

CENTRAL TODAY

November 2009

A Note from the Pastor

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As October turns into November in Minnesota, we turn from one of the prettiest months in Saint Paul to the welcoming of winter. As I write, I have been enjoying the orange and red leaves on the maple trees in my neighborhood, but the forecast for tonight calls for hard rain and it will not be long before the trees are bare and the wind will come with a chill.

With November comes one of my favorite holidays, Thanksgiving. It's not yet overly commercialized. It's not even a specifically religious holiday, though I believe that the sentiment of gratitude is at the heart of the religious impulse. Even the word, thanksgiving, is central to the Greek word for communion, eucharist, which means to give thanks. In each edition of this newsletter, we include thank you notes (see p. 8). But found throughout the pages of this newsletter are some of the many things for which I am thankful at Central.

- The arrival of Pamela Erwin as our interim Children and Youth Coordinator. Pamela is so talented and an expert in the field of youth and family ministry (see her biography on p. 3) and I am so looking forward to working with her.
- New members who are already bringing new energy and gifts to our community of faith (see p. 6).
- All the volunteers who signed up to be evening and overnight hosts at Project Home. This is our eleventh year with Project Home and we believe that this has been the best year in terms of getting our volunteer shifts covered early!
- Our desire to not only serve the community through meals and mission, but also to offer beauty through important art exhibits (see p. 5 for a new exhibit this month).
- A hard-working nominating committee that finished its work prayerfully (see p. 4)

What are you thankful for? How do you show your gratitude for the gift of life, God's many blessings, the connections of love, this church?

With gratitude,
David Colby

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Daylight Savings Time Ends - set clocks back one hour

Join us as we observe All Saints' Day by remembering those who have died in the past year and celebrate the sacrament of communion. Members of Central who died in the past year who will be remembered on this day include: Stephen Ndumbe, Lola Coffelt and Geraldine Hallas.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

As we pray the Lord's Prayer, we ask, "give us this day our daily bread." In this petition, Jesus is shaping our desires about what is enough and being able to differentiate between what is essential and what is luxurious. Rev. Colby will preach on, the choir will sing. Soprano section leader Brittany Kallman will sing a dramatic setting of the Lord's Prayer by Albert Hay Malotte.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

In the stories of the early church found in the book of Acts, there is an explosion in church membership – three thousand persons were added in one day. And it is interesting what Acts says they focused on: "to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." And a few verses later, "they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts" (Acts 2:41-47). Rev. Colby will preach on The Breaking of Bread. And the bulletin will feature a fourth bread recipe from gourmet chef Barb Westman.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

On the Sunday before Thanksgiving, Maureen Smith will preach on "An Attitude of Gratitude," drawing from the text in 1 Thessalonians 5:18 that calls us to "give thanks in all circumstances." What does it mean to give thanks in all circumstances (not the same as giving thanks FOR all circumstances)? And how are our lives better when we have an attitude of gratitude?

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

We celebrate the beginning of the season of Advent with the sacrament of communion. Rev. Colby will preach on "Great Expectations."

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.



WELCOME PAMELA ERWIN – CHILDREN & YOUTH COORDINATOR

Education: B.A., University of North Carolina, 1991; M.A., Denver Seminary, 1996; D.Min., Fuller Seminary, 2002.

Expertise: Youth and Culture, adolescent, identity and faith development, practical theology.

Pamela Erwin joined the faculty at Bethel University as Associate Professor of Biblical Studies in 2002. She currently serves as Professor of Youth Ministry and Practical Theology. Her primary teaching responsibilities are in the area of youth ministry and practical theology. From 1999 to 2001, Pamela served Tyndale College and Seminary, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, as Professor of Youth Ministry and Director of the youth and family ministry programs at both Tyndale College and Tyndale Seminary. In addition, she helped establish and directed the Recreation Leadership program at Tyndale College working in partnership with Muskoka Woods Sports Resort. Before moving to Canada, Pamela taught in the Youth and Family Ministry Department at Denver Seminary. In addition to teaching, Pamela has served as youth pastor and lay church leader in a number of churches in North Carolina and Colorado and continues to speak at youth and youth leader retreats and conferences. She has written articles for the Youth Worker Journal, the Journal of Youth Ministry and has also contributed to other resources including, *Nelson's Annual Youth Ministry Source Book for 2008*. Pamela also wrote *The Family Powered Church* (Group, 2000). She is a member of the Association of Youth Ministry Educators, the International Association of Student Ministry, and the Society for Research on Adolescents. Her most recent book, *A Critical Approach to Youth Culture* (Zondervan) is scheduled to be released in Spring, 2010.

AN INVITATION FROM PEACEFUL PRESENCE

A Peaceful Presence began in Central's sanctuary during the Republican National Convention. It continues for silent prayer and meditation on the first Wednesday of each month at 10:30 AM. Here is information on an Advent Retreat at Our Lady of Grace in Edina (5071 Eden Ave). Before Nov. 27, make \$25 checks payable to: WI Province of The Society of Jesus and mail to: Terry Griep, 1456 Edgcumbe Rd, St. Paul, MN 55116

Registration includes refreshments and lunch on Saturday. Cost at the door is \$30. For more information, please call Irene Molitor at 651-645-6004, or Terry Griep at 651-457-4339.

The Ignatian Associates are apostolic people connected in prayer and work, formed by the Spiritual Exercises, rooted in the spirituality of St. Ignatius, and connected with the mission of the Society of Jesus.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT
CALL TO CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A congregational meeting to elect officers will be held **Sunday, November 8** immediately following the 10:30 am worship service. All active members of the Central congregation are eligible to vote and be considered for office. A slate of nominees for vacant positions on the Session and Board of Deacons will be presented by the Nominating Committee, as well as nominations for next year's Nominating Committee member-at-large positions. Additional nominations from the floor may be made at the meeting.

**REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE
TO THE CONGREGATION
November 9, 2008**

Members of the 2008 Nominating committee:

- At-large members
(elected by congregation in November, 2008)
 - Andrew Hisey
 - Kate Pearce
- Session members
(appointed by Session in January, 2009)
 - Terry Henry
 - Janet Engeswick
- Deacon
(appointed by Deacons in January, 2009)
 - Jane Lonergan

- ELDERS, class of 2012** (3 year terms)
- Jonathan Pearce, for a second term
 - Matt Ehling
 - Ann Finseth
 - Ed Williamson
 - Ginny Hansen

ELDERS, class of 2011 (2 year term)

- DEACONS, class of 2012** (3 year terms)
- Moses Kimani, for a second term
 - John Lee, for a second term
 - Kate Pearce

- 2010 Nominating Committee – at-large members**
- Kerry Bollman
 - Gina Juffer

2010 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN:
The Multiplication of Blessings
From Rev. Colby's October 25 sermon:

Whether we can explain the miracle or understand the multiplication [of the feeding of four thousand in Mark 8:1-21], this story is like the yeast of all future stories of faith. Just a teaspoon or two of recollection of crowds fed with a few loaves and a couple of fish and our faithful imaginations move forward. With a faith like that, we don't have to cave in to the Herod's of the world, nor do we need to imagine that we are the only righteous Pharisees. We can be generous, because God is generous. We can be generous in sharing, because this story tells us there will be enough. We can be generous with others when they disagree with us, because we are not the only righteous ones. The yeast of this story is a legacy of God's generosity. The multiplication of blessings.

And this foundational story is at the center of our stewardship campaign this year. You'll be hearing more about our Stewardship campaign in the coming weeks. We'll be asking you to pray and consider how you will respond to this legacy of generosity. We are asking all of us to prayerfully consider our level of financial support for the coming year to make our ministry possible. And this story of a few loaves of bread and a few fish remind us that generosity, once unleashed, cannot be stopped. The Stewardship team wanted to come up with a creative idea to help us remember this story during the campaign. First they thought that each person who pledges might get a goldfish – but that could get awkward. So, each pledge that is received will be remembered on a chart, symbolized with a loaf of bread.



ART EXHIBIT FEATURES PAINTINGS OF DEANNE PARKS

The large, vibrant canvases of DeAnne Parks will be on exhibit at Central during the months of **November and December**. Ms. Parks is artist in residence at Thomas Lake Elementary in Eagan, MN. Her paintings and sculptures are in private and corporate collections. Her work has been published on book and CD covers, most recently by the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. in the 2009-2010 Horizons Bible Study. She lives with her husband and son in Rosemount, MN. DeAnne's studio is located in the Jax Building in Lowertown, St. Paul.

DeAnne's mission statement: Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. – 1 Peter 4:10

“First, I pray. I ask God to guide every brush stroke and use me according to his will. When I begin painting, I have no idea what the outcome will be. It's like a spontaneous dance. I focus on texture, color and shapes, expressing my feelings at a given moment. In fact, I often dance while painting. Creating art is such a joyful experience that I can't seem to stand still. Bright colors and thick paint are used to express themes related to spirituality and human relationships, especially those of community, hope and love.”

A portion of her sales benefit Safezone, a resource center for homeless teens in St Paul. For more information, visit her website at www.artdeanne.com.



Feed My Lambs



Phyllis pictured with husband Kevin

PHYLLIS BRASHLER

I moved to St. Paul with my husband Kevin in September 2009, and I've been attending services at Central for about a year. We moved here after spending several years in Boston for graduate school and a brief stop in Chicago, drawn by family, college friends, a very livable and vibrant urban environment, and a new job. I'm a program coordinator at the Minnesota Department of Health and Kevin works as a veterinary technician in Minneapolis. We met at Beloit College in 1994, married in 2004, and are expecting our first child in February. We're currently living in St. Paul with three cats, one dog, and more fish than I care to count! Looking forward to getting to know everyone!

WILLIAM AND LOUISE FRENCH

Lou was born in Bloomington, MN and Bill in Seattle, WA. Both are long-time Presbyterians and join us by transfer from the First Presbyterian of Chippewa Falls near their cabin in the WI woods. When they are not there, they live on Summit Ave in St Paul.

Bill is a retired 3M technical director, and Lou is an active fiber artist, professional handweaver, and weaving teacher. Her newest passion is ply-split braiding. Nowadays, most of her teaching is at the Weavers Guild of MN located in the Textile Center on University Ave, but formerly she taught regularly at Sievers School of Fiber Arts on Washington Island, Wisconsin and other places as well. Some of her work can be seen on www.louisefrench.com.

They enjoy six grandchildren, three of whom live in the Twin Cities and three who live in Hanoi, Viet Nam but visit nearly every year. They are returning to Central where they were active in the late 80s to early 90s before moving to Germany for 5 years. They find the familiar faces of that earlier time and the welcoming attitude of new people to be an enticing reason to rejoin Central Presbyterian.



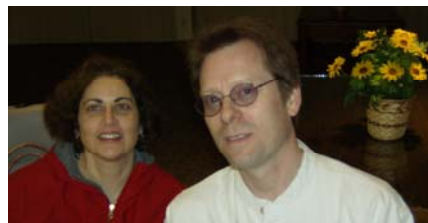
ERIC KREINER & REBECCA RODRIQUE

Eric is 23 years old and was born and raised in Andover, MN. He joined the Army at 17 and served for 6 years. After returning from Iraq he completed his Associates Degree in Architectural Building Technology. He is currently working at Dunham Associates in Minneapolis as an Electrical Designer. He owns a Condo in the Gallery Towers building. He enjoys all aspects of construction; to include woodworking, carpentry, landscaping and remodel work. He and Rebecca have been enjoying our engagement since Labor Day. Their wedding is planned for September 2010.

Rebecca's is 24 years old and was born in St. Paul and raised in St. Francis, MN on a hobby farm. She grew up helping family with the cows, pigs and chickens. She went to college in Duluth at St. Scholastica and graduated with a Bachelors of Arts in Nursing with a minor in Russian. She is currently working with Gentiva Health Services, a private homecare company. She loves music and really enjoys Central's choir. Meeting Eric was her excuse to move out of Duluth and back to St. Paul. They are enjoying their time together and with their new cat Casey and her chinchilla Sasha. They get along fine!



JOHN & MICHELE PATTON



INVITATIONS

YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT AT CENTRAL

Central youth (8th graders plus) are invited to stay over night for Project Home on **Saturday, November 7**. Bring a sleeping bag and pillow. Cris Ross and Nancy Gilger will be adult supervisors. For further information, and to RSVP, call Sharon Zopfi-Jordan at 651-484-7864.

BOOK STUDY

Book club will be meeting on **November 11 & 25 at 10:30 AM** in the Friendship Room. November's selection is The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao by Junot Diaz. **Everyone is welcome.**

DORCAS CIRCLE

Meet on the second Thursday of each month at 11:30 AM. The next meeting will be **Thursday, November 12.**

THIRD SUNDAY LUNCH

No Third Sunday lunch will be served on **November 18**. Have a happy Thanksgiving!

CENTRALITES EVENT - SISTERS OF SWING

The Andrews Sisters—LaVerne, Maxene, and Patricia—were born and raised in Minneapolis, with their sights set on making a career in music. Little did they know when they left Minnesota, that they would become the all-time leader in the recording world! Revisit the American experience during World War II through the finger-snapping, Big Band music of the Andrew Sisters, including "Don't Sit Under Apple Tree," "Boogie-Woogie Bugle Boy," "Rum and Coca Cola," and many more. Tickets are \$25 and we have 12 seats to fill. Join us on **November 22 at 2 PM**. A little lunch will be provided before we walk to the History Theatre to enjoy this musical. Please RSVP by **November 3** by calling Marge Case at 612-850-9770 or Ginny Anderson at 651-501-8990.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY WISHES

Date	Name	Date	Name	Date	Name
4	Grace Anderson	11	Betty Wood	23	Chandy John
4	Billie Jo Green	12	Del Case	24	Kathy Zopfi
4	Nancy MacDonald	12	Phil Nichols	25	Lisa Kelly
4	Stevana Ndumbe	15	Mark Juffer	25	Esperance Musabyimana
5	J.T. Engeswick	20	Lucille Ferguson	25	Francois Musabyimana
8	Wendy Neuman	20	Cort Strane	25	Mary Price
9	Fran Harling	22	Frank Lundeen	28	Toni Kysylyczyn
10	Gedeon Musabyimana	23	Jerry Ferguson		

CANCELLED STAMPS NEEDED

June Wheeler is collecting cancelled stamps that are ¼" all the way around for a mission project. No flags or forever stamps please. Contact June for more information at 651-489-6241.

CENTRAL'S WEBSITE

To find the latest information on upcoming events, visit our webpage at www.cpcspaul.org. Check back often as it is updated every week.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOTING DAY
Elections will be held on Tuesday, November 3 in the Friendship Room from 7 AM to 8 PM.



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.

THANK YOU from

... **Jan Engeswick** to church family and friends for your support through my recent successful surgery and healing. Your prayers, well wishes and flowers, delivered by deacons Herb & Marilyn Freier, were so appreciated. Thanks to David Colby and Maureen Smith for their pastoral care.

... **Presbyterian Church (USA)** for Central's contribution of \$1,215.22 to One Great Hour of Sharing.

... **Mary Miller** to the deacons and members of Central for your recent expression of support during my surgery and recovery. The calls and notes from David and Maureen, the prayers of all, the cards, visiting, and flowers. They speeded my recovery!

... **LeVuo & Bim Juhnke** to the friends at Central for your prayers, phone calls, cards, and pastor Dave's visits. It has eased our grief over the loss of a dear brother, Dan Saari and mother Ruth Saaari.

... **Betty Obermeier** to deacons and members of Central for the beautiful flowers. Also thanks to Marilyn and Herb Freier for delivering them to the hospital. I'm at home and continuing therapy and anxious to be able to walk to church soon.

... **Bill Zopfi** to everyone who helped with the church cleanup on Saturday October 17.

... **Women of Central** to everyone who gave to the Thank Offering to support mission projects. We received about \$700.

WOMEN OF CENTRAL CHRISTMAS BRUNCH – “HARMONIC RELIEF” TO ENTERTAIN AND MITTEN TREE TO BENEFIT PROJECT HOME

Enjoy a new and exciting musical experience presented by the group “Harmonic Relief “ at the Women of Central Christmas Brunch on **Saturday, December 12**. “Harmonic Relief” is an enthusiastic group of 21 members who share a love for close harmony and giving top-notch performances. Individuals in the group have performed at venues such as Orchestra Hall and the Ordway. They will present a program of pop, swing, Broadway show tunes and vocal jazz, as well as Christmas music.

Chef Barb Westman will again prepare a delicious and elegant brunch. The event will start at 9:45 AM with punch and a short social time. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$3.00 for children 12 and under. Invite your friends and family to join you at the brunch to celebrate the season. Tickets and invitations to give to others will be available after church later in November.

There will be a Mitten Tree to benefit the children like those who will stay overnight at Project Home at Central in November and at other churches throughout the winter. Children may come to overnight shelters without hats, scarves or mittens. We are asking guests to bring donations of new mittens, hats, scarves and/or socks for children, teenagers or even adults for the Mitten Tree. These will be given to Project Home to be available at the shelters for children or teenagers who need them.

ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET

Alternative Gift Giving Sundays & The Women of Central will be participating in this years Alternative Gift Market. We will be giving to: Women’s Advocates, The Jeremiah Program, The Listening House, Heifer International & FIRE. Please visit us in the Friendship Room on **Sunday, November 29, December 6, 13 & 20**.



THE GIVING TREE

The deacons are sponsoring the Christmas Giving Tree again this year. Just take a tag off the tree in the Friendship Room (beginning November 24), purchase a new gift, wrap it, attach the tag to the gift, and place it under the tree by **Sunday, December 13**. The gifts will be given to mothers and their children living at our neighboring Naomi Family Center.

POINSETTIAS

Please Place Order by 12/7/2009

Your Name _____ Phone _____

6 ½” Red \$ 6.50 Quantity _____

8” Red \$12.50 Quantity _____

If you’re purchasing in honor of someone, please list their name(s):

Mail or drop off at: Central Presbyterian Church, 500 Cedar St, St Paul MN 55101;
or email office@cpcstpaul.org

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April Joy Peterson, ext. 113Nursery Care Giver

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