

THE VOICE

October 2016 VOLUME 68 • ISSUE 10

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SERVICE & SERVICES

World Communion
October 2 | 10:30 am

Mission Sunday BBQ
October 9 | 11:30 am

A Night of Creepy Classics
October 29 | 6:30 pm

Confirmation Orientation
October 30 | 12 pm



MISSION SUNDAY WORSHIP AND BBQ



Food for the Body and Food for the Soul

245 Central members and friends volunteered over 4400 hours this summer! As we put our faith into action during the Summer of Service, we proved that service is, in fact, central here. Join us for worship on Sunday, October 9 to celebrate that service and to hear stories of how people's faith grows

and is challenged as they serve others in the world. After worship, join us for a BBQ with the residents of New Genesis. We will also have the opportunity to learn more about the missions Central supports as Executive Directors from our various mission partners will be present.

ROAD MAP TO A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The Session recently approved a plan of action to lay the foundation for a capital campaign in support of Central's growing mission and our magnificent, historic building that is such a key part of its accomplishment. A Guidance Team was elected to lead the first preparatory steps: **Andy Kenney, Derek Jones, David Daniel, Lynne Brown, Chris Wineman**, and staff members **Joe Martell, Wil Smith, and Pastor Louise Westfall**. Session authorized the Guidance Team to select a campaign consultant, develop the final choice of projects, and engage a Design Team to determine cost projections. The group will draw upon the thorough building analysis completed by the Building and Property Committee, the 10-year financial outlook developed by Budget and Finance Committee, Central's Strategic Plan, and the Recommendations of the Task Force for Central's Thriving Future. Members of the Guidance Team were commissioned in worship September 11, and ask the congregation to keep this enterprise in thought and prayer. Please don't hesitate to ask questions or raise concerns with any member of the Guidance Team.

FROM YOUR PASTOR

New members often ask me some version of the following questions: *How much money should I pledge to the church? What do most people pledge? How much is the annual budget? How much is supported by member gifts and how much through Central's endowment?*

Good questions, and ones that reflect the changing landscape of church life in America. Unlike some religious traditions that require an annual membership fee, giving at Central is entirely voluntary. We will extend the same welcome, care, and service whether or not you give, and no matter the amount of your gifts. Yet annually we invite you to consider your financial commitment to the church's mission as an active intention toward your own spiritual growth, and the growth of Central's mission and ministries.

There are a number of yardsticks we might use as we consider our personal commitment. The Bible speaks of giving "first fruits" to God—right off the top---at a tithe of 10%. In recognition that many divide their charitable giving among several causes, an elder in a previous church suggested a "Presbyterian tithe" of 5%. Another way to think about it is to consider the role Central has in your life and the life of downtown Denver. *Where do you see the hand of God at work here? What of our missions and ministries prompts your participation and gratitude?* Remember too that one of our high priority goals is to reduce draws upon the unrestricted portion of our endowment to preserve them for capital expenditures and expanding mission. We want to close the gap between expenses and revenue raised by member and non-member and new member giving. Personal reflection on these matters can be a kind of spiritual discernment exercise, both to help us perceive God more clearly in daily life, and to encourage generosity and trust. Sermons and witnesses each Sunday will engage us with personal testimony about the difference Central makes to them.

I hope you'll sign up for one of ten gatherings offered in members' homes during October and early November (dates and locations in the narthex). In each we'll enjoy food and fellowship together, and hear a brief presentation about Central's mission and how it is funded. We'll also hold two sessions following worship on November 6 and 13 to present this information and respond to questions. The Generosity Team led by **David Daniel** has challenged the congregation to raise the *overall* amount of pledged income by 5%. We know that everyone's financial situation and responsibilities are different, and each of us will determine our annual giving accordingly.

Later this month you'll receive a letter and pledge card. Please fill it out and return to the church by November 15. You can also pledge online at our website centraldenver.com. We will announce the total and dedicate our financial commitments on Thanksgiving Sunday, November 20. We're setting the table for the nourishing mission and vital ministries which God is preparing and to which God is calling us. Please join us!

Yours in table fellowship,

Pastor Louise Westfall



THE VOICE

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

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Communications and Marketing | **Chris Gibson** (Chair 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),

October Worship Schedule

October 2 World Communion. Join the global Christian community in the celebration of the Lord's Supper as we conclude the Season of Peace with **Louise Westfall** preaching *Keep Up the Good Work*, based on Luke 18:1-8.

October 9 Celebration of Service. Peacemaking and Global Witness Offering received. **Jacqueline Decker Vanderpol** preaching

October 16 **Louise Westfall** preaching on Luke 8:26-33 *Do Justice: Support Mental Health* [Rock and Roll Marathon—access passes available to all—pick up yours at Central to insure ease of access and parking today]

OCTOBER 23 YOUTH SUNDAY and presentation of Bibles to 3rd graders. Youth Director **Bear Redmon** and Director of Children/Family Ministries **Stephanie Fritz** will lead worship, along with children and youth.

OCTOBER 30 Reformation Sunday **Jacqueline Decker Vanderpol** preaching

Remember that the labyrinth is available every Wednesday from 11:30 – 1 for walking prayer and meditation.

Central's prayer room is open every Sunday, 8:30 – noon for personal prayer and a quiet reflection space.



Church. **Adrian Miller**, Executive Director of the Colorado Council of Churches, and **James Beard**, Award-Winning Author of 'Soul Food,' will facilitate the conversations, including reflection on how race has shaped our lives and faith. Join us on Saturday, October 8 at Church of the Hills in Evergreen. We will gather at the church from 9 am – 1 pm and then go to lunch together in town before concluding the day. To RSVP or if you have questions, contact **Jon Dreux** at jdreux59@gmail.com.

MEN'S RETREAT

Through nature, nurture, and God's grace, our stories are shaped and our lives take place. At this year's men's retreat, we will take time to share those stories with one another as we continue to form relationships with the men from Peoples Presbyterian

MISSION CENTER UPDATE

Last month, we shared that the Property Committee had contracted with a code consultant who would investigate, among other questions, what would need to be done to be in compliance if we were hosting visiting mission groups overnight. The consultant reported back that since the groups would be making donations to Central to help cover the building and staffing expenses of their visit, we would need to be rezoned to a residential facility. Among other requirements, residential facilities must have sprinklers in every room which Central does not currently have. It is truly cost prohibitive for Central add these sprinklers. There is a small chance that we could be granted an exemption by the city. While we are pursuing that option, we are also aware that these code requirements may impede implementing a mission center in Cleland Hall.

The Mission Center Task Force

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



ADULT EDUCATION

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9:00AM. Adult Ed at Central asks questions, goes deeper, delights in diverse perspectives, pursues truth, honors all people, trusts God. Expect to be challenged, provoked, inspired, amazed and grateful.

In the West Room...

Toward a New Social Awakening: The Social Creed

October 2

Jean Demmler – previous member of the Presbyterian Advisory Council on Social Witness Justice and current Vice-Moderator of Denver Presbytery – will share with the class about recent social justice actions taken by the Presbyterian Church. She will also reflect with us on the reaction to our social witness within the church and the larger community.

Partnering in Mission

October 9

For seven summers, Central members traveled to Guatemala to help with clean water, hygiene education, and women's health education. As we celebrate the end of our partnership with the church in Aceituno, Guatemala, join the mission trip participants to learn about the full scope of this partnership, including what we learned that could be applied to future partnerships. **Natalie Hanlon-Leh** will facilitate this class, along with presentations by several mission trip participants.

Coffee and Current Events

October 16

Bring your newspaper and a cup of coffee for a casual conversation about current events in the world and our local community and for reflection on how our faith speaks to these events. **Nick Vanderpol** will moderate the discussion.

Colorado Ballot Issues

October 23

While the presidential election receives a lot of attention, voters can make the most difference in their community by “down ballot” voting, i.e. voting on local issues and representatives farther down on the ballot. When it comes to the November 8 ballot in Colorado, do you know what issues will be on it? Do you know what each side says about the issues? Join the **League of Women Voters** for a non-partisan presentation on the local ballot issues we will see in November.



Opioids 101: Everything You Need to Know about the Opioid Epidemic and Why Everything You Learned Last Week about the Opioid Epidemic is Wrong

October 30 and November 6

Join **Dr. Jack Westfall** for a primer on the opioid epidemic in Colorado, in particular, and in the United States, at large. The second week, he will lead a conversation about opioids and mental health, as well as helping us reflect on why this should matter to people of faith.

Women's Thursday Bible Study: Who is Jesus?

Who is Jesus? This study explores the question through the lenses of Mark, Matthew, Luke, John, Paul, Hebrews, the non-canonical gospels, the Abrahamic Faiths, and contemporary cultural interpretations. It notes that each of us who reads the New Testament is an interpreter of the text, and that how we interpret depends in part on who we are. Join the women of the church from 10:00am – 11:30am on the first Thursday of every month starting on Thursday, October 6 at the home of Sue Wilcox. Contact Pastor Louise Westfall for more information: louise@centraldenver.com.

*"I could nor the answer make than
thank and thanks and ever thanks."*

Shakespeare

To all of you who sent cards, letters,
phone calls, prayers, and so many
generous and thoughtful things, I offer
my heartfelt thanks. God Bless.

Janis Mourer

BY GIVING TO THE PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

Your gifts work to restore communities
through peacemaking and reconciliation.



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Peace & Global Witness Offering

The Peace & Global Witness Offering will be received on Sunday, October 9 – World Communion Sunday! The goal as a congregation is to raise \$1,500! The Peace & Global Witness Offering promotes the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world of which 75% of the offering will go towards programs that PCUSA participates. The remaining 25% will remain local to go to Making Choices which teaches decision-making and life-planning skills to women incarcerated at Denver Women's Correctional Facility.

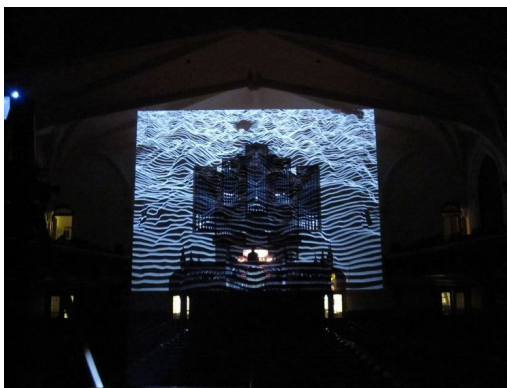
MUSIC NOTES

We have a lot going on in art and music in October. The Chancel Choir is busy learning a Bach Cantata to be sung at a service in November. If you're interested in singing, the choir will be rehearsing it each Wednesday (except for October 5 when we'll be off due to a concert). The children will sing in the October 9 service! Parents, Sarah is stepping up the children's music program with an ambitious schedule this year. Please help us improve by bringing your kids early to rehearsals, starting at 9:45 each Sunday.

In our Sturgeon Room art gallery, from October 10 through the beginning of December, we'll be displaying works by local Denver photographer **Frank Burzynski**. Make sure you stop in during coffee hour or after a concert to check out his work. A reception with music and hors d'oeuvres is scheduled for November 11.

After the successful inauguration of the Antonia Brico Stage by the Denver Philharmonic, we have three exciting concerts in October. First, on October 5 at 7:30pm, the University of Northern Colorado Symphony Orchestra will be performing Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante and Brahms's Symphony No. 2. On October 28 at 7:30 pm, the Pro Musica Chamber Orchestra along with the Colorado Masterworks Chorus will be performing Haydn's Creation. And finally, on October 29, organist **Wil Smith** and video artist **Nathan Selikoff** will present "A Night of Creepy Classics," with one concert especially for children at 6:30, and a longer version at 9:00. Please consider helping for one of these concerts by ushering! Contact **Wil Smith** if you're interested: wil@centraldenver.com

A Night of Creepy Classics



6:30 p.m. – Children's Show (with 5:30 fall festival and pizza)

9:00 p.m. – Longer Program

Join organist **Wil Smith** and digital artist **Nathan Selikoff** for an evening of creepy classics. In a pitch-black Central sanctuary, organ works from your favorite dearly departed composers will be performed (along with some works from the living) while live video art is

projected onto the organ pipes and front wall of the church. Embrace the spine-chilling sound of the organ in Central's beautiful, Romanesque sanctuary. The early show will be preceded by a fall festival with pizza and fun fall activities. Early show: \$10 per person (or \$20 per family) suggested donation. Late show: \$20 per person



OCTOBER CHURCH MOUSE

September Session Highlights

At its stated meeting on September 20, the Session took the following actions:

*approved a team of elders to examine Stephanie Fritz and Nick Vanderpol for ordination on October 16;

*approved up to \$7500 from the Cockrill Distinguished Visitor Fund of the endowment to support the expenses and honorarium for John Bell, Celtic theologian and musician as Visiting Theologian in February 2017;

*approved \$3352 from the unrestricted endowment to cover the cost of repairing a leaking steam valve in the Heritage Center; the full list of unrestricted endowment draws in 2015-16 is available from clerk Nileen Hart.

*approved the request of the Music and Arts Committee to serve wine at five Sturgeon Room/Gallery art exhibit openings in 2016-17, fully compliant with the Alcohol Use Policy.

*reviewed plans for the 2017 annual stewardship campaign, and heard a preliminary report on 2017 budget development.



I can learn a lot by paying attention – my little mouse ears may be small, but they work very well, and come in handy especially when it comes to important information about keeping our church safe! For a long time, the Property Committee and the staff have been developing a new security plan, often with the help of experts like the Denver Police. I'm so excited that the plan was finally approved by the Session and shared with the congregation during worship and Adult Education. Even as a mouse, I understand how important it is to be prepared for things like fires and natural disasters, and I'm grateful that the new plan covers all of that and more. The plan will help everyone feel very safe, so we'll have more time to enjoy each other's company, welcome new friends into our church, and worship God!

FREE PARENTING CLASSES

Utilizing the Nurturing Parenting Program

Geared towards parents with children ages 0-5, but all parents welcome to attend

Eight sessions

Starting Saturday, October 15

9:30 am – Noon

1660 Sherman Street, Denver

Breakfast AND Childcare Provided

To RSVP or for Questions call 303-839-8701 or email cvp@cvpdenver.org

*Participants are asked to make a \$20 donation for the classes. Participants who attend six of eight sessions will receive a \$20 King Soopers Gift card.

Classes provided by Central Visitation Program, a local nonprofit that provides supervised visitation and safe exchange services for the Denver community. www.cvpdenver.org



CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

Children and Families

October 2: 9 am Breakfast Club, Middler and High School gatherings, mission activities and Children's Choirs meet! 10:30 worship with Bible Story Room and Bible Trek.

October 5: Family Mission Activity: Serve dinner at Capitol Heights women's shelter. 5:30pm (watch for sign-up)

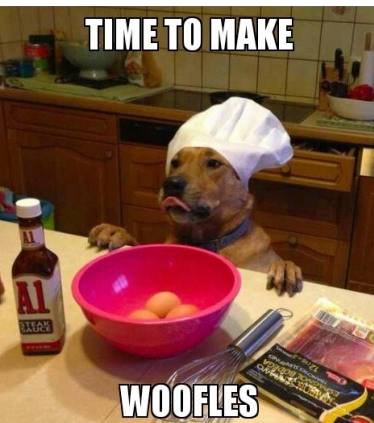
October 9: 9am Breakfast Club with gatherings and choir. Mission Sunday Worship. BBQ to follow worship.

October 16, 23 and 30: 9am Breakfast Club, Middler and High School gatherings, mission activities and Children's Choirs meet! 10:30 am worship with Bible Story Room and Bible Trek.

October 23: 3rd grade Bibles presented in worship

October 29: Spooky Organ Concert and Fall Festival! Join us at 5:30 pm for fun activities and pizza followed by a spooky organ concert with visuals in the sanctuary at 6:30 pm. Bring friends and family!

Middler Youth (5th-7th Grade)



October 23: Middler and High School lead Worship in Youth Sunday! Details to come....Opportunities to be a reader, usher, acolyte or participate in music.

October 23: Corn Maze after worship! 12 noon-3 pm. Watch for details!

Upcoming Dates for Confirmation

October 30 at 12noon: Parent and youth orientation with lunch provided.

November 13: Confirmation Mentor training at 12noon with lunch provided.

December 18: Commissioning of youth and mentors into the confirmation process.

Confirmation is a time in a young person's life where they will explore the Christian faith, their own personal journey and what it means to be a part of the Presbyterian Church (USA). The entire congregation is invited to be a part of this process. You might be an assigned mentor, a prayer partner or someone that provides food and support for gatherings. To learn how you can be involved, please contact **Stephanie Fritz** or **Bear Redmon**.



Youth Fellowship Hour
Sunday, 12 pm

High School Youth

Youth Fellowship Hour starts at noon in the Youth Room. Lunch will be provided by volunteers. Contact **Bear Redmon** (bear@centraldenver.com) on how you can help. This will be available every Sunday throughout the year.

October 5
HS Youth will join with Central families to serve dinner at Capitol Heights women's shelter at 5:30 pm.

October 9
Mission Sunday Worship. HS Youth will be helping to serve and clean up for BBQ after worship as part of Youth Fellowship Hour.

October 23
Youth Sunday! HS Youth and Middlers will be organizing and leading worship. Perfect opportunity to do church the way you want to do church.

October 29
Spooky Organ Concert and Fall Festival! HS Youth will be organizing activities as part of the festival including a haunted house in Cleland Hall.

CONGREGATIONAL CORNER

Communion

Communion will be served on **October 2**. Please remember canned goods or a monetary gift in support of hungry families served by Metro Caring.

OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT

Serendipity, an informal group welcoming all women, meets Thursday, Oct. 27 at 7 pm. **Marty Jewell** is hosting at her home, 9350 W. 90th Drive, Westminster CO 80021. RSVP at 303.421.5568 or jewellm068@gmail.com. Please join us as we build friendships through fellowship!



Aspen Turning

Aspen stand aglow, a pageantry
of hues—vermillion, chartreuse,
topaz, sienna, amber, gold—
and I am privileged to behold
their backlit autumn majesty.

I turn aside to pay attention:
their flames of glory burn
yet trees are not consumed.

My turning does not
create their burning
but only weeds what lies
without and what lies within:
a synergy of blazing oneness
in the eye of my heart.

—Kent Ira Groff©



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