



# CENTRAL TODAY

February 2010

A Note from the Pastor

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Check out new videos about the church on our website:  
[www.cpcstpaul.org](http://www.cpcstpaul.org)

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There is an oft-said expression, "Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it." William Faulkner, the southern novelist, added, "The past is never dead. It's not even past!"

As we lean into a new decade of ministry at Central Presbyterian Church, it is a wonderful time to look back at our past. Throughout February we will be adding items of historical interest to the Friendship Room, and I hope you will take some time to browse through the pages and stories. Then plan to join us on **Tuesday, February 23 from 6:30–8:30 for a night to explore our history**, to see how our personal histories are intertwined with Central's history, and look for the DNA-like stuff in our history that can guide our life together in a new decade. I am very pleased that the Rev. Cal Cooper, the chaplain at Presbyterian Homes in Roseville will facilitate our discussion. Rev. Cooper sees Proverbs 20:5 as a biblical mandate for his ministry of listening. "The purposes in the human mind are like deep water, but the intelligent will draw them out." He looks forward to helping us draw out insights from our history that will lead us into the future.

At key moments in Central's history, the congregation gathered for a picture to be recorded for posterity. Well, it is coming time to once again smile at the camera. We will be beginning the process for a new church photo directory this Spring (see p. 5) and as we began preparations, the deacons suggested that we take a congregational photo on **Sunday, April 11**. You'll hear more about this, of course, but that is a time to see yourself as part of Central's history.

In the words of a favorite hymn,

Our God, our help in ages past,  
 Our hope for years to come,  
 Be Thou our guard while life shall last,  
 And our eternal home.

Peace and blessings,

David Colby

## UPCOMING WORSHIP

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me." So begins one of the most well-known and popular hymns in America. We will examine two key biblical passages. From Luke we hear of the call of Simon Peter the fisherman, who first told Jesus, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" (Luke 5:8). And the apostle Paul, wrote, "For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain" (1 Cor 15:9-10). Through the grace of God we are gathered and called to do wondrous things to carry out the ministry of Jesus. No excuses – just grace.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14

The disciples almost missed it because they were "weighed down with sleep." Peter almost missed because he was so caught up in glory that he wanted to stay with Jesus on the mountaintop. Rev. Colby will preach on the story of the Transfiguration, the confirmation of Jesus' identity which propelled him back down the mountain and into ministry (Luke 9:28-43).

## FEBRUARY 17 — ASH WEDNESDAY

The season of Lent begins with simple rituals of penitence and reflection. We will gather for worship at **7:30 PM** in the sanctuary, along with members of the First Baptist congregation and Central's choir. Central's seminary intern Jennifer Miles will preach. There will be a simple supper of bread and soup available in our Dining Room at 6 PM. Our normal brief Wednesday **12:45 PM service** will also be held, and the imposition of ashes will be offered at both services.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

On this first Sunday in the penitential season of Lent, we gather together for encouragement and support. We will share communion, and hear the story of Jesus being tempted out in the wilderness.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

The season of Lent reminds us of what is most important. Life as we know it is finite. We have many temptations, and other paths sometimes cry out. In Lent we remember that we are to live, not as "enemies of the cross," as Paul puts it, for our citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:17-4:1).

## 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.



## GETTING INVOLVED IN THE MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH

If you are looking to get involved in the life of Central, now is a great time. In its January meeting, the Session organized itself into committees and named leadership. If you would like to get involved in the work of a committee or work group, contact the individuals named below or the church office help get connected and involved.

**Children and Youth**

Chair: Matt Ehling

**Finance and Stewardship**

Chair: Alex Bollman

**Worship, Music and the Arts**

Chair: Paula Cooley

**New Member Welcome & Assimilation**

Chair: Janet Engeswick

**Publicity**

Chair: Jon Pearce

**Coordinated Mission**

Chair: Ann Finseth

**Food and Fellowship**

Chair: Sandy White

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT CENTRAL

What follows is a partial list of ways you can get involved in the mission and ministry of Central. To explore any of these opportunities, contact the church office to be in touch with the correct contact person.

- Usher and greet on Sunday mornings – particularly needed are people who can commit to provide leadership for a particular Sunday each month
- Invite a friend to worship or activities at Central
- Read Scripture and or lead parts of worship services
- Sing in the choir
- Drive people to church
- Teach in our Sunday School program
- Get involved in a committee, which is where priorities are established and ideas are implemented. Committees include: personnel, children & youth, finance & stewardship, worship & music, new member welcome & assimilation, publicity, coordinated mission, food & fellowship, congregational care, nominating committee, or presbytery commissioner
- Martha's Closet: volunteer to sort donated clothes, staff shifts to assist women "shopping" for clothes and support annual sales
- Coffee Hour: make coffee, set up, pour beverages, clean up
- Third Sunday Lunch volunteers: help cook, set up, serve, clean up
- Wednesday Lunch volunteers: help cook, set up, serve, clean up
- Art exhibits: help set up and break down
- Usher and greet for special events
- The Tidy Crew: stocks pews with envelopes, attendance sheets, etc.
- Visit homebound members

### HAITI DISASTER ASSISTANCE

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is responding to this earthquake through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and its partners. For updates on the earthquake and the church's response, please visit PDA. You, too, can be part of God's answer to prayer for those affected by this disaster. Information on the situation and prayers and worship resources are available through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Funds from One Great Hour of Sharing are already helping with the initial response. You can give to the ongoing relief through PDA account number DR000064. Gifts can also be made by phone at (800) 872-3283 weekdays between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. (EST) and checks can be mailed to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

### CROSS-CULTURAL WEEKEND

At Central we have members and their children born in at least ten different countries on four continents, as well as African Americans and Asian Americans. Our cross-cultural celebration January 16-17 was designed to build on that strength.

About 35 or 40 people came to the Saturday event, including 12 or 15 family members and friends of Stephen Ndumbe, whose legacy we were honoring. One highlight of the morning was hearing his daughters Stevana and Rekita talk about their dad and about their trip to Cameroon for his burial.

We began with an exercise that gave everyone a chance to get to know some of their fellow church members better. Then, in small groups, we talked about this question: are we a truly multicultural church, or are we a predominantly white church that is happy to have people of other cultures and ethnicities with us as long as we don't have to change too much?

People shared their fears and hopes about approaching this topic. Most people said we have a ways to go before we are truly multicultural. We will be talking more about how we might move in that direction. Many people expressed a strong desire to get to know each other better, to form true friendships across cultural lines, to be enriched by learning about other cultures, and to be a more inclusive church.

The multicultural theme was continued in the Sunday worship service, and we ended with a multicultural feast prepared by Barb Westman and Betty Amarteifio. Even with competition from a Vikings playoff game at noon, about 70 people stayed for the meal and fellowship.

### A LOOK BACK TO STEP FORWARD

All are invited to attend a congregational event to look back at **Central's history on Tuesday, February 23 from 6:30–8:30 PM**. We will celebrate key moments of our past, but the creative part will be to look for patterns and practices that are embedded deep in our DNA, that consciously or unconsciously guide our actions and beliefs. Then, on **Tuesday, March 23 from 6:30–8:30 PM**, plan to join us as we take these learnings and our current context and formulate new guiding goals as we begin a new decade.

### 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?

Winter 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.

The last class will be held on **Wednesday, February 3 from 6–7:15 PM** in the Friendship Room.

**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.

Even if you missed the first two classes, all are invited to come 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!

## NEW MEMBERS



## THOMAS FISH

When I was growing up in the 1950's–60's, my parents were members of Valley Community Presbyterian and I had many good experiences. While away in the military or college, things generally were better for me if I attended a local church regularly. Now, I look forward to being a full member of Central, which is meeting my needs and is only 1.7 miles from where I live.

## HELEN JOHNSON

The Session was delighted to receive Helen Johnson as an active member. Helen had been an affiliate member since moving to Central Towers. Now that downtown is home, she felt that it was time to make it official.



LAURA NICHOLS ENDRES

## ADD TO YOUR CALENDARS

## OLAN MILLS PHOTO DIRECTORY

It's time to update our photo directory again! Photo shoot dates are scheduled for **April 9, 10 & 21, 2010**, so mark your calendar. On **April 11**, we'll take a congregational photo. More information will be forthcoming.

## 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."

## CHURCH HOURS

The church office will be closed **Monday, February 15, 2010** for President's Day.

## EVENTS &amp; INVITATIONS

## EXPECTING AND NEW PARENTS

Expecting and new parents are invited to join Pamela Erwin and Dave Colby for lunch and conversation after worship on **Sunday, February 7**. It will be a time to share hopes and fears and support one another in these exciting and sometimes scary days.

## 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](mailto:ann@finseth.com) or 651-644-4027.

## BOOK STUDY

Book club will be meeting on **February 10 & 24 at 10:30 AM** in the Friendship Room. **Everyone is welcome.**

## DORCAS CIRCLE

We meet on the second Thursday of each month at 11:30 AM. The next meeting will be **Thursday, February 11**.

The Dorcas Circle sent \$200 to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program to help the people in Haiti.

## 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](mailto:office@cpcstpaul.org).

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY WISHES

Date	Name	Date	Name	Date	Name
3	Marlena Haugen	10	Margo Nicoll	18	Eddie Sanders
4	Laura Varanasi	11	Victoria Pyan	22	Josh Soderbeck
5	Veronica Amarteifio	14	Christopher Amarteifio	23	Lynne Severson
9	Kris Baird	15	Gerald Anderson	27	June Berger
9	Stephanie Getschmann	16	Donyae Graham	27	Kris Fluegel
9	Melissa Varanasi	17	Jon Juffer		

## INFORMATION &amp; THANK YOU'S



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: February **7, 14, 21 & 28.**

THANK YOU from  
 ... **Lois Leskela** to Central for the beautiful poinsettia.  
 ... **Chuck & Carol Powell** for acknowledging us in the November 8 bulletin. Although we can't attend church, it's nice to be thought of.  
 ... **from Dorcas Circle** to Juneal Fisk, who is retiring after serving thirty years as the Secretary/Treasurer of the Dorcas Circle.  
 ... **Deb Graf** to Kris & Deacons for visiting Leona Waage at Lyngbloomsten, and the beautiful poinsettia. Leona has started on hospice. Central has been such an important part of her life and we appreciate the visits.  
 ... **Carol Langer (Esther Quam's niece)** to Central for the Christmas wishes. Esther has moved to St John's Lutheran Home after a mild stroke.

## MUSIC

## FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE

The MN Boychoir's Winter concert CD's have been given to the church for distribution. See Kathy Handford after worship if you'd like a free one.

TWIN CITIES WOMEN'S CHOIR TO FEATURE SINGER/SONGWRITERS  
 ANN REED AND BRIANNA LANE AT PERSPECTIVES CONCERT

The Twin Cities Women's Choir presents **Perspectives** with singer/songwriters Ann Reed and Brianna Lane Saturday, **February 6 at 7:30 PM** at Central Presbyterian Church, 500 Cedar Street, Saint Paul.

Ann Reed brings over thirty years experience to the stage, honoring the rich stories that have occurred in our world. Brianna Lane, in her first decade of songwriting, brings her own brand of poignant storytelling to the stage. Both visionary, both reflective, both amazing artists with unique perspectives will join Twin Cities Women's Choir for an evening of song.

Advance tickets are \$20 for adults and \$17 for seniors/students. All tickets at the door are \$25. Tickets may be purchased online at [www.TwinCitiesWomensChoir.org](http://www.TwinCitiesWomensChoir.org) or by calling 612-333-8292.

The Twin Cities Women's Choir is a diverse women's choir that sings, performs and affirms the voices of women. The choir was founded in 1997 and has grown to include more than 150 dedicated and diverse singers. It is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with an active board dedicated to strengthening individuals and communities through the healing power of music.

# 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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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