

THE VOICE

May 2016 VOLUME 68 • ISSUE 5

A Fresh Outlook on Faith

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CONCERTS & SERVICES

Children's Worship May 1 | 10:30 am

Denver East HS Choir May 12 7 pm

Ourdoor Worship May 15 | 10:30 am

Pentecost May 22 | 10:30 am

WE MAKE THE ROAD BY WALKING



Investing in our Greatest Resource – Young Adults and At-Risk Children

Pentecost offering will be received on Sunday, May 22. We will contribute 60% of the offering to PCUSA General Assembly which supports the development of young people and the needs of at-risk children. This special offering will also help PCUSA support young adult volunteers, ministries of youth and child advocacy.

The remaining 40% will go to Presbyterian Mission: Hope in our City. Hope in Our City focuses on refugee communities, with Sun Valley being their pilot community in Denver. Their mission is to coach at-risk children and families to develop the essential skills required to advance their personal lives and contribute to their communities. Through education, life-skills and spiritual development they foster healthy communities. With this donation, Central will be supporting their efforts.

Learn more about Hope in Our City mission by visiting: https://www.hopeinourcity.org

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROUPS AND FAMILIES:

- --Build relationships with families and play with kids at Glorified Recess on Fridays at Fairview Elementary School. This is a great opportunity for families with kids to serve together!
- --Cultivate a Cross-Cultural Friendship (similar to a mentor program).
- --Help at a one-time special event such as a basketball tournament or a hike in the mountains with kids and families from Sun Valley.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS:

- --Play with kids at Glorified Recess on Fridays at Fairview Elementary School.
- --Teach middle and high school students life-skills through a weekly leadership program.
- --Build relationships with moms in Sun Valley and help them learn English through Conversation Groups.
- --Offer your expertise (budgeting, finance, design, arts, etc.) in a one-time or ongoing service to train families and children.
- --Create an experience to expand the worldview of youth (e.g., organize a tour of your business or a factory with which you have a connection).
- --Join the Prayer Team.

The goal as a congregation is to raise \$1,500! To learn more about Pentecost offering,

Visit http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/specialofferings/pentecost-offering/

FROM YOUR **PASTOR**

An elder in a former congregation once made the suggestion that the ministers' compensation should correlate with the number of new members the church had received the previous year. It made sense to him; as the owner of a small business he understood how excellent performance made the difference between a successful organization and a failing one. From his perspective, increased membership was the truest gauge of the quality of the congregation's (and the pastor's) work.



But ministry is not entirely like business. Our "product" is very often intangible, spiritual, and immeasurable: a feeling of being cared for. . . . a new insight, a different way of thinking. . . . a prayer offered at a hospital bedside the look of wonder on a child's face. . . . new skills and recovered dignity to move from homelessness to independence. The scale of God's economy is often very particular: this child, that situation, the one person most in need of God's grace in that moment. Of course we want to have impact, but never underestimate the power of one who has been transformed.

I was thinking again about that elder in our discussions about the increased use of our building by outside groups—something we identified as a priority in both the strategic plan and more recently in the Task Force for Central's Thriving Future recommendations. There are real and significant costs associated with maintaining our building as an effective tool of ministry. It's appropriate that we charge a usage fee to offset staff time, wear-and-tear, needed renovations (like increased restrooms), health and safety code compliance. I'm glad and grateful that our building, location, outreach efforts, and hospitality have attracted a wide variety of groups and organizations which will provide annual revenue. But let's remember that this is ministry too. Sharing space offers opportunity to communicate the love of God: maybe simply through the spirituality of our sanctuary with its cross, table, and font. Or through sensitive interaction and a generous spirit as we welcome and interact with them personally. We could invite these groups to participate with us in support of our mission partners, through donations and service projects. Some of these people might become Central members. Hallelujah! Many will not, but we are called to

ministry and service nonetheless. In the use of our building—as in all areas of stewardship---let us seek faithfulness first of all, and leave the outcomes to God.

Yours in faith,



Pastor Louise Westfall

THE VOICE

THE VOICE is published monthly. Article submissions are due no later than the second Monday of the month.

Bear Redmon Editor and Publisher Jane Brown Copy Editor



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Adult Education | Anne Bond (Chair 2018)

Budget & Finance | Bill Jones (Chair 2017),

Children and Family Ministries | Cheryl Fleetwood (Chair 2018), Chris Colwell (2016)

Communications and Marketing | Blair Shiff

(Chair 2016), Chris Gibson (2018), Dave Ramsey (2016)

Deacons | **Bruce Haegstedt** (Moderator 2016)

Endowment | Derek Jones (Chair)

The Generosity Team | **David Daniel** (Chair 2018)

Mission & Outreach | Gina Batali-Brooks (Chair 2016), Steven Erhart (2016)

Music & Arts | **Jean Herman** (Chair 2017), **Larry Armstrong** (2017)

Personnel | Eric Bartczak (Chair 2017), James Eklund (2018)

Property & Building | **Rob Habiger** (Chair 2016), **Lynne Brown** (2018)

Representative Nominating | **Amy Stevens** (Chair 2017)

Task Force for Mission Center | **Lynne Brown** (Chair 2018)

Task Force on Member Engagement | Amy Stevens (Chair 2017)

Worship & Music | Emily Nease (Chair 2017),

May Worship Schedule

May 1 Communion | Children's musical leadership of worship; following worship, the congregation is invited to celebrate Sue Wilcox's 90th birthday!

May 8 Louise Westfall preaching on John 17:20-26 "Not One and Done" | Welcome new members

May 15 We'll worship outdoors under awnings and serve water (literally and spiritually) to Colfax marathon runners.

May 22 See the unveiling of the peace dove installation in the Narthex. | Graduate recognition. | PENTECOST We will celebrate the Church's birthday, and Jacqueline Decker Vanderpol will preach "Swept Away" based upon Acts 2:1-21

May 29 Pulpit exchange with People's Presbyterian Church | Louise Westfall preaching on I Kings 18 "Our God Is



Better Than Yours!"

The labyrinth is available for walking meditation every Wednesday from 11 am -1 pm.



The Prayer Room (in the Shepler Heritage Center) is open every Sunday, and

staffed by a minister on the third Sunday of each month.

ERICA MACCREAIGH



Congratulations to Erica MacCreaigh who has passed her final assessment and has been certified ready to receive a call to ordained Presbyterian ministry! Erica's preparation has included graduation from Iliff Theological Seminary, supervised internships, clinical pastoral education, being guided by presbytery's Committee on Preparation, passage of five ordination exams, and more. Nileen Hart has served as Erica's liaison with Central and Denver Presbytery. Erica and Mitch plan to remain in Colorado, and are seeking a call. Watch Central's worship schedule for Erica's preaching this summer!

COVENANT SOCIETY LUNCHEON

The annual appreciation luncheon will be held at noon on Sunday, June 5 in the Sturgeon Room, and will feature a presentation by renowned Denver historical preservation expert, Dana Crawford, along with music by our own Wil Smith. Derek Jones, chair of Central's Endowment Committee will preside, along with committee members Fritz Hill, Milo Tedstrom, John Vaughey, Judy Heagstedt, Paul Linton, and Pastor Louise Westfall.

Covenant Society members are people who have made an endowed gift to the church or have made provision for a planned gift to the Endowment Fund at their death. These Central supporters want the congregation's mission and ministries to thrive even beyond their lifetimes. Some gifts are designated for a particular purpose (i.e. Wilcox Mission Fund; Cockrill Distinguished Visitor Fund), while others are given for the broad support of Central's mission (i.e. David and Betty Walker Fund).

Recent legacy gift donors will be remembered: Dave Rasmussen, Dorothy Johnson, Phyllis Kauffman, Dave Willard, and new members of the Society will be recognized.

If you would like to learn more about creating a charitable legacy through Central's Endowment Fund, we invite you to attend the luncheon (RSVP to the church office), or speak with Pastor Louise or another Endowment Committee member.

SUMMER OF SERVICE

Last year, 197 Central members and friends volunteered over 4,000 hours and served over 3,700 people during the Summer of Service. This year, we encourage you, your family and friends to reach out in love and service again. The Mission Committee has arranged dozens of service opportunities between Memorial Day and Labor Day, and we challenge everyone to participate in two. The opportunities range from praying for incarcerated women to serving dinner to homeless individuals to reading to young refugees to delivering cookies to GLBT youth to cleaning children's toys to building a Habitat home to serving in Guatemala. There are opportunities for all ages and at a variety of times during the day and week. We encourage you to remove the Summer of Service calendar from the Voice and post it on your fridge or next to your desk. As you rest and play this summer, may you also make time to serve!

ADULT **EDUCATION**

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9:00AM. Adult Education at Central is lively; the language is sometimes irreverent, and people feel very free to disagree with the teachers. Prior attendance is never required.

In the Shepler Heritage Center in the Basement...

Every Sunday

Bible Study for Women

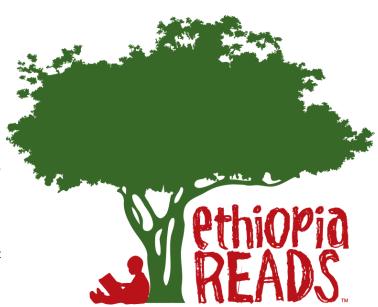
On the first Sunday of every month, we study Come to the Waters which explores spiritual nurture through Biblical stories about water. On following Sundays, we study a chapter in We Make the Road by Walking. Whether or not you've read the chapter, you're encouraged to join us!

In the West Room...

Ethiopia Reads

May 1

Ethiopia Reads will return to Central to update us on their progress in building schools, planting libraries, training educators, boosting literacy, and providing youth and families with the tools to improve their lives. Board members Jane Kurtz and Bethlehem "Betty" Gronneberg will share their perspective and new projects with us. Jane is the author of more than 30 children's books, a number of which are Ethiopia-inspired, based on her childhood experience of growing up there. Betty has written a new children's book: "The Alphabet Takes a Journey: Destination Ethiopia" and is the Founder of UCodeGirl. Additionally, she is a recipient of the prestigious 2016 Bush Fellowship.



In the East Room...

Presbyterian: Who, What, and Why

May 1, 8, and 22

Curious about the Presbyterian Church USA, it's theological and historical foundations, its organization and its upcoming General Assembly? Please join us for three Sundays of Adult Education as we explore our national church and the issues it faces today. May 1 and 8, Anne Bond, recently retired Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Denver, will walk quickly through some basics of Presbyterian origins and theology and discuss the "polity" – or governing foundations – of our denomination at the local and national levels. On May 22, Rev. Cathy Ulrich (Interim Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Denver) and Rev. Stan Jewell (current Moderator of the Presbytery and a commissioner to the upcoming General Assembly) will discuss business and issues coming before the larger church this June. Stan,



an active participant in the life of Central, will return to our class schedule in July to report on the outcomes of General Assembly and tell of his experience at this biennial event in the life of our church.

There will be no adult education on May 15 and 27.

MISSION CENTER UPDATE



Thank you to everyone who participated in the Mission Center Update in March! We were excited and encouraged by the large turnout and by the energetic discussion! We had another successful spring break season, hosting four visiting college groups (Vanderbilt, University of Arizona). It was a reminder of the assets Central has to engage this ministry: a prime urban location, a mindset that prioritizes using our building for mission, and strong relationships with our mission partners. This summer, we look forward to hosting four weeks of visiting groups: one from Oak Hill Presbyterian Church in St. Louis and three in partnership with DOOR. DOOR helps youth "see the face of God in the city" by exposing them to service opportunities and educating them on issues of faith and justice that are prominent in an urban setting. Our hope as we partner with DOOR this summer is to explore whether there are possibilities for further, deeper partnership in the future. We look forward to an ongoing conversation with the congregation as we seek God's way forward for Central!

The Mission Center Task Force

Lynne Brown, Jen Long, Joe Martell, Jessica Warren, and Jacqueline Decker Vanderpol

APRIL SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

At its stated meeting April 19, the Session:

- *examined and received six new members;
- *met with Zach Hancock to discuss Central's sponsorship of Pree'n'Pree;
- *celebrated the session service of departing elder Chris Colwell;
- *discussed the balance between doing mission and funding that mission;
- *discussed the request of Rocky Mountain Children's Choir for office and rehearsal space.

Central was one of 18 congregations in Denver Presbytery with membership growth in 2014-15.



Thank you from Mel Davidson's daughter, Laura:thank you for the gracious support at my father's death and funeral. . . .for the service, the lovely reception, and generous tributes. My takeaway is that the church that Dad loved so much, loved him back. And that means the world to me. Thank you.

Sue Wilcox's 90th Birthday Party

The family of Sue Wilcox invites you to help us celebrate her 90th birthday on Sunday, May 1st during fellowship hour. We hope you can join us to celebrate our mother, grandmother and aunt.





The Power of Technology in Worship

Often times it may seem silly to talk about technology in worship. After all, how authentic can worship really be when smartphones get involved? However, sometimes technology in worship can be a powerful force, uniting us across great distances. Recently, we received this email describing such an instance.

Our 2nd daughter, Grace (who is a Central member), enlisted in the Air Force after graduating from college. She is currently staying at JAFB Lackland in San Antonio, Texas, where she is wrapping up her Security Forces Technical Training before moving to her next assigned base. Rather than attending service on base she wanted to feel close to us during Easter service, as well as hear that which is familiar to her, so she came up with this idea: I took photos of the bulletin and texted them to her, then telephoned her before the start of service, she answered her cell phone, and then followed along on the bulletin photos and listened on her phone speaker. We sat close to a pew speaker to get the best audio possible for her.

She said the sound cut in and out sometimes, and once we got disconnected, but I called her back fairly quickly. Other than that it worked as planned, and she was very, very happy! There were a few tears of wanting to be home for the holiday, but she said it really made her day. I was so glad it worked:)

Have a grand week!

Carolyn



MUSIC NOTES

What a spring it's been—it's hard to believe it's almost over! We had a wildly successful debut of the youth band in their original composition "Day of the Dead." We also had a great time at People's worshipping with them in fellowship once again. We hosted 3 different orchestras in concerts that were all amazing: the Boulder Philharmonic playing Bach's St. Matthew Passion, the Jefferson Symphony and Evergreen Chorale in Verdi's Requiem, and the Denver Philharmonic playing the Lord of the Rings Symphony.



Coming up in May, on May 1 our
Children's Choir will present a children's musical service, featuring songs, skits, and a worship service entirely led by children. On May 15 we will begin our once-per-month outdoor service, featuring a less

formal atmosphere with an eye on bringing the word (and the word about Central) to the streets. And on May 29, People's Presbyterian Church once again will come worship with us for another combined worship and musical service, featuring lots of old-time familiar hymns and gospel anthems.

Our community musical partners are also busy in May. Coming up on May 12 at 7:00pm, we will host the Denver East High School in their end of the



school year choral concert. And looking ahead to the beginning of next month, on June 3 at 7:30pm, we'll host the Denver Philharmonic's final concert of the season, Eurotrip, featuring among other composers familiar music by George Gershwin and Johann Strauss, Jr.

THE CHURCH MOUSE



My little mouse ears have heard many people talking about the good things happening on the 3rd floor. It's both where the children of the church go to learn and laugh together, and where families come and go for the Central Visitation Program. Unfortunately, I've sometimes missed out on all the wonderful events on the 3rd floor because of how hot it can get, especially in the summertime! Thankfully, just this past month I saw someone replacing the air conditioner in one of the classrooms, as part of a partnership project funded by both Central and the Central Visitation Program. Now I can hang out upstairs and feel good knowing that two great organizations are working together to help kids!



Sunday Morning Schedule

9am Breakfast Club for ages 3 yearshigh school

10:30am Bible Story Room (3 years-1st grade) and Bible Trek (2nd-4th grade)



Online Giving

Central now offers a new way to give that many of our members find easy and helpful.

Go to www.centraldenver.com and you can make a gift that goes directly to our mission using your debit or credit card or electronic funds transfer, and take advantage of all the benefits of digitally tracking your finances.

Give Now »

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

May 1st All Kids Worship

"What Does it Mean to Follow Jesus?"

Join the children of Central on May 1 as they explore what it means to follow Jesus. Children will lead worship and provide special vocal and instrumental music. We'll need your participation as we "lace up against bullying" in a skit performed by members of the Children's Choir. Rehearsals are underway.

Not only will children lead in music, they will also lead worship elements including readings, acolytes, ushers and even illustrations for the bulletin cover. Contact Stephanie Fritz if your child would like to participate! There is something for everyone and every age!

Upcoming Youth Events

May 1 – Children's Musical and Sue Wilcox's birthday. We will be selling coffee before and after the service to raise money for Triennium. Please arrive at 9 am to sell coffee.

May 15 – Colfax Marathon. Leave a little early and be aware of changes in traffic patterns due to the marathon.

May 22 – Graduation Sunday. Elaine Griggs will be graduating this year and so we want to recognize her on this particular Sunday. If you know a high school senior who would also like to be recognized please let Bear Redmon (bear@centraldenver.com) know ASAP so that we can prepare for them. After worship, we will be doing a little paintballing. Please let Bear know in advance if you (parents AND youth!) would like to participate.

May 24 – Youths going to Triennium will be a part of a commissioning ceremony with the Denver Presbytery. This will be a way to thank the Presbytery for making Triennium possible and affordable. More details to come.

Middlers Outing May 1

Current 4th graders through 7th graders

Our Middler group is inviting current 4th graders to join us on our year-end outing to Jump Street! We will depart after church on May 1st and head out to the trampoline center for lunch and fun! Contact Stephanie Fritz at Stephanie@centraldenver.com for more information.



CONGREGATIONAL CORNER

Communion

Communion will be served on **May 1**. Please remember canned goods or a monetary gift in support of hungry families served by Metro Caring.

Kent Groff will be preaching at People's Presbyterian Church on May 1, 8 and 22.

OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT

Serendipity, an informal group welcoming all women, meets Thursday, May 26 at 7 pm. **Jean Herman** is hosting at her home, 1777 Larimer St., #1410 (The Windsor), Denver 80202. RSVP at jean.herman@gmail.com or 720.932.7961. Please join us as we build friendships through fellowship!

Bob Towler will host **Book Club** for **May 10**: "A Separate Peace" by John Knowles. 7pm at Park Place Tower. Email: BobT94903@gmail.com or call 415-336 -7152.

APARTHEID

You hear it pronounced APART-HIDE:

You hide from a Part of yourself
when you're blind to a neighbor's pain.

You hear it pronounced: APART-HATE:

You hate a Part of yourself

when you violate a neighbor's rights.

Becoming aware of your soul within and your neighbor without you weave a tapestry of Love and Courage.

Tribute to Allan Boesak, South Africa

Kent Ira Groff©







Descriptions of Service Opportunities

Making Choices Prayer Partners: MC partners women incarcerated in Denver Women's Correctional Facility with mentors who lead them through a 12-week course in decision making skills. Participation in this course reduces the recidivism rate from 54% to 8%. If you would like to be paired with an incarcerated woman and her mentor, so you can pray for them during the summer, contact <u>Jo Culbertson at joculbertson@gmail.com</u>.

Dinner for Homeless Women: Every Wednesday, Capital Heights Presbyterian Church provides 25 homeless women with a hot meal and a warm, safe place to spend the night. If you're interested in helping prepare and serve the meal on June 1, please contact <u>Teresa Crane at tcrane10@gmail.com.</u> Or, to help with the meal on August 3, contact <u>Stephanie Fritz at stephanie@centraldenver.com</u>. All ages are welcome to participate.

New Genesis BBQs: Join us for a grill-out with the men from New Genesis shelter. Volunteers will help with set-up, grilling, serving and clean-up. All ages are welcome to participate, and participants are encouraged to eat with the men. If you are willing to assist with the meal on July 13, please contact <u>Joyce Coville at ficoville@msn.com</u>. If you want to help on August 31, contact <u>Stephanie Fritz at stephanie@centraldenver.com</u>.

Central Visitation Program (CVP) Toy Cleaning: CVP provides supervised visitation that allows non-custodial parents to visit their children. Since the staff spends their time interacting with the families, they could use our help cleaning the toys. To volunteer (all ages!), please contact <u>Janis Mourer at jdmrnc@gmail.com.</u>

Guatemala Mission Trip: Central returns to Guatemala for the seventh time to continue our relationship with the church in Aceituno and to work in health and hygiene education. For the first year, there is an opportunity for families with young children to participate by partnering with Common Hope. If you are interested in participating or donating to the trip, please contact Steven Erhart at stevenerhart@gmail.com.

Hope in Our City (HIOC) Early Literacy Camp: Located in Sun Valley - the poorest neighborhood in Denver - HIOC ministers to refugees who have permanently relocated to Denver. During the Early Literacy Camp, volunteers (all ages welcome!) will read to children and lead games to develop literacy skills. To volunteer, contact Jennifer Hofmann at hofmann jennifer@yahoo.com.

Hope in Our City (HIOC) Summer Camp: Sun Valley - a neighborhood with an 80% poverty rate - is the only area of the city with more children than adults, most of whom are refugees recently relocated to the US. During the Summer Camp, volunteers (all ages welcome) will lead summer camp games and pick-up sports while building relationships with the elementary and middle school students. To volunteer, contact Betsy Clark at eaclark422@gmail.com.

Habitat for Humanity Build: Worldwide, Habitat completes a home every 7 minutes and is the most energy-efficient home builder in Colorado. In partnership with other Presbyterian Churches, Central has helped build 19 homes over the last 19 years. To participate in this one-day build, contact <u>Joyce Coville at ficoville@msn.com</u>.

Rainbow Alley (RA) Cookies: RA provides a safe, welcoming drop-in center for LGBT youth. As a way to support the youth at RA, Central members occasionally deliver homemade cookies for the youth the enjoy. To sign up to deliver cookies anytime during the 2-3 week timeframe, contact <u>Jacqueline Decker Vanderpol at jacqueline@centraldenver.com.</u>

Colfax Community Network (CCN) Motel Outreach: Motel Outreach goes to Colfax motels every week with food, clothing, and hygiene items to meet the immediate needs of the residents. Outreach allows CCN to maintain an awareness in an ever-changing population. To volunteer (18 years and older), contact Stevenerhart@gmail.com.

Metro Caring (MCR) Food Collection: MRC is largest food bank serving families in Denver. Central supports their efforts by collecting canned goods, spices, and cooking oils during worship on the first Sunday of every month. We also collect money to purchase food to supplement MCR. No RSVPs - just bring your donation!

Service is Central: Summer Service Challenge



We challenge you to participate in two service activities between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

SUNDAY	Monday	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	Thursday	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May 29 RA Cookies (thru June 18)	30	31	June 1 5:30 Homeless Women's Dinner	2 10:30-12:00 HIQC Early Literacy	3	4
5 10:30 MCR Food Collection	6	7 2-5 CCN Motel Outreach	8	9	10	11 Guat Mission Trip
12 Guat Mission Trip	13 Guat Mission Trip	14 Guat Mission Trip	15 Guat Mission Trip	16 Guat Mission Trip	17 Guat Mission Trip	18 Guat Mission Trip
19 RA Cookies (thru July 2)	20	21	22	23	24	25 9-12 CVP Toy Cleaning
26	27	28	29	30	July 1	2
3 RA Cookies (thru July 16) 10:30 MCR Food Collect	4	5 2-5 CCN Motel Outreach	6	7 10:30-12:00 HIQC Early Literacy	8	9
10	11	12	13 5-7 New Genesis BBQ	14	15	16
17 RA Cookies (thru July 30)	18	19	20	21 3-5 HIOC Summer Camp	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 8:00 - 4:00 Habitat Build
31 RA Cookies (thru Aug 13)	August 1	2	3 5:30 Homeless Women's Dinner	4 10:30-12 HIQC Early Literacy	5	6
7 10:30 MCR Food Collection	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 RA Cookies (thru Aug 28)	15	16	17	18 3-5 HIOC Summer Camp	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 5-7 New Genesis BBQ	Sept 1	2	3



And, during your summer travels, we encourage you collect hotel toiletries and donate them in the bin in the narthex, so they can be given to New Genesis residents.