



CENTRAL TODAY

December 2009

A Note from the Pastor

In This Issue

- Note from Rev. David Colby p. 1
- Upcoming Worship p. 2
- Stewardship p. 3-4
- Bread Recipes p. 5
- Events & Invitations p. 6
- Concerts & Art Exhibit p. 7
- Birthdays p. 8
- Project Home p. 9
- Holiday Parties p. 10
- Christmas at Central p. 11

To see this new Newsletter layout in full color, visit our website at www.cpcstpaul.org

Contact Us:

Central Presbyterian Church
500 Cedar Street
St Paul MN 55101

Phone: 651-224-4728
Fax: 651-291-1469
Email: office@cpcstpaul.org
Web: www.cpcstpaul.org

Central is in the midst of a baby boom. Since Easter, we have celebrated the births of four babies (David Moe, Jack Toikka, Niyome Calloway Colvin, and Sophie Lynn Kannapiran) and three more families in our congregation are expecting babies this coming February! With all of these births and pregnancies, we have a blessing and a challenge. The blessing comes as we get to smile at babies on Sundays and be amazed again to see the miracles of new life. The challenges come in living out the promises we make formally at baptism: to nurture these children, to support their parents, and to help them grow in the faith.

All of these births and pregnancies have shaped the way I have approached Advent this year. Advent is about more than just remembering the events that lead up to the birth of Jesus. (This will be shown with great drama on January 3rd during our children's Christmas Play). But some of the dynamics of pregnancy and birth get at the heart of our Christian faith.

This Advent we will read closely the beginning of the Gospel of Luke. (I would be remiss, if I did not encourage you to read that gospel in your personal devotions this month.) As the introduction to Jesus' birth unfolds in the Luke's gospel, themes that may be familiar to new and expectant parents emerge: expectation; shock at the news; decisions about what to name the baby; finding refuge; and waiting.

In Advent, our task is not simply to look back to a past event but to look forward to what new thing God is doing in our midst even now. Together we can watch it unfold; together we can help in the birthing process.

Blessings and Peace,

David Colby

p.s. It has been a long time since Central had seven babies born in the space of one year. (We're sending church historians to find out how long). Perhaps related, it has been a very long time since Central has had a balanced budget. As we go to print with this newsletter, it is clear that we are on the cusp of an amazing accomplishment. Thanks to your generous support – including, it must be noted, an unexpected bequest and a large one-time challenge gift – it appears that in this roughest of financial years Central will receive more in contributions and income than we will spend. What a milestone that would be! As we continue our 2010 Stewardship Campaign (see pgs. 3–5) will you please consider also making a special year-end gift that can put us over the top?

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

The Season of Advent begins with expectation. The Gospel of Luke introduces the story of Jesus with a prelude of the news to another set of parents – Zechariah and Elizabeth. Worship will begin with the lighting of the first Advent candle, Rev. Colby will preach on “Great Expectations,” and we will celebrate communion together.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

Luke’s story continues with the Annunciation – the angel’s news to young Mary that she, too, will bear a child, who is to be named Jesus. Even when everything seems planned and prepared for two people trying to have a baby, the news of pregnancy can come as a shock. They ask each other, “Is it really true? We’re going to have a baby?” One of the tasks for expectant parents is to pick a name – which is one of the main topics of the angel’s conversation with Mary in Luke 1:26-38.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

Pregnant couples in our day go through a “nesting” process: spending time together preparing for the birth. In Luke’s account (1:39-56), pregnant Mary seeks a refuge – a safe place in the midst of a scandalous pregnancy. There Mary finds her voice and with Elizabeth’s support, Mary imagines great things for herself and for the baby she is carrying.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

Expecting parents go to birthing classes, paint nursery rooms, have showers, pack a bag to take to the hospital, learn from the stories of other births – and then they wait. In Advent, we are not just remembering a birth a long time ago, we are preparing again for good news to enter the world. What do we need to do to be ready for good news to enter the world? In Luke 1:57 – 2:6, we hear of John the Baptist’s birth and final preparations for Mary and Joseph, including a difficult journey as they wait for the birth of Jesus. Following worship, all are invited to the Third Sunday Lunch.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24—CHRISTMAS EVE

On Christmas Eve we will hold two different services of worship.

4:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE TWILIGHT SERVICE

Families with young children, older adults, and everyone else is invited to this Christmas Eve service. We will sing lots of Christmas carols and hear the Christmas story.

10:30 PM CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

All are invited to join us for a festive candlelight service. The Windsor Brass, Central’s choir, and the voices of the congregation will fill the sanctuary with beautiful music. Rev. Colby will preach.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27

The celebration of Christmas continues at Central. Join us for carols and community. We will hear Luke’s story continue with the presentation of Jesus in the temple (Luke 2:21-40) and will celebrate the sacrament of baptism of Sophie Lynn Kannipiran, the daughter of Kelly Ishizuka and Madhu Kannipiran.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3

World premiere of another Central Christmas Play (see p. 8 and will be featured in the next newsletter).



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.

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.



Throughout this Stewardship Season, we have heard about the legacy of generosity that has shaped who we are as individuals and as a church. Below are excerpts that were shared in worship.

JIM PECK, SEMINARY INTERN
AT CENTRAL 1996-1998
Now pastor of Congregational Church of Chico,
California

One of my favorite projects when I was at Central was researching the history of the building. I spent many hours in the History Room searching for newspaper articles published when the building was first opened.

One article emphasized that all the seats were free. That was curious to me as, in my experience, all seats in all churches are always free. So I dug further into this "all seats free" business.

Your building was designed so that "pew rents" could be charged. A member would pay a set amount each year to rent a section of seating. That section belonged to the renter and their family and guests. Others could not sit there. The ushers were trained to know who rented which section. The most expensive sections were along the center aisle about midway towards the front. The least expensive were at the very back along the sides. The balcony was free. "Pew rents" were the way the church raised the money it needed to operate.

But, Central decided from the very day the building opened that all seats would be free. Anyone could sit anywhere they wanted. Central would not make the stranger sit in the far corner or the balcony. The stranger could have the best seat in the house. Central would give away its seats to anyone wanting to worship God and follow Christ. Contributions from members and friends would support the ministry. All seats free.

You knew then, as a Christian faith community, just what you know now. The love of God made known to us through Jesus Christ is a gift, a gift of grace we do not deserve but desperately need, given freely, freely, freely. If grace is free, then all seats must be free, too. That sounds like a deeply rooted legacy of generosity to me. Generosity is not new at Central. Many blessings to you all!

STAN & SALLY HANSON
MEMORIAL FUND

My name is Bill Zopfi, and I serve as the unpaid treasurer at Central. On this All Saints' Day, I want to share a bit about two saints of this church. I had the privilege of knowing them when they were alive, and I see up close the lasting legacy of their generosity.

Stan Hanson was a member of the Board of Trustees of Central in the early 1950's when it was decided to renovate the East portion of Central into the current Sunday school rooms, administrative area and Friendship room. Stan took over the leadership of the campaign and turned it into a success. Stan & Sally thought about Central *and took action to include the church* in their deferred giving estate planning.

Upon their deaths in 1981 Stan & Sally left a large bequest of cash and their homestead to Central to help Central fulfill its long-term mission. The Trustees invested \$100,000 of the Memorial which grew to over \$300,000 and later the Memorial became the owner of what is now the MPR parking lot. MPR bought the parking lot from Central for over \$700,000. A new Stan & Sally Hanson Lot fund was established from the proceeds of the lot sale and continues to provide operating funds for Central.

The original Memorial provided funds for Central to continue its ministry through the years when pledge income was insufficient; and in addition the Memorial since 1986 has provided \$5,000 annually for local mission giving.

It easy to see how the foresight of dedicated members like Stan & Sally has provided for the continual ministry of Central. *Their original bequest has multiplied many times over. If you are an investor, you might credit it to compound interest and a rising stock market. If you are a Christian, you might say it is a bit like the miracle of loaves and fishes. Stan and Sally Hanson have given us a legacy of generosity. My question to each person here today is, "How will you leave an enduring legacy of generosity?"*

MULTIPLY OUR BLESSINGS

Jesus once said, "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened. (Matt 13:33). During the month of November, Barb Westman shared some of her bread recipes with the congregation. Here they are in case you missed them in the bulletins.

WHEAT AND BARLEY BREAD

¾ cup wheat and barley nugget cereal (eg. Grapenuts)	1 tsp baking soda
1¼ cups buttermilk	1 tsp salt
1 egg	2 cups all-purpose flour
¾ cup white sugar	2 TBSP melted shortening
2 TBSP dried rosemary	

1. In a small bowl, soak cereal in buttermilk for one hour.
2. In a large bowl, combine buttermilk mixture, sugar, salt, egg, and baking soda. Stir until sugar dissolves. Mix in the melted shortening and the flour. Pour batter into a greased and floured 9x5 inch loaf pan.
3. Bake at 350°F (175°C) for about 45 minutes. Cool.

GRAPE BREAD

A favorite in the wine country of New York!

3 large eggs	3 cups brown sugar
1 cup oil	1 tsp cinnamon
2 tsp vanilla	1 tsp salt
3 cups flour	¾ tsp baking soda
3 cups seeded Concord grapes	¾ cup chopped walnuts

Preheat oven to 325°F degrees. Beat eggs, sugar, oil and vanilla until light in color. Mix dry ingredients together, and fold the mixture into the egg mixture until moist – do not beat! Gently fold in grape skins and nuts. Pour into two greased and floured bread pans. Bake for one hour or until it tests done in the center with a toothpick. Gently remove from pans and cool.

OLIVE QUICK BREAD WITH CUMIN AND OREGANO

2 ½ cups flour	1 egg, lightly beaten
1 TBSP baking powder plus	1 cup milk
1 tsp baking powder	2 TBSP olive oil
½ tsp salt	1 (2 ¼ ounce) can olives, sliced and drained
1 TBSP dried oregano	1 cup walnuts, chopped (optional)
1 tsp ground cumin	

1. Preheat oven to 350° F.
2. Coat 9x5 inch loaf pan or a baking sheet with oil or nonstick spray.
3. Combine flour, baking powder, salt, oregano and cumin in a medium sized mixing bowl. Stir with a fork or whisk to distribute.
4. Add beaten egg, milk and oil. Stir until moistened. Stir in olives and nuts, if using.
5. Smooth dough into 9x5 inch loaf pan, or from dough into a ball shape, place on pan, and flatten into a round about 3" high and 8-9" in diameter. Brush a little olive oil on top if desired.
6. Bake about 40 minutes, or until brown and knife inserted into the center comes out clean.

FIG & DATE BREAD RECIPE

1 cup chopped pitted dates	½ cup chopped walnuts
1 cup chopped dried figs	2 eggs
¼ cup unsalted butter, softened	¾ cup all-purpose flour
1 ½ tsp baking soda	¾ cup whole wheat flour
1 cup boiling water	½ tsp baking powder
½ cup white sugar	½ tsp salt

1. Preheat oven to 350°F (175°C). Lightly grease an 8x4 inch baking pan.
2. In a medium bowl, combine the dates, figs, butter and baking soda. Pour in the boiling water, stir well and let stand for 15 minutes.
3. Beat the sugar, walnuts and eggs into the date mixture. Combine the all-purpose flour, whole wheat flour, baking powder and salt; stir into the date mixture just until blended. Pour batter into prepared pan.
4. Bake in preheated oven for 55–65 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into center of the loaf comes out clean. Cool in the pan for 10 minutes, and then turn out onto a wire rack to cool completely.

MID-JANUARY CELEBRATION OF CROSS CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

One of the great strengths of Central is its cultural diversity. A weekend event January 16-17 will give us a chance to build on that strength and go deeper, and to get to know each other better. We will also be honoring the legacy of Stephen Ndumbe.

Whether people are from Cameroon or Ghana or Kenya or Rwanda or Togo or Guyana or India, or African American or Asian American, or whether their grandparents or great grandparents came from Sweden or Germany or Scotland or other European countries, we all have gifts to contribute and stories to tell. We will be celebrating all of that in this weekend, ending with a true multicultural feast with food from many cultures.

Mark your calendars now for the mornings of **Saturday, January 16, and Sunday, January 17.**

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.

LOST AND FOUND

There are various items in the lost and found box in the office. Also, there is a beautiful embroidered dress that has been hanging in the copy room for over a year. If you know anything about this dress or other items, please contact Wendy Slade at 651-224-4728 ext. 100 or office@cpcstpaul.org. Items will be donated at the end of December.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SANDRA MCGRAW

Please help us congratulate Sandra McGraw for becoming a U.S. citizen last month. Rev. Colby was able to attend the swearing in service.

DEACONS

The Deacons have collected 39 pairs of used eyeglasses and they have been given to Lenscrafters. We will continue to collect eyeglasses and there is a box in the Friendship Room where they can be left.

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, and to discuss various books and poetry as we continue to grow our spiritual lives. Beginning **December 6**, we will meet Sunday mornings at 9 AM in the Oval Room. For more information, contact Ann Finseth at ann@finseth.com or 651-644-4027.

HOLIDAY ON CEDAR CONCERT

Join us for the annual concert presented by the choruses from Wells Fargo and Travelers corporations and Sounds of Harmony will be presented on **Sunday, December 6 at 4 PM** at Central Presbyterian Church. The concert is free and open to the public. A collection of non-perishable food items for local food shelves and a free-will offering to benefit Project Home will be taken at the concert. Each chorus will be presented individually and then they will combine to sing the final section of the concert.

This year the concert falls on the **Feast of Saint Nicholas**, commonly known in western culture as Santa Claus, so there will be a medley of 'Saint Nick' tunes to warm your hearts and delight your spirit. This is the sixth year that this concert has been held at Central and has become a holiday tradition for many of the singers and their families. A coffee and cookie reception will be held following the concert in the Friendship Room.

ART EXHIBIT FEATURES PAINTINGS OF DEANNE PARKS

The large, vibrant canvases of DeAnne Parks are on exhibit at Central through **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.

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.

Church members and visitors will have an opportunity to greet Deanne at a reception on **Sunday, December 13** at the fellowship time following worship.

TUBACHRISTMAS CONCERT AND SING-A-LONG

Imagine over one hundred tubas festively decorated playing "Joy to the World"! The 22nd annual Minnesota TUBACHRISTMAS Concert and Sing-a-Long, directed by Carol Jensen, will take place **Sunday, December 13 at 4 PM** in the historic sanctuary of Central Presbyterian Church. Tubas and euphoniums of all shapes and sizes will fill the historic sanctuary, playing holiday favorites and accompanying the audience in a sing-a-long of traditional carols. TUBAChristmas concerts are held throughout the world and have achieved a sort of cult status.

TUBAChristmas was conceived in 1974 by tubist Harvey Phillips, as a tribute to the late performer/teacher William J. Bell, who was born on Christmas Day, 1902. The first TUBAChristmas was conducted by the late Paul Lavalley in New York City's Rockefeller Plaza Ice Rink on Sunday, December 22, 1974. Traditional Christmas music performed at the first TUBAChristmas was arranged by American composer Alec Wilder who ironically died on Christmas Eve in 1980. Wilder composed many solo and ensemble compositions for tuba and euphonium.

All tuba, sousaphone, euphonium and baritone players are warmly invited to join in the event. Decorate your instrument and bring a folding music stand! Registration is at 2 PM, with a rehearsal at 2:30 PM. Registration is \$5 and music books are \$15. Central's organist Kathrine Handford will make a guest appearance for a few of the arrangements. A free-will offering will be received.

Additional information about TUBAChristmas can be found at www.tubachristmas.com.

A chili supper, made by Central's gourmet chef Barb Westman will be served after the concert in the Dining Room for \$6.00.

ORGAN RECITAL SERIES

Kathy Handford will perform on the Tuesday "Lunchtime" Organ Recital Series at the Church of St. Louis King of France (next door) on **December 15**. She will play mostly French organ music of the season. Details will follow in the worship bulletin.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING

Help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. All are invited to stay after worship on **Sunday, December 20** to help decorate the trees and sanctuary for Christmas. We will begin after the third Sunday lunch. Everyone is welcome but it is very helpful to know if you will join us so please sign up on the bulletin board by the friendship room or speak with Kathy Handford after worship. The more the merrier!

CENTRAL'S CHRISTMAS PLAY

Children & Youth of all ages: we will once again be doing a delightful Christmas Play written by our own Jeff Jones. The play will be presented Sunday morning, **January 3**. If you are interested in participating in any way (acting, singing, sets or costumes), please contact Pamela Erwin at 651.224.4728, ext. 109 or e-mail at perwin@bethel.edu.

Rehearsal dates and times: **Tuesdays, December 1, 8, 15 & 22 from 6–7:30 PM; and Saturday, January 2, from 1:30–4:30 PM.**

BOOK STUDY

Book club will be meeting on **December 9 at 10:30 AM** in the Friendship Room. December's selection is Red Knife by William Kent Krueger. **Everyone is welcome.**

DORCAS CIRCLE

Meet on the second Thursday of each month at 11:30 AM. The next meeting will be **Thursday, December 10**.

THIRD SUNDAY LUNCH

Third Sunday lunch will be served on **December 20**. Join us for sanctuary decorating after lunch (see p. for more info).

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.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAY WISHES

Date	Name	Date	Name	Date	Name
2	Ron Larson	10	Jane Lonergan	24	Johann Toikka
3	Matt Ehling	12	Allie Pyan	25	Carol Powell
3	Carl Peterson	12	John Severson	25	Lillian Sanders
4	Esther Holtz	14	Dick Wheeler	27	Nita Tatum
5	Lisa Clay	16	Bonnie Joyce	28	Ben Jagger
5	Wilson Musabyimana	18	Isabella Hanscom	28	Matt Jagger
6	Andrea Amarteifio	19	Jenny Toikka	30	Marion Hueller
8	Sharon Zopfi-Jordan	21	Virgie Bundy	31	Russell Bailey
10	Joan Kelly	22	Eric Kreiner	31	Rose Schmidt

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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: **December 6, & 13.**

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@cpctestpaul.org.

Many thanks to those who have volunteered as hosts at Project Home! Please continue to pray that families will find decent, affordable housing, and will be met with hospitality as Project Home moves to a different site for December. Extra thanks and praise are given to Gayle Smith and Judi Shaughnessy for organizing all our volunteers this year – they made the process seamless!

- | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Kris Baird | Ann Finseth | Jon Pearce |
| Rick Barker | David Fisher | Kate Pearce |
| Susan Barker | Stephanie Gelschman | Heather Peterson |
| Kate Barrett | Nancy Gilger | Lynda Petrie |
| Ron Barrett | Laura Henry | Murphy Pyan |
| Beese Family | Terry Henry | Victoria Pyan |
| Alex Bollman | Andy Hisey | Rebecca Rodrigue |
| Kerry Bollman | Jane Howes | Cris Ross |
| Zach Bollman | Florette Hujanen | Susan Seymour |
| David Colby | Chandy John | Judi Shaughnessy |
| Dwight Colby | Gina Juffer | Kathy Sherman |
| Nancy Colby | Joan Kelly | Maribeth Skarie |
| Heather Cox/Science Museum | Melinda Kovach | Gayle Smith |
| Jim Defiel | Eric Kreiner | Jeanna Smith |
| Deb Dwyer | Macalester Plymouth Congregation | Maureen Smith |
| Erin Dwyer | Betty Markland | Ann Tower |
| Keanan Dwyer | Micael Menendez | Cheri Townsend |
| Joe Ehling | Jennifer Miles | Trinity Presbyterian Congregation |
| Matt Ehling | John Miles | Sandy White |
| LaVonne Ellingson | Mary Miller | Charles |
| Cierra Erwin | Margo Nicoll | Linda |
| Pamela Erwin | Jim Olson | |

HOLIDAY PARTIES

CENTRALITES & FRIENDS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

You are invited for lunch and fellowship on **Sunday, December 6 at noon**, as we look forward to Christmas. Bring a White Elephant gift if you want to join the gift exchange. Cost of luncheon is \$18.50, including all services and taxes. Casper's Cherokee Sirloin Room, 866 South Smith Avenue, W. St Paul, 651-457-2729. RSVP with choice of entrée by **Sunday, November 29** to Rick & Kathy Barker 651-459-1795. Make checks payable to Rick Barker.

Entrée options: 10 oz Top Sirloin; Broiled Canadian Walleye; Deep Fried Shrimp; Signature Barbecued Pork Ribs; Minnesota Chicken Breast w/sautéed mix of rice; Vegetarian Mushroom Stuffed Ravioli with marinara sauce; all served with house salad, baked potato, rolls, dessert and coffee, tea, milk or soft drink.



FIRE SCHOOL PARTY TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8

Join FIRE volunteers, students and supporters for a holiday-themed potluck party from **6–8 PM on Tuesday, December 8**, in Central's Friendship Room.

We will celebrate another wonderful year together by sharing a meal. Everyone is encouraged to bring a dish that represents their culture for all to share and enjoy. Also bring cultural music for festive dancing! Call 651-224-4728 ext. 111 with any questions.

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.

CHRISTMAS TIME AT CENTRAL

ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET

On **November 29, December 6, 13 & 20**, the Alternative Gift Market will be in the Friendship Room following worship. Do your holiday shopping in a way to support these unique programs:

Heifer International—helps struggling people from around the world become self-reliant for food and income. More info at: www.heifer.org

FIRE School—Foundation for Immigrant Resources & Education provides free English as a second language classes for immigrants and refugees. Free citizenship and computer classes are also offered. More info at: www.fireprograms.org

Listening House—provides practical assistance, counsel and a friendly ear to people who are homeless, disadvantaged or lonely. We aspire to help our guests find hope in the spirit of community, break the cycle of homelessness and poverty. More info at: www.listeninghouse.org/

Jeremiah Program—assists single mothers and their children to break the cycle of poverty by providing a campus community where they can prosper in all senses of the word. Services help mothers change their lives to provide a better future for their children, and include safe affordable housing, developmental childcare, Life Skills programming, individual coaching and Empowerment training. More info at: www.jeremiahprogram.org/

Women's Advocates—provides a safe place where battered women and their children can escape domestic violence. In addition to providing shelter, they provide advocacy, personalized support (including mental health therapy and aftercare services), education, and other resources. More info at: www.wadvocates.org/

Project Home—provides overnight housing for families experiencing homelessness in Ramsey County. Central provides space every November.

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 1/2" 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

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
Ma Vang, ext. 100	.....Evening Receptionist
Sandra McGraw, ext. 100	.....Daytime 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

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 500 Cedar Street
 St Paul MN 55101-2281
 651-224-4728
 www.cpcstpaul.org

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
ST PAUL, MN
PERMIT NO. 1077