



CENTRAL TODAY

March 2010

A Note from the Pastor

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Check out new videos about the church on our website:
www.cpcstpaul.org

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A full year ago, I attended a conference on “New Visions for the Long Pastorate” led by Roy Oswald. Oswald is an author and church consultant with decades of experience in studying congregations, conflict resolution, and developing pastoral effective leadership. The premise for this workshop was that long-term pastorates have proven to be best for congregations’ growth and stability. (As an interesting aside: during our history event last month, we noted that Central has primarily had short pastorates, with a few notable exceptions, throughout our 155 years as a church.)

Oswald strongly emphasized (and research supports this as well) that to best sustain pastoral vitality, frequent short sabbaticals are encouraged. These are not the same as academic sabbaticals, which have the goal of time set aside to produce and publish materials, nor are these the same as an extended vacation for the pastor (or the congregation). He provided a helpful framework of a cycle of congregational reflection, goal-setting, sabbaticals, and then a period of four-five years to accomplish those goals for congregations. The purpose of the sabbatical, according to Oswald should be roughly two-thirds aimed at the pastor doing whatever it takes to regain his or her vitality, and one-third to engage in study or experiences that will help the pastor and church achieve the next set of congregational goals.

Since I began at Central on February 1, 2005, we have worked together with a sense of immediacy and urgency befitting our situation of a time to “live or die.” The session set clear priorities for that period, and we stuck to them. And we saw quite a bit of growth. Now we are in a new context as we start a new decade. We still know that we need to grow in our faith and as a congregation. But it is time for new goals, and to establish the priorities for me as your pastor.

I hope you will plan to attend what should be a great event open to the whole congregation on Tuesday night, March 23, from 6:30–8:30. Together, in small groups, and as individuals, we will gather for prayer and dreaming as we imagine what we need to focus on to create the church God wants us to become. (If you are not available that night, we will have other opportunities for you to brainstorm and refine goals. In fact, if you have suggestions for goals, feel free to share them with me now!)

(con’t on p. 7)

UPCOMING WORSHIP

SUNDAY, MARCH 7

We welcome to our pulpit guest preacher Rev. Ian Punnett. Ian is a graduate of Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta and has been ordained in the Episcopal Church. He and his wife Margery co-host the morning show on My Talk FM 107.1, known as A Balanced Breakfast with Ian and Margery. He is also the Saturday evening host of Coast to Coast AM. He uses a fine blend of humor and seriousness, social commentary and scholarship to make the gospel come alive. Andy Hisey and Laura Clay will provide special piano music for the prelude and postlude.

SUNDAY, MARCH 14 – DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

**** Daylight Saving Time begins – don't forget to "spring forward!"
Set your clocks ahead one hour before coming to church ****

It is one of the most moving stories in the Bible. Jesus' parable of the Prodigal Son, recounted in Luke 15. It is a story of God's forgiveness and welcome as the selfish, squandering son is welcomed back home. Meanwhile, the older son stands outside the homecoming party, unsure whether he can join in the celebration. In worship we will try on both of these characters and explore how Jesus' gospel speaks to our lives. Following worship is the annual meeting.

The annual meeting of the congregation and corporation of Central Presbyterian Church will be held on Sunday, March 14 in the sanctuary immediately following worship. The annual meeting may consider such business as electing officers, hearing reports of the session along with plans for the coming year, hearing reports from the board of deacons and other organizations of the church, and transacting other business as appropriate. It shall review the adequacy of the compensation of the pastor upon report of the prior review by session.

SUNDAY, MARCH 21

In his letter to the Philippians, Paul writes, "Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own . . . forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal" (3:4-14). Goals are so important for the life of faith, and yet often elusive. As we develop congregational goals for a new decade (see cover article) this passage gives encouragement and perspective.

SUNDAY, MARCH 28

Join us as we celebrate Jesus's triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. But knowing what happens next, the mood takes a decided shift, as we understand the implications of the boldness of Jesus and the suffering which he endures.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Maundy Thursday, April 1 | 7 PM at First Baptist Church (Wacouta and Ninth Streets in Saint Paul) |
| Good Friday, April 2 | 7 PM Evening service at Central |
| Easter Sunday, April 4 | 10 AM Brass & Organ Prelude Music 11:45 AM Easter Egg Hunt |

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

Special thanks to Dodie Espy for her years of service to Central's office. Dodie is "retiring" from her Wednesday office volunteer position. We will personally miss seeing her each week and finding out which crosswords puzzles were the tough ones of the week! We wish you well, Dodie!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT CENTRAL

Now that Dodie Espy is "retiring" from her Wednesday afternoon post the office is looking for a volunteer for Wednesday afternoons from 12:45 to approximately 2 PM to cover the doorbell during staff meetings. Come early and have a delicious lunch prepared by Barb Westman! Please call Wendy Slade at 651-224-4728 ext. 100 if you have time for this opportunity.

CENTRAL PRAYER CHAIN

Central has an active prayer chain and welcomes new participants. You have a choice of receiving prayer requests on your phone or by e-mail. If you would like to be part of Central's Prayer Chain, or have questions, please call Marilyn Freier at 651-772-3512 or Wendy Slade in the church office.

Thank you for your consideration!

YOUTH LENT BREAKFAST

On February 21 the 8th-12th grade youth met for our first Lenten breakfast. We had a great time eating waffles. There was much laughter and fun, but we did have time to talk about how we would like to participate and serve the Central community. These breakfasts will continue **through March 21**. If you are in 8th-12th grade, we'd love for you to join us!

FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

Opinions? Coffee at Central? Would you be interested in having coffee shop quality coffee available before worship on Sunday mornings? Would you be willing to pay for it? Food and Fellowship is exploring the possibilities. Please give feedback to Lillian Sanders at 651-774-0061 or lilandedst99@netzero.com.

LUTHER SEMINARY PRESENCE AT CENTRAL

During March and April, a group of five students from Luther Seminary will be studying Central for a class called "Reading the Audience." They will do some demographic research, interview Central members, and talk to our neighbors. At the end of their research, they will submit a report with their findings.

GUIDING GOALS FOR NEW DECADE

On **Tuesday, March 23 from 6:30–8:30 PM**, plan to join us as we take learnings from our February History Event and our current context and formulate new guiding goals as we begin a new decade.

MARTHA'S CLOSET ANNUAL SALE

The annual Clothing Sale will be on **Thursday, March 25 from 3–7 PM** and **Friday, March 26 from 11–2 PM**. Invite a friend to come shopping for great clothes at a steal. All money raised goes to buy brand new undergarments for clients.

COORDINATED MISSION COMMITTEE

Those interested in both Saturday pictures and the **April 10** park clean-up should sign up for pictures in the AM hours, as the clean-up will be an afternoon event. We'll meet at Central, and will **depart at 1 PM** in a TBA carpool arrangement for the site.

We're hoping to have Central t-shirts available to don prior to the event, for those who wish to wear them. T-shirts will be returned to Central at the end of the clean-up. Total event duration is TBA, but expect it to run at least 2 hours. We'll be on walking paths at the Vento Nature Center, so please wear appropriate footwear. Contact Matt Ehling with any questions at mattehling@yahoo.com.

OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT HAITI RELIEF EFFORTS

On Saturday, February 20, the children and youth of Central spent the morning putting together relief kits. They were able to put together 21 kits that included a variety of basic supplies for families of four, including soaps, shampoos, towels, and toothbrushes. We would like to thank all of those families that donated supplies: the Beese, Ross, Howard, Berigan, Varanassi and Zopfi-Jordan families, and Bonnie and George Joyce. A special thanks to Melissa Varanassi and Sharon and David Zopfi-Jordan for gathering supplies at the last minute to ensure we had as many complete kits as possible.

You still have an opportunity to support this effort with a donation toward the cost of supplies. We have a balance of \$350.00. If you would like to support this effort, make a check payable to Central Presbyterian Church in an envelope marked for Haiti Relief Kits.

LENTEN AND EASTER FOOD DRIVE

Be inspired by the season of community outreach and participate in Central's food and fund drive during the months of March and April. The Coordinated Missions Committee has designed this project with Second Harvest, the largest hunger relief organization in the upper Midwest. Food and monetary donations will be collected every **Sunday starting March 7 through April 25**. The mission will climax on April 28, when volunteers will bring the donations to Second Harvest's Minneapolis site and spend two hours working to package and label boxes to be sent to local food shelves and shelters.

The combination of giving of one's self and learning more of how such a charitable organization functions is sure to be a transforming and fulfilling experience. Central's mission has always been to feed the community, spiritually as well as physically. Such philanthropy and support is needed now more than ever. Join this effort and please give generously over the next few weeks.

Non-perishable food items and monetary donations are appreciated. For those who wish to be a part of the volunteer opportunity at the Second Harvest site, you can sign up by calling the office (ext 100), Ann Finseth or Jennifer Miles (ext 117), or by the sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway near the Friendship Room. The time for this event will be from **5–7 PM on Wednesday, April 28**.

ADD TO YOUR CALENDARS

OLAN MILLS PHOTO DIRECTORY

Prepare to sign up for Central's new all-church photo directory which will be published this summer. Sign-up for photo appointments can happen on-line or after worship on Sundays, March 14, 21 and 28 – look for Jan Engeswick or Susan Seymour. The actual photos will be taken **April 9, 10 and 21**. You will receive a directory and a free 8x10 photo in return for having your picture taken! We'll all appreciate current and correct church information. If you are unable to make these scheduled dates, please email or leave a photo at the office and we will include it in the directory.

C&Y AND CENTRALITES EVENT DEAD SEA SCROLLS

On **April 18**, we have the opportunity of going together as a group to visit this exhibit. We will meet at **the museum** at 1 PM, to begin our 1:30 tour, which will conclude at 4 PM. This is a timed exhibit, so persons arriving late may not be admitted. The cost of the exhibit is **\$22.00 for adults; \$18.00 for children (4-12) and seniors (membership costs are \$12 for adults and \$10 for children (4-12) and seniors)**. When you RSVP, please be sure to let us know if you are a **member** of the museum. If you have questions or want to reserve a spot, contact:

Wendy Slade in the church office (651.224.4728, ext. 100 or office@cpcstpaul.org)

Pamela Erwin, Children & Youth Coordinator (651.224.4728, ext. 109 or perwin@bethel.edu),

Ginny Anderson, Centralites (gingeran@comcast.net) or

Kate Pearce, Young Adults (mrskatepearce@yahoo.com)

Deadline for RSVP is **March 31**.

SAVE THE DATE - APRIL 24, 2010

Join Presbyterian Women as they gather at Macalester Plymouth United Church **Saturday, April 24, 8:45 AM-3:00 PM**. "Joined and Knitted Together in Love" is the theme for the day. It will include two excellent presenters, worship, lunch, display tables and more. Watch for details next month.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

Every two years, commissioners from every presbytery gather as the General Assembly to debate proposed policies, set priorities, and hear reports. **This year GA will meet at the Minneapolis Convention Center July 3-10**. This provides a wonderful experience for us to participate as volunteers and observers. We already know about two specific opportunities for Central members.

The Worship, Music and Arts Committee recommended and the Session approved that we will **worship with the General Assembly on Sunday morning July 4**. It is an exciting and powerful worship experience to gather with thousands, hear the Moderator of the denomination preach, commission missionaries, and celebrate communion. Look for future information about times and shared transportation.

An optional event for commissioners and observers will be to select a **historical tour. On Wednesday, July 7**, we will be the destination. (Former Central staff member Sheila Smith is coordinating these tours). If you would like to volunteer to greet people from around the country, please let the church office know of your interest.

To learn more about registering for General Assembly as an observer where you can watch the debates of committees and in plenary (<http://www.pcusa.org/ga219/>). To learn about other volunteer opportunities, visit the Committee On Local Arrangements website (<http://presbyterytwincities.org/2009/12/14/your-skills-are-needed-for-general-assembly/>)

EASTER FLOWERS - ORDER BY THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 2010

To donate flowers in memory or honor of a loved one, please fill out the information, attach your payment to Central, and return it to the office. Flowers will be on the pulpit for display Easter Sunday. Following the service, our Deacons will deliver them to Central's home-bound members.

| | | | |
|----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| 6.5" Azaleas \$15.00 | Quantity _____ | 6.5" Begonias \$9.00 | Quantity _____ |
| 6" Geraniums \$7.00 | Quantity _____ | 7" Hydrangeas \$18.50 | Quantity _____ |
| 6.5" Mums \$9.00 | Quantity _____ | 6.5" Tulips \$7.00 | Quantity _____ |

Your Name _____ Phone/Email _____

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

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 and search for Central Presbyterian Church in St Paul MN. Click on "become a fan."

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Meets at 9:15 on Sunday mornings in the Friendship Room. Most weeks, we look at the passage that will be the basis for the morning sermon. Join us for a chance to study a passage in some depth, ask questions, and enjoy fellowship with a great group of Central members and friends.

Everyone is welcome to join us.

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 on the first **Sunday of each month 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 **March 10 & 24 at 10:30 AM** in the Friendship Room, and are reading *A Prayer for Owen Meany* by John Irving. **Everyone is welcome to join us.**

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.

DORCAS CIRCLE

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

MARCH BIRTHDAY WISHES

| Date | Name | Date | Name | Date | Name |
|-------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|
| 2 | Mason Mix | 9 | Marilyn Gjerde | 19 | Marge Case |
| 2 | Rex Turner | 9 | Marilyn Lidholm | 19 | Herb Freier |
| 3 | Barb Westman | 10 | Laura Henry | 21 | Paula Cooley |
| 3 | Bill Zopfi | 14 | Linda Clay | 22 | Grace Toikka |
| 5 | Brad Peterson | 17 | Gail Slater | 26 | Mary Lee |
| 9 | Amy Adams | 18 | Gloriana Wolf | 28 | Annie Siebell |
| 9 | David Fisher | | | | |

INFORMATION & THANK YOU'S

(con't from p. 1)

During its April meeting, our session will work to refine and clarify the goals, setting priorities and defining our mission. I am looking forward to my sabbatical – it will give me time away from the pressures of weekly preaching and other pastoral tasks. It will give me time for reading and thinking about what we will need to do to achieve the goals we set. And I will look forward to being back with you full of energy and vigor.

Over the last few months I have been working hard, in collaboration with the session, staff, and various committees, to prepare for my sabbatical. In next month's newsletter, the Personnel Committee will include much more information about worship leadership and pastoral coverage during this three month sabbatical. The quick summary is that seminary intern Jennifer Miles will extend her time at Central, and with Maureen Smith, provide pastoral care and steady leadership. We have an exciting lineup for worship that will utilize guest preachers, a youth Sunday, hymn sing, and Jennifer and Maureen preaching. This should be an exciting and productive time at Central. When I return from my sabbatical, I will be eager to have us begin tackling our next set of goals!

Peace and blessings,
David Colby



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:
March 7, 14, 21 & 28.

THANK YOU

from

... **Ayoko Foli** to Marilyn Freier for your letter and kindness. I'm asking you to greet Central's congregation for me. I'm recovering day by day. May God bless you all.

MUSIC

SING WITH THE CHOIR

New singers are always welcome. 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.

FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE

The Minnesota 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.

ST PAUL CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC CONCERT

The St Paul Conservatory of Music will be having their annual concert on **March 14 at 4 PM** in the sanctuary.

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 |
| 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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