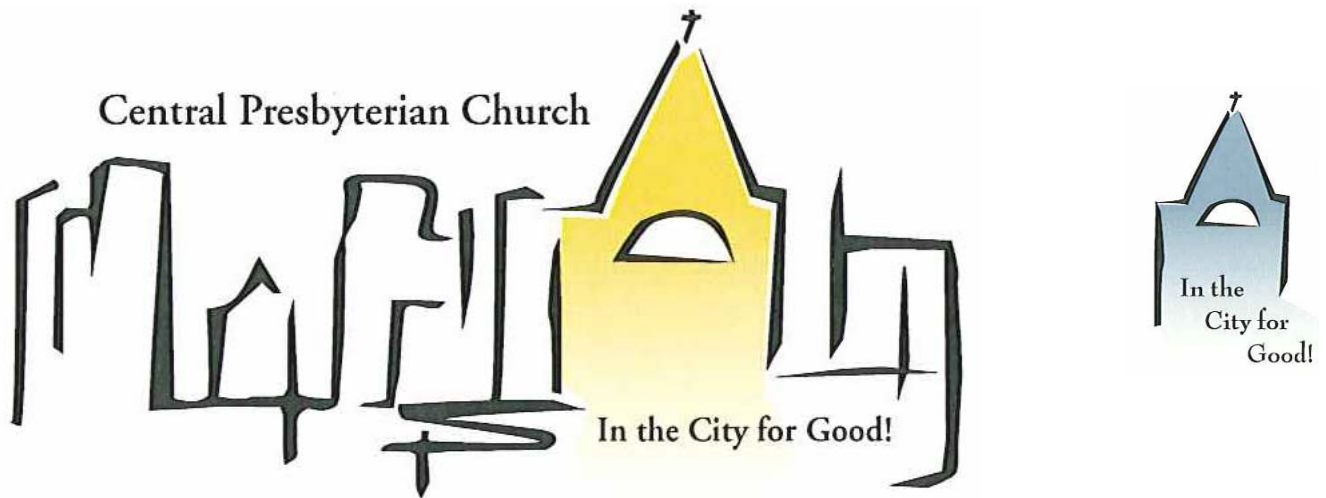
CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

We have a wonderful confirmation class this year that includes youth in grades 6–10. A schedule of topics and dates is below:

Sunday, May 4
Sunday, May 11

Worship Planning
 Confirmation Day (and baptisms) in worship

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE



The publicity committee has been working hard on materials that will communicate to members and potential visitors about the strengths of Central. Website, photos, bulletin boards, banners out front, along with our verbal messages, shape what people think about the church. Here is a new logo that we will be using beginning with this newsletter (we know the phone number is wrong, it's a prototype).

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REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE! GARAGE SALE MAY 2 & MAY 3

The Women of Central Garage Sale is an example of serving our community, both by action and financially, providing low priced clothing and household supplies to Central's neighbors and then donating the money raised to local agencies which help people in our neighborhood and our community. Money raised from the 2007 Garage Sale was donated to organizations such as Women's Advocates, The Jeremiah Program, Project Home and Listening House.



The Women of Central need **your help** to ensure the success of this year's Garage Sale on **Friday May 2 from 10– 2 PM and Saturday May 3 from 9–1 PM**. We need donations of **gently used** clothing (no shoes, please), house wares, dishes, linens, electronics, books, etc., which can be delivered to the church anytime before those dates. If you need help transporting items to the church please call the office at 651-224-4728 x 100 or Florence Zopfi at 651-484-6342. We also need donations of baked goods to sell, especially on Friday. Banana, pumpkin and other quick breads, bar cookies and anything chocolate are the best sellers. All donations will be greatly appreciated.

Able bodied volunteers are especially needed on **Wednesday April 30 after 1:30** (after the Wednesday lunch) to help set up for the sale and to transport sale items from storage areas in the church to the dining room. A light supper will be provided for those who are able to stay or to come in the early evening to finish setting up. We will also need help on **Friday May 2 & Saturday May 3** to cashier, assist customers, help with the bake sale and **to clean up after the sale**. On **Saturday May 3** we will need people with large vehicles to transport "leftover" items to various charity drop-off points **after 1:30 PM**. (The Salvation Army cannot provide a truck for pickup on Saturdays as they did last year). Signup sheets for volunteers are posted on the "Opportunities for Involvement" Bulletin Board. Please signup to help or let Ginny Anderson or Florence Zopfi know your availability. Flyers advertising the sale to give to your friends or to post in places where you live, work or shop are also available there.

All donations and any help you can give will be greatly appreciated by the Women of Central and, we are sure, by the organizations that benefit from the profits of this sale.

THANK YOU...

From...

... **Doris Shull** for the beautiful azaleas. It was nice to see Jane when she delivered them.

... **Eileen Momsen** for your kindness, lovely flower bouquets, get well cards, phone calls, prayers and more. You are an inspiration. We do therapy and are kept active and well fed. You are dear folk in your thoughtfulness.

... **Elizabeth Murphy** for the gorgeous hydrangea plant delivered by Jim Wheeler. Many thanks!

... **Lucille & Jerry Ferguson** to the deacons for the beautiful azaleas and to Susan Seymour for the nice visit. To Rev. Colby for the great Easter sermons (on-line for us) and Maureen for her call. Thank you all for thinking and caring about us.

... **Heifer International** for your recent donation of \$2,180.00 that has brought hope and opportunity to families living in poverty.

... **Jane Lonergan (Jr.)** for all the people who have been praying for my mother-in-law, Jane Lonergan (Sr.) who is 94 years old. When I flew back from FL, after finding out she was on death's doorstep, I continued praying all the way. Upon seeing her, I knew there was not much hope. Then she started trying to talk, and we would see very tiny improvements. I told her, "God is not through with you yet!" She believes that the prayers kept her alive. To have a second chance to tell her things that are of importance is so meaningful.

... **June Smith** to the deacons for the beautiful Easter plant and other items given to me. They continue to remind me of the thoughtfulness of all of you.

... **Lola Coffelt** to Central for the Easter flowers and the other remembrances.

... **Lillian Loll** for the plants Kris Baird delivered.

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

CENTRALITES EVENT—MAY

Join us on **Sunday, May 18** for a trip to the University of Minnesota Arboretum. See Ginny Anderson and future Sunday bulletins for more details.



CENTRAL'S WEBSITE

Looking for the latest info on upcoming events? Check out our website (www.cpcstpaul.org) – it is updated every week. Missed a sermon? Go to the Sermon section and read what you missed. Need to give directions & parking information to your family and friends? Just go to the website – it's all there.

Check out our new **“Newsletter” button**. They are now available on-line in full color!

WEDNESDAY EVENTS 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, beverage and live piano music. 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.

BIBLE STUDY

A good way to begin the new year would be to start attending the adult Bible study led by Maureen Smith, at **9:30 on Sunday mornings**, in the Friendship Room. Most Sundays, the group talks about the passage that will be the basis for the morning sermon, and the group also offers a chance for fellowship and prayer support.

DORCAS CIRCLE

Plans to meet on **Thursday, May 8 at 11:30 AM** at Ida Johnson's house.

THIRD SUNDAY LUNCH

Meet new people! Eat great food! Following worship on **Sunday, May 18** all are invited to our famous “Third Sunday lunch.”

“PEOPLE OF THE BOOK”

—as some people like to call Christians, Jews, and Muslims— can always find wisdom and insight in reading other books. Join us on the second and fourth Wednesday, **May 14 and 28** as we discuss Staggerford by Jon Hassler. The time is at 10:30 AM in the Friendship Room. **Everyone is welcome.**



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: May 18, and June 1, 8, 15 & 22.

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Rev. David D. Colby, dcolby@cpcstpaul.org, ext. 102	.....Pastor
Maureen Smith, mcsmith@tc.umn.edu, ext. 118	.....Pastoral Associate
Kathy Handford, kathrinehandford@comcast.net, ext. 103	..... Director of Music
Wendy Slade, office@cpcstpaul.org, ext. 100	.....Office Manager
Maria Castanos Olson, ext. 100	.....Evening Receptionist
Charlie Barklind, ext. 116	..... Custodian/Sexton
William Zopfi, billz@cpcstpaul.org, ext. 104	..... Treasurer
Barb Westman, bw53@lakedalelink.net, ext. 114	..... Food Service Mgr
Sandy White, wjands7@aol.com, ext. 112	..... Director of Martha's Closet
Faith Holschbach, ext. 109	..... Christian Ed Coordinator
Kristin Riegel	.....Preschool Teacher
Jane Storck, ext. 113	..... Nursery Care Giver

MAY BIRTHDAY WISHES TO:

Date	Name	Date	Name	Date	Name
2	Alleluia Musabyimana	15	Jon Pearce	26	Adam Wolf Gips
3	Julianna Johnson	15	William Zopfi-Jordan	27	Murphy Pyan
5	Liz Brzoska	19	Cheryl McDermott	29	Audrey Amarteifio
9	June Wheeler	20	Bill Suciu	30	Sybil Peterson
11	Carol Cross	21	Jessica Jones		
11	Sue Hoffman	23	Ginny Hansen		
11	Cleo Powell	23	Christine McCarten		
11	Marlyss Wolf				

Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM



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